



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 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. 627 I Love You Lord

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice
to worship you; O my soul, rejoice.
Take joy, my King, in what you hear;
may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

◆ CALL TO WORSHIP

From Isaiah 53 and Philippians 2

One: Come, let us gather in the name of the One who humbled himself for our sake.
All: We come to worship Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God as something to be grasped.
One: He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness.
All: He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows;
he was wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities.
One: Though he was despised and rejected, he did not turn away, but gave himself in love.
All: By his suffering we are made whole; by his obedience we are brought near to God.
One: He humbled himself and became obedient unto death—even death on a cross.
All: Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name above every name.
One: So that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow—
All: And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
One: Come, let us worship the crucified and risen King.
All: With reverence and joy, we lift our hearts in praise.

◆ PRAYER

◆ SONG OF PRAISE NO. 395 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

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 LESSONS

John 19:28-29

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 114

SERMON

The Fifth Word from the Cross
"I Thirst"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 215 What Wondrous Love Is This

◆ DECLARATION OF FAITH

created from Student Faith Statements

We believe in God, our loving Creator and Father, who made heaven and earth and everything in it. God knows us, guides us, and loves us with a love that never fails. Even when we make mistakes or fall short, nothing can separate us from God's love. God listens to our prayers, walks with us through difficult times, and calls us to care for one another and for the world He created.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our Savior. Jesus came into the world to show us the depth of God's love. Through his life, he taught us how to love, forgive, serve others, and live with compassion and kindness. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again, bringing forgiveness, hope, and new life to all who trust in him. Because of Jesus, we know that we are never alone and that grace is stronger than our failures.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who lives among us and within us. The Holy Spirit comforts us, guides our choices, and helps us understand God's Word. The Spirit brings peace, strengthens our faith, and connects us to one another as the people of God. Through the Holy Spirit, we are encouraged to grow in love, joy, patience, kindness, and faithfulness.

We believe the Church is not just a building but a community of people called to share God's love with the world. Together we worship, learn, serve, and support one another.

Because we believe in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, we seek to follow Jesus in our daily lives—showing kindness, welcoming others, serving those in need, and trusting God to guide us as we grow in faith.

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

◆ SONG NO. 826

Lift High the Cross

SENDING OUT

◆ BLESSING

◆ *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

Nancy Parrish, Pianist

Acolyte: 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

We give thanks to God for our Confirmation students and their elder partners, who have faithfully walked alongside them in faith, guidance, and encouragement throughout this journey. Their commitment to learning, growing, and supporting one another is a blessing to our church community.

Please join us in celebrating and praying over them:

Eleanor Eisley Akery and Elder Laura Patrick; Elayna Grace Bobo and Elder Janie Bruce; Kathryn Dawn Bobo and Elder Natasha Akery; Spencer Allyn Bruce and Elder Dee Bee Wright; Emma Jeanne Camburn and Elder Laura Patrick; Mary Caroline Christian and Elder Betsy McLaughlin; Lauren McGhee Cook and Elder Allyn Bruce; Ella Caroline Daniels and Elder Lindy Coleman; Jack McKewen Ferguson Jr. and Elder John Dounian; Grace Catherine Fulmer and Elder Kendall Ramsay; John Carl Griggs and Elder David Boyd; Griffin Stuart Maki and Elder Nathan Ward; Catherine Elizabeth Patrick and Elder Lindy Coleman; Nicholas Dickson Patrick and Elder Cameron Baker; Sarah Beth Patrick and Elder Sarah Schumann; Will Claussen Patrick and Elder Brad Earnst; Henry William Ramsay and Elder Michael Scruggs; Jillian Jean Ramsay and Elder Mary Fulmer; Leanora Elizabeth Richards and Elder Nancy Parrish; Thomas Lee Robinson and Elder David Morris; Matthew Morris Smoak and Elder John Wright; Lucas Montgomery Ward and Elder Jonathan Bazzle.

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



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. The next Connections Class is April 26. 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. Save your spot at the April 26 Connections class by emailing office@wpccharleston.org.

JOIN US FOR WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY!

Gather with friends and family of all ages for food and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. This week's menu is BIG BREAKFAST! Adults \$8, children \$4 and a family cap of \$25 via cash, card or check.

THIS WEDNESDAY W.E. PACK!

After supper 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'RE INVITED! ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

- **The Anchor Class:** This class emphasizes fellowship, good discussion, and growth. Studying the book of ACTS. Class is led by David Jump and 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. Studying 1&2 Kings. Class meets in Room 4 of Covenant Hall.
- **The LIFE Class** We're using the Lenten Devotional guide to work through the 7 Last Words of Jesus from the Cross. Pastor Priscilla and Lindy Coleman, leaders.
- **The No Prep Class.** By "no prep" we mean no preparation on the part of the participants. During this class we will read and discuss Jesus' parables in a Bible study format. Participants don't need to prepare ahead, don't need to be experts, and don't need to make a commitment to being present every week. This class meets in the Parlor in the admin hallway.

GROUNDING 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.

NEXT SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY!

All children (and young at heart) are invited to process and wave palm branches during the first hymn. It's a celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week! Palms are provided; kids will start in the pew and then be directed to the narthex for the beginning of the processional.

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 was 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

- TODAY 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.*

EASTER MISSION BREAKFAST

Join us on Easter morning at 10:00 in Covenant Hall for a delicious pancake breakfast. It is good FOOD, good FELLOWSHIP, and generous FUNDING for our Mexico mission partnership. In Mexico, we partner with Todd Luke and a group of Presbyterian leaders who have been serving their communities for more than 20 years by building water cisterns which address the dire need for usable water in that part of the Yucatan. The community leaders identify the need and work alongside families and mission teams to construct needed cisterns. A WPC team of adults went in February, and a team of youth and adults is going in June/July. A donation bucket will be out, and we encourage your support there or online on the church website (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.)

Thank you for your support!

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.



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 be a catalyst for growth in discipleship. Read in preparation for the group discussion at 5:00 p.m. on the 4th Sunday of every other month.

On April 26 we'll discuss Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Psalms: The Prayerbook of the Bible*.

"Jesus died with a psalm on his lips. For millennia, humans have been shaped by the Psalms. And before the Nazis banned him from publishing, German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer published this book on the Psalms. What comfort is found in the Psalter? What praise, and what challenge? What threat? Discover the richness this book of Scripture held for Bonhoeffer, and learn to pray psalms along with Christ. First published in 1940, this classic reveals how the Psalms are essential to the life of the believer and offers Bonhoeffer's reflections on psalms of thanksgiving, suffering, guilt, praise, and lament." (Books are \$15 and available online or in the Narthex.)

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

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

Monday, March 23

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 25

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

Thursday, March 26

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

Saturday, March 28

10:00 am	WPC Easter Egg Hunt
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Sunday, March 29

9:00 am	Palm Sunday Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Palm 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)
Acker Family (WPC)
Daryn Baker (Jane Acker)
Mary Ashley Barbot (Lisa Couch)
Binnicker Family
Allyn Bruce (WPC)
Diane Byers (Deb Frasier)
Susie Cashion (WPC)
Lauren Choate (Sara Dwyer)
Allen Croft (Gwen Croft)
Lydia Crosby (WPC)
Martin Davis (Kevin Mikles)
Hosanna Eadie (Katie Baturin)
Roxanne Eadie (Katie Baturin)
Ann & Ellen Farrar (Beth Georgen)
Edward Fitzgibbon (Joan Frye)
Randleson Floyd/Daniels (Gloria Purcell)
Harold Fountain (Henry Shepard)
Keith Gordon (WPC)
Margaret Ellen Hamman (Suzanne Fox)

Janie Hammersmith (WPC)
Clara Hanger (Gloria Purcell)
Megan Hatfield (Debbie McQueeney)
Betsy Henson (Ashley Snider)
Anna Hewitt (Dee Bee Wright)
Richard Holtz (WPC)
The Hudson Family (Priscilla Holtzclaw)
Huff Family (Gloria Purcell)
Emerson Jones (Molly Griggs)
Lynn Koger (WPC)
Mary Laird (Ashley Snider)
Fran Ligon (WPC)
Ray Long (Ellen Bollinger)
Joe Marchiney (Carole Russell)
John Martschink (WPC)
Mary Martschink (WPC)
Jay Massalon (Dana Tumbleston)
David McEachern (Debra Luhn)
Gavin McLeod (Pamela Roberts)
Marley Miller (Dee Bee Wright)
Jennifer Morgan (Susie Cashion)

Julie Pell (Sandy & Debbie Pell)
Powell Family (WPC)
Pratt Family (WPC Preschool)
Donna Purcell (WPC)
Joyce Reeves (Sue Smoak)
Paula Ruth (Debbie McQueeney)
Sarah Schumann (WPC)
Cliff & Liz Shelor (WPC)
Tradd Shepard (WPC)
Rachel Singletary (Sara Bobo)
The Jerry Smoak Family (WPC)
Ray Thomas (Sara Dwyer)
Towne Family (WPC)
Gloria Underhill (Laura Nunn)
Kathy Unger (Keith Gordon)
Jacqueline Vance (Sara Dwyer)
Aileen Wiese (WPC)
Janet Wilson (Gloria Purcell)
Betty Winter (Dee Bee Wright)
Eleanor Woodbury (Anna Kerr)
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
Aileen Wiese 110 Ashley Villa Circle Apt. B Charleston, SC 29414	Metanoia 2005 Reynolds Avenue N. Charleston, SC 29405	Jahmes Jones 1268 Orange Branch Rd. Charleston, SC 29407	John & Robin Steinberger

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
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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