



Westminster Presbyterian Church

*We are called to be and to make disciples
who love God and who love our neighbors.*

May 21, 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

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

FROM PSALM 95

One: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

All: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and praise him with music and song.
For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

One: In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

All: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
for he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

◆ 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. 667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

CONFESSION

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

Lord, we confess that we live in conflict with you and with others. We are self-centered,
putting our desires ahead of your will. We care too much about ourselves and not enough for
our neighbor. Rather than welcome you as Lord, we rebel, determined to keep doing what we
want to do. We are in desperate need to be set free, so we thank you for your Spirit that
convicts us of our sin and leads us back to you.

◆ 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

Laura Patrick

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Only Sign
Mark Burckhalter

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 12:38-50

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 13

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

SERMON

Conflict with the Pharisees 3: On Signs and Doing the Will of God

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆SONG NO. 246

Christ Is Alive

TRURO

◆DECLARATION OF FAITH

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (1983)

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING OUT

◆SENDING SONG NO. 647

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks. Give thanks.

◆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 Mary McAbee, George McAbee, Graham Wade.

WE'RE STUDYING MATTHEW!

All through 2023, we'll be engaged in a verse-by-verse study of the Gospel. Here is the Schedule for the next few weeks:

- May 21 Matthew 12:38-50 Conflict with the Pharisees 3: On Signs and Doing the Will of God
Jesus compares his death and resurrection to the trials of the prophet Jonah.
- May 28 Acts 2:1-21 All Together: The experience of Pentecost is pivotal in the formation of the Church. What does it mean 2000 years later?
- June 4 Matthew 13:1-23 Kingdom Parables 1 - The Sower: Jesus compares the Kingdom to a sower who sows seed in 4 types of soil
- June 11 Matthew 13:24-43 Kingdom Parables 2 - The Weeds, the Mustard Seed, and the Net: Jesus compares the Kingdom to a field of wheat and weeds, a tiny mustard seed, and a small amount of yeast.

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 June 18, 2023. 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 June 18 Connections class by emailing office@wpccharleston.org.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY- 200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In September 2023, Westminster Presbyterian Church will celebrate 200 years as a congregation of people loving God and sharing his word! Our plans are to celebrate our past while keeping our eyes and hearts focused on the future and on God's plans for us! During the month of September, each day a personal testimony from a member of our flock will be shared. Your submission may be written and may include video or artwork; we encourage you to be creative and to make your testimony personal! Please sign up by the link in the eNews or calling the church office, 843-766-8311. Your completed submission is due by May 31 and should be submitted electronically to deebewright@comcast.net. There are several musical phrases from the beloved hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness," and you will choose one of these phrases to elaborate on in your testimony. Once you choose your phrase, scripture suggestions will be provided to you. They are intended to be helpful, but you may certainly choose any one scripture that speaks to you/your family. Please include your chosen scripture and a prayer in your submission. Contact Dee Bee Wright @ 843.729.7005 if you have any questions.

WE'RE HONORING NITA RUSHTON TODAY!

Nita Rushton has been the faithful "face of the church" and "Director of First Impressions" at Westminster for 11 years, and we want to show her how much we appreciate her exemplary service to the church. You're invited to a retirement reception during the Sunday School hour (10:00 - 11:00) on Sunday, May 21. The Deacons are providing refreshments, and we'll have a table set for your gifts and cards of appreciation. We'll take a moment at 10:30 for some words of appreciation.

CAROL SMITH, OUR BELOVED HOSTESS AND CATERER OF 20 YEARS, IS RETIRING!

Carol has been a consistent part of the Westminster family for a long time, and we're happy for her in this transition. She'll be with us on Wednesdays through June 7, and then the Second Sunday Social on June 11 will be her last time in the kitchen. We'll suspend Wonderful Wednesdays this summer until we secure a new caterer, but be on the lookout for special fellowship events hosted by the Fellowship Committee.

WHEN HELPING HURTS MISSIONAL RESPONSE

Are you interested in workshopping ideas for ways Westminster Presbyterian Church connects, engages, listens, and serves within our community and the world? On June 11, grab your plate on Second Sunday and join together in Room 4 of Covenant Hall for exciting conversation!

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

Please join us Wednesday, May 24, at 6:00 pm in Covenant Hall and enjoy a delicious supper for adults and children. Nursery is available. Menu is baked chicken, dressing with gravy, vegetable, salad, roll, dessert. Join us for fun, food, and fellowship with your church family.

CALLING ALL MEN

We're looking for great, good, and even not-so-good male voices to sing a special piece in worship on Sunday, June 11. It's one of our favorites: He Leadeth Me. We'll practice on May 21, 28, and June 4 for about 20 minutes right after the 11:00 worship service. ALL voices welcome!

NEIGHBORS TOGETHER

Volunteer to help serve one of the hot meals during the week! We have a team who serves on the third Wednesday of the month, or you can register at www.neighborstogether.org.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Westminster Presbyterian Church sponsors an AA group Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in Covenant Hall room 3. If you or someone you know is seeking support, please feel free to share this information.

RESPIRE CARE CHARLESTON

Respite Care Charleston offers articles, support groups, half-day memory care (respite) and so much more. If you are interested in volunteering or participating, please reach out to Caitlin at 843-647-7405.

WESTMINSTER'S SCOUT TROOP 79 IS COLLECTING USED SHOES AND SNEAKERS

Did you know that the shoes and sneakers you no longer wear can help support Boy Scout Troop 79 Charleston, micro entrepreneurs across the globe and our environment? Well, they can. All we need is your gently worn, used, or new shoes and sneakers in any condition. We are partnering with Funds2Orgs and Got Sneakers to help us raise funds for our troop, provide stock to micro entrepreneurs in impoverished countries, and keep shoes out of landfills. It's a win-win-win!! Here's how you can help: Shoes: gently worn, used or new shoes that you no longer want, men's, women's, children's of any type that you would feel good about giving to someone else (dress shoes, casual shoes, sandals, clogs, house shoes, crocs, flip flops, cleats, and other athletic shoes). Shoes should be absent of holes, tears, or excessive wear (should have intact soles and insoles), single shoes or mismatched pairs, or wet/moldy shoes please. Pair shoes together heel to heel with a rubber band and drop them in the bins located in Covenant Hall. (Shoes will be picked up from there each Monday until June 1st) We sincerely appreciate your support!

SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD. COME BY HERE.

On Sunday we hope you'll share your prayer joys and concerns during the worship service so our pastors can include them in the Prayers of the People. Write down your prayers of confession, adoration, thanksgiving, joy, or petition on the index cards in the pew rack and put them in the baskets on the outer aisles. You can put them in the baskets before worship, during the Passing of the Peace or Children's Time, or during a hymn. We'll collect them from the baskets before we pray near the end of the service, and the pastor will pray through the cards during the Prayers of the People. We'll conclude with a Prayer Hymn. All prayers are welcome, but it is best to have a person's consent before writing their name on the card. (It's OK to pray for "a friend," because God knows who they are.)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE

The Elementary Choir will be singing on Father's Day, June 18 at the 11 o'clock service. Practices will be on June 4 and June 11 from 5pm- 5:30pm in the choir room. All first graders—fifth graders are invited!! Contact Nancy Parrish 843-442-6654 or stelesowell@gmail.com.

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.



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.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, May 21

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Retirement Reception, Covenant Hall
11:00 am	Worship Service
4:00 pm	Club 3, 4, 5, Covenant Hall
5:00 pm	Deacons Meeting, ZOOM
6:00 pm	Stated Session Meeting, Room 4
7:00 pm	Youth Group, Parkshore Pool
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, May 22

1:30 pm	Hands of Christ, Room 4
6:30 pm	Circle 1, Library

Tuesday, May 23

6:30 am	Toastmasters, Covenant Hall
9:30 am	3's Chapel Time, Sanctuary
10:00 am	Staff Meeting, Pastor's Office
1:00 pm	Bridge Group, Library

Wednesday, May 24

9:00 am	Preschool Funnastics, Covenant Hall
6:00 pm	Congregational Nominating Committee, Parlor
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall Room 3

Sunday, May 28

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

The Only Sign

by Mark Burckhalter

Look out the window, shout at the sky
Their demanding your reply
Not that they would be listening anyway

God-given eyes, but still can't see
Who You are and what could be
Must be blinded by the light of day

Hardened hearts buried in the sand
Drowning slowly on dry land
Scream so loud they can't hear what you're whispering
You are calling out, forget your doubt, and follow where I lead
Christ is the only sign you'll ever need

All your worries, all your fears
All the things you hold so dear
Can't you see your lifeline's a fraying rope

O faithless one, be still and know
What you reap you're sure to sow
Know that the Father holds your only hope

Hardened hearts cast in stone
Put your trust in God alone
He will bring you home, yes he's prepared the way
He is calling out, forget your doubt, and follow where I lead
I am the only sign you'll ever need

Bridge:
Upon the cross His life He gave, the sacrifice He made,
And washed all our sins away,
But as He rose again in just three days, the sign He gave,
His might and power in full display

Westminster Prays

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

Prayers of Sympathy and Support are extended to
Kate Pennekamp and family upon the death of her husband, Bill Pennekamp.

Friend of the Week

Rosalee Smith
1857 Greenmore Dr.
Charleston, SC 29407

Mission of the Week

Back Pack Buddies
1157 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.
Charleston, SC 29407

Student of the Week

Kirkland Smith
327 Clayton Dr.
Charleston, SC 29414

Church Family

Sandy Pell
Alex and Lindley Pennekamp
Evans

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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www.wpccharleston.org (843) 766-8311

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