



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship **15th Sunday after Pentecost** **September 17, 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,
Christian Sanders, 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 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. The Holy Toast Café, in Classroom 6, offers free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar per item.

Deacon Team of the Month

Teisha Fooks, Kris Marvel, Sally McBride, Mary Lou McDowell, Ann Shadduck, Lois Underhill, Lowell Underhill

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. Children will only be released to a parent or an adult pre-approved by the parent.

10:10 a.m.

Education for All Ages

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| ➤ Sunday School for Preschoolers | Preschool Suite |
| ➤ Joyful Noise Choir Program for K – 2 | Youth Music Room |
| ➤ Godly Play 2 | Classroom 4 |
| ➤ Youth Guatemala Presentation
for Middle School – Adults | Community Hall |

11:15 a.m.

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

11:15 a.m.

Flying Solo brunch at Catherine Rooney’s 1616 Delaware Ave.

12:00 p.m

Fellowship Time Meeting Room

Later Today

5:00 p.m.

180 Dinner and Fellowship – Kick Off

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 are given to the glory of God and with deep gratitude to Sue Frost, Mike Gnade and Lynne Kielhorn for their inspired and steadfast leadership in developing the “Taking on Violence in Wilmington” event on September 9th, bringing Father Gregory Boyle to Westminster as keynote speaker and organizing the expo of programs working to support positive youth development in our city.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Congratulations Sudie and Brenton!

We have had the joy of welcoming many new babies into our church family this year. Now we celebrate with our Associate Pastor Sudie and her husband, Brenton, as they prepare to welcome their first child at the end of February. Sudie and Greg are working with our Personnel Committee to ensure that Sudie’s responsibilities are covered during her maternity leave this spring.

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Joyce Ruston, Frank Waldburger, Debbie 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 Peggy Cartmell at Regal Heights and Frances Kirkpatrick at Stonegates.
- ❖ **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.
- Those suffering from Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

WORSHIP NOTES

All children who leave the sanctuary after Children’s Time 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. 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

Craig Checkel

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Gracious God, without you I would be adrift in a cynical and despairing world. Without you, I would be mired in a shallow existence, with no hope on the horizon. I am grateful that you show me the way and teach me the truth so that I may live a rich life of love and joy and hope. Amen.

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

Scherzo, from Symphony no. 2

Louis Vierne

CALL TO WORSHIP

All who are in Christ are new creations.

Everything old has passed away and the new has come.

This is from God, who reconciled us through Christ,

and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

*HYMN NO. 667

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

LAUDES DOMINI

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, we often fail to love one another with Christ-like compassion.
We frequently seek revenge rather than the more difficult path of forgiveness.
We do not always seize opportunities to serve others who are in need.
Forgive us, and infuse us with your Spirit,
so that we may have the desire to live as you have called us to live.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS (HYMN NO. 447)

**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.**

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

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Leader: The writer of Psalm 119 declared: “God’s word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” So, too, we hope the holy wisdom contained in these Bibles may be both a blessing and a guide for your life.

Congregation: **We give thanks to God for the Bible that contains our sacred stories.**

Leader: Faith formation begins in the home, and the church’s task is to help parents guide the spiritual life of their children.

Congregation: **We give thanks for families where children grow in faith and love.**

Presentation of Bibles

Leader: May you enjoy and cherish your new Bible, and may God bless you and guide you as you grow in wisdom and faith.

Congregation: **We give thanks for these children and pledge to encourage them, pray for them, and love them as they grow.**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with us all.

Congregation: **Amen.**

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

ANTHEM

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

Julian Rush
arr. Jeremy Bankson*Choir:*

In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wand’ring in their sep’rate ways?

Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care?

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and evermore.*

As we stand a world divided
by our own self-seeking schemes,
grant that we, your global village,
might envision wider dreams.

We are man and we are woman,
all persuasions, old and young,
each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung.

Congregation: (Hymn no. 315, vs. 5)

**Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit
resurrect the church again.**

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.*

SERMON

“Clinging to the Cuts”

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 444

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”
Verse 1: Choir
Verses. 2-4: All

DETROIT

OFFERING

“The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Speak, Lord, in the Stillness”

David Schwoebel

Speak, Lord, in the stillness, Speak your word to me;
Help me now to listen in expectancy.
Speak, O gracious Master, in this quiet hour;
Let me see your face, Lord, feel your touch of power.
For the words you give me, they are life indeed;
Living bread from heaven, now my spirit feed.
Speak, your servant listens, I await your word;
Let me know your presence, Let your voice be heard!
Fill me with the knowledge of your glorious will;
All your own good pleasure in my life fulfill.

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. 436

“God of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us”

O QUANTA QUALIA

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Toccata in G minor

René Louis Becker

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, Bill Nace, at the back of the center aisle following the service. He is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.



Humanitarian Rights for All

Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m., Wilmington Friends Meetinghouse, 401 N. West St.

Bill Frelick, son of Dr. Robert Frelick, will speak as part of a Pacem in Terris speaker program. He is Director, of the Refugee Rights Program at *Human Rights Watch* where he monitors, investigates, and documents human rights abuses against refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons, and advocates for the rights and humanitarian needs.

Delawareans Working for Equal Justice in Occupied Palestine

Thursday, September 21, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Rodney Chapel

A presentation and discussion covering why advocates for peace and justice support the end of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Mike is a Palestinian-American who has traveled extensively in Israel, West Bank and Gaza on peace and medical missions. Dr. Rob Abel is a Jewish-American ophthalmologist who has performed and taught cataract surgery in Palestine with the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. His mission is supporting human rights for all Palestinians, freedom of speech, and ending settlements in Israel.

Pathway to Peace: Broadening our Understanding of American Muslims

Sunday, September 24, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Resurrection Parish, 3000 Videre Drive

You have heard the media's slant on American Muslims. This is your opportunity to meet local Muslims and to hear what they think. There will be a panel discussion, breakout groups, and Middle Eastern appetizers. The panel includes Shiekh Abdel Hadi, Iman of Ibrahim Mosque; Dr. Muktedar Kahn, UD Professor of Islamic Studies; Dr. Naveed Baqir, Delaware Director of Global and Muslim Affairs; and Iram Shaukat, Islamic Society of Delaware.

EXPLORE GUATEMALA WITH WPC YOUTH

TODAY

10:10 a.m. in Community Hall

Have you ever been or wanted to go to Guatemala? Please join us for a visit to the Land of Eternal Spring. Our amazing group of youth travelers are excited to share their Guatemala experiences with Westminster members and friends, and will have amazing pictures to show and fun stories to tell. They are the pioneers for a youth partnership with brothers and sisters from this beautiful land. Their lives are forever impacted and want they you to hear all about their adventures. In addition, Emerson Morales, a mission partner in Guatemala from the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA), will be in attendance.



All are welcome! RSVP at: www.tinyurl.com/WPCguate

180° Youth Ministry Kick-Off for Grades 6 - 12

TODAY

5:00 p.m. in Community Hall

We'll have pizza, games, and lots of information!