Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023

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.

A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Matthew 25 Church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Stephen Ministry Congregation
TODAY AT WESTMINSTER

8:45 – 12:15 p.m.  
Nursery Care for infants and toddlers in Preschool Suite D

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

Time with Our Children (approximately 9:15 a.m.)
The young and young-at-heart are invited to join the worship leader at the front of the sanctuary. Following the Time with Our Children, young ones through grade 5 may be escorted for Children’s Programming or they are welcome to remain in worship.

Children’s Programming (9:20 – 10:00 a.m.)
• Preschool Sunday School: Ages 3 and 4 in the Preschool Suite Room C
• Joyful Noise Choir: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in the Youth Music Room

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.  
Holy Toast Café in Walton Community Hall
Enjoy free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar.

10:10 – 11:00 a.m.  
Children and Youth Programming
• Nursery Care: Age 4 and under in Preschool Suite D
• Kids Zone Sunday School: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in Classroom 1
• Middle School Zone: Grades 6–8 in Classroom 3
• High School: Grades 9–12
  o Confirmation Class in Classroom 7 (open to all youth)
  o Small Groups in the Ruth Christie Room
    (for already confirmed youth)

Adult Education classes (see page 6)

11:15 – 12:00 p.m.  
Living Mosaics worship on the side lawn (Sacred Grounds)
Rain location: Rodney Chapel

Flying Solo brunch at Bar Reverie (Greenville Shopping Center, 4019 Kennett Pike, Greenville, DE 19807)

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
180° Youth Group kick-off in Walton Community Hall

For descriptions of our programs for children and youth, visit wpc.org/children-youth.

The Music: The Westminster Choir is looking for a few more women and men. Weekly rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7–9 p.m. and on Sundays at 8 a.m. For more information or to participate, contact TonyThurman@wpc.org.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Fred Hurlock, Jr. by Suzie Hurlock. Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event. Please contact Linda Watson at (302) 571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com. Dates available are October 1, 8, and 29.

Westminster’s Prayer Team prays for the needs of our community. Submit your prayer request to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com or online at wpc.org/care-support.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website at wpc.org and clicking the “Donate” button or scan this QR code on your smart phone. We accept donations by bank withdrawal, credit card, and debit card.
ORDER OF WORSHIP

~ Passages in **bold** print may be spoken by all. At the asterisk (*), please stand in body or rise in spirit. ~

**TOWER CHIME**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PRELUDE**  
*The Church’s One Foundation*  
Samuel Wesley/arr. Lloyd Larson

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus says, “Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
I am there among them.”

**Christ is here.**

Calling us to the water,  
beckoning us to the feast,

**Christ is here.**

Speaking to our souls,  
listening to our prayers,

**Christ is here.**

Binding us as one body,  
sending us out in service,

**Christ is here.**

Jesus says, “Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
I am there among them.”

**Christ is here. Let us worship the Lord.**

**HYMN NO. 394**  
*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*  
WESTMINSTER ABBEY

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Forgiving God,  
You teach us to seek reconciliation  
with those who have wronged us;  
for, above all else,  
we are to love one another.  
But we let resentment smolder  
until anger flares,  
destroying any chance of peace.  
We blame others and refuse to repent.  
Grant us grace, we pray.  
Make space in our wounded hearts  
for the possibility of forgiveness,  
and teach us to turn toward others in love  
as you have turned toward us. Amen.
**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN** (See “Today at Westminster” on page 2 for more information.)

Gregory Knox Jones

**BIBLE PRESENTATION TO THIRD GRADERS**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**
Matthew 18:15-20
New Testament, page 17

**SERMON**
Sudie Niesen Thompson

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**
*Cantate Domino* (Psalm 96)
Hans Leo Hassler

Cantate Domino canticum novum,
Cantate Domino omnis terra.
Cantate Domino, et benedicite nomini ejus.
Annuntiate de die in diem salutare ejus.
Annuntiate inter gentes gloriam ejus,
in omnibus populis mirabilia ejus.

Sing to the Lord a new song.
Sing to the Lord all the earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his name.
Announce his salvation from day to day.
Announce his glory among all the nations,
His wonders among the people.

*HYMN NO. 306*  
*Blest Be the Ties that Binds*  
DENNIS

Vs. 1, 3, 5: All  
Vs. 2: Men  
Vs. 4: Women

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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.

*HYMN NO. 761*  
*Called as Partners in Christ’s Service*  
BEECHER

*BENEDICTION*

**POSTLUDE**
*Fanfare Postlude*  
Douglas E. Wagner
New to Westminster? Welcome! We’re so glad you’re here. If you are joining us for the first time, please introduce yourself via our contact form on the I’m New page of our website or scan this QR code to get there from your mobile device. We look forward to getting to know you.

FALL BACK INTO MUSIC

The Westminster Choir is looking for a few more women and men. No audition required. Must be able to carry a tune. Handel provided.

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. | Sundays, 8 a.m.

The Westminster Handbell Choir will ring in the Christmas season. How many bells will we ring? Three octaves with 10 players; five octaves with 12.

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. beginning October 4.

The Westminster Tower Chime is our voice in the community on Sundays and national holidays. Beginners welcome. Instruction provided. Skip the gym and get your workout in our Chime Room!

For more information and to participate, contact TonyThurman@wpc.org.
ADULT EDUCATION

TODAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Conflicts! Conflicts! And More Conflicts!
Presenter: The Rev. William Getman
10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom
Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom

In today's world so full of various kinds of conflict, we often forget that we have seen all these things in the Bible. This class will review selected passages from Genesis to Revelation, which highlight the sorts of conflicts God's people experience and what they may tell us about ourselves. The Rev. Bill Getman is a recently retired Presbyterian pastor who served congregations for 46 years.

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Work Produced by Faith, Labor Prompted by Love, Endurance Inspired by Hope
Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker, PC(USA) Regional Liaison to Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq
10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom
Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom

Come and hear updates about conditions on the ground in both Lebanon and Syria and stories of our partners’ transformative work in the midst of these conditions.

Forgiveness: Finding Peace through Letting Go
Video series by Adam Hamilton
Facilitator: WPC member Margo Reign
10:10 a.m. | Classroom 5

Forgiveness is hard. Methodist pastor Adam Hamilton provides the participants a path on how to receive the freedom that comes with forgiving – even if the person needing forgiveness is ourselves.

For full descriptions of our programs and more adult education and small group opportunities, visit WPC.ORG/ADULTS or check our events calendar at WPC.ORG/EVENTS. Select adult education programs are available as a livestream/recording on our YouTube channel.
MORE EVENTS

180° Youth Ministry
Meet and Greet Kick-Off

TONIGHT | 5–7 p.m.
Walton Community Hall

All students in grades 6 to 12, parents, and siblings are invited to attend this event to meet our new 180 leadership team and learn about the youth opportunities that are available throughout the school year and summer of 2024. Dinner will be provided. This will be a fun-filled night with games, laughter, and fellowship. R.S.V.P. to Kathleen Kennan at kathleenkennan@wpc.org. We look forward to seeing you!

Ice Cream & Ice Breakers
Fellowship, Games, Music, and More!
For Parents and Children Kindergarten to Grade 7

Connect with our new:
Director of Music for Children and Youth: EMILY HAAS
Children and Youth Choral Assistant: COLE WALKER

Saturday, September 30, 4-5 p.m.
Woodside Farm Creamery
378 North Star Road
Newark, DE 19711

R.S.V.P. so we know you are coming!
TonyThurman@wpc.org
PASTORAL STAFF
The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

MUSIC STAFF
Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Music/Organist
Rebecca Hughes; Margaret Mezzacappa; Teddy Austin; Jerry Polman, Section Leaders
Emily Haas, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Cole Walker, Children and Youth Choral Assistant

VIDEOGRAPHERS
Tanner Freeman (lead videographer), Rich Albert, Drew Holmes, Chip Pfleegor,
Roger Reinicker, Aaron Wemhoff and Sophia Wolff

COMMUNION STEWARDS
Dan Weintraub and Jenn Barrington

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES STAFF
Kathleen Kennan, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry
Sydney Walker, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries and Beatrice Taylor, Nursery

SUPPORT STAFF
Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Mary Clark, Administrative Assistant
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Doug Gerdts, Manager of Accounting and Reporting
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Robert King; Daniel Steele; Joan Truitt; John Young, Sextons

SESSION
Taryn Albert, Adam Blackford, Michelle Butler, Clark Collins, Bob Cox, Sara Dubberly, Rob Gooderham,
Laura Holmes, Dick Jolly, Carla Krupanski, KC Morrison, Dave McBride,
Susan McPheeters, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor, Todd Piercy, Carrie Saathoff, Laura Scanlan,
Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Karissa Thacker, Gill Timon, Dan Weintraub

BOARD OF DEACONS
Liz Bacon, Lisa Bianchi, Jennifer Blackford, Heather Brooks, Russ Butler, Kyle Carrick,
Beatty Chadwick, Diane Chandler, Jack Coleman, Joe Daley, Tammy Daley, Kendra Gallagher,
Sara Gavenonis, Jamie Hickey, Drew Holmes, Barbara Jobe, Sheran Kegerise, Elaine Lunardi, Blair McConnel,
Sarah Mentzer, Robert Moore, Gathoni Murugi-Jenkins, Dan McAllister, Debbie McCullough, Lynne Perkins,
Emily Pfaff, Paula Piercy, Rachel Psaros, Patti Ridout, Robin Rosser, Evie Saathoff, Carol Tatnall,
Lois Underhill, Ginger Ward, Sandie Reinicker, Sue Weissinger, Sandra Wermus, Kathy Wissner

TRUSTEES
Rich Albert, Tom Brooks, Nancy Fleming, John Gavenonis, Lou Hering,
Bobbe Hoy, Brock Jobe, Sue Linderman, Robert Love, Tom Preston, Kris Qualls, Stan Stevenson

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY
DR Congo – PC(USA) Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inge Streshley;
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon – PC(USA) Mission Co-worker the Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker
Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches, Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band
Guatemala – CEDEPCA, AJPU, the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development,
PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Betsey and Eric Moe
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1 Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone, chosen of the Lord and precious hosts, and stay; come, with all your loving-kindness; you to gain; what they gain from you, forever to the Son, laud and honor to the Spirit,

2 To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of binding all the church in one; holy Zion's hear your people as we pray, and your fullest with the blessed to retain; and hereafter ever three and ever one: one in might and help forever, and our confidence alone.

3 Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from benediction shed within these walls today. in your glory evermore with you to reign. one in glory while unending ages run!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Although this ancient text has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God and the second to the place where they meet. The stately and soaring tune is aptly named for the edifice where the composer served as organist and is buried.

MUSIC: Henry Purcell, c. 1680; adapt. Ernest Hawkins, 1843

WESTMINSTER ABBEY
8.7.8.7.8.7
(alternate tune: REGENT SQUARE)
Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1. Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kinred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear. And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.
5. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

TEXT: John Fawcett, 1782
MUSIC: Johann Georg Nügeli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845
Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761

1 Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blend human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

4 So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.