



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

August 31, 2025

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. 399

God Welcomes All

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong; and it never ends.**

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

FROM GENESIS 1 AND JOHN 1

One: In the beginning God created the heavens and earth.

All: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.**

One: Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

All: **Through him all thing were made;
without him nothing was made that has been made.**

One: And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.
God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night."
And there was evening, and there was morning-the first day.

All: **In him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

One: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

All: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

◆ 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 OF PRAISE NO. 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

CONFESSION

◆CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

Dear Lord, we confess the ways we have listened to the voice of temptation and chased after our own agendas. You lay out the path of life before us, but we think we know better. We choose to do things our way and expect you to add blessing or bail us out when things don't turn out to suit us. Please forgive both our willful and unintentional ignorance. Save us from ourselves, we pray.

-Silent Personal Confession -

◆DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

◆SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 447

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

Claire Winkles

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Colossians 1:15-20

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 200

SERMON

We Walk With Jesus: In Praise of Jesus Christ

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten
(Verses 1,2,5,6)

FAITH IN POETRY

Resurrection

Charlotte Griggs

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 121

PEW BIBLE O.T. PAGE 571

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

◆SONG NO. 321

The Church's One Foundation

SENDING OUT

◆ BLESSING

◆ *Please stand, if able*

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY:

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate;
Tricia Petraven, Guest Pastor
Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries

Music: Nancy Parrish

Acolytes: Eleanor Akery, Jane Akery

Ushers: Nancy Dixon, Sherry Niblock, Robinson Family

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 Augustus Wayne Pace, born August 22, 2025,
to the parents Emma Fruth and Zack Pace and great grandfather Kevin Mikles.*

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, Claire.Winkles@wpccharleston.org



ADOPT THE BLESSINGBOX

Adopt the WPC Blessing Box located at the end of the carline loop by the bus stop. Adopt for two weeks at a time, making sure it's stocked and replenishing items as needed. This is a great opportunity for Circles, Sunday School classes, neighbors, and families. Use the QR Code provided to sign up.



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 31 | Colossians 1:15-20 | We Walk with Jesus: In Praise of Jesus Christ |
| • | | Guest: Rev. Tricia Petraven, Church of the Arts |
| • 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 |
| • October 5 | World Communion Sunday WPC Mission Partner, Ellen Smith preaching | |

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

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. Class is full but will be offered again.

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 (Weekend Eats) 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!

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.

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 (\$10 for *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*)

- On October 26th we'll discuss John Mark Comer's *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*. Philosopher Dallas Willard said "Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day, and we must ruthlessly eliminate from our lives." Carl Jung said "hurry is not of the devil; it is the devil." Corrie Ten Boom said, "If the devil can't make you sin, he'll make you hurry." In this popular title from recent years, Pastor Comer explores how to stay emotionally healthy and spiritually alive in the chaos of the modern world. He makes the case that love, joy, and peace are at the heart of all Jesus is trying to grow in the soil of your life, and all three are incompatible with hurry. If you are frustrated with and drained by the relentless pace of life, this is a book you need to read.
- 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

The sign-up sheet is full! If you would like to be on the alternate list, please contact Carole Russell or Sandy Pell via the church office. If you are on the sign-up list, please get your payment to the office as soon as possible. The deadline is September 3!

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!
- November 13, 2025 @ 1pm in Covenant Hall for Lunch and Learn. The speaker will be from the College of Charleston's Center for Creative Retirement. Lunch plans are forthcoming!

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

Today 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.

ABOUT PASTOR TRICIA: Tricia Petraven is an artist and a former scenic designer for the stage, who became a pastor as a second career. She believes in using our creativity and imagination to make art that points us to Jesus and helps us to see God's love. After graduating from seminary 10 years ago with an M.Div., Tricia soon became a trained transitional minister, especially being drawn to churches that had experienced trauma. She found her artistic approach to worship was particularly helpful when dealing with brokenness and healing through grief. Tricia states, "In today's world of short attention spans and social media, we need to engage with our beliefs and our faith even more intentionally. It's not enough to be a passive listener in church. What keeps our faith on fire is participating in worship with as much as we can, with all our gifts, all our questions, all our talents, all our complicated lives. Then it becomes vital, it heals our hurts and gives us meaning."

CHURCH OF THE ARTS CALENDAR

- August 31: Back to School Blessing and Cookout, 12:30-2:00pm at Pastor Tricia's house, 2352 Kent Ave., North Charleston, SC 29405. Bless the kids as they go back to school. We will also fill the blessing box. *Bring a dish to share if you come.*
- September 14: Preaching at Dorchester Presbyterian Church, 8:30am and 10:30am. AND Open Mic Night and Tacos at 6pm at the church (4701 Park Place W.) Tell a story or joke, sing, read poetry, play an instrument, do a magic trick. Show off your talent!
- October 12: Art Night, 7pm. Photography, drawing, writing, crafting, and playing cards all combine into an autobiographical art you can take home. Appropriate for all ages. At the church (4701 Park Place W.)
- November 14: Theater Performance of *Leviticus*, 7:30pm. About *Leviticus*: "The telling of a true story about being young and gay in a non-affirming church." Followed by a talk back with the audience. At the church (4701 Park Place W.)
- November 16: Soft open. Our committed friends will be able to preview the service to work out any kinks.
- November 23: Opening Service. We will gather together for our opening service with art, music, and creativity. *We need LOTS of Westminster people to attend! *

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

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

Monday, September 1

	Labor Day, church office closed
6:00 pm	Troop 79 Leadership Meeting, Covenant Hall

Tuesday, September 2

10:00 am	Staff Meeting
1:00 pm	Bridge Group, Library

Wednesday, September 3

6:00 pm	Wonderful Wednesday, Covenant
6:30 pm	WePack, Covenant Hall
6:30 pm	Handbell Choir
7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Thursday, September 4

12:00 pm	CAJM Meeting, Covenant Hall
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Friday, September 5

Saturday, September 6

Sunday, September 7

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:15 pm	CE Committee, Library
12:15 pm	Worship Committee Meeting, Parlor
4:00 pm	Club 345
5:00 pm	Youth Group
7:00 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)
Lydia 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)
Lynn 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)
Janet 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

Janie Hammersmith
1925 Essex Farms Drive, Apt. 2015
Charleston, SC 29414

Mission of the Week

Healing Farms
703 Yew Street
Charleston, SC 29407

Church Family

Jon and Gail Schier

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, preschool@wpccharleston.org

Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, mdorsel@wpccharleston.org