

December 2025



THE GOOD NEWS

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

GREETINGS

From Pastor Daniel

What Do You Fear?

"Do not Fear" is a phrase repeated 365 times in the Bible. I read somewhere that God chose that number because we need to hear it every day!

What are we to do when we are afraid? I wish we could make the feeling go away with a simple reminder about the power, presence, and providence of God. I wish it worked like that, but I have not found that method to be overly successful.

Some Christians advocate digging deeper- looking into the things that cause us fear. In doing so, we may uncover their lack of power, and at the same time, discover why we so easily give in to those fears.

For instance, in the Gospels, we learn the Jews under Herod's jurisdiction were afraid of his tyrannical rule. At the same time, the Gospel writers paint a picture of a larger plan unfolding in the birth of Jesus. It is a plan that ultimately reveals Herod's powerlessness and fleeing influence on the course of human history. Digging deeper into the fear is a pathway to understanding and peace.

During Advent, our question is "What Do You Fear?" We'll dive into the story of Advent and Christmas, along the way tackling the fears faced then and the fears we face now.

I'm glad to go on the journey with you!

Much love,

Pastor Daniel



FROM THE PULPIT

"What Do You Fear?"
*An Advent & Christmas
Sermon Series*

November 30

Luke 1:5-13

*"In The Time of Herod, We Long
of God to Break in"*

December 7

*Children Hang
the Chrismons*

Matthew 11:1-11

*"When We Are Running Out of
Hope, God Is at Work"*



December 14

Lessons & Carols

Luke 1:26-39

*"Even in Our Fear, We Are Called
Forward"*

December 21

Matthew 1:18-25

*"When You're Afraid, Give Me
Your Hand"*

December 24

Children's Christmas, 3:00 & 5:00pm

"The Nativity: Wild & Wonderful"

December 24

Candlelight Worship, 7:00pm

Luke 2:1-20

*"The Angels Declare the Good
News: Good News Is Louder
Than Fear"*

December 28

Sunday After Christmas

One Worship Service, 10:00am

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

*"Fleeing to Egypt: Let Fear Fuel
a Fire for Justice"*

January 4

Epiphany

One Worship Service, 10:00am

Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

"The Magi: Fear Doesn't Stop Us"



Advent Devotionals:

What Do You Fear?

(That go with sermon series)

Available in Narthex.



MINISTRIES

DISCIPLESHIP UPDATES

You're Invited! "Holy Grounds" *Sunday, December 7*

9:45- 10:15am in Covenant Hall

Join us for Holy Grounds, a new monthly gathering during the Sunday School hour, hosted by the deacons! This casual time of coffee, conversation (and pastries!) is designed to welcome new members and invite existing members who want to meet others, get more involved in the life of the church, and build meaningful connections. Our next session is Sunday, December 7 just prior to It's a Wonderful Life adult Sunday School. Come for the coffee, stay for the fellowship!

New Members

Jeff & Glenna Richards (daughter, Leonora)

Births

Bennett Banks Spainhour born

November 5, son of Emily (Gibson) & Sean Spainhour.

Rowe Alexander Pennekamp born

November 14, son of Alex & Lindley Pennekamp. Grandparents: Tim & Sandy Pennekamp. Greatgrandparents: Kate Pennekamp; Tom Harvey

Baptisms

Julius Shepard, son of Nick & Katie Shepard

Matt Moody

Cora Moody, daughter of Matt & Riviere Moody

Ian and Willow Laing, son & daughter of Spencer & Joshua Laing

Auggie Pace, son of Zach Pace & Emma Fruth

In Loving Memory

Chuck Towne, September 27, 2025

Jerry Adams, October 7, 2025

Minnie Love Moody, November 6, 2025

Gus Bradsher, November 4, 2025

FELLOWSHIP

Wonderful Wednesdays **6:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall**

Join us every Wednesday for dinner for adults and children. \$4 kids, \$8 adults, \$25 for a family max. Follow the E-news and Bulletin for menus and special programs.

December 3 W.E. Pack

December 10 TBD

December 17 TBD

December 24 No WW

December 31 No WW

January 7 W.E. Pack

January 14 TBD

January 21 TBD

January 28 Fellowship Surprise

Second Sunday Social Potluck **Sunday, December 14**

following 11:00 a.m. Worship

Every 2nd Sunday of the month, all are welcome to a fried chicken luncheon in Covenant Hall following 11:00 a.m. worship. We provide the chicken and drinks while sides are good ole fashioned pot luck. Please prepare enough to share; drop your dish off in Covenant Hall during the Sunday School Hour.

Advent & Christmas Worship at Westminster

November 30

First Sunday of Advent

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

The Lord's Supper

Children hang the Chrismons

December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Lessons and Carols

December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

December 24

Christmas Eve

3:00 & 5:00 p.m.

*Children recreate the
Nativity**

Two options to attend a Service for Families with Young Children. We recreate the nativity with help from the congregation and all the children who wish to participate. It's wiggly and wonderful.

**Costumes are provided in the Admin Hall; we highly recommend coming 20 minutes early so your child can pick their costume, get dressed, and get seated. During worship, signs will be held up for your child's character to walk up to the front of the sanctuary.*

7:00 p.m.

Carols & Candlelight

A more reverent service with traditional carols, a sermon, and candle lighting.

December 28 & January 4
10:00 a.m.

One worship service.

No Sunday School.

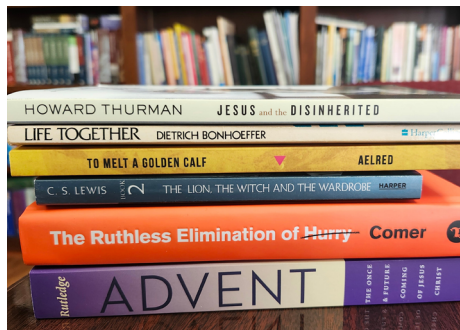
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2025 Book Study Series

Sunday, December 21

4:00 p.m.

On December 21, we'll discuss Fleming Rutledge's *Advent*. In her collection of writings and sermons, Rutledge will help us get ready. As the midnight of the Christian year, the season of Advent is rife with dark, gritty realities. In this book, with her trademark wit and wisdom, Rutledge explores Advent as a time of rich paradoxes, a season celebrating at once Christ's incarnation and his second coming, and she masterfully unfolds the ethical and future-oriented significance of Advent for the church. We'll read prescribed portions of the book in preparation for discussion on Sunday December 21 at 4:00. Books are \$25 and available in the narthex.



Combined Adult Sunday School During Advent: It's a Wonderful Life!

Sunday, November 30, December 7, 14, and 21

10:00 a.m. in Covenant Hall

We'll view and discuss portions of the classic movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*. *It's a Wonderful Life* is one of the most popular and heartwarming films ever made. Its near universal appeal and association with Christmas has provided a rich story of redemption that has inspired generations for decades. Set on Christmas Eve in a post-World War II small town, it tells a story of the likable and selfless George Bailey, a small town banker who suffers scandal and ruin not of his own making only to be saved in the final act through intervention by God, family, and friends. There's no better time than Christmas to be reminded that every human life has value, and that true wealth - spiritual wealth - comes from a right relationship with God and Selfless Love toward others. Everyone is invited.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Christmas Drop-In

Sunday, December 7

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Pastor Priscilla's

Bring a sweet or savory treat to share. Christmas sing-along @ 4 pm! Join us at Pastor Priscilla's 43 S. Hampton Drive (in Sandhurst).

MUSIC MINISTRY

Join the Choir for Advent & Christmas!

As we prepare our hearts for the Advent and Christmas season, we invite you to be part of the choir and help lead our congregation in worship through music. Whether you've sung in a choir for years or simply enjoy lifting your voice in praise, we would love for you to join us! We'll be preparing a selection of special music for Advent and Christmas services, and all voices are welcome—no audition required. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season, build community, and share the joy of Christ's birth through song.

Contact Sarah Shayban sshayban@wpccharleston.org or come to rehearsal on Wednesday nights at 7:15.



WESTMINSTER MONTHLIES

Hooks & Needles

Monday, December 8

10:00 a.m.

Classroom 4, Covenant Hall

We knit and crochet baby blankets for WPC baptisms among other projects. All are welcome to come (even just for the fellowship).

Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, December 9

8:00 a.m., Trotter's Restaurant

Men of all ages join us for Breakfast and Bible Study. Pastor Daniel leading.

Circle 4

Tuesday, December 9

10:00 a.m.

Classroom 4, Covenant Hall

Circle 5

Tuesday, December 9

10:00 a.m.

Parlor, Admin Building

Circle 1

Monday, December 15

6:30 p.m.

Library, Covenant Hall

*Please join us as we continue our study of *Having a Mary Heart* in a *Martha World* by Joanna Weaver.*

Scan for Church Calendar.





CHILDREN & YOUTH

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Parents Night Out:

Sunday, December 7

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall

Attention Parents! Save the date for our annual "Parent's Night Out". Please bring your children to the church for a night of fun and fellowship and head out for a date night or just simply relax for a few hours at home! There will be a sign up with limited spots, be sure to sign up today using the QR Code to the right!



Gift Making Workshop

Saturday, December 13

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in Covenant Hall

On December 13th we will have our annual gift making workshop in the Covenant Hall from 9:00-11:00a.m.! First through Fifth graders are invited to sign up and join us to create and wrap Christmas gifts for their loved ones. Spaces are limited, so sign up today using the QR code to the right!



Volunteer Opportunity If you would like to host a gift making workshop station use the QR Code to the right.



Club 3,4,5

January 11

4:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall

All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited for fellowship, bible study, games and a snack. We will meet once a month from 4:00 to 5:00 in Covenant Hall. Bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship!

Future dates: February 8, March 1, and May 3.

Children's Special Worship Opportunities

December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

The Lord's Supper

Children hang the Chrismons

December 24

Christmas Eve

3:00 & 5:00 p.m.

**Children recreate the
Nativity***

Two options to attend a Service for Families with Young Children. We recreate the nativity with help from the congregation and all the children who wish to participate. It's wiggly and wonderful.

**Costumes are provided in the Admin Hall; we highly recommend coming 20 minutes early so your child can pick their costume, get dressed, and get seated. During worship, signs will be held up for your child's character to walk up to the front of the sanctuary.*

Sunday Night Youth Group

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

in Covenant Hall

All Youth Dinner

5:00-5:30 p.m.

Peer Group Fellowship

5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Middle School & High
School break into small age-
appropriate groups for bible
study, games and fellowship.**

YOUTH MINISTRY

November/December Youth Nights

All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us at Youth Group on Sunday nights from 5-6:30 and 5-7:00 on special nights! Please save the dates below!



Festival of Lights Party Bus Night

Sunday, November 30th

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Youth will still be dropped off and picked up at the church. We will be taking a party bus to enjoy the Festival of Lights and holiday village at James Island County Park. Sign your youth up today using the QR Code to the left!



All Youth Help with Parent's Night Out

Sunday, December 7th

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Youth will lead 1st - 5th Graders in fun activities for Parent's Night Out. Please sign up your youth to volunteer so we know how many kiddos we can schedule. Sign up using the QR Code to the left.



Youth Help with Gift Making Workshop

Saturday, December 13

9:30- 11:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall

Youth will help 1st - 5th graders at the Children's Gift Making Workshop make and wrap fun gifts for their friends and family.



All Youth Angel Tree Shopping

Sunday, December 14

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

It's one of the favorite night's of the year. A shopping spree at Target for children in need using all of the amazing donations made by the congregation. Please sign up your youth so we have a good headcount.

No Youth on the following dates:

- ***November 23rd due to Fall Break***
- ***December 21st due to Winter Break***
- ***December 28th due to Winter Break***
- ***January 4th due to Winter Break***

For More Info:

Claire Winkles, Director of Youth
& Children's Ministries

cwinkles@wpccharleston.org



SAVE THE DATE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Parent's Night Out*

Sunday, December 7

5:00 - 7:00pm

Children's Christmas Gift Making Workshop!

Saturday, December 13

9:00 - 10:30am

Family Friendly Christmas Eve Worship

December 24

3:00 & 5:00 pm

High School CAP Retreat at Bethelwoods

February 20 - 22, 2026

All Youth Oscars Party

Sunday, March 15

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt*

March 28, 2026

10:00 - 11:30am

Easter

April 5, 2026

Youth Sunday

April 19, 2026

Save the Dates

June 7-13: HS Montreat

June 21-25: VBS*

July 6-9 MS Youth Mission

****Youth Volunteer***



FOOD PANTRY

Support the Westminster Food Pantry

The Westminster food pantry is one way we seek to love our neighbor. Every week, 45 food bags are prepared for distribution to families in our community. Each bag is full of non-perishable food items like canned meat, pasta, vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, and fruit. Laundry detergent and diapers are also offered. The contents are more valuable than what it costs us to purchase in bulk and assemble each bag. During Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are also distributing certificates for a free turkey or ham in area grocery stores. So far this year, we've distributed \$22,000 in food to the community.

There is a growing need, and you can help.

- A gift to the food pantry by check (payable to WPC) or online (text "charlestonwpc" to 73256 and choose "food pantry" on the drop-down menu. We can make your donation go a long way.
- Pick up an empty bag from the shopping cart in the narthex and return it with any items we distribute (a list is provided).
- Bring in other needed items we distribute, such as: bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, and conditioner.

Thank you for the part you play in showing kindness and love to our neighbors.

HELP WITH MARY FORD

Mary Ford Early Learning and Childhood Center

Mary Ford is one of our Mission Partners and there are a variety of ways to dip your toes in a little or a lot.

If you can be involved regularly:

- **Adopt a Classroom:** Individuals or groups can sponsor a classroom, Helping provide supplies, encouragement, and support to teachers and students.
- **Tutoring:** Helping students from 1:15- 2:15 with flash cards and reading to them.

If you can be involved occasionally:

- **Work in the Library:** Help shelve books, help students pick out books, and/or donate books to the school library.
- **Food Pantry:** Help shelve donated items, donate items, help shoppers in the Mary Ford food Pantry.
- **Garden Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to help clean out beds, planting new plants, watering, and cleaning of the green house.

Sign Up/More Info:

Church Office

(843) 766-8311

office@wpccharleston.org



VOLUNTEER

W.E. Pack Wednesday

Wednesday, December 3

**Wonderful Wednesday Supper
6:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall**

The first Wednesday of the month "W.E. Pack" weekend food kits for students with food insecurities.

People of all ages can participate in a fun and meaningful mission project together.

Neighbors Together

Wednesday, December 17

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Serve a hot meal to our neighbors in need the third Wednesday of every month at Neighbors Together; 2105 Cosgrove Ave, North Charleston, SC 29405.

Adopt the Blessing Box

Adopt for two weeks at a time, making sure it's stocked and replenishing items as needed. Great opportunity for Circles, Sunday School classes, neighbors, and families.

Sign Up/More Info:

Church Office

(843) 766-8311

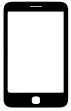
office@wpccharleston.org

Scan for additional opportunities & to sign up!





GIVE NOW



TEXT
charlestonwpc
to 73256



ONLINE
wpccharleston.org



MAIL or DROP OFF
1157 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.

REALM CONNECT APP OR ONLINE

Schedule one-time and/or recurring gifts in the Realm Connect App OR online by scanning QR Code below.



STEWARDSHIP

The Narthex is Filling Up Fast with WPC Disciples who are Walking with Jesus!

Jesus is over the entry into the sanctuary, and he's holding hands with everyone who has returned their 2026 Estimates of Giving. For every card returned or online response we get, another "person" will appear connected to and walking with Jesus. Your gifts make a difference, and your participation strengthens our faithful response to God's call for our church. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness!!

More Info:
Church Office
(843) 766-8311
office@wpccharleston.org
OR Scan QR Code below to donate online.



COUNSELING

Counseling Services are available through Lowcountry Pastoral Counseling Center, in partnership with Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The need for quality mental, emotional, and spiritual care today is undeniable. Pastoral Counseling enables individuals, couples, and families to receive quality counseling that acknowledges the value of faith in the healing process. Whether you need someone to listen, help you process challenges, or simply walk with you through a season of life, help is available. Westminster is partnering with Lowcountry Pastoral Counseling Center and can refer you for counseling, providing up to 5 sessions at no cost to you.

Check out Lowcountry Pastoral Counseling Center at www.lowcountrypastoral.org and reach out to Pastor Daniel or Pastor Priscilla for a referral.

WPC ART

Give the Gift of Westminster

Christmas is just around the corner, and Westminster art by our own Patrick Grills is available. Prints, mugs, stationery, etc is available for purchase, and proceeds from every sale benefit the mission of the church. Check out the virtual storefront by scanning the QR Code below.



Westminster Presbyterian Church
1157 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

Westminster Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP



9:00 a.m.

WORSHIP

Nursery available

10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

for Children, Youth & Adults

Nursery available

11:00 a.m.

WORSHIP

*Children's Church
& Nursery available*

WEEKLY E-NEWS

Scan the QR Code
to receive our
Church E-News
every Tuesday.



STAY IN TOUCH



1157 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.
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