



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

October 29, 2023

9:00 a.m.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ SONG OF PREPARATION NO. 626 *As the Deer*

As the deer pants for water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

From Ephesians 2

One: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

All: By grace we have been saved!

One: God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

All: By grace we have been saved through faith!

One: And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**All: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

◆ PRAYER

◆ SONG OF PRAISE NO. 307 God of Grace and God of Glory

CONFESSION

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

Dear Heavenly Father, we confess to you the number of times we have called upon your name in vain. We gather in this place to worship, but an encounter with the living God is not on our minds. We pray to you more out of habit than with expectation. We stand to sing your praise, but only halfheartedly. We offer you ourselves and our gifts but not with gratitude. We open your Word but do not open our hearts to receive it. Lord, we desperately need your forgiveness and we need your Spirit to breathe new life into us. We ask in Our Savior's name and for his sake. Amen.

◆ 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

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

◆ 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

Claire Winkles

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18: 1-6

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 19

SERMON

Who Is the Greatest?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE No. 310 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

◆ DECLARATION OF FAITH

TAKEN FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (1983)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

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. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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. 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

SENDING OUT

◆ BLESSING

◆ *Please stand, if able*

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Lissa Long, Pastor; Sarah Shaban, Music.

Acolyte: Tanner Gentry

Ushers: Dee Bee Wright*, John Wright, Robinson Family

TODAY WE ARE GLAD TO BE WELCOMING THESE NEW MEMBERS TO WESTMINSTER.

Debbie VanDeventer, Roger and Karen Lobitz, David and Peggy Jump, Kristin and Lauren Cook, and Jonathan and Gail Schier.

THE 200TH BANNER IS FILLING UP WITH NAMES!

Every household that completes a 2024 Estimate of Giving card has their last name written on the banner in the narthex. Already, there are SO MANY names! THANK YOU to those who have already made those commitments for 2024! Our goal is 100% participation, so if you have not yet turned in your card (they are available in the pew), you may do that by placing it in the offering plate or making your commitment online at www.wpccharleston.org Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness!!

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the Friendship Register in the pews. There is a virtual option for those who are worshipping online. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to open or find on our website under the Quick Links, Virtual Friendship Register.



IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN THE WESTMINSTER FAMILY?

Here's how you can do it.

1. Fill out a New Member Form and put it in the offering plate in the narthex. Forms are available at the Hospitality Table in the narthex, or you may fill one out online 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.



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 wpccharleston.org.

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

FROM THE WESTMINSTER PULPIT

We're hopping back into the Gospel of Matthew.

October 29

Matthew 18:1-6

Who Is the Greatest? "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

November 5

Matthew 18:7-9

Temptations to Sin "Cut it off! Tear it out!" How radical are we supposed to be in dealing with temptation?

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 October 29. We meet from 10:00 - 10:40 in Pastor Daniel's office at the end of the Admin Hall. Children are welcome or can go to Sunday School/Nursery. Save your spot at the October 29 Connections class by emailing office@wpccharleston.org.

PRAYER REQUEST?

Leave your written requests in the basket next to the main sanctuary doors. WPC staff will pray for your request at our weekly meeting and throughout the week.

REGISTER NOW!

Please follow the Enews link to complete your family registration for the Bethelwoods Churchwide Retreat Friday, November 3 - Sunday, November 5! All ages are welcome! <https://forms.gle/4GEbpOGGvFJAQtaJA>

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.

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

- Children 0-2 Nursery.
- Children 3K-K, 1-2nd, and 3rd-5th classes meet in the Christian Education building.
- Youth 6th-8th and 9th-12th grades meet in Covenant Hall.

Adult Class Offerings

- Anchor Class (Christian Education Building)-Bible Study through 6-8 week studies. Currently the group is using the book called Following Jesus.
- Carey Grayson Class (Covenant Hall-Room 4)-This class works through the scriptures by chapter and verse! Currently the class is studying Deuteronomy.
- Jesus in the Gospel (Parlor/Admin. building) Book study utilizing the book Having Nothing, Possessing Everything by Michael Mather.
- WoW Women's Study (Covenant Hall-Library)-Book study utilizing the book Daughters of Grace.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

This week we look forward to Backpack Buddies on November 1! Our dinner menu will be a Garden Salad, Baked Spaghetti, Green Beans, Garlic bread, and Cake. See you at 6:00 p.m.

Adults \$7, kids \$4 and a family cap of \$20 via cash, card or check.

ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST

We can't wait to see everyone at the Annual Oyster Roast on Wednesday, November 22! Worship begins at 6:00 to be followed by food and fellowship. Sides: Red Rice, Cole Slaw and Chips with S'Mores for dessert!

- Adult Oyster/Shrimp and Sides \$20
- Adult Hotdog/Chili and Sides \$10
- Children (4-11 years old) Hotdog/Chili and Sides \$5

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS: A SEMINAR ON GRIEF DURING THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated? Our *Griefshare* Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. Whether ongoing or new grief, you'll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to discover hope for your future

We're offering the seminar at two different times:

Sunday, November 12 from 5:00 - 7:00pm and Wednesday, November 15 from 10:00 - 12:00pm.

Please RSVP by contacting Pastor Lissa mlong@wpcccharleston.org.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SERVICE NOVEMBER 26

We are excited to announce that we will be having our Children's Sunday Service on November 26 at the 11:00 am service. Children in Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to help lead worship, sing songs of praise, and much more on this Sunday. There will be two opportunities to practice before the service: from 9:00 to 10:00 on November 12 in the Sunday School building, and at WINK on November 15 from 6:30-7:00 pm. Please click the link below to sign your child up to be in the Children's Sunday service. There are a variety of roles (speaking and non-speaking) so please take a look at the sign up for more information on ways that your child can be involved in Children's Sunday. If you have any questions, please send me an email at cwinkles@wpccharleston.org or give me a call at the church. I am looking forward to watching the children of Westminster be leaders in worship!

Link for signing up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44A4AB2AAAF5C52-44946746-childrens#/>

WORSHIP PREP

1st Graders, Sundays, October 1 - November 23, following Time for Children at 11:00 am worship service. One of the ways we keep the vows we make when our children are baptized is to give thought, effort and prayer to their participation in worship. Good worship experiences don't "just happen." If children feel loved, included and accepted in worship, it is because both the church and you have been faithful to their tasks. To that end, we will talk about where we worship, why we worship, how we worship and about prayer. We will also learn about both sacraments celebrated in the Presbyterian Church, Baptism and Communion. At least one parent or grandparent attends class with their child. If you have any questions, please call Dee Bee Wright at 843-729-7005.

YOUTH GROUP TRICK-CAN-TREATING TODAY ON YOUR FRONT DOORSTEP!

This is an ALL YOUTH event you do not want to miss! We will be driving around some neighborhoods in the Charleston area doing a little bit of "Trick Can Treating"! Kids will be driven by youth leaders to different WPC households, where they will leave a bag (with information) to collect canned goods for the Lowcountry Food Bank! This is Trick or Treating with a twist, and a Westminster Presbyterian Youth Tradition that you do not want to miss!

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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women are continuing with our women's undergarment ministry for the Leeds Avenue Detention Center. Circles are asked to participate by donating a packet of white, regular briefs, in their own size so we get a variety of sizes for the Christmas collection. They can be dropped off at the church office until December 15. Should you have any questions, please contact Barbara Lundy at 843-607-2102.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Soap bars, toothpaste, individually packaged toothbrushes, and deodorant

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NUMBERS

Mental Health Crisis Hotline 988

Community Resource and Support Hotline 211

My Sister's House (domestic abuse) 843-744-3242

AlAnon 843-762-6999

Narcotics Anonymous 843-852-3001

Wake-Up Carolina (support for families and individuals battling substance abuse) 843-972-815

This Week at Westminster

Sunday, October 29

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| 9:00 am | Worship Service |
| 10:00 am | Sunday School |
| 10:00 am | Elementary Sunday School classes visiting Viviant Healthcare |
| 10:45 am | Session Meeting for New Members |
| 11:00 am | Worship Service |
| 11:20 am | Worship Prep for First Graders |
| 5:00 pm | Youth Trick-Can-Treat |
| 7:00 pm | AA Meeting, Covenant Hall |

Monday, October 30

Tuesday, October 31

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| 10:00 am | Staff Meeting |
| 7:00 pm | Handbell Choir Rehearsal |

Wednesday, November 1

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| 6:00 pm | Wonderful Wednesday |
| 6:30 pm | Backpack Buddies |
| 7:00 pm | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal |
| 7:00 pm | AA Meeting, Covenant Hall |

Thursday, November 2

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| <u>Friday, November 3</u> | Bethelwoods All Church Retreat |
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Saturday, November 4

Sunday, November 5

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| 9:00 am | Worship Service |
| 10:00 am | Sunday School |
| 11:00 am | Worship Service |
| 11:20 am | Worship Prep for First Graders |
| 12:15 pm | Worship Committee meeting |
| 5:00 pm | Mid High Youth |
| 5:00 pm | Elementary Choir practice |
| 6:00 pm | Senior High Youth |
| 7:00 pm | AA Meeting, Covenant Hall |

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

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|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Cary Alexandre | Edward Fitzgibbon | Frances McLean | Jim Seay |
| Joyce Aydlette | Nikolai Fruth | John Martschink | Liz Shelor |
| Daryn Barker | Harold Fountain | Mary Martschink | Mark Stender |
| Mary Ashley Barbot | Terry Garrett | Christina Miller | Ginger Stoke |
| Gary Brooks | Charlotte Griggs | Love Moody | Pat Skees |
| Maryann Brown | Molly Griggs | Joe Nuchols | Rachel Singletary |
| Merrily Burnette | Bruce Hamilton | Libba Palmer | Judy Tag |
| Brian Carolow | Judy Hatch | Gary Payne | Bryan Thomas |
| Susie Cashion | Megan Hatfield | Nancy Plowden | Towne Family |
| Lydia Crosby | Jennifer Holladay | Suzy Pitsey | Gloria Underhill |
| Harper Croft | Rev. Chris Huff | Brayden Preus | Dick Unger |
| Sandi Daniels | Maurice Jackman | Monnie Privette | Maryalice Vann |
| Martin Davis | Brenda Jonsson | Reed Family | Nancy Waller |
| Rose Derrick | Mildred Kennerly | Charles Reeves | Lisa Wilcox |
| Cynthia Ebigwei | David Kerr | Nita Rodemann | Laura Wilson |
| Will Edwards | Fran Ligon | Gloria Ricoma | Robbie Yarnall |
| Bob Ferguson | Evan McMillian | Kevin Ritzel | Robin Zemp |

PRAYER LIST UPDATED OCTOBER 2023

If you need to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please email Suzann at office@wpccharleston.org

| College Student of the Week | Friend of the Week | Mission of the Week | Church Family |
|--|--|---|--|
| Skyler Frasier Winthrop University PO Box 8185 2020 Alumni Drive Rock Hill, SC 29733 | Norma O'Brien 201 W 9 th North Street Unit 302 Summerville, SC | Journey College Ministry charlestonjourney@gmail.com | Mike and Patty Stokes -Emmy and Rachael |

WESTMINSTER SESSION MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES

Administration: Tom Whetstone and Matthew Patrick; **Buildings and Grounds:** Matt Teitsort and Randy Davis; **Christian Education:** Lindy Coleman and Laura Patrick; **Fellowship:** Jonathan Bazzle, Betsy McLaughlin, and Mike Niblock; **Finance:** Norman Hook and Chuck Towne; **Membership:** Beth Georgen and John Dounian; **Missions:** Dee Bee Wright and Mary McAbee; **Preschool:** Abbie Mobley; **Worship:** Allyn Bruce and Ashley Snider; **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

Ms. Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, cwinkles@wpccharleston.org

Mr. Robin Zemp, Director of Music, rzemp@wpccharleston.org

Ms. Suzann Lilienthal, Office Administrator, office@wpccharleston.org

Ms. Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator finance@wpccharleston.org

Mrs. Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, preschool@wpccharleston.org

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