



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

January 14, 2024

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. 288 Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

FROM PSALM 103

One: Bless the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
All: He forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
He redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion;
He satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
One: Bless the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, bless his holy name.

◆ PRAYER

◆ SONG OF PRAISE NO. 475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

CONFESSION

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

Dear Lord, you are merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. You call us to treat others the same way you treat us, but we choose a different path. Our insecurities and need for self-validation lead us to treat others harshly so we can feel better about ourselves. Forgive us, and help us to be merciful to others in the same way you have been merciful to us.

◆DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

One: Hear the Good News!
Anyone in Christ is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Alleluia! Amen!

◆SONG OF RESPONSE

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: Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
Let us forgive one another.
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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Our God Will Go Before Us
Mark Burckhalter

BOSWELL/GETTY/PAPA

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:21-35

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 20

SERMON

Mercy!

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 439

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

◆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

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. 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

SENDING OUT

◆ BLESSING

Please stand, if able

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Nancy Parrish, Music

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

Acolyte: Catherine Patrick/Riley Gentry

Ushers: Matt Akery*, Joe Jeter, Laura Nunn

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.

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 February 4. 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 February 4 Connections class by emailing office@wpccharleston.org.

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL POTLUCK

Join us today for a fried chicken luncheon in Covenant Hall following 11:00 a.m. worship service. Cash donations for fried chicken welcome, bring a pot luck side or dessert to the kitchen during the Sunday School hour to share. Be filled with fellowship.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

Gather with friends and family of all ages for food and fellowship January 17, and for listening to Daniel, Amy and Matthew Smoak share a witness to the hope they experienced in Brazil. Our dinner menu will be Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Vegetable, Desert. See you at 6:00 p.m. Adults \$7, children \$4 and a family cap of \$20 via cash, card or check. *Nursery provided

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING: AFTER THE 11:00 SERVICE ON JANUARY 21

As a caring Christian community, we at Westminster are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all children and for all those working with children involved in the congregational life of Westminster Presbyterian Church and its affiliated organizations. Please stay in the sanctuary following the January 21st 11:00 service to participate in a brief 10-minute training on the guidelines we have in place to protect Westminster's children. Session and Diaconate will also be participating in this training at their meeting on January 21st. Please reach out to Ms. Claire if you have any questions or concerns about our Child Protection Policy!

CHRISTIANITY 101 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

10:00 - 10:45 a.m. in Covenant Hall January 14- April 28

Join Pastor Lissa in walking through the highlights of being a Christian Disciple in the Presbyterian Church. We will walk through PCUSA polity, worship, sacraments, discipleship and so much more all to prepare us for writing and sharing our statements of faith with one another.

READ GOOD BOOKS IN 2024!

Join Pastor Daniel in reading any (or all!) of these books in 2024. A variety of topics, authors, and genres, the choices are designed to stimulate the heart and mind and be a catalyst for growth in discipleship. Read each in preparation for the group discussion at 5:00 p.m. on the 4th Sunday of every other month. Books may be purchased online or at church (\$5 for *Carved in Ebony*)

- On February 25th we'll discuss Jasmine Holmes's *Carved in Ebony: Lessons from the Black Women Who Shape Us*. This book is about lesser-known Black women who were shining beacons of devotion in a world that did not value their lives. They worked to change laws, built schools, spoke to thousands, shared the Gospel around the world. And while history books may have forgotten them, their stories can teach us so much about what it means to be modern men and women of faith. *A Young Reader's edition (ages 9-12) is available.
- On April 28th we'll discuss Philip Yancey's *The Jesus I Never Knew*.
- On June 23rd we'll discuss Elizabeth Speare's *The Bronze Bow*. *This is a great book for readers as young as 6th grade.
- On August 25th we'll discuss Kaitlyn Schiess's *The Ballot and the Bible: How Scripture Has Been Used and Abused in American Politics and Where We Go From Here*.
- On October 27th we'll discuss Skye Jethani's *What if Jesus Was Serious about Heaven*.
- On December 22nd we'll discuss Keith and Kristyn Getty's *Sing!*

WORSHIP WITH OUR PRESBYTERY!

The Churches of Charleston Atlantic Presbytery gather for worship regularly. The next opportunity is Sunday, January 21 at 5:00pm. We'll meet in the sanctuary at the Presbytery Office (4701 Park Place W. in Park Circle.) The service will be led by the Dr. Brian Henderson and the choir from St. James Presbyterian Church, remembering and giving thanks to God for the life and witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

FROM THE WESTMINSTER PULPIT: We're studying the Gospel of Matthew.

January 14	Matthew 18:21-35	Mercy!
January 21	Matthew 19:1-15	On Divorce
January 28	Matthew 19:16-30	The Perils of Being Rich
February 4	Matthew 20:1-28	Striving to Finish Last
February 11	Matthew 20:29-34	Helping Us See Clearly

WE ARE SCHEDULING SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE 9:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

Do you sing or play an instrument? Young people and old, beginners and those with experience, we know you are out there with gifts to share. God is praised when you use your gifts and when the church intentionally develops worship leaders. If you'd like to be on the schedule for the coming months, please reach out to Pastor Daniel at dsmoak@wpccharleston.org

2024 GIVING

If you would like 2024 Giving Envelope sets, they are on the shelf in the administrative hall.

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. Thank you for your faithful and generous support of the missions and ministry of Westminster.

For online givers, please make sure to update your "giving fund" to 2024 pledge starting in January. This is particularly important if you have set up for automatic weekly or monthly giving.

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!

COLLECTING CANDLES FOR MIDDLETON PLACE

Have used candles that you would like to donate to repurpose? There is a box in the Narthex for them! These will go to Middleton Place for their candle making workshops. Contact Carole Russell for questions 843-442-5376.

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

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, January 14

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:00 pm	Second Sunday Lunch
5:00 pm	Mid-High and Senior High
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, January 15

	Martin Luther King Holiday
	Church Office Closed
6:30 pm	Circle 1 Meeting, Library

Tuesday, January 16

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

Wednesday, January 17

5:00 pm	Global Mission Team
6:00 pm	Wonderful Wednesday
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Thursday, January 18

Friday, January 19

Saturday, January 20

Sunday, January 21

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:00 pm	Child Protection Training, Covenant Hall
5:00 pm	All Youth Discipleship
5:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
6:00 pm	Stated Session Meeting
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

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

PRAYER LIST UPDATED JANUARY 2024

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
Abbie Grace McLaughlin 65 Martin Luther King Avenue Unit 6 St. Augustine, FL 32084	Carolyn Drose 251 Druid Road Charleston, SC 29407	Healing Farms 703 Yew Street Charleston, SC 29407	Matthew & Natasha Akery -Eleanor & Jane

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

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