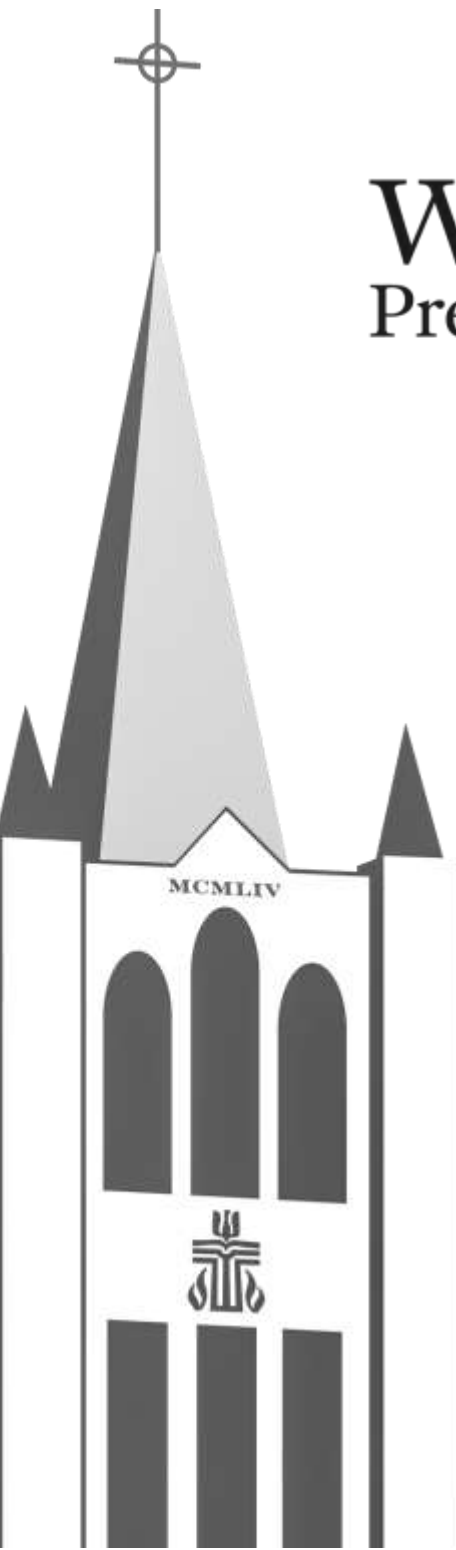




Westminster Presbyterian Church

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new
creation—everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!"*

II Corinthians 5:17

MCMLIV



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THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Festive Trumpet Tune*

David German

Prayer of Preparation (*you may prepare for worship by praying silently*)

Almighty God, in you there are no shortages and nothing lacking. We thank you for giving us nourishment from the flourishing fields of creation. Form and reform us by your word, that we may rejoice in your bounty and share your inheritance of abundance, all the days of our lives. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

J T Johnson

Call to Worship (responsive)

God's word is a lamp for our feet

And a light for our path.

Accept our offerings of praise, O Lord.

Uphold us according to your promise that we may live.

And we shall sing of your glory forever.

* Hymn of Praise 451 – *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

* Call to Confession

As much as we try not to stray: we do. As much as we try to follow God's word: we don't. As we continue on this journey, let us seek God's forgiveness.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

O God, we have not tended the soil of our lives. We let it stay shallow and rocky by our unwillingness to learn your holy ways. We let it be riddled with thorns by succumbing to our own prejudices, habits, and comforts. Life-giving God, help us to better tend the soil of our days. Open our hearts once more to your Gospel seeds so that your word might take root within us and our lives would bear good fruit. (time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

There is no condemnation for us: God has forgiven us that we might live according to the Spirit. **The Spirit of God dwells within us. Thanks be to God!**

* The Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri* Hymn 581

**Glorify 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.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Miriam Crotwell

Prayer for Illumination

Holy, Holy, Holy One, guide us by the Spirit of truth to hear the Word of life you speak, and to give all glory, honor, and praise to your threefold name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Isaiah 55:10-13

pew Bible pg. 598

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Second Reading – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

pew Bible pg. 794

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *The One Who Hears and Understands*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 450 – *Be Thou My Vision*

* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed – traditional (unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People (responsive)

Let us pray in the Spirit, who helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for the church . . . Give new life to your church, Christ's body; let your Spirit of life and love abide in us, so that the world will know we belong to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for the earth . . . Let your will be done in all creation, so that the mountains and hills may sing with joy and the trees of the fields clap their hands. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for all nations . . . Where nations and neighbors are at war and siblings struggle with one another, renew our birthright, our common kinship in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for this community . . . Let us be extravagant with your grace, casting the promise of the gospel far and wide, trusting that you will bring forth good fruit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for loved ones . . . Give light to those who dwell in darkness; give life to those who are afflicted. Hold them close, and deliver them from trouble. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray to you, O God, confident that all things work together for good for those who love you and are called according to your purpose. Above all, we give you thanks, O God, that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Invitation to Offering

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory – *Priere*

Léon Boëllmann

The Doxology – Hymn 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 (unison)

God of unending gifts, we praise you for your abundant goodness. As you are generous, we want to be generous too. May the gifts we bring extend your generosity into the world, so that all people may be made whole by your goodness and grace. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 720 – *Jesus Calls Us*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

May the blessing of the Trinity—holy, holy, holy Lord—be with you now and. always
Alleluia!

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? **And I said, "Here I am; send me!" Amen.**

* Postlude – *Toccata on Aberystwyth*

Brenda Portman



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**

Today's liturgy is in part adapted from the Call to Worship website, a resource created by the PCUSA's Office of Theology and Worship and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(new added prayers)*

Janet Baldwin – family issues

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

Larry & Margaret Burge of Poplarville, friends of Michael Yore – Larry has cancer

Laura Pearce Cureton, Nancy Johnson's goddaughter – nerve block therapy continues

Malcolm Curtis, Janet Baldwin's co-worker – health issues

Deidra Dickenson, Kathy Cain's sister – onset dementia

Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Bill and Louise Edwards, friends of Charles Brown – strength and endurance

Erica Gilmore, friend of Janet Baldwin – family issues

Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia

Mckenna Hawkins, daughter of Michael Yore's friend – cancer

Charles "Rocky" Hartfield, friend of Pam Love – health issues

Peggy Henry, Karen Reidenbach's sister – continued strength through addiction recovery

Charlotte Hill

Ann Johnson

Geraldine Jones

B.J. Lambert

Rebecca Lawrence, friend of Karen Reidenbach – recovering from injuries from a car accident.

Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles' first cousin – dementia

Anita Murphy, friend of Mary Cromartie – lung cancer

Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength

Brenda Owens – recovering from a broken ankle

Renee Parker, friend of Ruthie Davis – macular degeneration

Carolyn Mitchell Pintard, Betty Mitchell's daughter – grave health issues

**Michael Raggio*

Sheema Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's sister-in-law – lymph nodes issues

Franklin Eugene Roberts, Robin Roberts' brother – health concerns

Laura Todd, Grayson Rayborn's cousin – multiple health issues

Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Jerry Spann, friend of Ruthie Davis – cancer

Korie Turner, friend of Ruthie Davis – prayers for courage

Ella Young, sister of Janet Baldwin – struggling with dementia

Greeting and Announcements

Welcome to Westminster! We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please silence cell phones during the worship hour.

The July/August *Today* devotionals (large and small print) are on the narthex cabinet.

The Youth will not meet today.

Brown Bag Bible Study will meet Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Men of the Church will meet Thursday at 7 a.m. at Loblolly Bakery.

New Beginnings will be Monday, July 20, at noon. Make plans to attend and let Tommy or Martha know if you are coming.

If you need something **notarized**, contact Martha in the office. No charge for members.

There is a box on the narthex cabinet labeled glasses for your **donated glasses**. These will be taken to the Lion's Club.

The **furniture warehouse** is in need of donations. Call the office if you have items to donate and we will schedule a pickup.

We are **collecting clothes** (women and children) for the domestic abuse shelter. Call Ann Johnson (601-268-6632) to schedule a drop-off.

There will be a **church luncheon on July 19**. All are welcome for this time of food and fellowship.

Reminder: During the summer months as the AC runs more frequently in the church, please help us be good stewards by keeping the interior doors of the building closed as much as possible. Thank you.
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Just as the human body needs eyes, hands, ears, lungs, etc., so does the Body of Christ. We have many small group opportunities for growth, fellowship and service here at Westminster. We encourage members to use their gifts to participate in the mission of this congregation and to invite others to join us in serving Jesus Christ.



The Seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

A Symbolic Statement of the Church

The Cross – Christianity

The Transept – Bible and Pulpit

The Dove – The Holy Spirit

The Intersection – Baptismal Font or
Communion Cup

Flames – Implied triangle, the Trinity

Class of 2026

Iris Easterling
Jeff Haydel
Rhoda Pickett

THE SESSION

Class of 2027

Tom Estes
Connie Roberts
Karen Reidenbach

Class of 2028

Gwen Combs
Pam Love
Charlie Parkman

Class of 2026

Robert Cummings, Jr.

THE TRUSTEES

Class of 2027

J T Johnson

Class of 2028

Althea Jerome

Class of 2026

Dixie Coats
Christopher Cox
Carrie Creel
Michael Yore

THE DEACONS

Class of 2027

Matthew Boucher
Judy Haydel
Ryan Reid
Sarah Beth Suttle

Class of 2028

Gwen Combs
Brandon Hayes
Carlie Kaeppler
Drew Suttle

Youth Representative

Elisa Suttle

CHURCH STAFF

Christopher Crotwell, Minister
Robert Cummings, Jr., Financial Officer
Kay Guiles, Organist
Katie Ginn, Youth and Children Director

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship
Martha Davis, Church Administrator
Wes Brooks, Communications
Ray Robinson, Sexton

Michael Ginn, Chancel Choir; Children's Music Director