



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

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.



**Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Matthew 25 Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

1502 West 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org

We hope you will stay connected with our community of faith during this season of social distancing by subscribing to the *Westminster Weekly Word* e-newsletter through the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org), liking us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware), or following us on Instagram (www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware).

Today at Westminster

- 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.** **Food Collection** for Emmanuel Dining and **Cereal Sunday** for the Hanover Pantry in the Westminster parking lot.
- 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.** **Worship** in the Sanctuary. See guidelines on page 6.
- 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.** **Prayground** in Community Hall. Worship is live streamed and activities are provided for children. Masking (for those over the age of 2) and social distancing are required. See guidelines on page 6.

Please see page 7 for information on Educational Offerings for Adults.

The Music: This morning we welcome Rebecca Hughes as our soloist. The West Chester native is a graduate of Temple University where she majored in voice and was a student of Benita Valente. Rebecca will be joining the Westminster Choir as soprano section leader and soloist.

Westminster has been certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (USA) for the 11th consecutive year. This honor means we exhibit exceptional leadership in protecting God's creation and are good stewards of earth's resources through our worship, education, outreach and advocacy. Only 2% of the 10,000 Presbyterian congregations in the U.S. have earned this honored distinction.

Westminster is a Matthew 25 Congregation that strives to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle structural racism, and build congregational vitality. The gospel calls us to actively engage in the world so that our faith comes alive.

Westminster is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians whose mission is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace, by working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a more just and inclusive church.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Arthur C. Butters by his wife, Anna.

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. Available dates are September 19, October 31, November 28, December 12 and 19.

Westminster's Prayer Team prays for the needs of our community of faith. You may submit a prayer request by email: wpcprayerlist@gmail.com.

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- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

TOWER CHIME

Craig Checkel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Sonata No. 3 in A Major (Andante tranquillo)

Felix Mendelssohn

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship God, the Source of all life,
who created us for love.
We gather to worship the True Vine,
who roots our lives in love.
We gather to worship the Spirit of truth,
who brings to harvest the fruit of love we bear.
We gather to worship the Triune God.
Bound together by love, we join our voices in praise!

HYMN NO. 11

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud (Vs. 1 & 2)

ABERYSTWYTH

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud, Fortress, Fountain, Shelter, Light, Judge, Defender, Mercy, Might, Life whose life all life endowed: May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.	Word and Wisdom, Root and Vine, Shepherd, Savior, Servant, Lamb, Well and Water, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM: May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.
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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Christ,
You are the vine and we are the branches.
We come into your holy presence
to be nourished by your love
and watered by your grace.
Forgive us when we do not live
as people who are your branches –
when we forget that we are rooted in you
and bound to one another.
Forgive us when we do not live
as people who abide in your love –
when we disobey your commandments
and fail to bear good fruit.
Forgive us, O Christ, and abide in us,
that we may abide in you
and dwell always in your love. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

[Click here](#) to watch today's TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN on Westminster's YouTube channel.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:1-11

Sue Linderman

I am the vine, and you are the branches.
Those who abide in me, and I in them, they will bear much fruit.
Love one another as I have loved you;
This is my commandment, that you love one another as I love you;
Then will you bear much fruit.
If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers.
But if you abide in me, and my words abide in you,
Ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you. –John 15

SERMON

Sudie Niesen Thompson

HYMN NO. 316

Where Charity and Love Prevail (Vs. 1 & 2, 5)

TWENTY-FOURTH

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.	Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son. As members of each body joined, in him we are made one.
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Love can exclude no race or creed
if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose Maker is the same.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ginger Ward

**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. 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (Vs. 1, 4 & 5)

GREEN TYLER

God, be the love to search and keep me;	Walking behind to hem my journey,
God, be the prayer to move my voice;	going ahead to light my way,
God, be the strength to now uphold me:	and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.	O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sonata No. 3 in A Major (Con moto maestoso)

Mendelssohn

GOING FORTH: OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES TO GOD

With gratitude for the grace we have received, we go forth from worship to offer our energy, our hands, and part of our income in service to God. One way we respond to Christ's call is by giving our financial gifts to further God's mission in the world. You may mail a check to the church or make an online offering to support the many ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church by clicking "Donate Now" on the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org).

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The resources for children attached at the end of the online bulletin are provided by Illustrated Ministry. Please print them to participate in this service or for family devotions throughout the week.

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“I AM” Sermon Series:

If four artists were to paint the same model, they would create four unique portraits. Their works would differ based on perspective, personal style, or simply the play of the light. In the same way, the four Gospel writers create four unique portraits of Jesus the Messiah. One way John paints his portrait is through metaphor — comparing Christ to images that would be familiar to the Gospel’s original audience: bread, light, shepherd, vine. Throughout the Gospel, Jesus likens himself to various objects and concepts through statements that always begin the same way: “I am ...” During Dr. Jones’ sabbatical, the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson — along with the Rev. Jill Getty and the Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan — will explore the seven “I AM” statements of John’s Gospel and the ways they contribute to a unique portrait of the Messiah who dwells among us.

July 25 —	I am the Bread of Life
August 1 —	I am the Light of the World
August 8 —	I am the Gate for the Sheep
August 15 —	I am the Good Shepherd (Jill Getty)
August 22 —	I am the Resurrection and the Life
August 29 —	I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (Tracy Keenan, New Castle Presbytery Missional Presbyter)
September 5 —	I am the True Vine

Sunday Worship COVID Policy

Given the level of transmission in New Castle County, we are strongly encouraging everyone – including those who are fully-vaccinated – to wear masks at all times while in the building, in accordance with current CDC guidance

- If you are fully vaccinated and comfortable going without a mask please sit in the front part of the sanctuary and the side transepts. These sections are open seating and mask optional for fully vaccinated people. Please access these sections via the lectern-side transept door off the main hallway.
- If you are not vaccinated or choose to wear a mask, you will be able to social distance in the back part of the sanctuary and balcony. Masks must be worn at all times in these sections. Please access these sections through the Narthex (behind the screen at the rear of the sanctuary).
- Ushers at both entrances will be masked and available to direct you to the proper section.
- *Everyone* is required to wear a mask when entering or exiting the building. This is for the well-being of those who are not vaccinated.
- If you have children too young to be vaccinated, you are welcome to worship in the sanctuary, but we have also created a safe, kid-friendly space. We are calling it the **Prayground**. This worship space is in Community Hall. We livestream our worship service into Community Hall and provide materials to help young children engage in worship. Masking (for those over age 2) and social distancing is required.



HOMEcoming CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 12
10 AM on the Church Lawn

Welcome home! We've been waiting for you!

The Membership & Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a "Homecoming Celebration" on the church lawn on September 12 at 10 AM (rain date is September 19). Join us to engage with members in person and learn about all the wonderful things going on at Westminster for adults and children alike, and how you can get involved in the Westminster community! Whether you've been here 5 minutes or 50 years, we have a place for you!

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

You can find virtual Christian education and small group opportunities on the homepage of the Westminster website (www.wpc.org) and check out other Education Offerings for Adults on [YouTube](#).

Online Bible Studies

Midweek Manna Bible Study

Wednesdays at 12 noon (Resumes September 8)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89503349345?pwd=SIJrY2V2Y2tYa3JWQXk5ak1iZU1ldz09>

This fall the Midweek Manna Bible Study, facilitated by the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, will explore the genre of the Hebrew Short Story by reading three Old Testament novellas: Ruth, Jonah, and Esther. In addition to being sacred texts with important theological themes, these works are also great stories! Join us weekly on Zoom and spend some time with Ruth, Jonah, Esther and other compelling figures from the Old Testament.

Thursday evenings, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

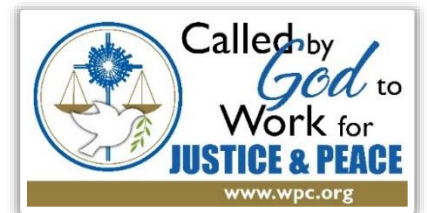
Our Bible Study, facilitated by Randy Williamson and Mary Anne Peters, continues and new faces are always welcome. If interested, contact Randy Williamson at randywilliamson1@comcast.net and you will be sent the Zoom link to access the meeting.

WPC Peace & Justice Online Education Events

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Thursday, September 9, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86027521655>



The Poor People's Campaign is not letting up! From National Moral Mondays and last week's Mass Moral Motorcade on Manchin, to the upcoming Make Good Trouble rally in Washington D.C., the Rev. Dr. William Barber, II and the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis are leading the fight on poverty and interlocking injustices. Come hear Alyssa Bradley explain how Delawareans support this national movement and are building local capacity to demand change at all levels of government. Hosted by Westminster's Peace & Justice Work Group. Use the Zoom link above, or go to zoom.us/join, enter Meeting ID **860 2752 1655** and click "Join."

Women's Online Community Group

2nd and 4th Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings are September 9 and 23.

Coordinator: Jill Getty

The women of Westminster connect for heartfelt and enriching discussions on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 5:00 – 6:00 PM. The Rev. Jill Getty facilitates this group on Zoom.

Use this Zoom link to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477914100?pwd=WmZZUFZ2UEFhZWozOTRnN1hwQnpDQT09>

PASTORAL STAFF

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

MUSIC STAFF

Director of Music/Organist: Dr. F. Anthony Thurman
Director of Music for Children and Youth: Alexis Droke

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES STAFF

Director of Preschool Ministries: Teisha Fooks
Nursery: Beatrice Taylor, Kristen Wolanski

YOUTH LEADERS

Tommy Neilson: Interim 180 Leader
Josh Cox, Emily Knepper, Molly McPheeters

SUPPORT STAFF

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Mary Clark, Office Assistant for Data and Archives
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
Jerry Hunter, Manager of Accounting and Reporting
Suzie Hurlock, Administrative Assistant
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Sextons: Robert King, Daniel Steele, Joan Truitt, John Young

SESSION

Michelle Butler, Sally Buttner, Clark Collins, Bob Cox, Michael Enderle, Jessica Fischer,
Dick Jolly, Carla Krupanski, Faith Kuehn, David Máthé, Kelly McCulloch, Susan McPheeters,
KC Morrison, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor, Todd Piercy, Roger Reinicker, Carrie Saathoff,
Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Barbara Stratton, Gill Timon, Mary Vane, Susan Williamson

BOARD OF DEACONS

Amy Bickhart, Jennifer Blackford, Russ Butler, Kyle Carrick, Ron Carrick, Beatty Chadwick,
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Sue Linderman, Tom Preston, Kris Qualls, Bob Ridout, Stan Stevenson, Bruce Weber, Dan Weintraub

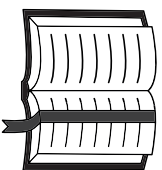
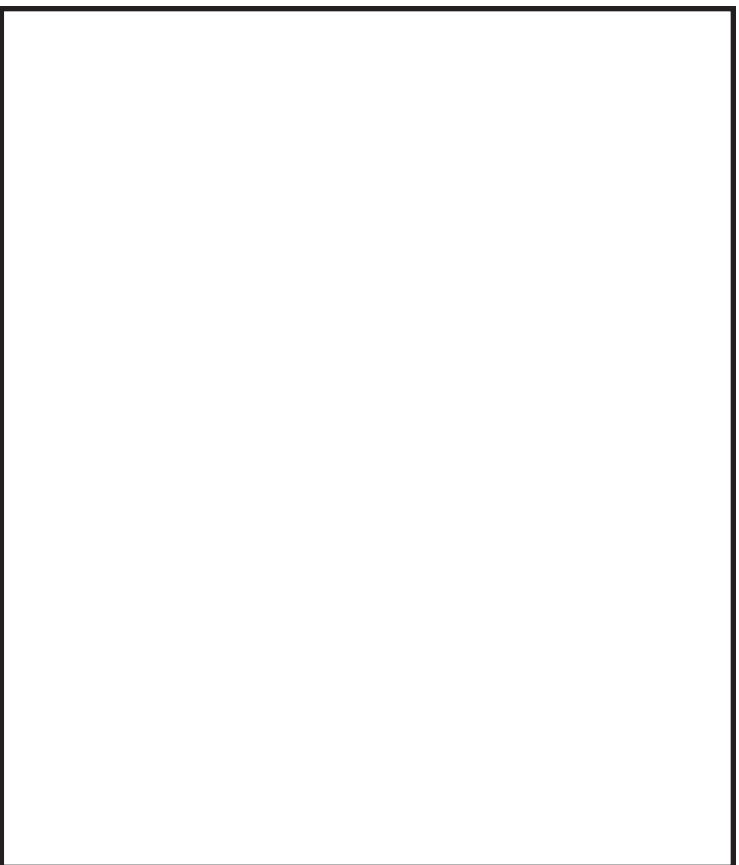
PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

DR Congo – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inge Sthreshley;
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker
Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches, Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band
Guatemala – CEDEPCA, AJPU, Rosario Diaz and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development



DRAW IT

In John 15, Jesus describes himself as a vine and says we are like branches on that vine. We produce good fruit when we are connected to him! Fruit like generous lives and compassionate hearts. Maybe you connect with Jesus by being outside in creation, singing, or praying with your family. Draw a picture of how you like to connect with Jesus.



illustrated
—MINISTRY—

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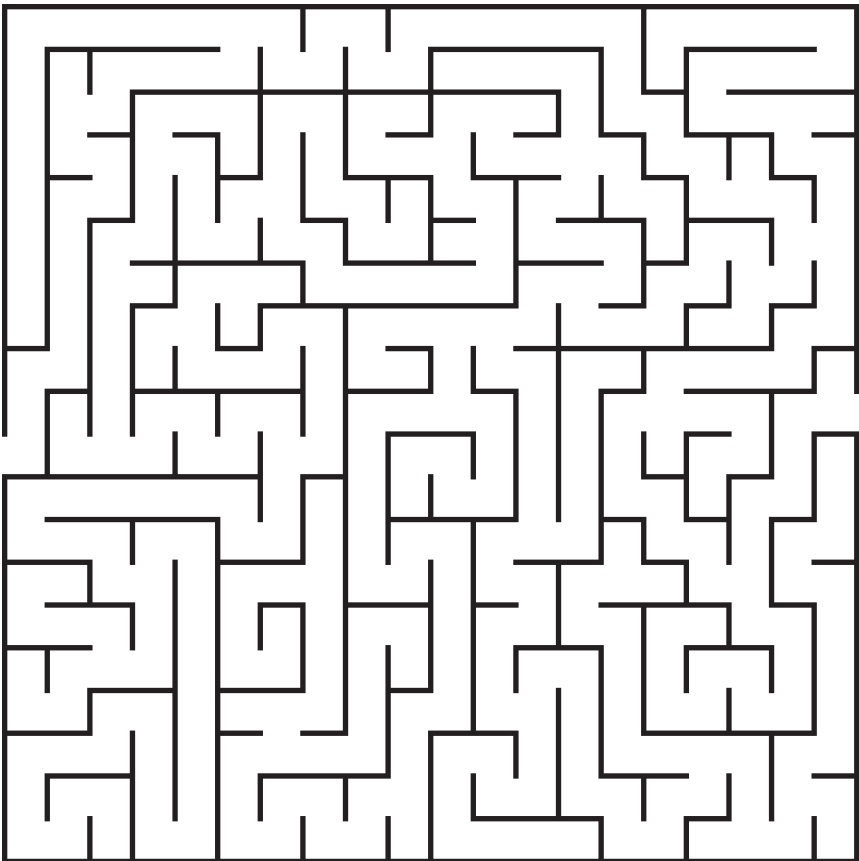
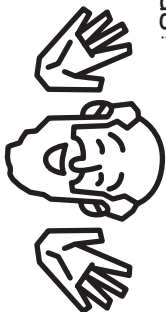
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8



SOLVE the MAZE

In Acts 8, Philip helps a man learn about God and then baptizes him. The man is so excited. He goes to tell others all about it. Follow the maze to help him reach his friends!



WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from 1 John 4 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

S L Z L M U L T F U M L S T H
Q I T E S T I F Y V X B C G R
Y H S K F F G I V E M R O X B
U A M T J H S S O N T O M R K
V G I O E L A C X Q K T M I G
I W Z G O R C C L T D H A W U
S R T C E F R E P A L E N P U
H A R A S A I K H B I R D V E
J L Z F P D F U Y I V R M V W
Q O F I I H I G O D E T E S N
T V L P R G C E E V R N P M
A E V E I L E B N O Y K T Z D
J Q D M T R N T H O G N Q J L
Q P A Z U P D E N I O O J A O
J Q R A E F G E O Q D W E E B

- LOVE
GOD
EVERYONE
KNOW
SON
LIVE

SACRIFICE
ABIDE
GIVE
SPIRIT
TESTIFY
BELIEVE

PERFECT
BOLD
FEAR
BROTHER
SISTER
COMMANDMENT