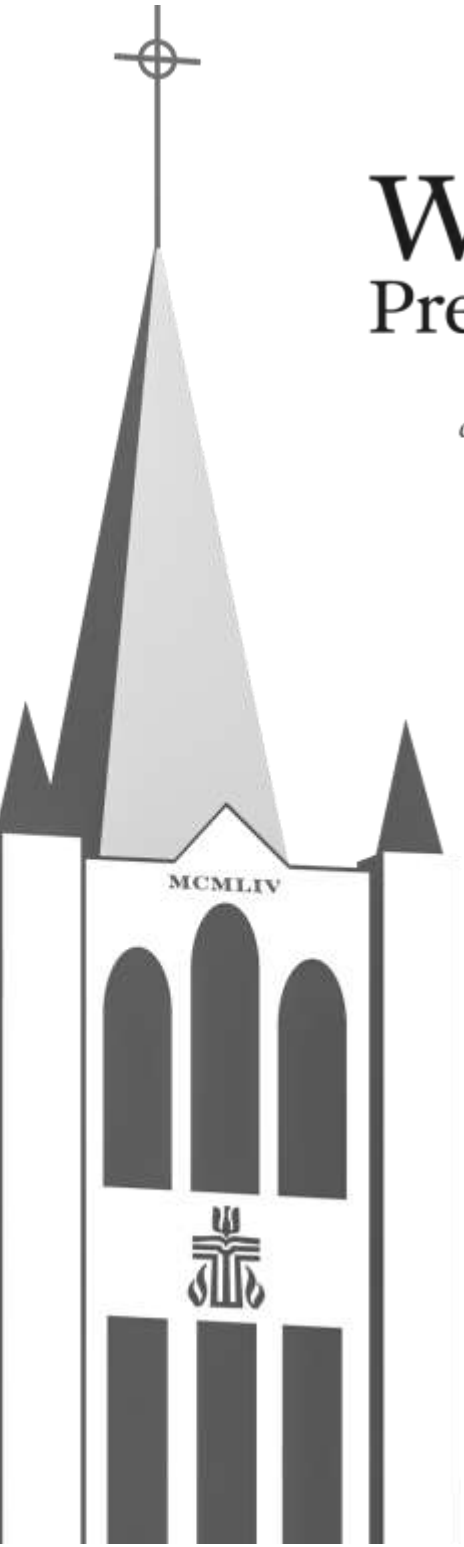


Westminster
Presbyterian Church

"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

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THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Trumpet Tune in D Major* David Johnson

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

Almighty God, everything you have made is good, and you have made everything. Merciful Christ, resurrect our vision for the world you see: death transformed into life and hope born from despair. Unifying Spirit, bind us together with all the earth, that we might share grace and forgiveness as one diverse human family. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements Catherine Edmonson

Call to Worship (responsive)

God is our dwelling place:

God gathers us into community with each other to love and work, to support and heal.

God is our dwelling place:

God gathers us into community with all people to bring justice and hope, freedom and truth.

God is our dwelling place:

God gathers us into community with all creation to live in harmony, to grow new gardens.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 727 – *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (Servant Song)*

* Call to Confession

God has chosen us, but we frequently fail to choose God's will for our lives. Let us go before God, seeking forgiveness and peace.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of love, your commandments are so simple: love God, love neighbor, love self. Yet we cannot always muster that love. Love for you seems too abstract and distant. Love for our neighbors seems too impractical and draining. Love for ourselves seems too impossible and unimportant. But you are truly the God of love; if there is anyone who can help us love, it is you. Shower us with your love so we might have the greatest example, and help us learn from you.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

It is true: we are beloved of God. The God who loves us does not condemn us.

We will live in the glory of God's love!

* 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

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at last we see the fulfillment of your realm of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 pew Bible pg. 93

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

Anthem – *God Be in My Head* Thomas Matthews

God be in my head, and in my understanding: God be in my eyes and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heard, and in my thinking; God be in my end, and at my departing. Amen.

Second Reading – Matthew 22:34-40 pew Bible pg. 804

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

Sermon – 1 out of 613 Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 693 – *Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)*

* Affirmation of Faith: *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32–33* (unison)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So, to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Prayers of the People (responsive)

Our shepherd satisfies our needs; in faith, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for the church . . . Entrust to us the message of your gospel, so that we may share your good news through simple kindness and tender words. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for the earth . . . How long, O Lord, will your creation suffer?

Let the work of our hands be a blessing, not a curse, to the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for all nations . . . Lift up leaders who delight in your law, and people who rejoice in what is right. Let them prosper, like trees bearing good fruit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for this community . . . By your wisdom, show us what it means to live according to your justice and mercy, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for loved ones . . . Bless and keep your faithful servants who have come at last to their life's end; give them a clear vision of your promised land. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving shepherd, lead and guide us—in green pastures and by still waters, in right paths and through dark valleys, until we feast with you in glory and dwell in your house forever; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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 – *Abide With Me* arr. Molly IJames

* 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 the harvest, you are continually planting the seeds of your love in our world and in our lives. As we bring our gifts to you, may they be seeds of your grace, peace, and hope, planted deeply in our community. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 729 – *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

The blessing of the holy, triune God, who was and is and is to come—first and last, beginning and end, Alpha and Omega—be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**
Go in peace to love the Lord your God with heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

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

Rod 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

Renee Parker, friend of Ruthie Davis – macular degeneration

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

Sheema Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's sister-in-law – continued prayers

Franklin Eugene Roberts, Robin Roberts' brother – health concerns

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

Jerry Spann, friend of Ruthie Davis – cancer

**Robin Sykes Thornburg, daughter of a friend of Pam Love – malignant brain tumor*

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 Youth and Children 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.

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

Please join us for Wednesday night dinner this week at 5:30. There is no charge for the meal, but donations are encouraged. We need a headcount, so please place a reservation slip in the offering plate or call the office.

Menu: Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

Activities: Trunk or Treat at 6 p.m.

Chancel Choir will meet at 6:30.

Westminster will be **collecting** winter coats (jackets, sweaters, etc.) and blankets for the international students at USM. There is a box for items in the narthex. Deadline is Nov. 13.

PW's least coin donation container is located on a narthex cabinet. Please continue to bring your coins to donate. These coins are used for grants that promote evangelism, service, and ecumenical solidarity. . . among women throughout the world.

Articles for the November newsletter are due to Wes by noon Thursday, Oct. 29. (wes@breadproject.com)

To donate to WPC

Trunk or Treat Wednesday, Oct. 28. All kids, no matter their age, can dress up and be treated to goodies.
Beginning at 5:30 we will share a meal in Montague Hall and then move outside into the back parking lot. Those who wish to decorate their vehicles for Trunk or Treating are asked to use the parking spaces that line our lawn with the playground. We will begin Trunk or Treating at 6:00.

Menu: Hamburgers and hotdogs. Please place a reservation slip in the offering plate or call the office if you plan to eat.

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

THE SESSION

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Iris Easterling	Tom Estes	Gwen Combs
Jeff Haydel	Connie Roberts	Pam Love
Rhoda Pickett	Karen Reidenbach	Charlie Parkman

THE TRUSTEES

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Robert Cummings, Jr.	J T Johnson	Althea Jerome

THE DEACONS

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Dixie Coats	Matthew Boucher	Gwen Combs
Christopher Cox	Judy Haydel	Brandon Hayes
Carrie Creel	Ryan Reid	Carlie Kaeppler
Michael Yore	Sarah Beth Suttle	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