



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

May 12, 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. 137 He Came Down

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

... that we may have light
... that we may have peace
... that we may have joy

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

FROM PSALM 113

One: Praise the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord.

All: Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.

One: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

All: The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens.

One: For there is no other like our God, the One who sits enthroned on high.

All: Let us worship the Lord our God.

◆ PRAYER

◆ SONG OF PRAISE NO. 93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

CONFESSION

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

O God, have mercy on us as we confess our sin. Christ calls us to develop and use our spiritual gifts, but we keep them hidden. He gives us tasks to perform, but we do as we please. He sends us out to minister to the suffering, but we are slow to respond until our own needs are met. He intends for us to praise Him in all that we do, but we like to take the credit for ourselves. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us and help us be more obedient to the call of Jesus in our lives.

◆ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

◆ 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: 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

SPECIAL MUSIC For the Beauty of the Earth
Nancy Parrish and Anna Kerr

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:14-30 PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 28

SERMON Waiting on His Return

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 104 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

◆ DECLARATION OF FAITH TAKEN FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (1983)

In life and in 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.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. 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!

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. 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

SENDING OUT

◆ BLESSING

◆ *Please stand, if able*

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY: Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Lissa Long, Pastor; Nancy Parrish, Music.

Acolytes: Catherine Patrick, Riley Gentry

Ushers: Matt Akery*, Joe Jeter, Laura Nunn

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

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor
of all of the women who have filled the role of mothers in our lives.*

HONOR MOM ON MOTHER'S DAY WITH A GIFT TO THE MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

We are collecting for the Mother's Day Offering for the benefit of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. For over 60 years, this offering has been an important act of support for this unique ministry of SC Presbyterians to older adults. The proceeds are used solely to support residents at Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina who have outlived their life savings through no fault of their own and now depend on the kindness of others. The average cost of Charitable Care from 2013 to 2023 was \$1,212,000, covering 19 residents whose average age is 90. You may drop your offering in the plate, mail it in to the church, or give online at wpccharleston.org. Checks payable to Westminster, or choose "Presbyterian Home" on the online menu. Envelopes and more information are available in the narthex. Thank you!

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.

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 May 19. 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 May 19 Connections class by emailing office@wpccharleston.org.

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.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY SENIOR NIGHT AT WPC

Gather with friends and family of all ages for food and fellowship on May 15 at 6:00 p.m. Menu will be chicken, red rice, macaroni and cheese, salad, and dessert. Adults \$7, children \$4 and a family cap of \$20 via cash, card or check. Following Supper, we're celebrating our High School Seniors. Join us a short program to acknowledge the accomplishments of and pray for Olivia Niblock, Macie Long, Ella Patrick, and Cole McLaughlin.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES SHEPHERDING MEETING

Please join us May 19th in Covenant Hall from 10:00-10:45 for a light breakfast and informational meeting about being a shepherd in Sunday School and Youth Group. We hope to share with you our vision for children and youth ministries, and encourage you to find ways of getting involved. Please email Claire at cwinkles@wpccharleston.org if you have any questions or if you plan to attend! We hope to see you there!

FROM THE WESTMINSTER PULPIT

- | | | |
|--------|------------------|--|
| May 19 | Matthew 25:31-46 | Sheep and Goats <i>True faith, the kind that flows from the heart, shows a concern for 'the least of these.'</i> |
| May 26 | Matthew 26:1-16 | Deception, Love, and Betrayal <i>Leaders plan to kill Jesus; Mary anoints him for burial, and Judas betrays him.</i> |

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.

On June 23rd we'll discuss Elizabeth Speare's *The Bronze Bow*. In this Newbery Medal-winning historical fiction novel set during the time of Jesus, young Daniel bar Jamin wants nothing more than to rid his land of Israel of Roman control once and for all. Yet when David meets Jesus of Nazareth, a traveling carpenter with a gentle message of love and forgiveness, David starts to realize that the hate festering in his heart might be his true enemy after all. *This is a great book for readers as young as 6th grade. Books are available online or in the narthex (\$3)

- 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!*

ELEMENTARY CHOIR SPRING DATES AND SPECIAL MUSIC

Do you have a child in 1st-5th grade who loves to sing and worship the Lord? Then mark your calendars for the following Children's Choir practices! Children are invited to come practice and sing with Ms. Nancy, Ms. Claire, and Mrs. Mellany on a variety of Wednesday and Sunday nights in the month of May. Wednesday practices will be from 5:30-6:00, and Sunday practices will be from 4:30-5:00 in the sanctuary. Finally, on Sunday June 2nd the children will lead special music and sing, "I Love To Tell the Story" at the 11:00 service. We encourage your children to participate in these fun practices as much as they can before singing for the congregation! If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Claire at cwinkles@wpccharleston.org. We hope to sing with your children soon!

Practice Schedule:

Wednesday May 15th; Sunday May 19th; Wednesday May 22nd; Sunday May 26th-immediately following 11:00 worship.; Sunday June 2nd- children will sing at 11:00 worship.

CALLING MEN WHO SING OR MEN WHO TRY TO SING!

We are looking for all Men's voices to sing together on June 2! This is a "make a joyful noise" group that has been a real blessing in the past. We plan to practice for 20 minutes after the 11:00 service today, May 12, May 19 and May 26. Meet at the piano as soon as service is over. We'll sing with the Elementary Choir on Sunday, June 2. Contact Nancy Parrish with any questions at stelesowell@gmail.com.

WOULD YOU LIKE A CROSS CREATED FROM THE OLD WESTMINSTER DOORS?

This summer, Westminster is sending mission teams to Brazil and Mexico. The teams look forward to learning from and working alongside our mission partners.

In Brazil, the team will work with Felipe and Laura Matias in their ministry to children living in the slums of Sao Paulo. In Mexico, the team will work with Todd Luke, who has been coordinating water ministry programs in the Yucatan for years. That group will be working with new friends and concrete to build rainwater cisterns. These teams are able to go through a combination of their own financial commitment, Westminster mission funds, and team fundraising. You can help with the fundraising. If you'd like to contribute, please make your check payable to: Westminster and mark it 2024 Mission Trips. If you support with cash, please be sure to put your name on the envelope. You can also give online at wpccharleston.org Choose 2024 Mission Trips on the dropdown menu.

Anyone who supports the teams with \$250 or more will receive a "Thank You" gift of a beautiful wooden cross, created from the old church doors by Gary Flowers. Anyone who supports the teams with a gift of \$25 or more will be entered in a drawing for the chance to win one of the remaining crosses. Thank you in advance for your support!

Mexico July 1-6: Daniel Smoak, Claire Winkles, Joshua Robinson, Macie Long, Lauren Smoak, Mattie Housley.

Brazil July 17-24: Priscilla Holtzclaw, Dee Bee Wright, John Wright, Jane Warner, Ashley Snider, Debbie Redmon, Andrew Smoak

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. Email office@wpccharleston.org to receive emails about our regular Wednesday group.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Soap bars, toothpaste, individually packaged toothbrushes, and deodorant

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

Postpartumsupportchas.org

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, May 12

9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
12:15 pm Men's Chorus
7:00 pm AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, May 13

6:00 pm Officer Training Session 1 in Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 14

8:00 am Men's Bible Study, Town and Country
10:30 am Circle 4 in Room 4
10:30 am Circle 5 in Parlor
1:00 pm Bridge Club

Wednesday, May 15

10:00 am Neighbors Together
5:30 pm Elementary Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary
6:00 pm Wonderful Wednesday Senior Night
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Thursday, May 16

Friday, May 17

Saturday, May 18

Sunday, May 19

9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Children's and Youth Ministries Shepherding Meeting
11:00 am Worship Service
12:00 pm Mission Team Meeting in Parlor
12:15 pm Men's Chorus
4:00 pm APC Meeting Pastor Daniel's office
4:30 pm Elementary Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary
5:00 pm All Youth Discipleship
5:00 pm Deacons Meeting, Room 4
6:00 pm Stated Session Meeting, Room 4
7:00 pm AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Cary Alexandre | Niklolai Fruth | Walker Lundy | Nita Rodemann |
| Joyce Aydlette | Harold Fountain | Evan McMillian | Gloria Ricoma |
| Daryn Baker | Sandra Gorman | John Martschink | Kevin Ritzel |
| Mary Ashley Barbot | Bruce Hamilton | Mary Martschink | Elizabeth Shelor |
| Gary Brooks | Judy Hatch | Christina Miller | Jerry Smoak |
| Leslie Brown | Megan Hatfield | Love Moody | Mark Stender |
| Maryann Brown | Jennifer Holladay | Maria Morrow | Ginger Stoke |
| Brian Carolow | Rev. Chris Huff | Roy Nickles | Rachel Singletary |
| Susie Cashion | Maurice Jackman | Joe Nuchols | Judy Tag |
| Lydia Crosby | Brenda Jonsson | Sylvia Peek | Towne Family |
| Martin Davis | Mildred Kennerly | Nancy Plowden | Gloria Underhill |
| Rose Derrick | David Kerr | Pratt Family | Bonum Wilson |
| Cynthia Ebigwei | Debbie Kieffer | Monnie Privette | Robbie Yarnall |
| Pat Finn | Sheryl Klinger | Donna Purcell | Robin Zemp |
| Edward Fitzgibbon | Adam Kozel | Reed Family | |
| Frasier Family | Fran Ligon | Charles Reeves | |
| Joan Frye | Jane Livingston | Lee Robertson | |

PRAYER LIST UPDATED MAY 2024

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

Friend of the Week

Aileen Wiese
110 Ashley Villa Circle Apt 8
Charleston, SC 29414

Mission of the Week

Neighbors Together
2105 Cosgrove Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29405

Church Family

Debra Brown
Allyn Bruce

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

1157 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29407

[@www.wpccharleston.org](http://www.wpccharleston.org) 843-766-8311

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

Sarah Shayban, Assistant Director of Music

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