



Westminster Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

May 2021



"Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and here are ALL the people."
We hope to ALL Return,
Rebuild, and Renew together
again soon.

Worship Joyfully. Serve Faithfully. Give Generously. Live Worthily.

NEWS FROM YOUR PASTORS

What's new with Pastor Lissa? By: Pastor Daniel

I'm so excited for Westminster and Pastor Lissa as she will be starting the Doctor of Ministry Program at the Charlotte campus of Union Presbyterian Seminary this fall. Doctoral studies are not easy (even being accepted into one is a great accomplishment!), and they are designed to strengthen the ministry of the church and the pastors who are enrolled. Here's what we can expect: over the course of the next 3-4 years, Pastor Lissa will continue to capably serve Westminster as she does now, and her continuing education will be focused on the components of the degree. As she learns, we will learn, because the curriculum is not purely theoretical; it is designed to be of practical help in the local ministry setting. Here's an excerpt from Union's description of the program:

In our Doctor of Ministry program, students will articulate advanced understanding of the contemporary church and expressions of culture, and relationships between the two. The degree will enhance ministry competencies in areas such as proclamation, evangelism, education, interfaith relations, and community advocacy and engagement based on personal and vocational interests. Students will gain a deepened capacity for theological reflection on the practices of ministry, especially with respect to social justice and witness.

When I was completing my DMin, I was blessed to have the prayerful and financial support of the churches I served, and they were always willing guinea pigs to let me try out new thoughts and ministry experiments with them. I was and am still so grateful for the time they allowed me and the support they offered along the way, and I expect Westminster will show the same love to Pastor Lissa. What more could we ask for than a pastor committed to continual learning for the benefit of the church and the Kingdom? Please join me in support and congratulations, and as we often hear the future Reverend Doctor herself say, "To God alone be the glory!"

What's new with Pastor Daniel? By: Pastor Lissa

What an exciting time for the church! We continue to give thanks for all the ways WPC seeks to be the church of Jesus Christ for one another and the world. I'm especially thankful for WPC's commitment to offer Pastor Daniel a well-earned sabbatical this summer. Beginning in July and running through September, Pastor Daniel will be taking some time off to renew and reconnect to some of his great loves. He'll be spending time with his family, time on the family farm in Orangeburg, and filling his cup with Sabbath.

What does this mean for WPC? It means we get to celebrate a pastor who has faithfully prayed for us, teaches us, and cares for us by offering one of God's greatest gifts-time. It also means we get to invite some beloved disciples to join us in leadership! Priscilla Holtclaw and Rev. Billy Wade will join me in preaching, teaching, and pastoral care for WPC. WPC has a dynamic staff with incredible volunteer leadership who will do what they always do, care for one another and provide opportunities for discipleship growth. We will have a wonderful summer and fall!

So join me friends by being in prayer for Pastor Daniel's sabbatical and a continuation of joyful ministry shared by our congregation of disciples.



FROM THE PULPIT

Return, Rebuild, Renew

On April 25, we began a new sermon series on the book of Nehemiah - Nehemiah's Life after Exile. The Israelites had experienced a terrible time: the destruction of Jerusalem and the sacred temple, deportation to Babylon, and life as exiles among their enemies. But now they were permitted to come back to the ruins of their sacred city. It is time to Return, Rebuild, and Renew, learning about a new life prepared for them by God. Nehemiah is a book about life and rebuilding after exile: perfect for us as we climb back from the Covid pandemic.

April 25	Nehemiah 1:1-11 <i>Life & Grief</i>
May 2	Nehemiah 2:1-20 <i>Life & Planning</i>
May 9	Nehemiah 3:1-32 <i>Life & Building</i>
May 16	Nehemiah 4:1-23 <i>Life & Persistence</i>
May 23	Nehemiah 5:1-19 <i>Life & Justice</i>
May 30	Nehemiah 8:1-18 <i>Life & Rejoicing</i>
June 6	Nehemiah 9:1-31 <i>Life & Confession</i>
June 13	Nehemiah 10 <i>Life & Renewal</i>
June 20	Nehemiah 12 & 13 <i>Life & Patterns</i>

NEW MEMBER

Ruth Marie Emblar
13 Eliza Court
Charleston, SC 29407

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

5/1	Brenda Haile Mike Duck Matthew Smoak Bryan Mills	
5/2	Ben Foster Wesley McCullough	
5/3	Maddy Allen	
5/5	Matthew Patrick	
5/7	Molly Griggs Tom Cothran	
5/9	Selena Stoney	
5/10	Kenneth Miller Lana Kuenzel	
5/11	Parker Waldrop Christi Stokes	
5/12	John Martschink Cullen Parrish	
5/14	Rachel Mallard	
5/15	Callie Reinecke	
5/16	Eddie Plowden Gina Miller Emma McCullough	
5/17	Amber Appell	
5/18	Rebecca Grafton-Aydlett Dick Patrick Jessica Riley	
5/19	Beth Janssen Natalie Nida	
5/20	Grady Vaughn Bobby Holtzclaw Lieren Smith	
5/21	Michael Patrick Dana Cotham Juanita Rodemann	
5/22	Ike Eisenhower Wyatt Teitsort Kirkland Smith	
5/23	Dort Maastricht	

Welcome

5/24	David Vandeventer Cole McLaughlin Lincoln Gilbert	
5/26	Bob Georgen	
5/27	Clif Green Caroline Gibson	
5/28	Donna Purcell Andrew Grayson Grayson Smoak	
5/29	Blair Wade Trevor Shelor	
5/30	Aileen Wiese Roberta Shepard John Ligon	
5/31	Kevin Griggs Dart Willer Baxter Smoak	



***HAPPY 100! Dart Willer
will be turing 100 years
old on May 31, 2021!***

RETURN, REBUILD, AND RENEW

This Spring as part of the Sermon Series from Nehemiah, we invite you as a congregation to Return, Rebuild, and Renew with Westminster. As you feel more comfortable and as more events and opportunities become available, we welcome you to return to a *new* normal at Westminster, to rebuild that relationship and foundation with God through discipleship as a present congregation, and to renew your faith through worship and fellowship opportunities that will continue to evolve, change and grow.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

In an effort to resume a *new* normal at Westminster, we are gathering information for those interested in volunteering as opportunities and events become available.

- Children's Church Leaders
- Acolytes
- Ushers for Early Service
- Ushers for 11 a.m. Worship
- Early Service Special Music
- Vacation Bible School
- Office Volunteers
- Food Pantry Bag Packers

Even if you have volunteered in the past, we would like you to still fill out the enclosed form and return to the church office.

MEETING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Adult Sunday School Series
9:00 -9:45 a.m. via ZOOM

"So I say, walk by the Spirit..." In Galatians 5, we hear the Apostle Paul's admonition, but do we know what it means? How well do you know what (or rather who) the Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit does today? Join us for this great study of the one some have called the most neglected member of the Trinity. Facilitated by Pastor Daniel, Pastor Lissa, and Lindy Coleman.

ZOOM login information:

- Meeting ID: 856 1961 4490
- Passcode: 12345
- Call in: 646-558-8656

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, May 4
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Calling All Men! Join us for Bible Study the First Tuesday of every month. **This month we are meeting IN PERSON for breakfast at Trotters Restaurant at Town and Country Inn and Suites (2008 Savannah Highway)!**

Pastor Daniel is leading a study of 2 Timothy; join us for the Fellowship and Encouragement!

Here is ZOOM login information for those unable to attend in person:

- Meeting ID: 856 1961 4490
- Passcode: 12345
- Call in: 646-558-8656

BACKPACK BUDDIES

Wednesday, May 19
6:30 p.m. in the Breezeway

Join us as we pack weekend food kits for students at Goodwin Elementary School. We will pack outside in the breezeway wearing masks and social distancing. The work takes about 45 minutes, and all ages are welcome. Hand sanitizer will be provided, and masks are required. Please call Dee Bee Wright at 843.729.7005 with any questions! Thank you!



EXPRESS BIBLE READING PLAN

May - June 2021



May 2021

Saturday, May 1: Ezekiel 14:12-14; Revelation 5
Sunday, May 2: Psalm 70; Ezekiel 16:49-63;
Revelation 6
Monday, May 3: Ezekiel 18:30-32; Revelation 7
Tuesday, May 4: Psalm 111; Ezekiel 20:39-44;
Revelation 8
Wednesday, May 5: Ezekiel 22:30; 23:28-30;
Revelation 9
Thursday, May 6: Ezekiel 28:25-26; Revelation 10
Friday, May 7: Ezekiel 31:10-14; Revelation 11
Saturday, May 8: 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Revelation 12
Sunday, May 9: Psalm 48; Jeremiah 42; Revelation 13
Monday, May 10: Revelation 14
Tuesday, May 11: Lamentations 3:22-66; Revelation 15
Wednesday, May 12: Daniel 1; Revelation 16
Thursday, May 13: Psalm 81:9-10; Daniel 3;
Revelation 17
Friday, May 14: Ezekiel 33:10-11; Revelation 18
Saturday, May 15: Psalm 110; Ezekiel 36:25-27;
Revelation 19
Sunday, May 16: Psalm 145; Revelation 20
Monday, May 17: Psalm 128; Revelation 21
Tuesday, May 18: Ezekiel 43:1-5; Revelation 22
Wednesday, May 19: Ezekiel 45:9-10; Luke 1
Thursday, May 20: Luke 2
Friday, May 21: Daniel 6; Luke 3
Saturday, May 22: Luke 4
Sunday, May 23: Luke 5
Monday, May 24: Daniel 12:1-3; Luke 6
Tuesday, May 25: Psalm 84; Luke 7
Wednesday, May 26: Luke 8
Thursday, May 27: Psalm 127; Luke 9
Friday, May 28: Haggai 2:1-9; Luke 10
Saturday, May 29: Zechariah 3:7; Luke 11
Sunday, May 30: Zechariah 4:6; Luke 12
Monday, May 31: Zechariah 7:8-14; Luke 13

June 2021

Tuesday, June 1: Psalm 126; Luke 14
Wednesday, June 2: Psalm 147; Zechariah 13:8-9;
Luke 15
Thursday, June 3: Psalm 138; Luke 16
Friday, June 4: Psalm 150; Luke 17
Saturday, June 5: Esther 3:13; 4; 8; Luke 18:1-17
Sunday, June 6: Esther 9:1-5; Luke 19:1-10, 28-44
Monday, June 7: Ezra 7:1-10; 8:21-23; Luke 20:9-19
Tuesday, June 8: Ezra 10:1-17; Psalm 131;
Luke 21:1-4
Wednesday, June 9: Nehemiah 1; Psalm 133
Thursday, June 10: Nehemiah 4; Luke 23:26-43
Friday, June 11: Nehemiah 6; Psalm 146;
Luke 24:36-53
Saturday, June 12: Acts 1
Sunday, June 13: Nehemiah 9; Acts 2:1-4, 40-47
Monday, June 14: Psalm 1; Acts 3
Tuesday, June 15: Malachi 1:11-14; Acts 4
Wednesday, June 16: Psalm 148; Malachi 3;
Acts 5:12-16
Thursday, June 17: Job 1:21-22; Acts 6
Friday, June 18: Acts 8:1-8; 9
Saturday, June 19: Job 5:8-18; Psalm 108;
Acts 10:23-48
Sunday, June 20: Job 8:20-22; Acts 12
Monday, June 21: Job 9:4-41; Acts 13:1-12
Tuesday, June 22: Job 11:7-9; Acts 16
Wednesday, June 23: Acts 17:10-34; 18:1-17
Thursday, June 24: Job 15:31; Acts 19
Friday, June 25: Acts 22
Saturday, June 26: Job 17:8-9; Acts 26
Sunday, June 27: Psalm 114; Acts 28
Monday, June 28: Job 19:25-27; Mark 1:9-20; 2
Tuesday, June 29: Job 20:4-11; Mark 3; 4:30-41
Wednesday, June 30: Mark 5; 6:4-13, 45-5

PRESCHOOL NEWS

May has arrived in all its glory, Praise be to God!! Outside everything is blooming and of course pollen covers everything, but amid the sneezing there is comfort in this predictable season.

The children have had a wonderful year attending school everyday with no gaps, no masks, and truly little awareness of the outside world. The Preschool was able to create a safe and fun learning environment within the walls of Westminster Preschool. We have been blessed with the full support of wonderful teachers, families, and the entire Membership of Westminster to achieve this objective. This support has been so evident in the results of the campaign project for Playground equipment that the Church and School launched just a few shorts weeks ago. To date the campaign results have far exceeded the goal and we are so thankful to all of those who have donated to this worthwhile project. The projected install date is late July to early August. Thank you again to everyone, the staff is truly humbled by your support.

Blessings,
The Preschool

SUMMER SAVE THE DATES

Vacation Bible School
"This is the Day"
July 12-16



More details to follow. If you are interested in volunteering to help that week, please contact Janie Bruce, jbruce@wpccharleston.org.

Picnic in the Park
Mondays in the Summer
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Pack a picnic and come check out some of our local parks!

June 21	Palmetto Island County Park, Mt Pleasant Big Toy Playground
July 19	James Island County Park Playground near Spray & Play area
August 16	Wannamaker County Park Fun-Lot & Tot-Lot area

Family Friendly Hike
Saturday, May 15
Laurel Hill, Mt. Pleasant
10:00 a.m.

Wear comfortable shoes, sunscreen and don't forget to pack snacks and water. This hiking path is stroller friendly.

Family Beach Evening
Sundays in the Summer
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

June 27	Folly Beach County Park
August 8	Folly Beach County Park

PRAYER ON THE PLAYGROUND

Sundays 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

We are happy to welcome back our children and their parents for play on the playground Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. We will open the back gate to the playground for playtime followed by a quick devotion/prayer time. We hope this gives young families time to get home and join us for our live stream worship at 11:00 a.m. All Prayer on Playground events are weather dependent, rain will be our only cancellation.

This time is designed for families of small children. Parents are expected to remain on the playground - this is not a drop-off event (like regular Sunday School).



Children, Youth & Families

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP MEETINGS

5/2 Middle School
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

High School
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

5/9 Mother's Day
No Meetings

5/16 Middle School
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

High School
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

5/23 Middle School
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

High School
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

5/30 Memorial Day Weekend
No Meetings

TRICOUNTY FAMILY MINISTRIES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND



Tricounty Family Ministries is a non-profit, ecumenical ministry providing food, clothing, medical care, counseling, job placement, shelter, financial assistance and vital services to the less fortunate in the tricounty area. We offer a safe, compassionate, and inviting place for all people in need.

Volunteers are needed :

- Monday mornings from 10-12 to help the chef prepare healthy meals for members of the community in need
- Tuesday mornings from 10-12 to box the prepared food and bag groceries
- Wednesdays from 9 am to 1 pm to distribute meals and groceries in the parking lot of TriCounty.
- In addition, TriCounty is now hosting a food distribution on the second Saturday of every month from 9:15 - 12:30.

TriCounty Family Ministries is located at 2105 Cosgrove Avenue, North Charleston. If you are interested in serving, please refer to the link provided below to sign up for a shift. Questions? Contact Brenda Gibson at (843) 478-0026. Thank you!

Here is the link to sign up for a volunteer shift:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=c>.

UNIFORM DRIVE FOR CHICORA ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

A school uniform drive will be held for the students at Chicora Elementary. New and gently used uniforms in children's sizes 4 - 18 will be collected through May. Parents - Now is a great time to clean out those closets and donate uniform items which have been outgrown this year! Uniform pants in navy and khaki will be collected in addition to uniform shirts in white, light blue, navy blue, yellow, and red via collection boxes located at Westminster.

WESTMINSTER'S BLESSING BOX

Blessing Boxes are small food pantries stocked with non-perishable food items, basic toiletries, baby supplies, bottled water, and anything else that might be considered a blessing to someone who finds themselves in need. Items are anonymously donated and anonymously received. One simple rule applies—Leave what you can, take what you need...no paperwork, qualifications or questions!

Our Blessing Box does not change anything related to our Food Pantry. Here is how you can help and a list of suggested items for the box:

You may access and add items to the box any time you like! If the box is full, please contact Dee Bee Wright @ 843.729.7005 and I will be happy to take your items and add them to the box when space is available. You may also text me and leave items with Nita. I will pick them up from the office when I finish school for the day.



WESTMINSTER FOOD PANTRY

Always in Need

Did you know that our Food Pantry not only provides non-perishable food items, but also diapers, formula, detergent, toothpaste and so much more.

Thanks to your generosity, we have doubled the Food Pantry outreach, now offering 72 food bags per week to people in the community!

For more information and a full list of items we provide, email Nita Rushton at office@wpccharleston.org or stop by the front office.

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS, WE HAVE EXPANDED WITH A MOBILE DISTRIBUTION SITE AT MARY FORD!



2021 MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

On Sunday, May 9, we will collect the Mother's Day Offering for the benefit of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. For over 60 years, this offering has been an important act of support for this unique ministry of SC Presbyterians to older adults. The proceeds are used solely to support residents at Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina who have outlived their life savings through no fault of their own and now depend on the kindness of others. The cost of Charitable Care in 2020 was \$1,059,786.

You may drop your offering in the plate the morning of Mother's Day, mail it in to the church, or give online at wpccharleston.org. Checks payable to Westminster, or choose "Presbyterian Home" on the online menu.

Thank you!

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of

AnnaLee Myers
Bev Chotvac
Bruce Yarnall
Jack & Susie Eades
Jim Holtzclaw

From

Robert Shepard Family
Elizabeth Odiorne
Mark and Tracy Friedrichs
Dick and Carol Patrick
Brenda Haile
Claire Gillum
Gloria Purcell
Jim and Shirley Seay
Larry and Susan Newman
John and Joan Foster

FINANCIAL UPDATE: FIRST QUARTER 2021

Pledged Offering has exceeded the Budget by \$40,000 in the First Quarter of 2021. Year to date, we have an overall net position (income less expenses) of +\$36,000.

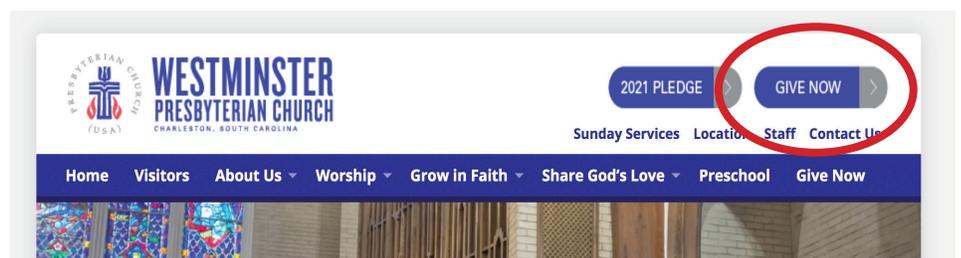
From these numbers, you can see that Westminster is off to good start in giving and controlling our expenses.

One interesting note is that 27% of our contributions are now online using the Realm App. We encourage you to login to your Realm account to keep track of your giving as well as make additional gifts to Westminster.

Westminster, thank you for your generosity!

REALM REFRESHER

Visit wpcccharleston.org and click the Give Now button in the top right.



Sign in using the email and password you used when registering.

A screenshot of the Westminster Presbyterian Church sign-in form. The form is titled 'Sign In' and includes fields for 'Email Address' and 'Password'. A 'Sign In' button is located below the fields, and a link for 'Forgot your password?' is provided. The form is set against a light gray background with the church's logo and name at the top.

Fill out the donation form accordingly.

A screenshot of the Westminster Presbyterian Church donation form. The form is titled 'Westminster Presbyterian Church' and 'Charleston, SC'. It asks 'How much would you like to give?' and shows a form with 'Amount' set to '\$ 0.00' and 'Fund' set to '2021 Pledge'. There is a 'Memo' field and a '+ Another Fund' button. Below these are two buttons: 'GIVE ONCE' and 'GIVE MULTIPLE TIMES'. A 'Gift date' dropdown is set to 'Today'. At the bottom, it shows 'Total: \$0.00' and a 'Continue' button.

Mobile App for Apple and Android devices also available through the App Store called "Realm Connect - For Our Community"

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL SESSION MEETING

- We began with prayer and a devotional about DISCIPLESHIP from Pastor Lissa.
- We approved minutes from the March 21 meeting.
- We received a new member, Ruth Marie Embler, by reaffirmation of faith.
- We approved and updated policy concerning the Westminster Corporation. We are Incorporated as a non-profit in SC and periodically have to review and maintain compliance as such.
- We approved a couple of meeting requests.
- Finance Committee approvals: March 2021 financial statements; consolidation of several special funds; 2020 financial audit; Updated financial policies and procedures documents.
- Noted and gave thanks for numerous areas of mission involvement.
- Approved the contract for new playground equipment, summer 2021 install planned.
- Thorough discussion about next steps in Covid recovery. Considered a plan to have 2 worship services, offering Children's church and nursery at the 11:00 service. When necessary volunteers are in place, we'll move ahead with the schedule.
- The Nominating Committee continues to prayerfully go about their work.
- With thanks, we closed the meeting in prayer.

PLAYGROUND PROJECT THANK YOU!!

Last month, we made you aware of an opportunity to share in our playground renovation project. Our goal was to raise \$9,000, with the WPC Endowment matching (3 to 1) up to \$27,000 for a total budget of \$36,000. Within a short period of time, church and preschool families gave more than \$13,000!! We are amazed by how so many of you responded so promptly and generously, and we are so grateful for your kindness in thinking about the future of the church and preschool. For years to come, children and their families will benefit from your gifts of love. Please accept a hearty THANK YOU on behalf of the church, preschool, and children, and look for installation sometime this summer.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Lissa Long, *Associate Pastor*
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Robin Zemp, *Director of Music*
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Janie Bruce, *Dir. of Youth & Children's Ministries*
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Nita Rushton, *Office Administrator*
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Tommye Owen, *Financial Administrator*
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Alicia Crosby, *Preschool Director*
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Joan Foster, *Childcare Coordinator*
jmf0305@ymail.com

Meg Dorsel, *Communications Coordinator*
mdorsel@wpccharleston.org

Carol Smith, *Church Hostess*

Sundays at Westminster

9:00 a.m. ZOOM Sunday School for Children & Adults

11:00 a.m. In Person and Livestream Worship Service
In-Person following Covid Protocols and also available on Facebook Live, Westminster's YouTube channel, and www.wpccharleston.org.

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Westminster Session

Class of 2021

Allyn Bruce
John Dounian
Norman Hook
Dale Norman
Michael Patrick
Paul Patrick

Clerk
Assistant Clerk
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer

Class of 2022

Nancy Dixon
Sandra Pell
Kendall Ramsay
Carole Russell
Nathan Snider
Graham Wade

Priscilla Holtzclaw
Carole Russell
Doug Earnst
Patty Stokes

Class of 2023

Matthew Akery
David Boyd
Earl Frasier
Brenda Gibson
Tim Platts
Nathan Ward