



Westminster Presbyterian Church

January 15, 2023

9:00 am

GATHERING

*Please greet each other warmly as the congregation gathers for worship.
Take a moment and sign the virtual friendship register.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ SONG OF PREPARATION NO. 701 Lord, Prepare Me

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

ISAIAH 40:3-8

One: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

All: **Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."**

One: A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All: **All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.**

One: The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

All: **The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.**

◆ PRAYER

◆ SONG OF PRAISE NO. 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

CONFESSION

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

Heavenly Father, we confess we are by nature prone to hypocrisy. We are satisfied with our own ideas of righteousness and forsake the true righteousness you demand. As we come into your presence, the stains of sin on our souls become clear to us, so we humbly bow before you in repentance. In your mercy, forgive us and set us free from our rebellious ways. Give us hearts to seek your Kingdom and to follow your will in every aspect of life. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

◆ SILENT PRAYERS

◆ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

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◆SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 447 We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

◆PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.

THE WORD

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

Laura Patrick

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 2

One: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

What about John?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

◆DECLARATION 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.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

◆ SONG NO. 363

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

DARWALL'S 148TH

SENDING OUT

◆ BLESSING

◆ *Please stand, if able*

Leading the service today: Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Lissa Long, Pastor; Sarah Shayban, Music.

11:00 am Livestream at www.wpccharleston.org, YouTube (Westminster Presbyterian Charleston)

Acolyte is Eleanor Akery.
Ushers are George McAbee, Mary McAbee, Graham Wade.

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

- We are delighted you have joined us for worship, and we hope you are encouraged and strengthened in the faith.
- New here? Please fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate.
- The nursery is available for children 2 and under in the Children's Building. We'll gather pertinent information upon check-in and be able to contact you during the service should a need arise.
- Parents who need to step out of the sanctuary for a while to tend to the needs of infants or small children can find privacy down the hall in the church parlor, family restroom, or in the church nursery.
- Worship bags and worship worksheets are available in the narthex for preschool and elementary age children.
- Following Time for Children (11:00 only) children age 2-5k (Wee Church and Children's Church) will gather in the narthex with adult leaders and then be led to the Children's Building. Parents may pick them up following the service.
- Hearing devices, magnifying sheets, and large print hymnals are available in the narthex.
- If you have a prayer request or questions about faith, life, or being part of the Westminster family, we invite you to reach out to one of our pastors.
 - Pastor Daniel Smoak, 843-872-1001
 - Pastor Lissa Long, 843-810-2232
- For more information about Westminster or to subscribe to our weekly ENews and email updates visit www.wpccharleston.org

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN THE WESTMINSTER FAMILY?

Here's how you can do it.

1. Please fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate or you may fill out an online New Member form under the visitor tab at wpccharleston.org or using the QR code.
2. One of our Pastors or someone from the Membership Committee will quickly be in touch, providing an opportunity individually or with a group to learn more about the church.
3. On a Sunday morning, you'll attend a meeting with the Session for reception into membership. We'll handle paperwork if you're transferring from another church or arrange baptism if you've never been baptized.
4. That same Sunday morning, you'll be introduced to the congregation during worship.



Questions? Speak with an usher or one of our pastors following the service.

NEW HERE? MAKE SOME CONNECTIONS AT WESTMINSTER TODAY

Connections: An opportunity for those visiting or new who want to meet others and learn more about LIFE at Westminster. We meet today from 10:00 - 10:40 am in Pastor Daniel's office at the end of the Admin Hall. Kids are welcome or can go to Sunday School/Nursery.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18

Principal Loretta Hart from Mary Ford Early Learning & Family Center will be our guest, along with other teachers and faculty, to share exciting initiatives utilized by the school in helping children to learn and thrive. Please join us for this special program and enjoy a delicious supper for adults and children at 6:00 pm in Covenant Hall. Nursery is available. Menu is BBQ sandwiches, coleslaw, pickles, salad, dessert. Join us for fun, food, and fellowship with your church family.

2022 YEAR END GIVING

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of the missions and ministry of Westminster. 2022 Giving Statements can be accessed through your online Realm account. If you need to have it printed for pick up or mailed, please contact the church office. If you have any questions or need any information, please don't hesitate to call Tommye Owen at 843-766-8311, ext 105 or finance@wpccharleston.org. For online givers, please make sure to update your "giving fund" to 2023 pledge starting in January. This is particularly important if you have set up for automatic weekly or monthly giving.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE 2023 GIVING ENVELOPES

Please email your request to finance@wpccharleston.org

WE'RE GOING TO STUDY MATTHEW!

All through 2023, we'll be engaged in a verse-by-verse study of the Gospel. If you would like a special copy of Matthew from The Illuminated Scripture Journal for following along and taking notes, they are available for you in the narthex. They are a gift for you provided you read it and use it! Here's the schedule for the next few weeks.

- January 15: Matthew 3:1-12; What About John? The appearance of John the Baptist is a HUGE (and confusing) clue that the Messiah is on the way.
- January 22: Matthew 3:13 - 4:11; Jesus and the Devil: Jesus withstands the temptations of the devil. Is the devil real, and what can we learn from this encounter?
- January 29: Matthew 4:12-22; Called to a New Vision: The call of Christ is to leave our nets and invest in the work of the Kingdom of God.
- February 5: Matthew 4:23-23; Understanding the Kingdom of God: The broken places of the world are restored as the Kingdom advances in Jesus' ministry.

NEW AND EXCITING SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY: JESUS IN THE GOSPEL

As Christians we wonder "How can we do more?" or "Are we serving God in the most helpful way?" In asking these questions, we find ourselves looking at the scriptures with new eyes on ways to reach our community, serve alongside our community and be community. The class will begin with the book "When Helping Hurts The Small Group Experience". The WPC Mission Committee has found great value in this study together and is extending the opportunity to the congregation. Books are available in the church office or in class beginning today. For more information, join us today at 10:00 in the Church Parlor or contact Pastor Lissa at mlong@wpccharleston.org.

WE ARE RECRUITING MUSICIANS FOR THE 9:00 WORSHIP SERVICE!

Do you sing or play an instrument? Young people and old(er), beginners and those with experience, we know you are out there with gifts to share. God is praised when you use your gifts in worship. To sign up or learn more, contact Pastor Daniel dsmoak@wpccharleston.org.

WELCOME TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LEARN TO SMOCK!

The Lowcountry Smockers Guild meets at Westminster every second Thursday of the month. Their mission is to make baby burial gowns to distribute locally for the national "Wee, Care" project, and to promote the art of hand sewing. On Thursday, February 9 at 10:00 am the Smocking Guild will be offering free lessons to anyone wanting to learn how to smock or needing a refresher course. We will provide all the materials needed. We would like to know how many are coming, so please email your name and phone number to Brenda Clarey, brendasews4@yahoo.com or text 843-364-3429.

VIRTUAL FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

Please let us know you're here by completing the Virtual Friendship Register. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to open or find on our website under the Quick Links, Virtual Friendship Register



WAYS TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Church Pew Envelope: Place cash or check in the Pew Envelope and drop it in the Offering Plate in the Narthex.

Online: Click the "Give Now" button in the top right of our homepage at wpccharleston.org.

Text: Text "charlestonwpc" to 73256. Thank you for giving.

LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

Name tags are available on the name tag cart in the Narthex. Please find yours and wear it on Sunday mornings, returning it before you leave. If yours is missing, please use a sticky badge and put your name on the 'I need a name tag' form.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWING IN CHRIST

Children's classes, age 3–5th grade are located in the classrooms in the Christian Education building. Youth and Adult classes are located in Covenant Hall classrooms.

Nursery - 0-2 Joan Foster, Lesa Grayson, Katie Camburn

Children Sunday School

- 3-5K in Room 14, Sherry Niblock, John and Dee Bee Wright, Growing in Grace and Gratitude
- 1st - 2nd Grades, Room 13, Meredith Boyd, Andrea Gentry, Carrie Gentry, Growing in God's Love
- 3rd - 5th Grades, Room 17, Dale and Karen Norman, Growing in God's Love

Youth Discipleship Classes

- Middle School, 6th - 8th Grades, Room 1, Feasting on the Word
Nathan and Ashley Snider, Shawn and Mary Fulmer, Jonathan and Rebecca Bazzle
- High School, 9th - 12th Grades, Room 3, Feasting on the Word
Paul and Laura Patrick, Amy Smoak

Adult Classes

- Cary Grayson Class, Room 4. Rotation of facilitators. This faithful group goes through the books of the Bible slowly and purposefully, inspecting the verses and the meaning behind them.
- Anchor Class, Room 15. Lindy Coleman, John Dounian, Deb Brown, Brenda Haile. This class utilizes Bible Study books and discussion to dig into God's Word as a group. This group also enjoys building community together.
- Parenting Class, Library. Joe and Brenda Clarey, Ruth Marie Emblar. Whether you have children or grandchildren under your wing, this class is for you! Discussions and Bible Study will focus on the ways we can be faithful in our parenting and lean into God's Wisdom for guidance.
- Jesus in the Gospel, Parlor. Pastor Lissa and other facilitators. There are multiple conversations where as Christians we wonder "How can we do more?" or "Are we serving God in the most helpful way?" In asking these questions, we find ourselves looking at the scriptures with new eyes on way to reach our community, serve alongside our community and be community. The class will begin with the book *When Helping Hurts The Small Group Experience*. Books available at church office or in class.

CLUB 3,4,5 JANUARY 22, 2023

All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited for fellowship and fun Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 pm in Covenant Hall. Club 3,4,5 will meet once a month from 4:00 to 5:00 pm in Covenant Hall.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

It is Westminster's church policy that everyone who interacts with children be child protection trained yearly. There will be two training sessions held in January. January 22, following the 9:00 am worship service at 9:45 am and January 29, following the 11:00 am worship service at 12:00 pm. The training sessions are fifteen minutes or less. Please join us for one of the two training sessions.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, January 15

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| 9:00 am | Worship Service |
| 10:00 am | Sunday School |
| 10:00 am | Connections Class, Pastor's Office |
| 11:00 am | Worship Service |
| 5:00 pm | Deacons Meeting, Zoom |
| 5:00 pm | Middle School Youth Discipleship |
| 6:00 pm | High School Youth Discipleship |
| 6:00 pm | Stated Session Meeting, Room 4 |

Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King Day
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 17

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| 6:30 am | Toastmasters, Covenant Hall |
| 9:30 am | 3's Chapel Time, Sanctuary |
| 10:00 am | Staff Meeting, Pastor's Office |
| 12:30 pm | Minister's Lunch, Room 4 |
| 7:00 pm | Handbell Choir, Sanctuary |

Wednesday, January 18

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| 9:00 am | Preschool Funnastics, Covenant Hall |
| 6:00 pm | Wonderful Wednesday Dinner, Covenant Hall |
| 7:00 pm | Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary |
| 7:00 pm | AA Meeting, Covenant Hall Room 3 |

Thursday, January 19

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| 9:30 am | 3's Music, Sanctuary |
| 10:00 am | 4's Music, Sanctuary |

Saturday, January 21

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| 8:30 am | Toastmasters, Covenant Hall |
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Sunday, January 22

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| 9:00 am | Worship Service |
| 10:00 am | Sunday School |
| 10:00 am | Child Protection Training, Sanctuary |
| 11:00 am | Worship Service |
| 4:00 pm | Club 3,4,5, Covenant Hall |
| 5:00 pm | Middle School Youth Discipleship |
| 6:00 pm | High School Youth Discipleship |
| 7:00 pm | AA Meeting, Covenant Hall |

Westminster Prays

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|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Carol Cummings | Meg Powell | Summer Garris | Chrissie Bosworth |
| Bill Pennekamp | Keith Gordon | Mary Ashley Barbot | Ginger Siefring |
| Kate Pennekamp | Larry Salley | Joyce Aydlett | Martin Davis |
| Love Moody | Lydia Crosby | Daryn Baker | Kevin Ritzel |
| Lisa Wilcox | Brian Carlow | Curtis Sponseller | Gloria Underhill |
| Harold Fountain | Frances McLean | Sean Fitzgibbon | Barbara Johnston |
| Nancy Plowden | David Kerr | Thom Penney | Nita Rodemann |
| Gary Brooks | Sharon Hutchinson | Nikolai Fruth | Jackie Epstein |
| Steve Buddin | Harper Croft | Mary Martschink | Edward Godshall |
| Dick Unger | Monnie Privette | Maryalice Vann | Towne Family |
| Anderson Scruggs | Eleanor Woodbury | Christina Miller | Charles Reeves |
| Pam Smith | Evan McMillan | Meghan Hatfield | Merrily Burnette |
| Chad Waldrop | Don Sumner | Rachel Singletary | John Martschink |
| Libba Palmer | Lauren Wilson | Fran Ligon | Brenda Jonsson |
| Bryan Thomas | Reed Family | Molly Griggs | Judy Tag |
| Gloria Purcell | Charlotte Griggs | Ann Froneberger | Rose Derrick |
| Will Edwards | Debby Ferguson | Cynthia Ebigwei | Robin Zemp |
| Bob Ferguson | Elaine Tidwell | Gloria Ricoma | Pat Skees |
| Ellen Bollinger | Colby Turner | Janet Wilson | Cary Alexandre |
| Allyn Bruce | Phoebe Keene | Edward Fitzgibbon | |

Friend of the Week

Harriet DaSilva
201 W. 9th North St.
Unit 149
Summerville, SC 29483

Mission of the Week

Habitat for Humanity
731 Meeting St.
Charleston, SC 29403

Student of the Week

Emma Louise Farmer
1880 NW 3rd Ave. Apt. 410
Gainesville, FL 32603

Church Family

Richard and Angel Leitner
Audrey, Chloe
George and Mary McAbee

Westminster Session Members and Committees

Administration: Tom Whetstone and Matthew Patrick; **Buildings and Grounds:** Earl Frasier and Matt Teitsort; **Christian Education:** Lindy Coleman and Laura Patrick; **Fellowship:** Nathan Ward, Betsy McLaughlin, and Mike Niblock; **Finance:** Norman Hook and David Boyd; **Membership:** Karen Norman and Matthew Akery; **Mission:** Brenda Gibson and Chuck Towne; **Preschool:** Abbie Mobley; **Worship:** Dee Bee Wright and George McAbee; **Clerk:** Carole Russell; **Assistant Clerk:** Lindy Coleman; **Treasurer:** Nancy Dixon; **Assistant Treasurer:** Patty Stokes

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Smoak, Pastor, dsmoak@wpccharleston.org
Rev. Lissa Long, Associate Pastor, mlong@wpccharleston.org
Mrs. Laura Patrick, Interim Director of Children's Ministries, LPatrick@wpccharleston.org
Mr. Robin Zemp, Director of Music, rzemp@wpccharleston.org
Mrs. Nita Rushton, Office Administrator, office@wpccharleston.org
Mrs. Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator, finance@wpccharleston.org
Mrs. Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, preschool@wpccharleston.org
Mrs. Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, mdorsel@wpccharleston.org