



Westminster Presbyterian Church

January 15, 2023

11:00 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Lift Up Your Heads

ALICE JORDAN

◆CALL TO WORSHIP

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.

◆INVOCATION

◆HYMN NO. 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

◆PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 CONFESSION

◆ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

◆SONG OF RESPONSE

GLORIA PATRI

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.

◆SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

Laura Patrick

Following Children's Time, children ages 2-3K (Wee Church) and 4-5 K (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.

ANTHEM

Every Valley
Sanctuary Choir

JOHN NESS BECK

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?

◆HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

◆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.

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.
 - o Pastor Daniel Smoak, 843-872-1001
 - o 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.



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 STUDYING 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

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

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

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

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

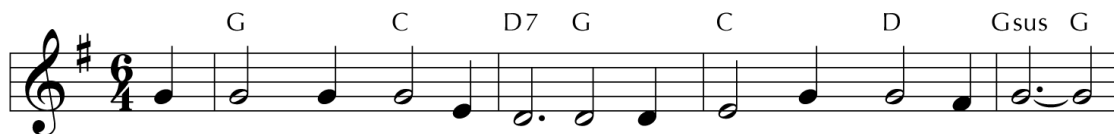
Saturday, January 21

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

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

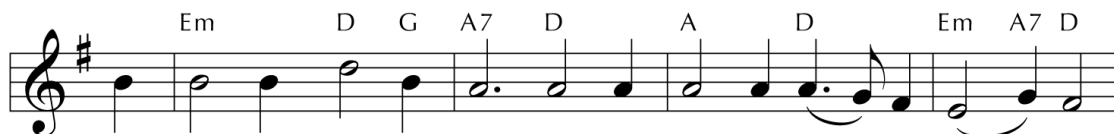
Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



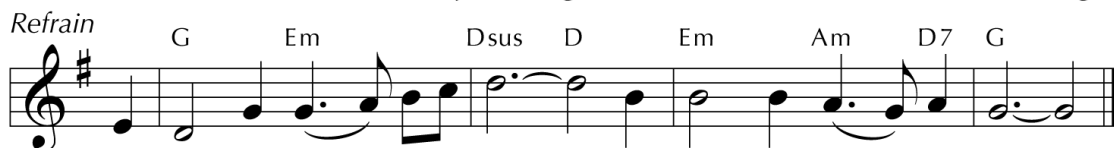
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

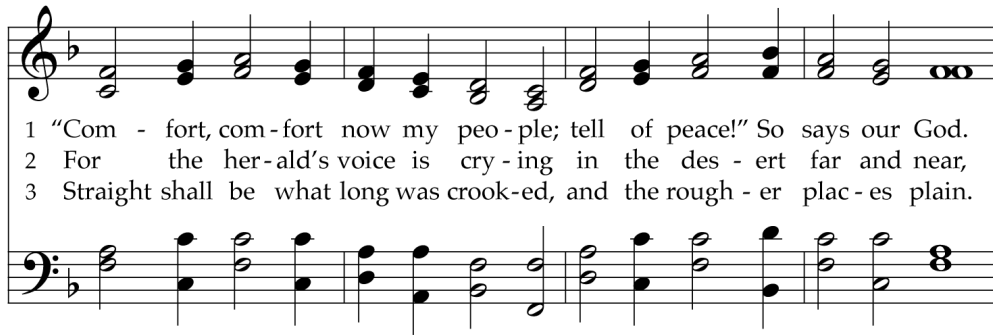
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

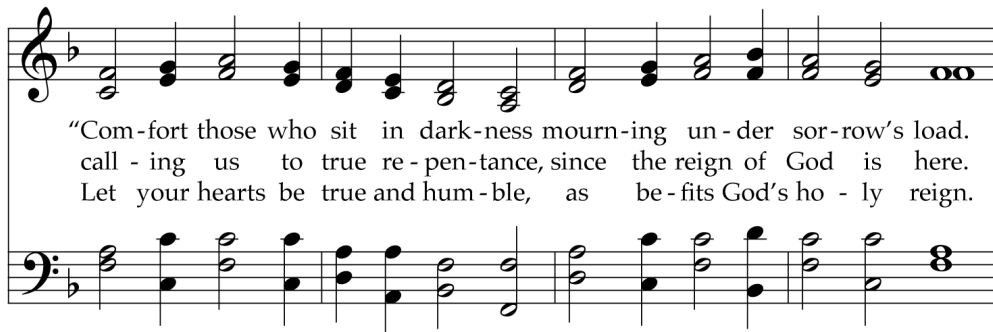
TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.
 MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



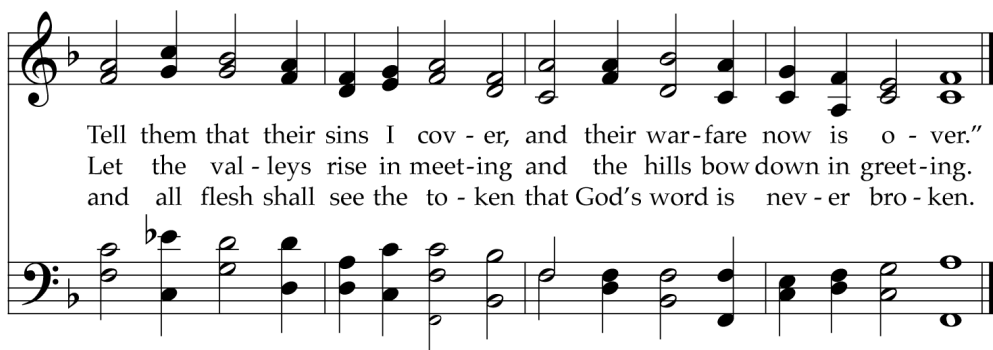
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

Rejoice, the Lord Is King! 363

Descant

4 Re - joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re - joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
 2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 4 Re - joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Re - joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given.
 and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re - joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re - joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

Each stanza of this enthronement text prepares for the final line of the refrain, based on Philippians 4:4. "Lord" is here a title of Christ rather than a reference to the undivided Trinity. The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) captures the mood well.

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	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