

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 17, 2023

11:00 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL PRELUDE

Sing Noel!
Sanctuary Choir

ARR. HAL HOPSON

◆ LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

The Anokye Family

One: In a world where we often seek personal happiness,
Advent beckons us to a deeper expression of our faith in Christ.

All: For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

One: Advent beckons us to remember God's unconditional love,
even when we stumble.

All: For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

One: Advent beckons us to remember God's invitation
to the human heart to be still in the face of strife.

All: For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

One: Advent beckons us to remember we always have hope,
even when it seems as if our world is caving in around us.

All: For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

◆ INVOCATION (UNISON)

Gracious God, in a world where the message is "be happy," we are reminded that only you grant the gift of true joy. This morning let us hear again with joyful hearts and proclaim with elated voices the wondrous refrain of your coming. "The Lord, our God, is with us both now and forevermore." We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.

◆ CAROL NO. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Congregation

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God of true God, Light from light eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord

Choir: *Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!*

Choir: *By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore!*

All: **O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!**

All: **O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!**

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Heaven cannot hold him, Nor can earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable warm sufficed
our Lord God Almighty, our Savior Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the evening air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a tender kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him. I would give my heart.*

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.

THE THIRD LESSON

LUKE 1:26-35, 38

CAROL

The Angel Gabriel Came
Sanctuary Choir

ARR. HAL HOPSON

*The Angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!*

*'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold; most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, 'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name': most highly favoured lady. Gloria!*

THE FOURTH LESSON

MATTHEW 1:18-24a

◆ CAROL NO. 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Congregation

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice; with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice; with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice; with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all; to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

THE FIFTH LESSON

LUKE 2:1-7

CAROL

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella
Sanctuary Choir

GWYNETH WALKER

*Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella, Bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village; Christ is born and Mary's calling.
Ah! ah! beautiful is the Mother! Ah! ah! beautiful is her Son!*

*Quiet, all, don't waken the baby; Quiet, all, and whisper low.
Silence as you gather around him, Lest your noise awaken Jesus.
Hush! hush! Quietly now he slumbers; Hush! hush! Quietly now he sleeps!*

*Softly to the little stable. Softly for a moment come;
Look and see how sweet is Jesus, See how he smiles! With cheeks so rosy!
Hush! hush! Quietly now he slumbers; Hush! hush! Quietly now he sleeps!
Ah! ah! beautiful is the Mother! Ah! ah! beautiful is her Son!*

THE SIXTH LESSON

LUKE 2:8-14

◆ CAROL NO. 113

Angels We Have Heard on High
Congregation

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

THE SEVENTH LESSON

LUKE 2:15-20

CAROL

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow
Sanctuary Choir

GWYNETH WALKER

*There's a star in the East on Christmas morn; Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
It will lead to the place where Jesus is born; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Refrain: Follow, follow; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the Star of Bethlehem; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*Leave your sheep and leave your lambs; Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
Leave your ewes and leave your rams; Rise up, shepherd, and follow. [Refrain]*

*If you take good heed to the angel's word; Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
You'll forget your flock, you'll forget your herd; Rise up, shepherd, and follow. [Refrain]*

THE EIGHTH LESSON

MATTHEW 2:1-2, 7-11

CAROL

What Star Is This with Beams So Bright
Natasha Akery

PEUR NOBIS NASCITUR

*What star is this, with beams so bright, More lovely than the noonday light?
Tis sent to announce a newborn King, Glad tidings of our God to bring.*

*'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed";
And lo! the Eastern sages stand To read in heaven the Lord's command.*

*While outward signs the star displays, An inward light the Lord conveys,
And urges them, with gentle might, To seek the Giver of the light.*

*O Jesus, while the star of grace Impels us on to seek Your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse The guidance of Your light to use.*

PASTORAL 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

◆ CAROL NO. 145

What Child Is This
Congregation

GREENSLEEVES

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

THE NINTH LESSON

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

◆ CAROL NO. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Congregation

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

◆ BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

We sing together: He came down that we may have joy;
 He came down that we may have joy;
 He came down that we may have joy;
 Hallelujah forevermore.

◆ POSTLUDE

And the Glory of the Lord

ARR. JAMES STANTON

◆ *Please stand, if able*

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY

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

Readers:

Abbie Mobley, Susanna Hopkins, Andrew Hopkins,
Grahame Long, Sara Dwyer, Marshall Ward, Timothy Fox

Musicians:

Susan Messersmith, *trumpet*
Todd Smith, *trumpet*
Vincent Kiray, *horn*
Chris Lindgren, *trombone*
Chris Bluemel, *tuba*

Acolytes: Emma Camburn/Cora Parrish

Ushers: John Dounian* + son, Lou Bowers, Alissa & Jack Ferguson or Debby & Bob Ferguson

Children's Church: Alissa Ferguson and Amy Keunzel

Wee Church: Lauren Openlander and Amy Keunzel

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

You may also listen to the weekly sermon by utilizing *Sermon By Phone* and calling 843-252-0146.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI License #2778901

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. Want to get involved? Fill out and return a "Using Your Gifts" form in the Friendship Register.



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.

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.

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.

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL! 10:00 - 10:45 ALL OVER CAMPUS

- 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.
- Cary Grayson Class (Covenant Hall-Room 4)-This class works through the scriptures by chapter and verse!
- Jesus in the Gospel (Parlor/Admin. building) Book study utilizing the book Having Nothing, Possessing Everything by Michael Mather.

GROUNDS PROJECTS

Two campus projects (tree work and repair/reseal/restripe asphalt) of the front parkway will be done Monday December 18-21. During this time the right entrance and left exit will be barricaded. Vehicles, Food Pantry recipients and delivery trucks will be re-routed to the front entrance facing Sam Rittenberg. Staff and visitors may park on the side by Vivient Healthcare, or continue around the back of the property and park by the kitchen. Any groups meeting on campus during this time will be notified and instructed on alternate parking. Point of contact is Carole Russell (843-442-5276)

2023 YEAR END GIVING

As we approach the end of the church's fiscal year, please be aware that the church books will close December 31, 2023. In order to be recorded for 2023 all contributions will need to be received by December 31. You can mail your check, bring to the church office, or take advantage of the safe and convenient online giving. Thank you for your faithful and generous support of the missions and ministry of Westminster. 2023 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 2024 pledge starting in January. That drop down will be available by 1/1/2024. This is particularly important if you have set up for automatic weekly or monthly giving.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women are continuing with our women's undergarment ministry for the Leeds Avenue Detention Center. You can participate by donating a packet of white, regular briefs, in your 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. Questions? please contact Barbara Lundy at 843-607-2102.

GIFT OF WARMTH

Our mission partner, Mary Ford Early Childhood Center, is looking to help students keep warm on the playground. Needs include new or VERY gently used outer clothing (coats, sweaters, gloves, caps, and socks) sizes 2T-Children 8. Clothing can be dropped off in baskets located in the narthex. Thank you!

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.neighborstogethersc.org. Email Jim Frye at fecr1@yahoo.com to receive emails about our regular Wednesday group.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Soap bars, small toothpaste tubes, individually packaged toothbrushes, and deodorant

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.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NUMBERS

Mental Health Crisis Hotline 988

Community Resource and Support Hotline 211

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

Al-Anon (843) 762-6999

Narcotics Anonymous (843) 852-3001

Wake-Up Carolina (support for families and individuals battling substance abuse) (843) 972-8154

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

December 24: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 Note the special time for morning worship! We'll gather together in the morning for the final service of Advent worship. One service only, no Sunday School.

December 24: Christmas Eve

3:00 & 5:00 Two options to attend a Service for Families with Young Children. We recreate the nativity with help from the congregation and all the children who wish to participate. Costumes provided; it's wiggly and wonderful.

7:00 Carols and Candlelight. A more reverent service with traditional carols, a sermon, and candle lighting.

December 31: The First Sunday of Christmas

9:00 & 11:00 Morning worship as we rejoice in the Savior's birth and look forward to the New Year.

10:00 Fellowship time in lieu of Sunday school.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AND CALENDARS

Advent Calendars and devotionals are available in the Narthex. Devotional guides for your daily reading, a calendar for all ages with a question for journaling and/or discussion each day, and star stickers to help identify the days passing as we countdown to Christmas, celebrating the coming of Jesus.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING

When we think about what we are giving for Christmas, often we want to give something that is needed and celebrated. What if you could give gifts to your friends and family that you knew would do both? The WPC Alternative Gifts Catalogue will help you give gifts to WPC Mission Partners who have an established avenue for God's missional work in our community and in the world. Catalogues and cards to 'wrap' are available in the Narthex.

Make checks out to Westminster Presbyterian Church with "Alternative Gifts Fair" in the memo line and fill out the (enclosed) Order Form to make sure your monies get sent to the correct mission partner. You can mail or drop off checks and forms to the Church Office OR you can gift online! Visit wpccharleston.org and click "Give Now" in the top right. Simply choose "Alternative Gift Fair" under the FUND tab. Please identify Mission Support in the memo section. When you make your donation, gift note cards and envelopes will be made available to you to wrap and give to friends, family, co-workers and neighbors. Your gift will make a difference in someone's life.

The Season of Advent

ADVENT is the Latin word for "coming." For Christians it refers to the church season that prepares for the coming of Jesus Christ as God in human flesh - the incarnation. We celebrate his humble birth, his coming to us now, and his coming again in glory at the end of time.

The round shape of the Advent Wreath is a symbol of God's never-ending love for us. The evergreens represent everlasting life, and the purple candles are for him who comes royally as King of kings and Lord of lords. The pink candle is for the joy of the season, and in the center of the wreath is the white Christ candle lit on Christmas Eve. In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

The Christmas tree is adorned with lights and Chrismons. Lights remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Chrismons are symbols that illustrate aspects of the Christian faith.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 17

9:00 am	Worship Service, Blue Christmas
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service, Lessons and Carols
5:00 pm	Mid-High Youth
6:00 pm	Senior High Youth
6:00 pm	Session Meeting
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, December 18

8:00 am	Tree and Asphalt paving projects begin
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Tuesday, December 19

10:00 am	Staff Meeting
7:00 pm	Handbell rehearsal

Wednesday, December 20

7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Thursday, December 21

1:00 pm	Staff Christmas luncheon/office closed
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Friday, December 22

Saturday, December 23

Sunday, December 24

10:00 am	Worship Service
3:00 pm	Worship Service for Families with Young Children
5:00 pm	Worship Service for Families with Young Children
7:00 pm	Worship Service Carols and Candlelight

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

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

PRAYER LIST UPDATED DECEMBER 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

Izzy Justice
PO Box 7207
2020 Alumni Drive
Winthrop University
Rock Hill, SC 29733

Friend of the Week

Pat Coggins
201 W. North Street
Unit 93
Summerville, SC 29483

Mission of the Week

Boy Scout Troup 79

Church Family

Greg & Kendall Ramsey
-Jillian & Henry

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

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

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

Suzann Lilienthal, Office Administrator, office@wpccharleston.org

Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator finance@wpccharleston.org

Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, preschool@wpccharleston.org

Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, mdorsel@wpccharleston.org