



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

February 4, 2024

9:00 am

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. 515

I Come with Joy

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

FROM MATTHEW 5

One: Blessed are the poor in spirit,
the downtrodden and despairing;
All: They will rejoice in God's reign forever.
One: Blessed are those who mourn,
who are grieving;
All: They will be comforted in God's reign forever.
One: Blessed are the ones who seek
justice and righteousness;
All: They will find it in God's reign forever.
One: Blessed are we when we love our neighbors
and seek their needs;
All: We will live in God's reign forever.
One: Blessed are we all when we seek to serve others
in God's name.
**All: Let us worship together, serving one another
and serving our Mighty God.**

◆ PRAYER

◆ SONG OF PRAISE NO. 804

Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart!

CONFESSION

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

Eternal God, you have called your church to be a community for all people, an ark of salvation to the ends of the earth. Despite this identity, we are content to self-segregate to our comfort zones. We are reluctant to reach out to people who are different from us. Instead of a diverse, messy, and faithful church, we would rather have a safe group that looks like us, believes like us, and votes like us. Forgive us, Lord. Renew in our hearts a vision for reaching out to and including those unlike ourselves so that we might be more faithful to the Gospel itself. We pray these things in Jesus name, Amen.

◆ 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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 20:1-28

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 21

SERMON

Humility and Dependence

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE #175

Seek Ye First

THE LORD'S SUPPER

◆ INVITATION

◆ DECLARATION OF FAITH

FROM THE NICENE CREED (381)

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

SONG OF PREPARATION

Faithful to Me

Natasha Akery

KANPP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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

SENDING OUT

◆ SONG NO. 546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

◆ BLESSING

◆ *Please stand, if able*

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY:

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Lissa Long, Pastor; Nancy Parrish, Music.

Acolyte: Thomas Robinson

Ushers: George McAbee, Mary McAbee, Robinson Family

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

TODAY WE SHARE THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

All who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to share in the bread and the cup. Elders will serve the congregation seated in the pews; please hold the elements and we will partake together. WPC is a safe place for those in recovery- we serve grape juice only. Gluten free bread is available in the center of the juice tray. Children are invited to the table provided they've had instruction at home or in Westminster's worship prep class (1st grade).

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.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING has been called for today immediately following the 11:00 worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to review the financial reports from 2023, review the Session-approved budget for 2024, and in accordance with G-2.0804/G-1.0501 review and vote on changes in the terms of call for our pastors. We will also convene briefly for a **Meeting of the Corporation**. There is no business, but an annual meeting is required by SC law.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

This week we look forward to hosting EmpowHer and Journey Collegiate Ministries on February 7. Our dinner menu will be Chicken (fried and baked), Salad, Red Rice, Vegetable, and Desserts. See you at 6:00 p.m. Adults \$7, children \$4 and a family cap of \$20 via cash, card or check.

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.

SOUPER BOWL & SECOND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

As we gear up for the biggest football night of the year, Souper Bowl of Caring mobilizes youth to collect dollars and cans for hunger-relief organizations in their local communities. The money that Westminster raises will be utilized to feed the community members who receive bags from the Westminster Food Pantry here at church! Please mark your calendars to bring a donation of canned goods or a financial donation for the Youth of WPC to collect following worship services on February 11th, and bring a side for our Second Sunday Luncheon. All proceeds collected at Second Sunday will go towards the Souper Bowl of Caring at Westminster as well! Please send any questions to Ms. Claire at cwinkles@wpcccharleston.org. Thank you!

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 14

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. It's called Ash Wednesday because as a sign of repentance, believers through the centuries have received the mark of an ashen cross on their forehead. The ashes remind us of God's words to Adam when he sinned- "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," and it reminds us of the Old Testament practice of wearing sackcloth and having ashes placed on the head as a sign of spiritual poverty. On February 14, there are several opportunities to gather.

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| 8:00- 8:15 a.m. & 12:15-12:30 p.m. | Brief gatherings in the sanctuary to pray and be marked with the ashes of repentance. |
| 6:30 -7:15 p.m. | Ash Wednesday worship where we hear God's word of hope and are marked with the ashes of repentance. In Covenant Hall following 6:00 supper. |

READ GOOD BOOKS IN 2024!

Join Pastor Daniel in reading good 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.

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

February 4	Matthew 20:1-28	Humility and Dependence
February 11	Matthew 20:29-34	Helping Us See Clearly
February 18	Matthew 21:1-11	The King Has Come
February 25	Matthew 21:12-17	Clearing the Temple

GLOBAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES!

We are so glad for growing Global Partnerships at Westminster.

- In **Guatemala**, the Presbyterian Church is renewing their commitment to building the LaPatria School. We're discerning the part we might play in that good work.
- In **Mexico**, we're learning about the Cistern Ministry of Todd Luke in the Yucatan. Todd works with local families in building rainwater cisterns so families can have a year-round supply of safe water. The church identifies the needs and works alongside families and mission teams to construct needed cisterns. Pastor Daniel and Ms. Claire are leading a team of older students (who missed the opportunity for global mission because of Covid) July 1-7, 2024.
- In **Brazil**, we partner with Felipe and Laura Mathias in their ministry to the children in the slums of Sao Paulo. Life in the slums is hard, but the Lighthouse is a beacon of hope where children can learn about Jesus and experience the love God has for them. Pastor Priscilla Holtzclaw is leading a team of adults July 17-24, 2024. [Informational meeting for interested people on Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 pm in Pastor Daniel's Office.](#)

To indicate your interest in being a team member, come to informational meetings or speak with Pastor Daniel or Pastor Priscilla. The total cost of each trip is about \$1900, and the cost will be divided between participant contribution, the church's Global Mission Fund, and group fundraising.

MUSIC NEWS

We give thanks for the ministry of three excellent musicians who are working together to plan and enhance our worship experiences. Nancy Parrish plays the piano for the 9:00 services on Sunday; Sarah Shayban directs the sanctuary choir and bell choir and plays the organ at the 11:00 service. Robin Zemp is involved in planning and coordinating as his health limits his ability to be physically present on campus. You can be involved: singing with the choir or providing special music at the 9:00 service. Reach out to rzemp@wpccharleston.org.

SAMS GROUP:

SAVE the DATE! February 15, 1 pm in Covenant Hall. We will have lunch (provided, \$7 each). Our speakers are from the Wild Bird Store, and will tell us how to prepare for bluebirds and other backyard guests this spring!

WOMEN'S BIBLICAL BOOK CLUB

Join our Women's Biblical Book Club beginning Wednesday, February 21 in the Church Parlor from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm for a 6 week study as we begin reading *Having a MaryHeart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver. This is an invitation for every woman who has ever felt she isn't godly enough, isn't loving enough, or isn't doing enough. The book stems from Luke 10:38-42. Please join us as we deepen our devotion, strengthen our service and do both with less stress and greater joy. You may begin reading the first two chapters before the class begins. Call Brenda Clarey (843) 364-3429 if you plan to attend. We have ordered 8 copies if you wish to reserve one or you may order yourself. The cost is approximately \$10.50.

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, toothpaste, 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

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

Community Resource and Support Hotline 211

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, February 4

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:00 pm	Congregational Meeting
4:00 pm	Club 3,4,5
5:00 pm	All Youth Discipleship
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, February 5

6:00 pm	Congregational Nominating Committee
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Tuesday, February 6

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

Wednesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 8

Friday, February 9

Saturday, February 10

1:00 pm	Memorial Service for Nancy Waller
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Sunday, February 11

SouperBowl of Caring

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

SAVE THE DATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH!

Westminster's children and youth have a lot of great opportunities for growing in discipleship and having fun! Please be sure to mark your calendars for the following events!

Children's Ministries Dates to look forward to!

- 2-21-24 WINK! Children of ages 3 and up are invited to participate in WiNK from 6:30-7:00 during a presentation from Mary Ford Elementary!
- 3-23-24 Easter Egg Hunt at Westminster from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Youth Dates to look forward to!

- 2-11-24 No Youth Group due to Super Bowl
- 3-10-24 Youth Oscars Party at Ms. Dee Bee's House!
- 3-23-24 All Youth Help with Easter Egg Hunt! More details to follow!
- 3-24-24 Confirmation Sunday for 7th and 8th grade youth!

Youth and Children's Ministry Summer Dates to note:

- 6-23-24 through 6-27-24 Vacation Bible School at WPC!
- 6-9-24 through 6-15-24 Sr. High Montreat Retreat
- July 14-19 Middle School CROSS Mission Trip in Charlotte N.C.
- 7-21-24 through 7-27-24 Westminster's Week at Bethelwoods!

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

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

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
Amber Appell 117 Wilson Drive Summerville, SC 29483	Janie Hammersmith 1925 Essex Farms Drive Charleston, SC 29414	Metanoia 2005 Reynold Avenue North Charleston, SC 29405	Vincent & Loretta Anokye -Hazel

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. Lissa Long, Associate Pastor, mlong@wpccharleston.org
Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, cwinkles@wpccharleston.org
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