

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

August 24, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Please greet each other warmly as the congregation gathers for worship.

Take a moment and sign the friendship register.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moment for Mission

WePack

PRELUDE

Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

ARR. DOUGLAS WAGNER

♦ CALL TO WORSHIP

FROM THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

One: Rejoice always!

All: We rejoice because we have an abundance of joy!

One: Pray continually.

All: We pray because we cannot do it by ourselves.

One: Give thanks in all circumstances.

All: We give thanks because nothing can separate us from God's love.

One: This is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

All: We walk with Jesus in joy, in prayer, and in thanksgiving!

♦ INVOCATION 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

♦ HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

◆ Prayer of Confession

O God, our Mighty Fortress, hear our confession. We worship idols of our own making; when temptation overtakes us, we submit to its charm. We find it easier to grumble at hardships than to praise you for the mercies we receive day by day. We test you in every way. Forgive us when we take advantage of your loving nature, and restore us to right fellowship with you and with others.

-Silent Personal Confession -

♦ SONG OF RESPONSE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

♦ SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbor

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

Claire Winkles

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.

ANTHEM

Open Our Eyes Sanctuary Choir ARR. GILBERT MARTIN

Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key, that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see; open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine! Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth Thou sendest clear; and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see; open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine! Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart, and let me prepare love with Thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see; open my mouth, illumine me, Spirit divine!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Colossians 1:1-14

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 199

SERMON

We Walk With Jesus: Abounding in Thanksgiving

♦ HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 724

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ANGEL'S STORY

◆AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

TAKEN FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (1983)

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!

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

♦ HYMN NO. 634 To God Be The Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

♦ BENEDICTION

◆ POSTLUDE Fugue WILLIAM SHELBY

♦ Please stand, if able

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY:

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate; Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries; Sarah Shayban, Director of Music

Acolytes: Matthew Smoak, Sophia Teitsort Children's Church: Kendall and Greg Ramsay Wee Church: Liliya and Jeff Davis Ushers: Carole Russell, Deb Brown, Jim Frye, and Nathan Ward

11:00 Livestream at www.wpccharleston.org, YouTube (Westminster Presbyterian Charleston) Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI License #2778901

The rosebud in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God in celebration of the birth of Charlotte Anne, born August 15, 2025, to the parents Brent and Kathy Garee.

FEED THE YOUTH

Interested in providing a meal for our Youth Discipleship Group on Sunday Nights? Remember you don't have to have youth to feed the youth. They are happy with home cooked or hot-N-ready. Scan the QR Code for a list of dates to sign-up to feed the youth on Sunday Nights from 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. If you have questions, Clair Winkles cwinkles@wpccharleston. org



WELCOME TO WORSHIP! ALL ARE WELCOME

We are called to be and to make disciples who love God and who love our neighbors. We are all neighbors no matter our age, race, language, culture, gifts and challenges, gender identity, or sexual orientation. We strive to be a safe and supportive community where all people are included, celebrated, and loved as we grow as disciples together.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE

Please take a moment to sign and pass the Friendship Register in the pews. If you are visiting and wish to learn more about Westminster, leave your contact information. If you are interested in becoming a member, check 'wish to join' and a pastor will be in touch with you.

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.

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. 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. The next Connections Class is Sunday, September 14. Reserve your spot by reaching out to office@wpccharleston.org.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN THE WESTMINSTER FAMILY?

Here's how you can do it. 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. 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. 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. 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.

FOOD PANTRY/TOILETRY ITEMS

Needed for our food bags: toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, and soap bars.

WE WALK WITH JESUS: DISCIPLESHIP IN COLOSSIANS

From the Westminster Pulpit

•	August 24	Colossians 1:1-14	We Walk with Jesus: Abounding in Thanksgiving
•	August 31	Colossians 1:15-20	We Walk with Jesus: In Praise of Jesus Christ
•	September 7	Colossians 1:21-23	We Walk with Jesus: Reconciled
•	September 14	Colossians 1:24-29	We Walk with Jesus: Christ in You
•	September 21	Colossians 2:1-7	We Walk with Jesus: Rooted and Built Up
•	September 28	Colossians 2:8-12	We Walk with Jesus: Beware the Deceivers

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

We will kick-off Wonderful Wednesday meals and programming on Wednesday, September 3. That night we'll share a great meal together at 6:00 and serve together by packing WePack food kits for area school children. Second Sunday Social Potluck meals will resume on September 14th. If you'd like to get involved with planning, hosting, and serving at Fellowship activities, please contact Jon Bazzle or the church office. office@wpccharleston.org.

WE WALK WITH JESUS: GROWING IN STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP THROUGH SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Today: Pause and Refresh on "Sharing Power"

What do the writers of the Creation Story want us to know about God's ways? Participants will be introduced to the literary features and narrative details in Genesis 1 that reveal a God who shares power. Participants will consider what power looks like in their lives, examine when it has been withheld or shared, and determine next steps for embodying ways of a creative and generous God. Led by Natasha Akery; for youth and adults. We meet in Covenant Hall from 10:00 – 10:45.

August 31: Classes have organizational Meetings

September 7: Classes begin!

- The Anchor Class: This class emphasizes fellowship, good discussion, and growth. They will be studying the book of Acts, using resources from Bible scholar N.T. Wright. Trace the development of the early church and the power of the Holy Spirit, drawing parallels to the ways we follow Jesus today. Facilitated by David Jump; Class meets in Room 15 of the Education Building.
- The Cary Grayson Class: This class is facilitated by a team of leaders that engage in a study and reflection of the Bible. The peers bring their ideas, knowledge, and understanding of the Bible to accentuate on their outlook of the Lord's teachings. The current book being reviewed is 2 Kings. A variety of outlooks are always welcome! Class meets in Room 4 of Covenant Hall.
- The LIFE Class: Want to know more about the Bible and how to study it? We'll spend 7 weeks using Donald Griggs's The Bible from Scratch: The Old Testament for Beginners. We'll review themes and people, explore the foundations of our faith, and learn how to study the Bible for ourselves. Class is facilitated by Lindy Coleman and Pastor Priscilla and meets in the library.
- The After Party: A 6-week video and discussion course designed to help Christians navigate today's challenging political environment. It's no secret that the church has been challenged by extreme polarization, entrenched tribal affiliations, and the broken relationships that often result. This course is both inspiring and practical and will help you reorient your heart and mind towards a Christ-centered political identity. We'll consider the "how vs. the "what" of politics, and explore what the Bible has to say about it all. Facilitated by Daniel Smoak and Natasha Akery. Limited enrollment; Sign up by calling or emailing dsmoak@wpccharleston.org. More info at redeemingbabel.org/the-after-party.

ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH W.E. PACK!

When we kick off Wonderful Wednesdays on September 3, we will also kick off another year of snacks (<u>Weekend Eats</u>) for students! After supper on the first Wednesday of every month, we take about 30-45 minutes to pack snack kits for Goodwin and Mary Ford students who are facing weekend food insecurity. We pack enough for 300 students a week to go home with a bag of nutritious snacks. It is a fun and meaningful mission opportunity for all ages. You can support this important ministry financially. The cost to send snacks home for one child for the month is \$10 or \$90 for the year! Make checks payable to WPC and marked "WePack" or on the WPC website. Click "Give" and choose WEPack on the drop-down menu. Thank you!

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

AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU SING WITH THE CHOIR!

In 1973, inventor Arthur Fry attended a seminar given by 3M scientist Spencer Silver on an adhesive Silver had "accidentally" developed years earlier. In an attempt to create a strong adhesive to be used in the aerospace industry, Silver ended up creating a weak, temporary adhesive that had yet to be put to practical use. Fry was an avid singer in his church choir, and used bookmarks to organize his choir folder and hymnal. One Sunday, as his bookmarks clumsily slipped out of place, it occurred to Fry that Silver's weak, reusable adhesive could perfectly hold his bookmarks in place without damaging his music, and the Post-It was born. You never know what amazing things might happen if you join the choir. You may invent something that changes the world! At the very least, you will learn a lot, enjoy fellowship, and enhance the worship of all who attend WPC. We rehearse Wednesday at 7- make yourself a post-it!

READ GOOD BOOKS IN 2025!

Join Pastor Daniel in reading any (or all!) of these books in 2025. 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 on the 4th Sunday of every other month. Books may be purchased online or at church (\$5 for *The Lion*, the Witch, and the Wardrobe)

- Today we'll discuss C.S Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice. This is the second book in C. S. Lewis's classic fantasy series, which has been drawing readers of all ages into a magical land with unforgettable characters for over sixty years. **This is a GREAT book for kids' summer reading!**
- On October 26th we'll discuss John Mark Comer's The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry.
- In December (date TBD) we'll discuss Fleming Rutledge's Advent.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILDREN

You will receive a letter soon about our Worship Preparation Classes which will be held September 14-November 2, 2025. The class will meet on Sunday mornings after the children are dismissed following the Time to Shine at the 11:00 a.m. service. While we are inviting first graders, older elementary aged children are welcome if they have not previously completed this class. 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 must attend class with your child. If you have any questions or do not receive the letter, please call Dee Bee Wright or the church office. Thank you!

SAM'S BROOKGREEN GARDEN'S NIGHT OF A THOUSAND CANDLES

Join us Thursday, December 11 from 1:30 – 9:30 for a trip to Murrells Inlet for an early dinner and evening at Brookgreen Gardens for a walking tour of the lights display. Board passenger vans at 1:30 at church. Tickets are \$40 and must be reserved in advance. Sign-up deadline is August 27 with payment (cash/check only) due by September 3 to the church office. Sign-up sheet is in the Admin. Hallway until August 27. Only 27 spots are available.

SAVE THE DATE! SAMS LUNCH AND LEARN

September 18 @ 1pm in Covenant Hall for light lunch, \$5 per person. Dr. George Dickinson, Sociology Professor from the College of Charleston, will speak on "The American Way of Dying". No sign-up required!

CHURCH OF THE ARTS: A NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT IN PARK CIRCLE

On August 31, we are so glad to welcome the Organizing Pastor of Church of the Arts, Rev. Tricia Petraven, to the Westminster pulpit. In the Presbyterian Church (USA), as new worshipping communities and new churches are developed, it is important that they remain connected to existing congregations and presbyteries for support, encouragement, and accountability. As an NCD (New Church Development) of the Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery, meeting primarily in presbytery space in Park Circle, The Church of the Arts will be primarily supported through the work of the presbytery. In addition, Westminster also agrees to be a partner church until such time as Church of the Arts should be deemed ready to become an organized congregation. In doing so, Westminster commits to pray, share resources, financially support, promote, and partner in ministry together. Join us the 31st to learn more and hear ways you can be part of this exciting new mission.

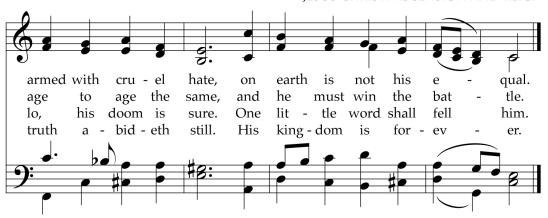
CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2025-2026!

It is time once again for us to have a confirmation class for our current 7th and 8th graders. We are looking forward to helping these students either affirm or re-affirm their faith through study, fellowship, and writing their statements of faith. If your youth would like to be confirmed this year, please reach out to Ms. Claire at cwinkles@wpccharleston and attend our informational meeting on September 28th from 12:15-1:00 in Covenant Hall.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God might - y our God, bul-wark nev - er 1 A for - tress is a strength con - fide, 2 Did in our own our striv-ing would be 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat-en 4 That word earth - ly powers, no a - bove all thanks to them, a -Our help - er mid the flood of fail ing. he, a ing, los were not the right man our side, the on God hath willed we will fear, for his do us, not The Spir - it bid eth. and the gifts are ours through pre - vail ing. mor - tal ills For still our an - cient foe doth man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we Let goods and kin - dred go, him who with us sid eth. this seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from him. trem - ble not for His rage we can en dure, for mor - tal life The bod - y they kill; God's al so. may

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

JESUS CHRIST: ASCENSION AND REIGN





Written to highlight the promises made by the author's daughter and two sons at their confirmation, this text equally well recalls the promises of discipleship made in Baptism and in the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. The tune was written for a text now unused.



This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, August 24

9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service

3:00 pm Troop 79 Court of Honor, Sanctuary

4:00 pm Narnia Book Discussion, Preschool Building

5:00 pm Youth Group

7:30 pm AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, August 25

Tuesday, August 26

10:00 am Staff Meeting

1:00 pm Bridge Group, Library6:00 pm WPS Parent Open House

Wednesday, August 27

10:00 am WPS Meet the Teacher

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Thursday, August 28

10:00 am WPS Meet the Teacher

6:30 pm Scout Troop 79 Pack Meeting

Friday, August 29

Saturday, August 30

Sunday, August 31

9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service

4:30 pm AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NUMBERS

Al-Anon (843) 762-6999 Community Resource and Support Hotline 211 Neighbors Together (843) 747-1788 Narcotics Anonymous (843) 852-3001 Mental Health Crisis Hotline 988 PostPartumsupportchas.org

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

Cary Alexandre (WPC) Joyce Aydlette (Becky Grafton) Daryn Baker (Jane Acker) Mary Ashley Barbot (Lisa Couch)

Ron Booth (WPC) Sissie Brigman (WPC) Diane Byers, (Deb Frasier) Susie Cashion (WPC) Lauren Choate (Sara Dwyer)

Pat Coggins (WPC)

The family of Rachel Crews Cherie Couche (Dana Tumbleston)

Lvdia Crosby (WPC)

Martin Davis (Kevin Mikles) Rose Derrick (Brenda Clarey) Hosanna Eadie (Katie Baturin) Roxanne Eadie (Katie Baturin) The Earnst Family (WPC) Ann Farrar (Beth Georgen) Ellen Farrar (Beth Georgen)

Julia Fletcher (Niblock Family) Edward Fitzgibbon (Joan Frye)

Harold Fountain (Henry Shepard)

Debra Frasier (WPC) John Gilbert (WPC) Mona Gilbert (WPC) Keith Gordon (WPC) Janie Hammersmith (WPC)

Megan Hatfield (Debbie McQueeney) Harter Family (Jennifer Binnicker) Hedgepeth Family (Abbie Mobley) Betsy Henson (Ashley Snider) Chris Huff (Gloria Purcell) Janssen Family (WPC) Lvnn Koger (WPC) Mary Laird (Ashley Snider)

Fran Ligon (WPC)

Jane Livingston (Tom Livingston) Ray Long (Ellen Bollinger) John Martschink (WPC) Mary Martschink (WPC)

Jay Massalon (Dana Tumbleston) David McEachern (Debra Luhn) Gavin McLeod (Dana Tumbleston)

Love Moody (WPC)

Jennifer Morgan (Susie Cashion)

Joe Nuchols (Debbie McQueeney) Patty O'Bryan (Becky Grafton)

Nancy Plowden (WPC)

Pratt Family (WPC Preschool)

Donna Purcell (WPC)

Charles Reeves (Carol Patrick) Kevin Ritzel (Neil Ritzel) Nita Rodemann (WPC) Liz Shelor (WPC) Cliff Shelor (WPC) Tradd Shepard (WPC) Rachel Singletary (Sara Bobo)

Jerry Smoak (WPC) Dave Stanton (WPC) Towne Family (WPC)

Gloria Underhill (Laura Nunn) Kathy Unger (Keith Gordon) Jacqueline Vance (Sara Dwyer) Mark Warner (Kendall Ramsay)

Tom Whetstone (WPC) Aileen Wiese (WPC)

Ianet Wilson (Gloria Purcell) Betty Winter (Dee Bee Wright)

Brazil Families: Cirleine, Rayssa, Samuel, Milo, Kathlyn, Wellington

PRAYER LIST UPDATED AUGUST 2025

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

Friend of the Week Keith Gordon 1759 River Front Drive Charleston, SC 29407

Mission of the Week WePack 1157 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. Charleston, SC 29407

Church Family Kyle & Annie Scanlin Graham, Emory

ELDERS AND SESSION COMMITTEES

Administration: Michael Patrick and Paul Patrick; Buildings and Grounds: Randy Davis and Tim Fox; Christian Education: Cathy Grills and Kevin Mikles; Fellowship: Jon Bazzle, Janie Bruce and Michael Scruggs; Finance: Sarah Schumann and Joshua Robinson; Membership: John Dounian and Cameron Baker; Missions: Mary McAbee and Natasha Akery; Preschool: Ashley Snider; Worship: Allyn Bruce and Deborah-Anne Ferguson; Clerk: Carole Russell; Assistant Clerk: Cathy Grills Treasurer: Tim Fox

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1157 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard Charleston, SC 29407 www.wpccharleston.org (843) 766-8311

Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Smoak, Pastor, dsmoak@wpccharleston.org Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate, pwholtz@gmail.com Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, cwinkles@wpccharleston.org Sarah Shayban, Director of Music, sshayban@wpccharleston.org Kate Cowart, Office Administrator, office@wpccharleston.org Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator finance@wpccharleston.org Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, mdorsel@wpccharleston.org