

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 24, 2019

9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Francis of Assisi

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE 9:00 "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" arr. Limbaugh
INTROIT 11:15 "Dona Nobis Pacem" Tallis

* CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 37:23-24

Leader: Our steps are made firm by the Lord,
when God delights in our way.

People: **Though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,
for the Lord upholds us by the hand.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 307 CWM RHONDDA

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Good and gracious God, forgive us for being stingy with our love. We guard our hearts with possessions and vain pursuits, instead of giving our hearts with the compassion and courage of Christ. We waste our energy on status, security, and power, instead of shaping our lives by the likeness and image of Christ. Wash away our sin, and put us on the path of your grace. Mold us once more into a people of hope and holiness, so that we would seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you every day. We ask it all in Christ's name. Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

At 11:15 a.m. worship, children in K5-First grade leave for Children's Church.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM 9:00

Holland Janes Broome

Presentation

Questions to the Parents

Question to the Congregation

Thanksgiving over the Water

Baptism

Prayer

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome and Congregational Response

Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the
sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

At 9:00 a.m. worship, children in K5-First grade leave for Children's Church.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 45:1-15 O.T., p. 37

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 6:27-36 N.T., p. 838

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "The Difficulty with Loving God" Ben Dorr

SOLO 9:00 "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" arr. Courtney

ANTHEM 11:15 "There Is Peace" Papoulis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO PRAYER Walker

"I Will Arise"

*I will arise and go to Jesus;
he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Hymnal page 35, Traditional*

OFFERING

Offertory "What Wondrous Love Is This" arr. Limbaugh

Anthem 11:15 "O Love" Hagenberg

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN No. 372 AZMON

"O For a World"

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE "Dona Nobis Pacem" Tallis

* POSTLUDE "God of Grace and God of Glory" arr. Page

**All who are able may stand*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEAD USHERS:	9:00 a.m.	Pete Sweeny
	11:15 a.m.	Butler Mullins
SPONSOR:	9:00 a.m.	Coleman Kirven
GREETERS:	9:00 a.m.	Howard Boyd, Jon McKnight
		Freddie Williams
	11:15 a.m.	Kathryn Freedman, Beri Draganic
		Stephen Woods
LITURGIST:		Barbara Stoop
LAY READERS:	9:00 a.m.	Meg Hyche
	11:15 a.m.	Stephen Woods
ACOLYTES:	9:00 a.m.	Libby Graves
	11:15 a.m.	McCrae Mattice, Sadie Mattice

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

STREAMING

All worship services at Westminster are broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at www.wpc-online.org and click the link "Worship via Live Streaming."

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Matt Limbaugh, guest organist

9:00 a.m.

Emily Swezey, soprano

11:15 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir

Senior Choristers

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

During worship, children in rising K5-1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children's Church in Room 206.

GRAB A NAMETAG

THIS SUNDAY!

We will continue to wear nametags each Sunday. Please find them near entrances and gathering areas and share your name with others. You'll be glad you did!

LET US PRAY FOR:

Blair Boan and family

Paige Cizon and family

ASH WEDNESDAY AT

WESTMINSTER:

This year, Ash Wednesday will be **March 6**. During the lunch hour, at **12:15 p.m. and 12:45 p.m.**, there will be two identical, very brief opportunities for worship (no more than 10 minutes) in the sanctuary with scripture, prayer, and the imposition of ashes. Or, if you would simply like to come by the sanctuary narthex between **12:15-1:15 p.m.**, you can receive ashes from one of our pastors at that time. At **7 p.m.**, we will have a longer worship service, with the choir singing, a homily, and the imposition of ashes. You are invited to attend whichever of these services works best for your schedule that day.

BAPTISM

This morning at the 9:00 a.m. worship service, we welcome into our fellowship *Holland Janes Broome*, daughter of Lee & Lillie Broome, sister of May.

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Blair Boan* on the death of his father, Otis Boan, Jr., on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, in Cheraw, SC.

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Paige Cizon* on the death of her father, Arnold Mulkey, on Friday, February 15, 2019, in Greenwood, SC.

BAPTISM CLASS

If you are interested in having your child or children baptized at Westminster, you are invited to attend a brief class on baptism taught by Ben Dorr. The next class will be this **Sunday, February 24**, at **3:30 p.m.** in the **Charter Room**. Please email Michelle in the church office (michelle@wpc-online.org) if you are planning to attend.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The Middler Youth will be meeting with other Presbyterian youth at John Knox Presbyterian (35 Shannon Dr.) this **Sunday, February 24**, from **3-4:30 p.m.** A bus offering rides will depart at 2:40 p.m. Please let Mary Kathleen know if you plan to ride. There will be a combined choir rehearsal at **5:15 p.m.** and **NO** regular Middler meeting. The Senior Highs will gather for dinner at **6:00 p.m.** and their group meeting from **6:30-7:30 p.m.**

MEN'S GROUP BOOK STUDY

The Men's Group will continue their book study on **Monday, February 25**, at **6:00 p.m.** in **Room 209-C**. We are studying the book, The Jesus I Never Knew, by Philip Yancey. All WPC men are invited to participate and newcomers are welcome. For more information, contact *Rick Carpenter* (608-1881).

WESTMINSTER PILGRIMAGES: GEORGIA & ALABAMA CIVIL RIGHTS TOUR

Our informational session, open to all ages, will be **Monday, February 25**, at **6:00 p.m.** in the **Charter Room**. Contact Leigh Stuckey (lstuckey@wpc-online.org) for more information.

ADULT GROUPS

- **Hiking Group:** Will meet **Saturday, March 2**, at **9:00 a.m.** in the church parking lot for a 6 mile hike to Chestnut Ridge. **Hike Leader:** *Bob Vannoy* (bobvannoy47@gmail.com or 640-9073).
- **Luncheon Group:** Will meet **Wednesday, February 27**, at **12:00 p.m.** in **Room 211**. Leader: *Mary Ann Cox* (1maryanncox@gmail.com).
- **Needle Arts Group:** Will meet **Wednesday, February 27**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the **Entrance Pavilion**. **Group Leader:** *Terry Gentry* (tmgentry@charter.net).
- **Couples Bible Study (50+):** Will meet **Wednesday, February 27**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Charter Room**. Leaders: *Dick & Mary Sargent* (mfsdesigns95@yahoo.com).

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

You are invited to join the Westminster Book Club on **Tuesday, March 5**, at **7:00 p.m.**, in the **Library**, as we discuss the book Becoming by Michelle Obama. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month, and new people are always welcome.

SURGICAL MISSION TRIP DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Calling all nurses, doctors, and medical professionals: join WPC from **September 28-October 5, 2019** in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic for a surgical mission trip coordinated with Foundation for Peace. This year's trip is being led by *Chuck Marguet* and *Rob Morgan*. Watch your Harbingers for updates and announcements, and contact Chuck with questions (charlesmarguet@yahoo.com).

CALLING ALL COOKS!

This year, the Weekday School (Saturday, March 30) is calling on the wonderful cooks of Westminster to help make the casserole and bake sale a HUGE success! Frozen casseroles are the most popular items, but you may also chose to make something else like homemade pimento cheese, pasta, or soups. If you are interested in donating, please contact Cara Puntch at cpuntch@wpc-online.org, or at 232-5766. Thank you for your participation in supporting one of the biggest fundraisers of the Carnival!

NEW MEMBERS

Last Sunday, we welcomed the following new members into our fellowship:

- **Heidi Blossom** joined by reaffirmation of faith. She has a daughter, Tesla (8).
- **Michael & Amanda Brinkley** joined by transfer from Munsey United Methodist, Johnson City, TN. They have a son, Sam (6) and a daughter, Elizabeth (3).
- **Meric & Page Gambel** joined by reaffirmation of faith. They have a daughter, Emily (4), and a son, Sellers (3).
- **Erin Hutton** joined by reaffirmation of faith.
- **William & Gina McMaster** joined by transfer from First Presbyterian, Greenville. They have two sons, Chandler (15) and Patrick (13).
- **Will & Amanda Parrott** joined by reaffirmation of faith. They have three daughters, Ellie (8), and twins, Charlotte and Sally (6).
- **Will & Megan Revson**. Will joined by reaffirmation of faith. Megan joined by transfer from Easley Presbyterian, Easley.
- **Nathan Stock** joined by reaffirmation of faith. Nathan is married to Kate Taber, a pastor in the Foothills Presbytery. Nathan and Kate have a daughter, Rosalie (2).
- **Josh & Kelsea Woodward** joined by reaffirmation of faith. They have a daughter, Evelyn (1).

THE HARBINGER WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2310 Augusta Road Greenville, South Carolina 29605 (864) 232-2424

www.wpc-online.org

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CHURCH STAFF

Church 232-2424	School 232-5766
Pastor	Ben Dorr bdorr@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Barbara Stoop bstoop@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Leigh Stuckey lstuckey@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Mary Kathleen Duncan mkduncan@wpc-online.org
Parish Associate for Older Adults	Amos Workman aworkman@wpc-online.org
Pastor Emeritus	Zane Moore
Director of Music	Mark Kemp m Kemp@wpc-online.org
Children's Choir Coordinator	Kathryn Knauer kknauer@wpc-online.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Jennifer Dillard jdillard@wpc-online.org
Organist	Nancy Smith nls1949@aol.com
Weekday School Director	Cara Puntch cpuntch@wpc-online.org
Financial Secretary	Sherri Owens sherri@wpc-online.org
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Secretary	Wendy Bagley wendy@wpc-online.org
Director of Nurseries	Janell Pitman jpitman@wpc-online.org
Director of Hospitality	Lisa Ridge lisa@wpc-online.org
Building Supervisor	Steve Phillips stevep30@bellsouth.net

Save the date for VBS this summer!

Monday, August 5 - Friday, August 9

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Classes for ages having completed 4K-5th grades and volunteer opportunities for all ages.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

It's time for Westminster to have a new Pictorial Directory. Directory pictures will take place primarily during a three week period in March. Sign ups are now available online. See insert for dates and details!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS February 24 - March 2, 2019

SUNDAY

Women of Westminster Retreat at Montreat
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 Confirmation Class Meeting
 Education Committee Meeting
 Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
 11:15 a.m. Middler Group to John Knox
 3:00 p.m. Baptism Class
 3:30 p.m. APNC Meeting
 5:00 p.m. Combined Youth Choirs Rehearsal
 5:15 p.m. Senior High Group Dinner
 6:00 p.m. Senior High Group Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous
 8:00 p.m.

MONDAY

6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study Group
 Civil Rights Pilgrimage Meeting
 6:15 p.m. NAMI
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

6:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 12:00 p.m. AI-Anon
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

12:00 p.m. Luncheon Group Meeting
 3:00 p.m. "It's Elementary!" & Tweens
 4:30 p.m. Junior & Senior Choristers
 6:30 p.m. Needle Arts Group Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 Couples Bible Study (50+)

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. Thursday Bible Study
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

FRIDAY

Youth Choir Festival by the Sea

SATURDAY

Youth Choir Festival by the Sea
 8:30 a.m. Hiking Group

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Get your day started right with the *"It's Never Too Early to Talk About Jesus"* study and discussion group, meeting again **Tuesday, February 26**, at **6:30 a.m.** in the **Women's Lounge**. This semester we are studying Rachel Held Evans's New York Times bestseller, A Year of Biblical Womanhood (available in the WPC library). Questions? Contact *Kathleen Reynolds* (kathleenreynolds@yahoo.com or 346-3155) or Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey.



Often, adults take for granted the lessons we learn as children. For the most part, we can choose where we live, what we do, and how we interact with the world around us. Stories from Sunday School are vaguely applied to our adult life, and we unconsciously lose sight of the awesomeness of their significance. It is almost as if when we are children we cannot truly grasp the profound meaning of these lessons, and as adults we simply forget them.

'Turn the other cheek,' 'The Golden Rule'... dare I say, 'Karma?' These familiar, catchphrase philosophies certainly cross my mind when I read Luke 6:27-38. I find myself torn between how familiar this passage is, and yet, how it almost seems too much to ask – childlike. So much so, it is full of modern-day idioms: to give the shirt off your back. If I boil it all down to a comfortable, inspirational story for children, it becomes a good idea, instead of a very clear directive from the Creator of the Universe. It becomes so tempting to cling to concepts that I think will make me feel better, rather than confront my own cognitive dissonance. Freedom comes in forgiveness, not from fearfully held grudges.

During my time as a student at Wofford, I struggled almost daily with a paralyzing fear that I was gay. Panic attacks were brought on by constant reminders from my childhood church that I was living in unrepentant sin. I was even told that I would be publicly excommunicated if I did not repent and change my orientation. I wrestled, seeking wise counsel from my pastor and elders, only to be told that this part of my identity would cut me off from the community of faith that had once taught me about grace, mercy, redemption, and love. I wanted to hate the people causing the pain and panic attacks; but something inside me resisted rancor. How could I ask for them to accept me, if I refused to afford them the same grace and mercy? How could I claim to know God's love and purpose, if I refused to love and forgive His creation? I was forced to confront my avoidance of Christ's clear directive and accept the minor role I could play in preserving life: my own, and that of other LGBTQ+ Christians struggling with the same feelings of hatred and hopelessness. In the still, small moments of my struggle, the Holy Spirit was revealing to me what Joseph came to know in Genesis 45:8, "it was not you who sent me here, but God..."

Jordan O. Smith