



Westminster PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 19, 2026 AT 10AM | 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

An open and welcoming Christian community in service to God and neighbor

We Come Into God's Presence with Joy

Life of the Church

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Carole Franklin, liturgist

(congregation please read bold type)

Through dreams and visions, O God,

you broaden the horizon and hope of your people,

that they may discover the meaning of your covenant,

even in the midst of trial and exile.

The word of the Lord will not return empty;

It will accomplish all that God intends.

Increase the number of those who believe in your word,

so that all people may joyfully respond to your call

and share in your promises. Amen.

Let us now prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Adapted from the Revised Common Lectionary

* Hymn #12

*Immortal, Invisible,
God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

* *You are invited to stand as you are able.*

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of all creation, of cypress and myrtle, briars and thorns, of hills, mountains, snow and rain, you are our beginning and end. You hold the times of our lives in your hands. We know this, and say this, but when we see the collapse of things around us – in our homes, in our nation, in the world – we give in to despair. We exile ourselves from you, from each other, from our truer selves. We worry about the future because we cannot see it. Forgive our lack of trust in your care, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, return us to a faith that assures us that you are “our only comfort in life and in death.” Strengthen us to live in these days for the sake of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Eunice McGarrah, The Pastor's Workshop

Silent prayers of confession.

Assurance of Grace

Friends, this is the good news we receive with joy and a renewed heart: In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. By the grace of God, and in the presence of the Holy Spirit, we receive a deeper understanding of our call, to seek peace, love, wisdom and justice for all.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you. And also with you.

* Song of Response #582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

First Reading of The Word

Psalm 65

Anthem

A Moment to Wonder

Children are invited to come forward for a short lesson on the chancel steps.

Second Reading of the Word Isaiah 55:10-13

Sermon

Instead of the Thorn

Sean Eaton

We Respond to God's Word

* Song of Response #469 *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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.

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

* Song of Response #591 *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn #14

*For the Beauty
of the Earth*

DIX

We Go Forth to Serve

* Dismissal

And let all God's people say:

Alleluia! Amen!

Postlude

This Week's News

Shopping bags of nonperishable food and personal and household items dedicated with our offering today will be given to Hope Clinic's food pantry.

Playground Expansion! Westminster will be adding a play structure for younger ages this summer! This is a gift to our neighborhood and a place for Westminster and UDT preschool children to play. Please consider contributing a special gift toward this project through our online giving page. Also, stay tuned for information on the assembly day for the project expected in early August. We will need many hands!

Youth Summer Book Read: The next youth book discussion will take place on Sunday, August 2nd at 7pm at Ben and Jerry's on State Street, discussing the book *The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler* by John Hendrix. If you need a copy, there are several in the public office, or reach out to Pastor Hannah.

Blessing of the Animals: Join us for a joyful and interactive Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, August 23rd at 7pm! Bring a pet, a photo of a beloved animal (wild or domestic), a stuffed animal, or just yourself. We'll begin with a brief outdoor worship service, reflecting on how God's love is revealed through our furry, feathered, and scaly friends. Then we'll mingle through stations offering blessings for animals and people, treats and toys for pets in attendance, and crafts to help care for creatures in the wider world.

Quarterly Contribution Statements are available for pickup on the coffee bar counter.

Grow in Faith and Friendship

Reading Through the Bible Group meets Sundays at 11:15am in the Library and via Zoom over the summer. Contact Marcia Anderson (hilden.anderson@gmail.com; 734-757-4305) for more information.

Sunday Morning Adult Ed meets in the fellowship hall at 9am for the summer.

Children and Youth Faith Formation is off for the summer and will resume in the fall. Contact Cathy Daniels (catld1121@gmail.com) for more info.

Monday Conversations are weekly at 1pm online: an opportunity to discuss Sunday's sermon in a small group. The Zoom invitation is in the Friday *Good Things* and Sunday podcast emails.

Mary Martha Group meets the first and third Mondays at 7pm via Zoom. Contact Margaret Klammer (mklammer@comcast.net) for more information.

Matthew 25 Study Group meets at 7pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. For meeting information, please contact Elizabeth Tidd (lizbeth0405@yahoo.com) or Carol Hufnagel (carol.hufnagel@tetrattech.com).

Thursday Book Club is off for the summer and will resume in the fall. Contact Linda Harnisch for more information (rlharnisch@gmail.com).

We pray for our Westminster family

Ongoing needs: Cara Doane, Donna Greyerbiehl

For deacon care, contact your deacon directly or send an email to the deacon moderator, Amy Welzenbach (awelzenbach411@gmail.com). To list prayer requests here, in the *Friday Good Things Are Happening* email, or Prayer Chain, contact Jill Fairchild (jill@thefairchilds.net or 734-417-0816). You can join our email prayer chain by contacting Jill. To keep us current, please share updates on those for whom we are praying.

Welcome to Westminster

Our Values: Love, Compassion, Connection, Inclusion, Earth-Care, Service

Our Mission: Show the love of Jesus Christ by welcoming everyone, without exception, into the full life of the church; participating in the joyful worship of God; engaging in regular study, reflection, prayer and sharing of our faith; committing ourselves and our resources to the spiritual and physical needs of our church family and neighbors near and far; seeking to be a good neighbor in our neighborhood.

Sunday worship podcasts are at westpresa2.org/online-sermons.

For deacon care, please contact Amy Welzenbach (awelzenbach411@gmail.com).

Thank you for continuing to fulfill your pledges and financial commitments in support of the mission and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Westminster Staff may be reached by phone at 734-761-9320

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