



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship **18th Sunday after Pentecost** **October 8, 2017** **9:00 a.m.**

PASTORAL STAFF:

Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor
Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

CHURCH EDUCATOR:

Susan Moseley

MUSIC STAFF

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
Merideth Hite Estevez, Director, Faith Formation through Music
and Arts, Teaching Artist in Residence
Soloist/Section Leaders: Elizabeth Holmes, Sharon Babcock,
Malcolm Cooper (guest), Travis Lucas

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Colleen Falasco

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND SECURITY

Paul Crothamel

Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community and the world beyond.

This Morning at Westminster

8:30 – 11:15 a.m. The Holy Toast Café, in Community Hall, offers free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar per item.

Deacon Team of the Month

Cathy Lang, Lola Miller, Carol Neff, Ann Shadduck, Jerry Spilecki, Pam White, Debbie Wise

8:45 – 11:15 a.m. Nursery for babies and toddlers

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Children are always welcome in worship. We also provide additional opportunities for children to grow in faith.

- ❖ **Godly Care** – Children ages 2 – 4 begin in worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they walk with a parent to the **Preschool Suite** where they are greeted by the morning coordinator and escorted into **Classroom A**. The children experience simple worship rituals and learn key stories in the Bible. They respond through crafts, songs and prayers.
- ❖ **Godly Play 1** – Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade begin worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they walk with their teachers to the Ruth Christie Room. The children learn the language of God’s people through sacred space, stories, parables and liturgical actions. You may pick up your children in the **Preschool Suite Classroom C**.
- ❖ **Sing-to-Praise Choir Program** – Children in grades 3 through 6 begin worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they walk with their teachers to the Youth Music Room.

10:10 a.m.

Education for All Ages

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| ➤ Sunday School for Preschoolers | Preschool Suite D |
| ➤ Joyful Noise Choir Program for K – 2 | Youth Music Room |
| ➤ Godly Play 2 for Grades 3 – 5 | Classroom 4 |
| ➤ Middle Schoolers for Grades 6 – 8 | Classroom 8 |
| ➤ Senior High for Grades 9 – 12 | Classroom 7 |
| ➤ Sunday Seminars | See page 7 |

11:15 a.m.

Living Mosaics worship in Rodney Chapel. Children are always welcome.

12:00 p.m.

Fellowship Time

Meeting Room

Later Today

5:00 p.m.

180° Dinner and Fellowship

Classroom 6, Community Hall

6:00 p.m.

Clean But Not Straight – NA

Club Room

8:00 p.m.

AA

Club Room



Westminster is certified as an “Earth Care Congregation” by the Presbyterian Church (USA). This honor means that we have exhibited exceptional leadership in protecting God’s creation and being good stewards of earth’s resources through our worship, education, outreach and advocacy. Only 2% of the 10,000 Presbyterian congregations in this country have earned this honored distinction.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the baptism of Claire Kennedy Daley given by her grandparents, Joe and Tammy Daley.

Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event, while expressing praise and thanksgiving to God. Please contact Linda Watson during business hours at 302-571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com for available dates. The next available dates are October 22 and 29 and December 31.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Ed Hagopian and Ed Wat
- ❖ **Westminster's homebound** who can no longer attend worship with us, by sending a card, saying a prayer, or visiting. This week we ask you to remember Tee Jay King and Jay Ritter at Country House.
- ❖ **Westminster's Covenant Prayer Group** prays weekly for specific needs of the faith community. **You may submit a prayer request** by leaving a confidential message on 302-654-5848, ext. 335, or filling out a prayer request card (in the pew pocket) and placing it in the offering plate.

Afghanistan and Iraq often seems far away, and we may neglect to realize that Americans, as well as Afghans, Iraqis and members of coalition forces continue to die. As Christians, we are called to pray for the spreading of peace and justice and an end to violence. If someone in your family is serving in the military, please let us know, so that we may include that person on our prayer list. Contact Cathy Lang: 302-654-5214 ext. 129, or cathylang@wpc.org.

This week we pray for

- This week we pray for Brian Gorman, grandson of Art and Barbara Gorman, serving in the United States military.
- The families of those from the U.S. who have died recently:
Specialist Alexander W. Missildine, age 20, from Tyler, Texas
- Those suffering from Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

WORSHIP NOTES

All children who leave the sanctuary after Time with Our Children must have a completed yellow security label on their backs. If you do not find a security label in the pew pocket, you can obtain one in the Preschool Suite. This policy is for your child's protection. Children will only be released to a parent or an adult pre-approved by the parent. Thank you for your help.

Worship Resources – You can obtain large print hymnals and hearing devices from any usher. Worship bags for children ages 3-6 include a children's bulletin designed for them. Children's bulletins for ages 7-12 are also available from the ushers.

Are you wearing a nametag? Whether you are a long-time member or new to our church family, wearing a nametag provides others the opportunity to meet you, greet you by name, and for you to become more familiar with others at church. You will find nametags and markers in baskets at all major entrances.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website www.wpc.org and click the "Donate Now" button or scan the QR code on your smart phone.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

Sue Spilecki

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Loving God, by whose great generosity I have been granted the gift of life, breathe on the spark of your presence within me, that I may burn with a flame of love that banishes fear, and lights up the world around me. In the name of Jesus, the light and life of the world. Amen. John Polhill

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign and pass the friendship folder, at the end of the pew, to the person next to you.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Voluntary in A major

William Selby

CALL TO WORSHIP

By God's Spirit we were baptized into one body,
and chosen by God for loving service to the world.
Let us sing praises to God for making us partners in mission.
Let us worship God in wonder and joy!

*HYMN No. 1

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

NICAEA

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, in every age there have been men and women
who have lived faithful and obedient lives.
We confess that we are not always in harmony with your will.
You call us to proclaim the truth in love, but there are times when we are silent.
You command us to do what is just, but too often we sit idle.
You beckon us to live faithfully, but minor matters distract us.
Forgive us and transform us
so that we may follow your guidance
and share Christ-like love with the world. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sudie Niesen Thompson

At the asterisk (), please stand as you are able*

*The congregation is asked to please refrain from taking photographs
or video recording during the worship service.*

PRESENTATION OF THE PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Elder Joe Daley

OPENING WORDS

Every birth is a miracle of blessing and wonder,
and every child is cherished by God.
God blesses all children with a potential for what is right and true and good,
and shows them the beauty of a life of love.

PROMISES OF COMMITMENT

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? **We do.**

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian Faith and to teach that faith to your child? **We do.**

CONGREGATION

Will we, the people of the church, nurture and support Simon and Claire, and their parents, and will we encourage them to become faithful Christians? **We will.**

CHILDREN

Do you promise to help Simon and Claire be a part of our church family by being a friend to them?

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOLLOWING BAPTISM

*Children through Grade 6 may leave for Godly Care, Godly Play 1, and Sing-to-Praise Choir,
or they may remain in worship.*

ANTHEM

The Last Words of David

Randall Thompson

He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. Alleluia.
Amen.

- 2 Samuel 23: 3,4

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

New Testament, page 168
Nancy Fleming, Lay Reader

SERMON

“The Church Plays a Critical Role in Society”

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 314

“Christ, Be Our Light”

Verses: Choir

Refrain: All

OFFERING

“We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”

~ Winston Churchill

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Lord of the Dance”

(Text: Hymn #157)

arr. John Ferguson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

*HYMN No. 361

“O Christ, the Great Foundation”

AURELIA

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

“O Christ, Surround Me”

Richard Colligan

GOING FORTH

If you are visiting with us and wish to learn more about our church family, we invite you to meet today’s ambassador, Robin Rosser, at the back of the center aisle following the service. She is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.



Parables of Jesus in Luke: A Video Series by Dr. Ken Bailey

Today, and October 15, 22
Facilitator: Randy Williamson
Classroom 3

This 4 week series will focus on Jesus as a theologian through the study of selected parables from the Gospel of Luke. Each section will begin with a video presentation of Dr. Bailey providing his insights into the parable using his experience of living over 40 years in the Middle East, deeply integrated in the Arabic culture of the region. We will then engage in open discussion of the parable and its theological message.

Today's topic: The Good Samaritan

The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings

Today, and October 15
Teacher: Greg Jones
Classroom 6

Along with many others concerned about the future of the church, visionary spiritual leader and scholar, John Philip Newell writes: "The walls of Western Christianity are collapsing...There are three main reactions to this collapse...Deny it, try to shore up the foundations of the old thing, or ask: What is the new thing that is trying to emerge from deep within us and from deep within the collective soul of Christianity?"

Why Church?

The Golden Age of the church as passed. Or has it? The church will never regain its place of importance. Or will it? The Christian Church in the West has been on a downward slide for decades. Belief in God remains high among Americans, but church membership is on the decline. Is this the long, slow death of Christianity, or is it the long slow death of the church as we know it today? Are we living in the final days of the church or could this be the beginning of the reformation of the church?

On seven Sundays this fall, Dr. Jones will set forth reasons the church is crucial to the state of the world.

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|---------------------------|---|
| <i>October 8</i> | <i>The Church Plays a Critical Role in Society</i> |
| <i>October 15</i> | <i>Where Community is Built</i> |
| <i>November 5</i> | <i>Can the Church Revive Our Sense of Enchantment?</i> |
| <i>November 12</i> | <i>Shaping Character</i> |
| <i>November 19</i> | <i>Serving the World, Finding Our Soul</i> |
| <i>December 3</i> | <i>A Prophetic Voice</i> |
| <i>December 10</i> | <i>Where We Find Hope</i> |

Music at Westminster



Merideth Hite Estevez
Oboe and English Horn

Merideth and Paul
to Open 2017-2018
Concert Season



Paul Fleckenstein
Organ and Piano

Friday, October 20, 8:00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION; OFFERING RECEIVED



FALL FESTIVAL

**Sunday, October 29
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Community Hall**

There will be hot dogs, apple cider, games, prizes, face painting and plenty of TREATS! All ages and costumes are WELCOME. Hope to see you there! Hosted by the Westminster deacons. Questions? Please contact Tammy Daley (302-633-0222) or Amy Bickhart at (302-547-5631).

Please note that there is ONE worship service on Sunday, October 29, at 10:00 a.m., followed immediately by the Fall Festival in Community Hall.