

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 30, 2018

11:15 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives. Let that light be a source of humility where we are proud, and a source of hope in our despair, and a source of peace in all things. We ask it in Christ's holy name. Amen.

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Psalm 148)

Leader: Praise the Lord from the heavens;

Praise God in the heights!

People: **Praise God, sun and moon;**

Praise God, all you shining stars!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for God commanded and they were created.

People: **God established them forever and ever;
God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 132

IN DULCI JUBILO

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Good and gracious God, do not let the light of Christmas fade in our minds and hearts. We know that we like to swim in shallow waters. We minimize the chances we take with our faith, but we love to maximize our comfort. Forgive us for our short-sighted ways. Help us to walk in the power of your unconditional love and your reckless grace. Remind us anew that without you, we can do nothing, but in you and with you, we can do all things. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Light, we pray. Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Children in K5-first grade leave for Children's Church.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

(N.T. p. 958)

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:41-52

(N.T. p. 833)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Ben Dorr

"Transitions"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN No. 110

BRING A TORCH

"Love Has Come"

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from The Confession of 1967)

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But complete obedience led him into conflict with national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Offertory

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Holst

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN No. 136

GO TELL IT

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

**All who are able may stand*

**All who are able may stand*

HEAD USHER:

Jim Gettys

SPONSOR:

Paul Grier

GREETERS:

Rita Barker, Philip Land

Sarah-Ann Davis

LITURGIST:

Mary Kathleen Duncan

LAY READER:

Paul Grier

If you are visiting this morning, we extend a special welcome to you. Westminster Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a community of faith open to all.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

STREAMING

All worship services at Westminster are broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at www.wpc-online.org and click the link "Worship via Live Streaming."

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Lynne Robinson, pianist

Diana Dailey, alto

Mark Kemp, tenor

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

During the 9:00 a.m. worship service, children in rising K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children's Church in **Room 206.**

GRAB A NAMETAG

THIS SUNDAY!

We will continue to wear nametags each Sunday. Please find them near entrances and gathering areas and share your name with others. You'll be glad you did!

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Margaret Williams-Rich* on the death of her husband, James Semans, on December 17, 2018, in Chapel Hill, NC.

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Gary Boley* on the death of his son, David Scott Boley, on December 19, 2018, in Savannah, GA.

BAPTISM CLASS

If you are interested in having your child or children baptized at Westminster, you are invited to attend a brief class on baptism taught by Ben Dorr. The next class will be **Sunday, January 13, at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Charter Room.** Please email Michelle in the church office at michelle@wpc-online.org if you are planning to attend.

RETIREMENT GIVING

For those 70 years of age or older, you can make a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Though you will not get a charitable deduction, the withdrawal can serve as your required minimum distribution. The money will not be taxed and will not count toward your adjusted gross income. If you have any questions, please contact Sherri Owens, the church's Financial Secretary.

In Memoriam

Curtis Ewell Clark

1/6/1952 - 12/22/2018

"He that hears my word, and believes in him that sent me has eternal life."

LET US PRAY FOR:

The family of Alan Elmore

Gary Boley and family

Margaret Williams-Rich and family

The family of Curtis Clark

FINANCIAL MINISTRY

2018 BUDGET UPDATE



Amount Received
\$2,212,086 (88%)

Pledges Outstanding
\$310,127 (12%)

Our auditing firm has informed us that we must close our books on December 31. Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2018 statement in by December 31, 2018. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners. Thank you.

ADULT GROUPS

Needle Arts Group: Will meet **Wednesday, January 2 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Entrance Pavilion**. Leader: *Terry Gentry* (tmgentry@charter.net).

MEN'S GROUP BOOK STUDY

The Men's Group will begin a new book study on **Monday, January 7, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 209-C**. We will study the book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, by Philip Yancey. All WPC men are invited to participate and newcomers are welcome. For more information, contact *Rick Carpenter* (608-1881).

CONNECTIONS

Please join Westminster friends for Connections, an adult fellowship group for couples and singles, at **Lieu's Chinese Bistro** (1149 Woodruff Rd.) at **1:00 p.m.**, after the congregational meeting on **Sunday, January 13**. (Note our new date.) New people are welcome. Place your reservation by **Friday, January 11**, with *Mary Ann Cox* (1maryanncox@gmail.com or 963-2335).

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The church's offering envelopes are dateless and can be used until they run out. If you need more offering envelopes, please call the church office at 232-2424.

MEN'S DINNER

Join us for dinner (\$7 each) **Thursday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall** to hear our guest speaker, WPC member, Bill Taylor. His company, kVA, is involved in the development of driverless cars. Bill will speak on the progress of this technology. Plan to attend and bring your spouse or partner. For more information, call *Tom Billings* (626-695-1231). Sign up by **Monday, January 14**, by calling the church office or online at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/mens-group/>.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

Because of a scheduling conflict, Westminster's Book Club will wait until **Tuesday, February 5**, to discuss the book *Swing Time* by Zadie Smith. We meet from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the church library. New people are always welcome!

SAVE THE DATE

Women of Westminster:

February 22-24

Women's Retreat

More details and sign-ups to come!

2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



• We have met 89% of our goal.

As of Wednesday, December 26, we have received \$2,296,606 in pledges toward our 2019 budget goal of \$2,573,739.

For your convenience, pledge cards are in the pews, or you may mail in your pledge or send it by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens at sherri@wpc-online.org.

**THE HARBINGER
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

**2310 Augusta Road
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424**

www.wpc-online.org

THE HARBINGER: (USPS No. 764160) Published weekly by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2310 Augusta Road, Greenville SC 29605. Periodical postage paid at Greenville SC 29605.

CHURCH STAFF

Church 232-2424	School 232-5766
Pastor	Ben Dorr
	bdorr@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Barbara Stoop
	bstoop@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Leigh Stuckey
	lstuckey@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Mary Kathleen Duncan
	mkduncan@wpc-online.org
Parish Associate for Older Adults	Amos Workman
	aworkman@wpc-online.org
Pastor Emeritus	Zane Moore
Director of Music	Mark Kemp
	mkemp@wpc-online.org
Children's Choir Coordinator	Kathryn Knauer
	kknauer@wpc-online.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Jennifer Dillard
	jdillard@wpc-online.org
Organist	Nancy Smith
	nls1949@aol.com
Weekday School Director	Cara Puntch
	cpuntch@wpc-online.org
Financial Secretary	Sherri Owens
	sherri@wpc-online.org
Office Manager	Michelle Little
	michelle@wpc-online.org
Secretary	Wendy Bagley
	wendy@wpc-online.org
Director of Nurseries	Janell Pitman
	jpitman@wpc-online.org
Director of Hospitality	Lisa Ridge
	lisa@wpc-online.org
Building Supervisor	Steve Phillips
	stevp30@bellsouth.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 30, 2018 -January 5, 2019

SUNDAY

11:15 a.m. Worship Service
 12:15 p.m. Fellowship Hour
 3:00 p.m. Memorial Service for
Curtis Clark
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

Weekday School closed thru January 7

TUESDAY

New Years Day

Church Office Closed

WEDNESDAY

6:30 p.m. Needle Arts Group

THURSDAY

8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

FIND WPC ONLINE

Visit us online to find up-to-date photos, videos and information about our programming:

<http://www.wpc-online.org>

- [facebook.com/wpcgreenville](https://www.facebook.com/wpcgreenville)
- twitter.com/wpcgreenville
- [instagram.com/wpcgreenville](https://www.instagram.com/wpcgreenville)
- [youtube.com/wpcgreenville](https://www.youtube.com/wpcgreenville)
- [gplus.to/wpc](https://plus.google.com/wpc)

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for **Sunday, January 13, 2019**, immediately following the **11:15 a.m.** worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to present the 2019 operating budget to the congregation, to vote on terms of call for the pastoral staff, and to elect a new class of elders to serve on the Session.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate for election to the Session, class of 2022:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Talitha Allen</i> | <i>Michael Dixon</i> |
| <i>Sarah Beasley</i> | <i>Ben Edwards</i> |
| <i>Brian Blount</i> | <i>Ashley Gettys</i> |
| <i>Scott Clark</i> | <i>Anna Hanor</i> |
| <i>Brandon Coker</i> | <i>Susan Jones</i> |
| <i>Bob Dellert</i> | <i>Becky Warth</i> |



MY FATHER'S HOUSE

Through good fortune, I grew up in a brick, ranch style house set in the middle of a hay field in Mississippi. Throughout my childhood and on into my adult life, that was my family's house.

But in a sense, as Jesus explained in Luke 2:49, my childhood also offered another house. My father's house wasn't a temple or place of worship, but the barns, gravel roads and fields of a third-generation dairy farm. This house had mud floors, viscous and ineradicable, with walls made of barbed wire that seemed to go on forever.

In my father's house I learned that hard work sometimes has no end and little immediate reward. Sometimes in that house nature was dispassionate and cruel. I learned that sometimes you will have to care for things that don't care back. Sometimes, when there was rain or snow or searing heat or other places you wanted to be, you had to go out anyway.

When it snowed earlier this month, I was reminded of what a snow day looked like for me on the farm. My father and I would walk the fences looking for downed trees or limbs that would give the cows easy passage to the grass so green on the other side. When such a downed tree or limb was found we would cut it into firewood. Usually the wood we were cutting was coated thick with ice.

We also visited the ponds. On our farm, we didn't rely strictly on water troughs. To get water the cows often waded out into ponds that were designed specifically for the purpose. On freezing cold days, they would want to do the same thing and were in danger of drowning if they were able to walk out too far on the ice. To prevent that my father and I would circle the pond, busting the ice with a splitting maul, often returning throughout the day to repeat the process.

Such is the way of the farmer.

It is also analogous to the way of Christian outreach and mission. Sometimes the work has no end and little immediate reward. Sometimes we find circumstances that are unfortunate and cruel. Sometimes we care for things or people that much of the world would just as soon ignore. Sometimes we do it, even when we don't want to.

Through good fortune or purposeful selection, we attend a church that places Christian outreach and mission high on the priority list. This prioritization is evident when you browse the Westminster website, or review the church's budget or simply by scanning the calendar here in The Harbinger. In today's reading, as early Christians, the Colossians were instructed to clothe their new selves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Now 2000 years on, as we turn to a new year, let us turn to these instructions of virtue. As we reach out into an unsettled world let us resolve to have compassion instead of indifference; kindness instead of insolence; humility instead of pride; meekness instead of gruffness; and when there is restlessness, may God grant us patience.

Scott Clark