



Westminster Presbyterian Church

January 8, 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. 399

God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God's love is strong and it never ends.
God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God's love is strong and it never ends.

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

FROM PSALM 30

One: I will exalt you, Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

All: **O Lord, my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.**

One: You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.

All: **Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.**

One: For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime;

All: **Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.**

◆ 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 OF PRAISE NO. 149

All Hail to God's Anointed

ELLACOMBE

CONFESSION

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

Dear Lord, we confess before you all the ways we have sinned against you. We have done things that we should not have done, and we have neglected to do things we should have done. Our actions testify against us, and they reveal the true condition of our hearts. Lord, we need your grace to pardon us from our sins and to create new hearts within us. By your Spirit, transform us into the kind of people who serve you and live for you in all we say and do. We pray for the sake of your Kingdom, Amen.

◆ SILENT PRAYERS

◆DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

◆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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:13-23

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 2

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

SERMON

The Reality of Christmas

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

◆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

A PRAYER FOR THE DAWN OF A NEW YEAR

See Insert

◆ SONG NO. 547

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

AR HYDY NOS

SENDING OUT

◆ BLESSING

◆ *Please stand, if able*

Leading the service today: Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Priscilla Holtzclaw, Lay Pastor; Nancy Parrish, Music.

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

Acolyte is Catherine Patrick.
Ushers are Matt Akery, Joe Jeter, Laura Nunn.

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

Connections: An opportunity for those visiting or new who want to meet others and learn more about LIFE at Westminster. The next Connections Class is January 15, 2023. (**Note the date change**). We meet from 10:00 - 10:40 in Pastor Daniel's office at the end of the Admin Hall. Kids are welcome or can go to Sunday School/Nursery. Save your spot at the January 15 Connections class by emailing office@wpccharleston.org.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023

Join us for Breakfast and Bible Study from 8:00 - 9:00 am on the Second Tuesday of every month. We meet for breakfast at Trotters Restaurant in the Town and Country Inn and Suites (2008 Savannah Highway). Join us for the Fellowship and Encouragement!

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11

Wonderful Wednesday meals will resume, January 11. Enjoy a delicious supper for adults and children at 6:00 pm in Covenant Hall. Nursery is available. 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 8: Matthew 2:13-23; The Reality of Christmas: Jesus is born into a life of suffering; he bears our pain.
- 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.

"POWER, IDENTITY AND THE GOSPEL"

Join us TODAY for a special combined adult Sunday School at 10:00 in Covenant Hall

Participants will answer reflection questions, learn common terms in social/racial justice work, and explore how aspects of their identities give them power in certain contexts. Examples from the New Testament will be used to illustrate how and why identity matters. All are encouraged to attend; Natasha Akery is the class facilitator.

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, A Small Group Study." 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 January 15. For more information, join us 1/15 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.

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL IS TODAY

Please join us today following the 11:00 am worship, in Covenant Hall for lunch and fellowship. Fried chicken will be provided; please bring a side to share. There will be a basket set out for donations to cover the cost of the fried chicken. All are welcome!

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.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, January 8

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:00 pm	Second Sunday Social Potluck, Covenant Hall
5:00 pm	DYCM Search Team, Parlor
5:00 pm	Middle School Youth Discipleship
6:00 pm	High School Youth Discipleship
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, January 9

9:50 am	4's Chapel, Sanctuary
10:00 am	Hooks and Needles, Room 4
12:00 pm	Preschool Dance, Covenant Hall
7:00 pm	Scout Troop 79

Tuesday, January 10

6:30 am	Toastmasters, Covenant Hall
8:00 am	Men's Bible Study, Trotter's Restaurant
9:30 am	3's Chapel Time, Sanctuary
10:00 am	Staff Meeting, Pastor's Office
10:00 am	Circle 5, Parlor
10:30 am	Circle 4, Room 4
5:30 pm	Exchange Club, Covenant Hall
7:00 pm	Handbell Choir, Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 11

9:00 am	Preschool Funnastics, Covenant Hall
6:00 pm	Wonderful Wednesday Dinner, Covenant Hall
6:45 pm	Finance Committee, Room 4
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall Room 3

Thursday, January 12

9:30 am	3's Music, Sanctuary
10:00 am	4's Music, Sanctuary
10:00 am	Lowcountry Smocking, Room 4

Saturday, January 14

10:00 am	Multiple Myeloma Group, Covenant Hall
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Sunday, January 15

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
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Westminster Prays

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	Bruce Hamilton	Rachel Singletary	John Martschink
Libba Palmer	Don Sumner	Fran Ligon	Brenda Jonsson
Bryan Thomas	Lauren Wilson	Molly Griggs	Judy Tag
Gloria Purcell	Reed Family	Ann Froneberger	Rose Derrick
Will Edwards	Charlotte Griggs	Cynthia Ebigwei	Robin Zemp
Bob Ferguson	Debby Ferguson	Gloria Ricoma	Pat Skees
Ellen Bollinger	Elaine Tidwell	Janet Wilson	Cary Alexandre
Allyn Bruce	Colby Turner	Phoebe Keene	

Friend of the Week

Carol Cummings
4749-B Yardley Dr.
N. Charleston, SC 29405

Mission of the Week

Hands of Christ
1157 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.
Charleston, SC 29407

Student of the Week

Abby Grace McLaughlin
CM3330 Flagler College
74 King St. Suite D
Saint Augustine, FL 32084

Church Family

Lance and Jean Lewandowski
Harper, Ryder
Henry and Dot Maiers

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
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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
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