



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

The First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

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. 443

There Is a Redeemer

**There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

**Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit; till the work on earth is done.**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.**

**Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit; till the work on earth is done.**

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

One: Come, all who long for mercy. Come, all who hunger for grace.

All: We come seeking the One who forgives us and makes us new.

One: Jesus teaches us: *If you are offering your gift at the altar and remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there... first be reconciled, and then come and offer your gift.*

All: We come, remembering that worship and reconciliation belong together.

One: God's mercy is deeper than our sin. God's love does not keep record of wrongs.

All: As we seek forgiveness, teach us also to forgive.

As we receive grace, send us to make peace.

One: Let us lay down pride, anger, and every barrier between us.

Let us draw near with honest hearts.

All: With humility and hope, we worship the God

who reconciles us to himself and to one another.

◆ PRAYER

◆ SONG OF PRAISE NO. 415

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

CONFESSION

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

From Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

-Silent Personal Confession-

◆ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 447

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

Claire Winkles

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 20

SERMON

The First Word from the Cross

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:24

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

◆ DECLARATION OF FAITH

from a Brief Statement of Faith (1983)

In life and 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. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

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

◆ SENDING SONG NO. 547 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

◆ SENDING OUT
The Mexico Mission Team

◆ *Please stand, if able*

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY:

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

Acolytes: Evan Ford

Ushers: Nancy Dixon, Dan Klingshirn, Jill Lundgrin, Graham Wade

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

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.

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.

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.



READ GOOD BOOKS IN 2026!

Join Pastor Daniel in reading books covering a variety of topics, authors, and genres. The choices are designed to stimulate the heart and mind and to be a catalyst for growth in discipleship. Read in preparation for the group discussion at 4:00 p.m. on the 4th Sunday of every other month.

TODAY at 4pm we'll discuss Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. With more than twenty million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, *Things Fall Apart* provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. The story follows the tragic life of a high-performing but deeply flawed African native inhabiting an exalted place within his traditional Umuofia society which is under threat from European imperialists. Themes covered are: Colonialism and Cultural Change, Masculinity and Identity, and Tradition vs. Change. (Books are \$10 and available online or in the Narthex.)

2026 MEXICO MISSION TRIPS

Pray for great trips for our team of adults (February 23-28) and our team of youth and adults (June 29-July 4) with Todd Luke and water cistern ministry in Xpujil, Mexico. Team 1, D. Smoak, G. McAbee, A. Hopkins, S. Hopkins, J. Crites, B. Georgen, T. Owen, D. Brown, and C. Bednarczyk, is preparing to head to Xpujil tomorrow, February 23 through Saturday, February 28. Your generosity makes it possible for us to travel and experience what we are doing together with God and our mission partners. Please take a donation envelope from the Buckets and Shovels Money Board in the Narthex. Return your envelope with cash or check to the office or the offering plate. Make checks payable to WPC with 2026 Mission Trips in the memo line. You may also give online at the church website by choosing "2026 Mission Trip" on the dropdown menu. Thank you for your support!

YOU'RE INVITED! "HOLY GROUNDS" TODAY; 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.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

Did You Know? In an effort to keep everyone safe, we have a Child Protection Policy. All staff, officers, and youth and children volunteers are required to have annual training and background checks at WPC. There are three upcoming opportunities for training:

- 10:00-10:15 in the Sanctuary on February 22
- 12:00-12:15 in the Sanctuary on February 22.

Ms. Claire leads the training. We appreciate your help in keeping our youth and children safe!

GROUNDED IN PRAYER

If events in your life, our community, our nation, or the world are stirring a desire for a more deeply rooted prayer life, you are not alone. You are invited to join others who feel the same way.

On Sundays from 5:00-5:45 pm, we gather in the **WPC Sanctuary** for a time of prayer together. Each week will include:

- A brief devotional teaching from a pastor on the nature of prayer.
- Guided prayer shaped by the Psalms and the Lord's Prayer.
- Learning and practicing how biblical prayers can inform both personal and communal prayer.
- Taking steps to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us from prayer into action.

Whether you come as an active participant or a quiet observer, you are welcome. Join us any Sunday.

JOIN US FOR WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY!

Gather with friends and family of all ages for food and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. Adults \$8, children \$4 and a family cap of \$25 via cash, card or check.

FROM THE SESSION

Trusting the Spirit's leading and grateful for the ministry God is doing among us, the Session has approved a faith budget of **\$1,035,805 for 2026**. This budget reflects our shared commitment to worship, care, formation, mission, and outreach in Christ's name.

Based on anticipated giving, other income, and our 2025 actual receipts, we are currently projecting a **budget shortfall of \$143,609**. That is larger than what we typically face, yet Session approved this budget because we believe deeply in the mission and ministry it supports. While designated funds—essentially our church's savings—could cover the gap if needed, our hope is not to rely on those funds.

Instead, we want to extend a **simple and prayerful invitation** to our congregation.

- If you have already pledged, we invite you to prayerfully consider whether you might be able to take a small step up—an increase that reflects both your capacity and your care for this church.
- If you have not pledged before, we invite you to consider a pledge not as an obligation, but as a spiritual practice—a way of saying, *"This is my church, and I share responsibility for its life and witness."*

An additional **\$50–\$60 per month from each family** would bridge the gap and bring us into alignment with our commitments to ministry and mission.

If most of your giving is currently designated for a specific ministry, we also invite you to consider whether a portion of that generosity might support the operating ministry that sustains everything else we do together.

If you feel led to respond to this invitation, you may do so **using the QR code** or an Estimate of Giving Card found in the narthex.



Thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your love for this congregation. We are deeply grateful to be walking this path of ministry together.

With gratitude,
The Session

FROM THE WESTMINSTER PULPIT

What the Church calls "the seven last words" of Jesus are based on the final seven phrases Jesus said on the cross before his death. We study them because his identity, purpose, and depth of love becomes clear as we come to understand the meaning behind his last words. Join us for worship on for the 7 Last Words Sermon series. Listen online at wpccharleston.org

- February 22 The First Word: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."
- March 1 The Second Word: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."
- March 8 The Third Word: "Woman, behold your son; behold your mother."
- March 15 The Fourth Word: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- March 22 The Fifth Word: "I thirst."
- March 29 The Sixth Word: "It is finished."
- April 3 The Seventh Word: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."
- April 5 Easter: The Resurrection of Jesus

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL: THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS

As we journey through Lent, we invite you to deepen your worship and discipleship with a Lenten devotional that follows our sermon series, *The Seven Last Words of Jesus*. These final words spoken from the cross-reveal Jesus' identity, purpose, and unfailing love. The devotional, created by WPC staff, is designed for individuals, families, and groups, with weekly prayers, Scripture readings, reflection questions, and suggested practices to use throughout the season. Pick up a copy and follow along each week for a more meaningful Lent.

Consider going deeper in community through the **Life Class**, Sundays from **10:00–10:45 a.m.** in the Church Library, where we'll use this devotional together.

Devotionals are available in the narthex.

WESTMINSTER'S BETHELWOODS WEEK IS JULY 26TH-JULY 1ST. REGISTER YOUR KIDS TODAY!

Did you know? Westminster offers scholarships for children attending Bethelwoods Summer Camps. We'll cover 50% of the Tier 1 price per child. Simply register through the Bethelwoods website, then submit a scholarship request form to Westminster for reimbursement. Forms are available by contacting the church office or Ms. Claire. Children can attend any week of the summer, but Westminster families traditionally register for July 26.

THE CAJM SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT

The Charleston Area Justice Ministry School Governance Committee want to get feedback from all of our congregations on their interests and concerns when it comes to the school board. This is going to help CAJM craft engaging materials, get more people involved, and ultimately hold the school board accountable for ethical and transparent governance of our school district! Use the QR code to take a brief and anonymous survey- helping us know what issues are most important to YOU.



IT'S WOW RETREAT TIME!

Please join the Women of Westminster (WOW) for a fun filled weekend or day at Edisto. The retreat will take place March 6th-8th; March 7th will be the day of the main program. You can either spend the weekend or just come for the day on Saturday. There will be carpooling opportunities for those who wish. If you would like to stay for the weekend, the cost is \$75. This cost includes accommodations and meals, except for the dinner outing Saturday night. If you choose to just come on Saturday, the suggested cost is \$20. The cost does not include the dinner outing on Saturday night. The cost does include lunch, crafts, and goodies. Please sign up on the Sign-Up Genius link below. Please sign up for either a "Full Weekend Guest" slot or a "Saturday Only Guest" slot. Please make the check payable to WPC and mark it Women's Retreat, or you can drop off cash at the church. The deadline for sign-up is today, February 22nd! Please contact Paige Dadin with any questions or concerns paigedadin@yahoo.com or 843-270-0393.



THE WESTMINSTER SOAP BOX

We invite you to help support our food pantry clients by donating bars of soap each month for the grocery bags they receive. This small but meaningful gift helps families meet a basic need and reminds them they are cared for beyond just food. Donations can be placed in the collection box in the church foyer or in the workroom at any time. Thank you for helping us extend compassion and dignity to those we serve.

BUILD A LEGACY OF DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH THE WESTMINSTER ENDOWMENT

Years ago, faithful disciples started the Westminster Endowment. Thanks to generous giving and wise investments with The Presbyterian Foundation, the Endowment has grown and is a source of support for Westminster mission and ministry. A gift to the Endowment today is a gift that keeps on giving, year after year.

Here's how it works: Every year, 3% of the General-Purpose Endowment goes to support the annual church budget. That means a legacy gift of \$100 to that fund will provide \$3 to the annual church operating budget in perpetuity. A legacy gift of \$10,000 will provide \$300. A gift of \$100,000 will provide \$3,000. Every year. It is a way you can continue to support the mission and ministry of the church forever.

A gift to the General-Purpose Fund is a great way to support ministry long into the future, but it is not the only way. You may also choose to give to other funds in the Endowment to support the specific areas of CE and Preschool, Mission, Worship, Capital Improvement, Senior Adults, and others (A complete list is available). Those funds are available, if needed, in support of those areas of the mission and ministry of the church.

For more information or to inquire about making a legacy gift, please contact the church office.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, February 22

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Child Protection Training, Sanctuary
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:00 pm	Child Protection Training, Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Book Group, Pastor Daniel's Office
5:00 pm	Grounded in Prayer, Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Confirmation Parent/Grandparent Bible Study, Covenant Hall
5:00 pm	Youth Group, Covenant Hall
5:00 pm	Deacons Meeting, Covenant Hall
6:00 pm	Stated Session Meeting, Room 4
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, February 23

MEXICO MISSION TRIP

Tuesday, February 24

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

Wednesday, February 25

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

Thursday, February 26

6:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 79 Pack Meeting, Covenant Hall
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Friday, February 27

Saturday, February 28

Sunday, March 1

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Holy Grounds, Covenant Hall
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:10 pm	CE Committee Meeting, Library
12:15 pm	Worship Committee Meeting, Parlor
4:00 pm	Club 345
5:00 pm	Youth Group, Covenant Hall
5:00 pm	Grounded in Prayer, Sanctuary
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)	Janie Hammersmith (WPC)	Julie Pell (Sandy & Debbie Pell)
Acker Family (WPC)	Clara Hanger (Gloria Purcell)	Powell Family (WPC)
Daryn Baker (Jane Acker)	Megan Hatfield (Debbie McQueeney)	Pratt Family (WPC Preschool)
Mary Ashley Barbot (Lisa Couch)	Betsy Henson (Ashley Snider)	Donna Purcell (WPC)
Binnicker Family	Anna Hewitt (Dee Bee Wright)	Joyce Reeves (Sue Smoak)
Allyn Bruce (WPC)	Charlie Howell (Debbie Baskin)	Paula Ruth (Debbie McQueeney)
Diane Byers (Deb Frasier)	The Hudson Family (Priscilla Holtzclaw)	Sarah Schumann (WPC)
Susie Cashion (WPC)	Chris Huff (Gloria Purcell)	Cliff & Liz Shelor (WPC)
Lauren Choate (Sara Dwyer)	Emerson Jones (Molly Griggs)	Tradd Shepard (WPC)
Cherie Couche (Dana Tumbleston)	Lynn Koger (WPC)	Rachel Singletary (Sara Bobo)
Allen Croft (Gwen Croft)	Mary Laird (Ashley Snider)	The Jerry Smoak Family (WPC)
Lydia Crosby (WPC)	Fran Ligon (WPC)	Ray Thomas (Sara Dwyer)
Martin Davis (Kevin Mikles)	Ray Long (Ellen Bollinger)	Towne Family (WPC)
Hosanna Eadie (Katie Baturin)	John Martschink (WPC)	Gloria Underhill (Laura Nunn)
Roxanne Eadie (Katie Baturin)	Mary Martschink (WPC)	Kathy Unger (Keith Gordon)
Ann & Ellen Farrar (Beth Georgen)	Jay Massalon (Dana Tumbleston)	Jacqueline Vance (Sara Dwyer)
Edward Fitzgibbon (Joan Frye)	David McEachern (Debra Luhn)	Mark Warner (Kendall Ramsay)
Randleson Floyd/Daniels (Gloria Purcell)	Gavin McLeod (Dana Tumbleston)	Aileen Wiese (WPC)
Harold Fountain (Henry Shepard)	Marley Miller (Dee Bee Wright)	Janet Wilson (Gloria Purcell)
Keith Gordon (WPC)	Jennifer Morgan (Susie Cashion)	Betty Winter (Dee Bee Wright)
Margaret Ellen Hamman (Suzanne Fox)		Robbie Yarnall (WPC)

PRAYER LIST UPDATED FEBRUARY 2026

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

Friend of the Week
Mary Martschink
1218 Durham Place
Charleston, SC 29407

Mission of the Week
Boy Scout Troop 79

Student of the Week
Madison Evans
2284 Ashley River Rd.,
Apt. 1120
Charleston, SC 29407

Church Family
Thomas & Christie
Spangenberg

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

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Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate, pholtzclaw@wpccharleston.org
Janie Bruce, Director of Adult Discipleship, jbruce@wpccharleston.org
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