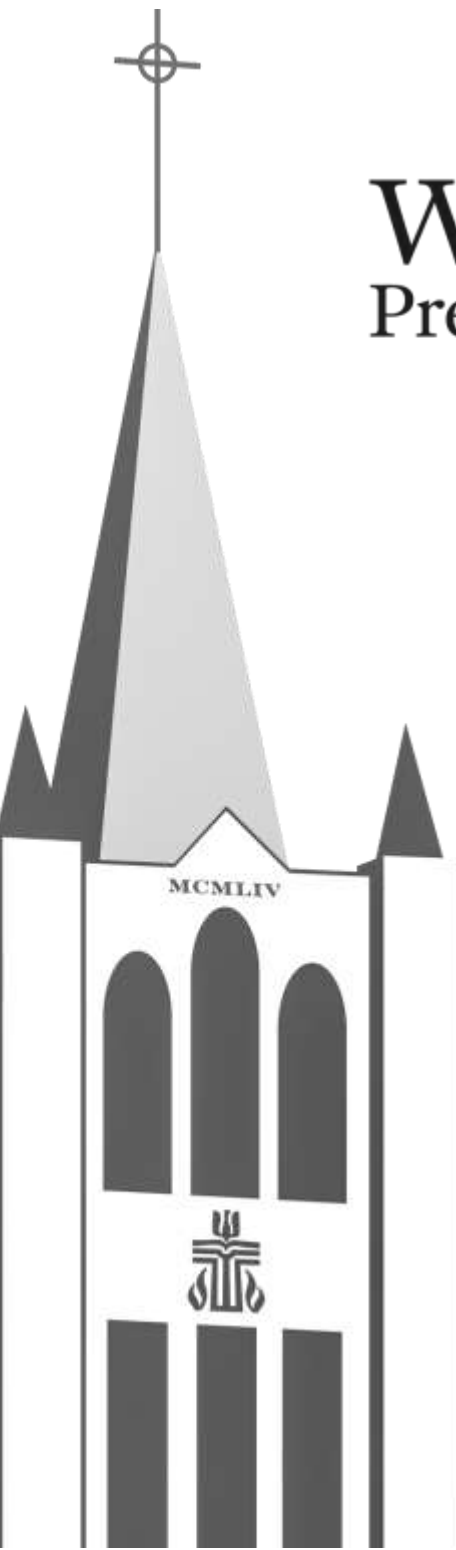




Westminster Presbyterian Church

*"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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – Meditation on "I Trust Thee"

Lowell Mason

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

Son of God, Son of Man, you offered your body on the cross. Help us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice of thanksgiving, that we may be transformed and reformed by your word, in the name of our Sovereign Lord, Christ Jesus. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Alice Crotwell

Call to Worship (responsive)

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side — let Israel now say —

if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,

then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone the raging waters.

**Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We
have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is
broken, and we have escaped.**

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 263 – *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

* Call to Confession

We seek the will of God, but still find ourselves conformed to this world, instead of being transformed into God's image. Let us seek forgiveness for the ways we have turned away from justice and mercy.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Almighty God, when faced with earthly powers that seem overwhelming,
we crumble. We fear this world. We fear losing our status, our stability,
our station more than we fear you. Forgive our shortcomings and teach us
to trust in you when we take a risk for what we know is right.** (time for
silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

If God was not on our side, we could not stand in the judgment. But God is with us, steadfast and faithful, as we seek to live in peace. **In the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven! Thanks be to 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

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 – Romans 12:1-8

pew Bible pg. 922

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *God Be in My Head*

Rob Landes

(lyrics are in announcements)

Second Reading – Matthew 16:13-20

pew Bible pg. 798

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *You are the Messiah*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

- * Hymn of Thanksgiving 310 – *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

- * 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 name of Jesus, we pray for the church . . . Make us one body in Christ, many as we are, and empower us by the gifts of your Spirit to live in faith and seek your will in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth . . . Do not let the rising waters overwhelm us. Help us to escape from the trap we have made, and to seek the healing of your creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations . . . Let the leaders of the nations learn from you to have regard for the poor and lowly and to deliver them from their trouble. Lord,

in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community . . . Give rest to those whose work seems endless. Hear the cries of those who are oppressed, who endure harsh treatment and hard labor. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones . . . Protect children who are in jeopardy; encourage those who struggle against evil; sustain those whose work is to care for others. 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 – *Come Christians, Join to Sing*

arr. Gina Sprunger

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 839 – *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

* 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 – *Short Fantasy in G Major*

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

**Aubree Moore, sister of a teammate of Julia Haydel – battling childhood cancer for years*

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 node 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.

There will be a joint **deacon/elder meeting** today following worship.

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.

Growing Spiritually will meet Sunday, Aug. 30, after 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.

Articles for the September newsletter are due to

Wes by noon Thursday, Aug. 27

(wes@breadproject.com)

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.

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