



Westminster Presbyterian Church



September 24, 2023 | 8:30 a.m. / 11:00 a.m.

THE *Celebration* OF *Worship*

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude (8:30)

Prelude in G Major

J.S. Bach

Prelude (11:00)

Rondo Brillante
O Worship the King
Westminster Ringers

Arnold Sherman
Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Welcome and Announcements

***Share the Peace of Christ**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Loving God, may we be found
and may we find a place called home,

People: a place where faith holds us and
where forgiveness shapes us
to be who you will us to be.

Leader: May we find a place called home
where we are accepted as we are,
and loved unconditionally,

People: and may this be that place, O God,
where we know we belong to you.

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, forgive us when we grumble and complain against your goodness.
We judge and weigh your gifts according to our measures of reasonableness.
We often question your fairness with others and ourselves.
We doubt your capacity for grace.

Help us to see the world through your eyes.
Help us to love the world with your heart.
Help us to extend to others your spirit of generosity and grace.
May it begin here with each one of us.

(A time of silence for personal confession)

***Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

***Sung Response (Hymn No. 300)**

We Are One in the Spirit
verse 1

Prayer of the People

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.

Congregational Response

THREEFOLD AMEN

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

New Testament, page 15

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

New Math

Jo Forrest

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

Offertory Anthem

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name,
Two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! So knit our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*Closing Hymn No. 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

A Closing Prayer

Don Besig

The time has come, O Lord, for us to leave this place.
Guide us and protect us and lead us in thy grace.
Wherever life may take us as we go our separate ways,
help us share with others the things we've shared today.
May the peace of God, the Father, and the love of Christ, His Son,
Guide us in the days ahead and strengthen us each one.
May the blessing of the spirit fill us from within;
God bless us and return us to the fellowship once again. Amen.

Postlude

Finale in B Flat Major

Moore

Leading in worship: Jo Forrest, David Heilman, Jim Burns, the Quartet, Chancel Choir and Jim Marshall and Westminster Ringers.

Prayers of Concern and Thanksgiving

The congregation extends condolences to Jack Sutherland and family on the death of his wife, Carol, on Saturday, September 16. Carol was a former elder and deacon as well as active with the Rummage Sale and the Pet Ministry. Memorial services will be held October 14, at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The congregation extends condolences to Nancy Polacheck and family on the death of her daughter, Pamela Koch, on Wednesday, September 20. Memorial services will be held at Mt Lebanon Christian Church, 367 Cedar Blvd., Mt. Lebanon at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, September 30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worthy Notes and Upcoming Events



Peace and Global Witness Special Offering

Today and Sunday, October 1 | WPC Website

This offering supports programs including the Summer Series and the letter writing campaign for hunger relief for food insecure families. It also enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice locally and globally. Please give using the designated pew envelopes or go to Give Online on the church homepage and select this offering on the dropdown menu.



Ron Tappy, Professor Emeritus of Bible and Archaeology Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Westminster Seminars:

The History of Old Testament Israel: A View from the Bible and the Writing of Israel's Neighbors

Today, and Sunday, October 1 | 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel/Zoom

Professor Tappy will present a series of major inscriptions about ancient (Old Testament) Israel that were written by scribes and rulers in multiple powers outside Israel. The historical information recorded in these monumental inscriptions provides a sweeping view of Israel's history and supports the basic reliability of the biblical narratives. Read more and find the Zoom link on the church website.



Inquirers' Gathering

Sunday, October 1 | 2:00 p.m. | Yahweh Café/Room 283

Learn more about becoming a member at Westminster Church at an informal gathering of sharing, teaching, and exploring what it means to be a follower of Christ in the Presbyterian tradition and here at Westminster. More details here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/inquirers-gathering>.



Teen and Parent Mental Health Speaker Series

Wednesday, September 27 | 6:30-8:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Westminster has always been a place of safety for important conversations. All teens and adults are welcome and are highly encouraged to invite anyone who may benefit from connection and support. This fall we are excited to introduce our theme, "Stories to Learn From."



Churchwide Bike Ride

Saturday, September 30 | 9:30 a.m. | Montour Trail

Come enjoy the fall season as we bike the Montour Trail with the church family. All ages, as well as friends and neighbors, are invited to join us. Bring your water bottles and snacks. We are meeting at the parking lot near the dance studio on Valleybrook Road in Peters Twp.



Ladies' Night Small Group

Thursdays | 7:00 p.m. | Room 283

If you're looking to deepen your relationship with Christ and with other women here at Westminster, we'd love you to join us on Thursday evenings for a six-week series. We will study the book *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr (and accompanying podcast *Another Name for Everything*). Kristy Berrott will facilitate.

WROC Talk – A Free Speaker Series

Monday, October 2 | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall | FREE | Registration recommend.

Spend an evening with Upper St. Clair resident, Jay Lynch, the author of *The Lighter Side of Upper St. Clair*, a compilation of humorous short stories that have appeared in USC Today magazine over the past 10 years. Jay will share stories and photos from his "Wonder Years" style childhood in USC in the '60s and '70s. The session will be hosted by Cathy Kramer, Jay's high school classmate. Even if you didn't grow up in Upper St. Clair, you're sure to get a giggle or two.

SEEK JUSTICE, WITHOUT EXCEPTION

Westminster's work in mission and outreach is motivated by the desire to salve the wounds where people hurt and driven to courageously seek the change that will make our community stronger.

Street MOMs are so grateful for your recent donation of \$3,500. There is not a day that goes by that we don't recognize our own blessings as we see extreme suffering in our homeless population. We commit ourselves daily to helping all that we serve. We help them to manage their situations and look for the next right step. Donations such as yours enable us to make the seemingly impossible, POSSIBLE! Thank you again for your generosity.

In Christ, Susan and Lynn (Street MOMs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)



Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 8 | 2:00 p.m. | North Parking Lot

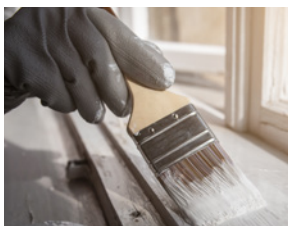
All people-friendly pets and their owners are invited to a designated celebration that both acknowledges and pays tribute to the loyal animal companions that love us unconditionally. Join us as we give thanks for these special family members, and we bless the people who love and care for them deeply. Please be sure your pets are on non-retractable leashes or in carriers, and have proof of up-to-date vaccinations.



Faith Transitions Small Group

Wednesdays, October 4, 11, 18, 25 | 7:00 p.m. | Room 238

Are you a former Catholic, or were you of another faith, and now come to Westminster? If you would like to share your experiences with others who have also made that transition, we would love to have you join our four-week discussion group. Contact John Hayes at jhayesesq@outlook.com.



Thursday Morning Property Team

Any and Every Thursday | 8:00 a.m.

Are you good with basic repair, carpentry, or painting projects around your home? There are always projects waiting to be done. Please consider working on Thursday mornings with a great group of men and women. Coffee, donuts, and fellowship are your reward. Contact Jan Baumann.



Women Belonging Retreat

**November 10-11 | 6:30 p.m. Friday to 3:00 p.m. Saturday (overnight)
Spiritan Center in Bethel Park**

Join an intentionally inter-generational group of women re-igniting, reviving, and re-imagining women's ministry at Westminster. Stay overnight for a retreat at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park to pray over Acts 2:42-47. Come take your seat at the table as we pray, eat, walk, talk, and work to discern where God is calling us as the women of Westminster.



Thank You! The Blood Drive Is a Success.

On behalf of the deacons and Vitalant, we'd like to give a huge thank you to everyone who donated blood during last Sunday's blood drive. This life-giving support produced 31 blood donations which will result in 93 lives saved!

THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

SEPT. 24-30, 2023



Scan here for complete church calendar



Scan here for a full WROC schedule & information

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:30	Traditional Worship	North Courtyard <i>(weather permitting)</i>
9:00	Welcome Center	North Main Entry
9:45	Bridge Contemporary Worship	WROC/Lvstrm.
	Bridge Sunday School (PreK-4th Grd.)	Rm. 176
	Wiggle Room - The Bridge**	WROC Fitness
	Westminster Seminars	Galbreath Chapel
11:00	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary/Lvstrm.
	Wiggle Room**	Rm. 239
	Bring Your Own Bible (BYOB)	Yahweh Café
	Confirmation Class 2023-2024	Rm. 283
7:00	Youth Choir (Grades 7 - 12)	Rm. 268

***Sunday School** – 9:45 a.m., dismissed from worship after children’s message; 11:00 a.m., report directly to Room 233. A time for children in PreK through 4th grade to explore the Bible, enjoy fellowship together, and grow in their faith.

****Wiggle Room** – 9:45 - Upstairs WROC Fitness Room; 8:30/11:00 - Room 239. Available to *families with children from birth through age 3* who would prefer a separate space to step away while listening to the worship service. Please see an usher if you need help finding the Wiggle Room.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

12:00	AA	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Cub Scout Den Meeting	Rm. 107
7:00	Deacon Meeting	Rm. 290

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

7:00	Tuesday Morning Men’s Group	Rm. 238
8:45	THS Board Meeting	Rm. 238
10:00	Staff Meeting	Rm. 238
4:30	Single Women’s Group Dinner	Galleria
6:00	Pittsburgh Youth Chorus	Rm. 268
7:30	Scout Troop 366	Rm. 107

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

12:00	Westminster Book Group	Library
4:30	Poetry and Prayer of the Psalms	Rm. 231
4:45	Little Ones & Loved Ones	Rm. 194
	Cherub Choir (Grades K-2)	Rm. 176
	Junior Choir (Grades 3 - 6)	Rm. 268
5:30	Wednesday Food & Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Kids’ Connection (PreK-2nd Grd)	Rm. 233
	Kids’ Connection (3rd/4th Grds)	Rm. 176
	JAM - Youth Group (Grds 5-6)	North Main Entry
	Veritas Youth Group (Grds 7-12)	Youth Dept.
6:30	The Teen and Parent Mental Health Series	Fellowship Hall
7:30	Westminster Ringers	Rm. 268

Wednesdays @ Westminster have something for everyone! From children’s choirs to Children’s & Family Ministry programs, Food & Fellowship, Veritas Youth Group, Bible studies, and more, make plans to be here. Visit our website or scan the QR codes below for details.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

4:00	Farmer’s Market	South Parking Lot
7:00	Chancel Choir	Rm. 268
	Ladies’ Night Small Group	Rm. 283
7:30	NA	Rm. 107
	Nar Anon	Rm. 131

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

6:30a	Fishers of Men	Rm. 231
7:00	AA	Rm. 107
	Al Anon	Rm. 231

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:30	Churchwide Bike Ride	Offsite
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Children’s & Family Ministry



Food & Fellowship Menu



Music & Choirs

STAFF PROGRAM/MINISTRY CONTACTS

Jo Forrest, Senior Pastor, Head of Staff, forrest@westminster-church.org

Ann Morris, Parish Associate, morris@westminster-church.org

Jack Kelly, Director of Finance and Operations, kelly@westminster-church.org

Jan Baumann, Volunteer Coordinator, baumann@westminster-church.org

Becky Boyer, Director of Youth Ministry, boyer@westminster-church.org

Christine Hestwood, Director of Music, Interim Director of Communications, hestwood@westminster-church.org

Faith Kemmler, Director of Children's & Family Ministry, kemmler@westminster-church.org

Kathy Long, Director, Westminster Recreation & Outreach Center, long@westminster-church.org

Ed Sutter, Senior Director of Christian Education, sutter@westminster-church.org



Giving to Westminster

ONLINE: <https://www.westminster-church.org/give>

TEXT-TO-GIVE: Text WPCUSC to 73256. Standard text messaging rates may apply.



Westminster Staff Contact Information

We would love to hear from you. Give us a call, drop us an email, or stop by the church office.

GET CONNECTED!



Westminster.Pittsburgh



wpc_pgh



WestminsterUSC

Westminster on Social Media

Watch worship videos, listen to the Veritas podcast, share Westminster events, find prayers, scripture, and more to like and share!

Photos/Videos at Westminster: We would like to make you aware that by participating in Westminster Presbyterian Church worship and activities, you may be photographed and/or videotaped and therefore assign and authorize the producer, Westminster Presbyterian Church, all rights to reproduce, copy, exhibit/publish, and distribute any such videotape and photography. If you have any concerns, please contact Anna Hiner, Communications & Database Manager, at hiner@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630x207.



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

A PC(USA) Congregation

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