



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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. 468 In My Life

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.

In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In our song, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.

In our song, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.

In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In your world, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.

In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

From Psalm 22

One: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All: Why are you so far from helping me,
from the words of my groaning?

One: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night but find no rest.

All: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

One: In you our ancestors trusted.
They trusted, and you delivered them.

All: To you they cried and were saved.

In you they trusted and were not put to shame.

◆ PRAYER

◆ SONG OF PRAISE NO. 268 Crown Him with Many Crowns

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.

(Continued)

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Administered to Eliza Hughes Forsythe, daughter of Julie Hughes and Jay Forsythe
Janie Bruce, Assisting Elder

◆ DECLARATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

Claire Winkles

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 27:32-49

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 32

SERMON

The Fourth Word from the Cross
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE NO.39

Great is Thy Faithfulness

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Sonya Willemse

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

◆ BLESSING

◆ *Please stand, if able*

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY:

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Becky Albright, Guest Preacher;
Janie Bruce, Director of Adult Discipleship;
Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries

Nancy Parrish, Pianist

Acolytes: Jane Akery, Riley Gentry

Ushers: Laura Nunn, Joe Jeter, Matt Akery

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 WESTMINSTER: REV. REBECCA "BECKY" ALBRIGHT

Our guest preacher this Sunday, Rev. Becky Albright, is on staff at Charleston Atlantic Presbytery serving as General Presbyter and Pastor to Pastors. Previously, Becky was an Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Beaufort, SC. She received a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree from Winthrop University and a Master of Divinity (MDiv) from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, NC.

Becky is a gifted and experienced Pastor. She brings years of experience as a small business owner and an accountant, serving in the Presbyterian Church in countless ways. Her faith, reliance on the Spirit, commitment to the church, and vision for the future is faith-filled and God-inspired.

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



JOIN US FOR WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY!

Gather with friends and family of all ages for food and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. This week is a St. Patrick's Day celebration with live music from Chris Dorsel. Everyone wear green, bring your best Irish jig, and join us for tacos! Adults \$8, children \$4 and a family cap of \$25 via cash, card or check.

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 **PARLOR** 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.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

Palm Sunday Worship

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday, March 29

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday Worship

6:00 p.m. Thursday, April 2

Join us in Covenant Hall for a meaningful Seder meal as we remember and reflect on Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

Good Friday Worship

7:00 p.m. Friday, April 3

We gather in the sanctuary for worship that focuses on the final hours and final words of Jesus' life. Sermon on the 7th Word from the Cross: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Choir and Instrumentalists.

Easter Sunday

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday, April 5

The tomb is empty and death is defeated! Praise God for the victory we have in Jesus, and hear what difference the resurrection makes for us today. Special music and instrumentalists at both services.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL DETAILS

Join us for a very special Seder Meal for Maundy Thursday. Those gathered will engage in the rituals associated with the Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples, the traditional foods and the meanings behind them will be presented, and an ancient song of deliverance will be sung. The meal will end with Holy Communion, pointing to the Lamb who has slain for us on the cross.

When & Where : Maundy Thursday, April 2 @ 6:00 pm in Covenant Hall

Who: Everyone! There will be meals for adults & youth and elementary age students. There will be a nursery for children younger than 1st grade.

How much: Wonderful Wednesday prices. \$8 per person & \$24 family max

Menu: Baked chicken, salad, rice pilaf, green beans along with traditional Seder meal elements.

RSVPs will be necessary. This may be done on the church website, in the office, or on the bulletin board. The deadline is Tuesday, March 24.

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

- 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.

SUPPORT YOUR MEXICO MISSION TEAMS

In Mexico, we've returned from sharing in the Cistern Ministry of Todd Luke in the Yucatan. Todd works with local families in building rainwater cisterns so families can have a year-round supply of safe water. The church identifies the needs and works alongside families and mission teams to construct needed cisterns. Team 1 returned from Xpujil on February 28. Team 2 departs the last week of June. You can support the teams:

- You can pray for the ministry.
- You can support the ministry and our teams through financial gifts. There is a "Buckets and Shovels" board in the narthex with giving envelopes ranging from \$2 to \$100. You can give online at wpccharleston.org. (choose 2026 Mission Trips). \$3600 will fund a whole water cistern. \$260 will buy a pile of sand or rocks- a fitting gift since that's what our teams spend the week shoveling.
- Plan to attend the Easter Sunday Mission Breakfast. Easter morning in Covenant Hall at 10:00.

Thank you for your support!

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026 SERVES WITH ELDERS:

Our 2026 Confirmation Class has been working hard to learn and grow in our community of faith so that they can be welcomed as members of our congregation on Confirmation Sunday. Some of the ways they have been preparing for this step is to spend time with their elder partners serving the community. Some of the projects that have been done have been redesigning our blessing box with artwork, creating valentine care packages for nursing home staff, wrapping gifts for Camp Happy Days Families, and a brand-new Little Library that has been built next to the Blessing Box. Please take a moment to ask our confirmation students about their service projects, and continue to be in prayer for them as they take their final steps into Confirmation!

WESTMINSTER'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT AND EASTER FAIR!

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH 10:00 - 11:30 A.M.

We invite children from 0 to 5th grade to come celebrate Easter with us and enjoy Easter crafts, snack on delicious treats, hear the story of the resurrection, and, of course, join in the fun Easter Egg Hunt with exciting prizes and a special visitor! We'll have age-specific groups to make sure every child has a safe and fun time. It's a great opportunity to see God's love in action as we celebrate this special season together. We hope to see you there for a day of joy, fellowship, and faith! This is not a drop off event. This event is rain or shine.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: ADULT & YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sunday, June 21 – Thursday, June 25, 2026. Children ages 3K up to 5th grade are invited to join us for VBS. This year's theme is **Called to Love: God's Mission, Our Hands**. "We love because God first loved us." -1 John 4:19. We are also inviting Youth and Adults to volunteer for this most special and fun week of worship! Scan the QR Code for all details, volunteering forms and registration.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Bethelwoods Family Retreat October 16 -18, 2026.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY/COVENANT HALL HANDS OF CHRIST SITE COORDINATOR

Westminster is seeking a **Covenant Hall Hands of Christ Site Coordinator** to help oversee this year's distribution. This role is ideal for someone who enjoys organizing alongside a team and helping create a welcoming experience for families. The position is not difficult, and plenty of support is available – including guidance from the current coordinator this year. The primary commitment is availability during the week of August 3–8, with distribution taking place: August 7 (4:00–6:00 p.m.) August 8 (10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.). If you are interested in learning more or would like to explore serving in this role, please contact the church office.

AT WESTMINSTER, FREE COUNSELING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH LOWCOUNTRY PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER

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.

CHARLESTON AREA JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Westminster CAJM Team will meet briefly this Sunday (the 15th) in Covenant Hall following the 11:00 worship service. We're checking in about the upcoming Rally on March 23 and looking forward to the Nehemiah Action Assembly on April 27. If you are curious to know more about CAJM and ways you can be engaged in local advocacy that makes a difference, join us!

WALK FOR WATER: This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Water Mission Walk for Water. Westminster will have a small team at the walk to help raise money and awareness for people around the world that do not have access to clean drinking water. If you would like to join the Westminster Walkers on Saturday, March 21st, please register using the team name at walkforwater.rallybound.org/2026-walk-for-water or, contact Janie Bruce janiebruce@wpccharleston.org, for more information.

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

Funeral arrangements have been made for our dear sister in Christ, Patricia “Pat” Coggins. A Witness to the Resurrection and Giving Thanks for Her Life will be held at Dyal Funeral Home in Summerville (303 S. Main Street) on Saturday, March 21 at 12:00 noon. A visitation is planned starting at 11:00. Burial will be at Riverview Memorial Park Cemetery (3715 Azalea Drive).

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, March 15

9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
5:00 pm Grounded in Prayer, Parlor
5:00 pm Deacons Meeting, Room 4
5:00 pm Youth Group Oscar Party
6:00 pm Stated Session Meeting, Room 4
7:00 pm AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, March 16

6:30 pm Circle 1 Meeting, Library

Tuesday, March 17

10:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 18

10:00 am Volunteer at Neighbors Together
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, March 19

Friday, March 20

Saturday, March 21

12:00 pm Pat Coggins Funeral Service, Dyal Funeral Home, Summerville

Sunday, March 22

9:00 am Confirmation Sunday Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Confirmation Sunday Worship Service
5:00 pm Grounded in Prayer, Parlor
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)	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)	Richard Holtz (WPC)	Paula Ruth (Debbie McQueeney)
Diane Byers (Deb Frasier)	Charlie Howell (Debbie Baskin)	Sarah Schumann (WPC)
Susie Cashion (WPC)	The Hudson Family (Priscilla Holtzclaw)	Cliff & Liz Shelor (WPC)
Lauren Choate (Sara Dwyer)	Huff Family (Gloria Purcell)	Tradd Shepard (WPC)
Cherie Couche (Dana Tumbleston)	Emerson Jones (Molly Griggs)	Rachel Singletary (Sara Bobo)
Allen Croft (Gwen Croft)	Lynn Koger (WPC)	The Jerry Smoak Family (WPC)
Lydia Crosby (WPC)	Mary Laird (Ashley Snider)	Ray Thomas (Sara Dwyer)
Martin Davis (Kevin Mikles)	Fran Ligon (WPC)	Towne Family (WPC)
Hosanna Eadie (Katie Baturin)	Ray Long (Ellen Bollinger)	Gloria Underhill (Laura Nunn)
Roxanne Eadie (Katie Baturin)	John Martschink (WPC)	Kathy Unger (Keith Gordon)
Ann & Ellen Farrar (Beth Georgen)	Mary Martschink (WPC)	Jacqueline Vance (Sara Dwyer)
Edward Fitzgibbon (Joan Frye)	Jay Massalon (Dana Tumbleston)	Aileen Wiese (WPC)
Randleson Floyd/Daniels (Gloria Purcell)	David McEachern (Debra Luhn)	Janet Wilson (Gloria Purcell)
Harold Fountain (Henry Shepard)	Gavin McLeod (Dana Tumbleston)	Betty Winter (Dee Bee Wright)
Keith Gordon (WPC)	Marley Miller (Dee Bee Wright)	Eleanor Woodbury (Anna Kerr)
Margaret Ellen Hamman (Suzanne Fox)	Jennifer Morgan (Susie Cashion)	Robbie Yarnall (WPC)

PRAYER LIST UPDATED MARCH 2026

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

Friend of the Week	Mission of the Week	Student of the Week	Church Family
Jim Seay 937 Bowman Rd., Apt. 229 Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464	Neighbors Together 2105 Cosgrove Ave. N. Charleston, SC 29405	Mattie Housley 3288 Plow Ground Rd. Charleston, SC 29455	Dave Stanton

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 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
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www.wpccharleston.org (843) 766-8311

Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Smoak, Pastor, dsmoak@wpccharleston.org
Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate, pholtzclaw@wpccharleston.org
Janie Bruce, Director of Adult Discipleship, jbruce@wpccharleston.org
Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, cwinkles@wpccharleston.org
Sarah Shayban, Director of Music, sshayban@wpccharleston.org
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Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator finance@wpccharleston.org
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