Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 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
_Engjoy 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
  - Confirmation Class in Classroom 7 (open to all youth)
  - 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_

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
**180° Youth Group** in Classroom 6 and Walton Community Hall

For descriptions of our programs for children and youth, visit [wpc.org/children-youth](http://wpc.org/children-youth).

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**The Music:** The Westminster Choir is looking for a few more women, men, and youth in high school+. 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 Teddy Bedrossian by Ned Bedrossian and family. 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.

**Recently hospitalized:** Rick Zumsteg

**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](http://wpc.org/care-support).

**You can make a contribution** to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website at [wpc.org](http://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

Sara Gavenonis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

The Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

For the Fruit of All Creation

Jane Holstein

CALL TO WORSHIP

God’s Spirit fills our house of worship.

We will open our hearts and minds to God’s word.

God’s Spirit implores us to love one another.

May we be filled with God’s life-giving Spirit.

*HYMN NO. 5

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

JENNINGS-HOUSTON

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we give thanks for our community of faith where you assure us of your immeasurable love for us and provide opportunities to share your love with others. Through words of Scripture and your Spirit whispering in our soul, may we discover the work that is ours to do, and summon the courage to carry it out. Embolden us to resist evil, injustice, and violence; and inspire us to speak the truth, to show respect, and to live generously. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

(See “Today at Westminster” on page 2 for more information.)

Sudie Niesen Thompson

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

New Testament, page 186

SERMON

Gregory Knox Jones

*HYMN NO. 714

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN
**The Beauty of This Sacred Place**

James and Marilyn Biery

Westminster Choir:
The beauty of this sacred place inspires our hearts and minds to grow.
We sing with love, bestowed by grace; from God all richest blessings flow.
The meal, the word, the art, the song, are but a glimmer of the whole;
With joyful hearts sing all day long, God's blessings satisfy the soul.
We look into each person's eyes and see such longing hunger there.
Respond with love to others' cries; our neighbors' burdens gladly bear.
So many struggle and despair, we hear their silent voices plead;
Our actions show how much we care, extending help to those in need.

**Congregation stands and joins on final refrain:**

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. 708  We Give Thee but Thine Own  Schumann

*Benediction

Postlude  Westminster Carillon  Carson Cooman
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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.

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FALL BACK INTO MUSIC

The **Westminster Choir** is looking for a few more women and men and youth in high school+. 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 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: Westminster 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.

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

The Poetry of Conflict
Presenter: Westminster member Bob Cox
10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom
Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom
Poets often act as the public conscience. Their verses express truths that reporters and historians can't openly share. Join us as we explore how conflict is expressed through poetry and how the poetic perspective transcends ideology.

Forgiveness: Finding Peace through Letting Go (Session 2)
Video series by Adam Hamilton
Facilitator: Westminster 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. You do not need to attend all the sessions.

ON GOING/WEEKLY

Online Bible Studies
Midweek Manna Bible Study
Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom
Facilitator: The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
Contact: sniesenthompson@wpc.org
Thursday Evening Bible Study
Thursdays | 6–7 p.m. | Zoom
Facilitators: Randy Williamson and Mary Anne Peters
Contact: randywilliamson1@comcast.net

Peace and Justice Thursday Evening Education Event
Advancing Justice in Delaware for 100 Years
September 28 | 7 p.m. | Zoom
bit.ly/peace-justice-zoom
With Dave Bever, Executive Director, Delaware Center for Justice
Hosted by our Peace & Justice Work Group.
zoom.us/join | Meeting ID: 860 2752 1655

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 UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Peace Week Delaware 2023 (October 7–15) kicks off with our
FIRST FRIDAY WALK FOR JUSTICE & PEACE

Friday, October 6 | 5:15–6:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

Start: The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew (SsAM), 719 N. Shipley Street
End: Rodney Square

Join us for this peaceful, prayerful walk through the center of Wilmington to promote an end to racial and social injustice and to reduce gun violence in our city. We gather in the SsAM parking lot with people from various faith communities to share in this active, visible commitment to justice and peace. We walk in silence, ending at Rodney Square. Please join us – and share this invitation with people you know who are dedicated to these goals.
**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, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

** 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 Gerds, 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

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** 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
God the Sculptor of the Mountains

D Bm Em A7 D

1 God the sculptor of the mountains, God the
2 God the nuisance of the Pharaoh, God the
3 God the dresser of the vineyard, God the
4 God the unexpected infant, God the

Bm Em7 A F Dm

miller of the sand, God the jeweler of the
cleaver of the sea, God the pillar in the
planter of the wheat, God the reaper of the
calm, determined youth, God the table-turning

Gm7 C F E7 A A7

heavens, God the potter of the land:
darkness, God the beacon of the free:
harvest, God the source of all we eat:
prophet, God the resurrected truth:

D F♯m G F♯m Bm

you are womb of all creation;
you are fount of all deliverance;
you are host at every table;
you are present every moment;

Em D Em D

we are formless; shape us now.
we are aimless; lead us now.
we are hungry; feed us now.
we are searching; meet us now.

Despite the great sweep of these stanzas, each one ends by describing how our human condition needs God's help: formless, aimless, hungry, searching. Each of these adjectives is followed by a related three-syllable petition: shape us now, lead us now, feed us now, meet us now.
God of the Fertile Fields  714

1 God of the fertile fields, shaper of
2 We would be stewards true, holding in
3 As grows the hidden seed to fruit that
4 God of the countryside, dear to the
earth that yields our daily bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our
bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
lives anew in faithful love to you.

that all in every land be clothed and fed.
for people everywhere, that all may live.
no humble task refused your love bestows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

TEXT: Georgia Harkness, 1955, alt.
MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769, alt.
We Give Thee but Thine Own

1. We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be;
2. May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
3. The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,
4. And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be;

all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and gladly, as thou bless-est us, to thee our first-fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ-like thing.
what-e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

Each successive stanza here expands the implications of the familiar affirmation of the first one. Much more than a concern with money, stewardship shapes our relationship with God and with other people. Despite this tune’s name, no source has been found in Schumann’s works.

TEXT: William Walsham How, c. 1858
MUSIC: Mason and Webb’s Cantica Laudes, 1850

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

SCHUMANN
SM