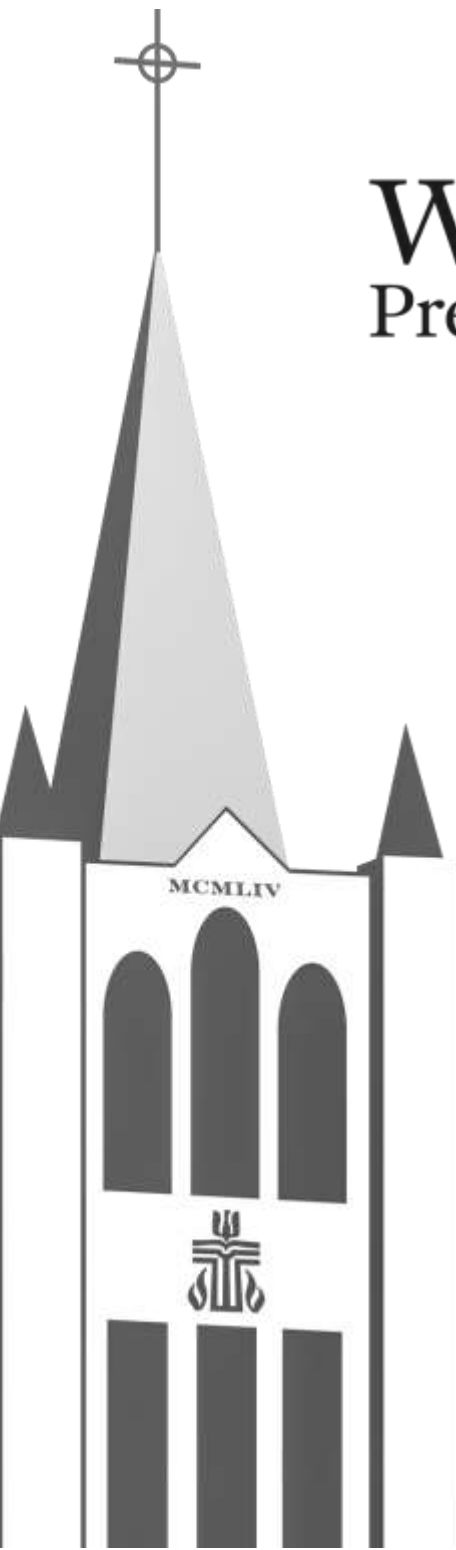




Westminster Presbyterian Church

*"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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Aria*

Charles Callahan

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

Lord, Son of David, have mercy upon us as we gather in your house this morning. Do not dismiss us. Do not remain silent. Allow us access to the feast of grace. Let us stand in the majesty of your presence. Speak your healing word of life. Bring relief and release to those caught beneath heavy burdens. Increase our faith. We wish to see you and worship. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Charlie Parkman

Call to Worship (responsive)

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.

May God's ways be known upon the earth and God's saving power known among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 795 – *Healer of Our Every Ill*

* Call to Confession

We call to God, saying, "Have mercy on us!" We call to God, saying, "Lord, help us!"
We call to God even in the midst of our sin, knowing that God is gracious and just.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of all goodness, we do not want to face all that is in our own hearts. We want to focus on the good: on the love, the compassion, and the care that resides within us. We would prefer to ignore the bad: the greed, the envy, the cruelty that lurks within our shadowed soul. But before you, God, we must face it. Forgive all the ways we have let evil take hold in our hearts. Cleanse us. Help us face our own demons and empower us to live a Christlike life. (time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

We have been disobedient to God, but we have received mercy. **Let us live our lives as those transformed by the abundant mercy of God!**

- * The Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri* Hymn 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.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

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 – Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 pew Bible pg. 921

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – *Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee* Simon Lole
 (lyrics are in announcements)

Second Reading – Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28 pew Bible pg. 797

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *Deep and Wide* Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

- * Hymn of Thanksgiving 343 – *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*
- * 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 . . . Continue to show mercy to us, by your Spirit, so that we may show your mercy to others. Keep us faithful in our calling by your gift of grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for the earth . . . Be gracious, O God, and bless the earth; let your face shine upon your creation so that it may yield the harvest of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for all nations . . . Let all the peoples praise you, O God, for your

desire is justice throughout the world and equity for all the people you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for this community . . . Help us to listen to the voices of strangers, honoring the wisdom and faith they bring and sharing your gifts of healing and bread. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for loved ones . . . Deliver those who are tormented by evil; embrace those who are outcast or despised; reunite those who have been estranged. 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 – *My Tribute*

Arr. Sumrall &

Ginn

The Doxology – Hymn 606

* 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 649 – *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

* 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 – *Fantasy on Psalm 100*
Young

Gordon



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

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

**Rid Kyriakides, friend of Eric Reidenbach - diagnosed with pancreatic cancer*

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.

Youth will meet today from 5-6:30 p.m. A meal will be provided.

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

Choir will meet Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

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

New Beginnings will meet tomorrow at noon. Jeff Haydel will be talking about computers and answering questions. Come prepared with your questions. Please let Tommy or Martha know if you are coming.

PW Prayer Ministry will meet Tuesday at 10 a.m. There are prayer cards on the back of the pew for prayer requests. Please put the address so a card can be sent and place with the offering. Come join this group as they pray and write cards.

There will be a joint **deacon/elder meeting** on Aug. 23 following worship.

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

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 time.

Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee

Simon Lole

Jesu, the very thought of Thee with sweetness fills my breast:

But sweeter far Thy face to see and in Thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the memory find a sweeter sound,

Then Thy blest Name, O Saviour of mankind.

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,

To those who fall, how kind thou art, How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show;

The love of Jesus, what it is none but his li e ones know.

Jesu, our only joy be Thou, as Thou our prize wilt be: Jesu, be thou our glory now,

And through eternity.



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