Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 15, 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 – 11:00 a.m.  Fall Festival
See announcement on page 5.

11:00 – 12:00 p.m.  Flying Solo brunch at BBC Tavern and Grill
4019 Kennett Pike, Greenville, DE

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

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

The Music: Today’s anthem text calls all people to a life of service. The Westminster Choir is looking for a few more women, men and youth, high school, and college. Weekly rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. and on Sundays at 8 a.m. The Westminster Handbell Choir needs one (1) more player to ring five (5) octaves of handbells for Christmas. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 5:30–6:30 p.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 Jay Spilecki by his family.

The flowers in the Narthex are from yesterday’s memorial service for Rick Zumsteg. 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 December 3, 17, and 31.

The rosebud this morning is to celebrate the birth of Natalie Jean Lindemann on September 28. Natalie is the daughter of Ben and Robin Lindemann.

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.

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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

Chorale-Prelude on BEACH SPRING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 25:6-9, adapted)

On the day of the Lord,
God will make for all people
a feast of rich foods and well-aged wines.

The Lord will destroy the shroud that is cast over us;
God will swallow up death forever
and wipe away every tear.

On that day the people of God will say:
This is the Lord, for whom we have waited;
let us rejoice in God’s saving love.

*HYMN NO. 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Extravagant God,
you invite us to your table in the kingdom of heaven.
But we do not take our place at the feast.
We say, “We have more important things to do,”
and turn back to labors
that threaten to consume us.
Beckon us again, we pray,
that we may respond with gratitude.
In your mercy, gather us in
that we might experience the joy of your kingdom
and taste the abundance of your grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

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ANTHEM

Come, Labor On

T. Tertius Noble
arr. John Ferguson

Come, labor on.
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
“Go work today.”

Come, labor on.
Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 22:1-14

SERMON

Sudie Niesen Thompson

HYMN NO. 767

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

Offering

OFFERTORY SOLO

A Prayer for Peace

John Williams

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. 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

BEACH SPRING

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Hornpipe

G.F. Handel
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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.

FALL FESTIVAL

TODAY
10 a.m. (following the 9 a.m. service)

GAMES  FOOD  CRAFTS

COSTUMES ARE ENCOURAGED!

Sponsored by the Westminster Deacons.

*Rain location: Walton Community Hall
**ADULT EDUCATION**

**NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**Climate 101**  
*Presenters: Dustyn Thompson, Chapter Director, and Marissa McClenton, Environmental Justice Associate Organizer, Sierra Club Delaware Chapter*

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom  

Dustyn and Marissa will help us understand the climate changes Delaware is going to experience, environmental justice issues created and worsened by climate change, and how the State is addressing climate changes through legislation and regulation.

**Forgiveness: Finding Peace through Letting Go (Session 3)**  
*Video series by Adam Hamilton*  
*Facilitator: WPC member Margo Reign*

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 5  
Discover a path on how to receive the freedom that comes with forgiving – even if the person needing forgiveness is ourselves. Whether or not you attended the first or second session, you are welcome to participate in Session 3!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**

**Blessed be the Tie that Binds?**  
*Presenter: Heath W. Carter, Ph.D.*

10:10 a.m. | Sanctuary  
Watch the livestream at: wpc.org/watch

We are living through a season of historic political polarization, one in which, with seemingly each passing day, more and more Americans view their neighbors as enemies. During this challenging season for church and nation alike, what can we learn from the witness of those who have gone before? What role might Presbyterian and other mainline Protestant churches play on the road ahead?

Dr. Heath W. Carter is an associate professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he teaches and writes about the intersection of Christianity and American public life.

**ONGOING/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**

*Creating Spaces to Transform Historical Harms*  
*October 19 | 7 p.m. | Zoom*  
*bit.ly/peace-justice-zoom*  
*With Sarah Green, Pacem in Terris Co-Director*  
Hosted by our Peace & Justice Work Group.  
[zoom.us/join](https://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](http://WPC.ORG/ADULTS) or check our events calendar at [WPC.ORG/EVENTS](http://WPC.ORG/EVENTS). Select adult education programs are available as a livestream/recording on our [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com).
UPCOMING EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION SERIES

Sunday, October 22 | 10:10 a.m. | Ruth Christie Room
(access through Rodney Chapel or the Ruth Christie Hallway)

Have you been considering membership at Westminster? Please join us to learn more about Westminster, discover ways to connect with others in the congregation, and explore ways to serve within and beyond our community. For those who wish to join the Westminster congregation, there will be an opportunity at the end of the second session. Our pastors and members of the church will share facets of Westminster.

Questions? Contact the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson at sniesenthompson@wpc.org.

~ SONG RECITAL ~

Sunday, October 22 | 3 p.m. | Sanctuary

The extraordinary and talented section leaders/soloists of the Westminster Choir will present a song recital on Sunday, October 22, at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Rebecca Hughes, soprano; Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano; Teddy Austin, tenor; and Jerry Polman, baritone, will perform Spirituals and works by Brahms, Schubert, and Vaughn Williams. Joining them will be Delaware Symphony Orchestra’s Executive Director J.C. Barker, clarinet; DSO Principal Viola, Elias Goldstein; Ted Barr, piano; and Tony Thurman, organ.

Please join us in person or livestream on YouTube!
A free-will donation is requested.
In this presentation, we will take a brief look at how the Christian funeral service developed historically, what this service means in terms of our faith, and how it has come under stress in recent decades.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Long is an ordained Presbyterian minister who spent most of his career teaching homiletics (preaching) at Candler School of Theology at Emory University and Princeton Seminary. In 1996, Tom was named one of the 12 most effective preachers in the English-speaking world by Baylor University, along with the likes of Fred Craddock, Billy Graham, James Forbes, Barbara Brown Taylor, and William Willimon. In 2018, Baylor came out with a new list of the 12 most effective preachers and Tom was one of only four from the original list to make the list again.

Dr. Long will also preach during the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. worship services on November 5.
1 Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth. With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless in the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body,

2 What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth; by morning glow or evening shade distressing, an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing, as my voice unwearied raises. Be healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless in the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body,
mur-mur stilled:
all is right: to God all praise and glory!
chosen band: take your part:
Together We Serve

1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.

2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
un - till we see Christ in each per - son we meet.

3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
We of - fer a home to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.

4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,
re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.
To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,
re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.
Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

1 Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, new-born creatures
2 Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may
3 O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined,

of your womb. Number them among your people, raised like
we be fed. Let us join your feast, partaking cup of
all your ways! To your name be glory, honor! With our

Christ from death and tomb. Weave them garments bright and
blessing, living bread. God, renew us; guide our
lives we worship, praise! We your people stand be-

sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them;
footsteps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in
fore you, water-washed and Spirit-born. By your grace, our

send your Spirit, holy dove and heart’s delight.
living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.
lives we offer. Re-create us; God, transform!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in The Book of Common Worship, especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ’s resurrection.

MUSIC: The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958

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