



Westminster Presbyterian Church



September 17, 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)**

Fugue in E Flat Major "St. Anne"

J.S. Bach

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Share the Peace of Christ**

**\*Call to Worship**

**Leader:** You call us to service; to be your eyes and ears,  
hands and voice in this, your world.

**People:** **To open our eyes not only to the beauty and love which you create,  
but the injustice and suffering that humankind generates.**

**Leader:** To open our hands not only to those we choose to share our lives,  
but in welcome and love to all who you draw near.

**People:** **To open our mouths not only to speak platitudes and simple words,  
but the truths you lay upon our hearts. We come to worship you.**

**\*Opening Hymn No. 4**

Holy God, We Praise Your Name  
verses 1,2, and 3

GROSSER GOTT,  
WIR LOBEN DICH

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Dear God, your generosity is beyond all our imagining. You breathe life into us. Your grace falls like rain on all creation. And yet we confess that often we would prefer a system of earning our way into your favor and keeping score.

We understand transactions and fairness, we don't understand grace. We want to be able to say we deserve your love, to be proud of our accomplishments, and that others fall short. Forgive us, for thinking our ways are like your ways. Forgive us for being stingy. Open our hearts to know the truth of your grace.

*(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

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**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD**

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**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Lesson**

Romans 14:1-12

New Testament, page 163

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

**Sermon**

Living and Dying

Ed Sutter

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## WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

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### Offertory Anthem

Draw the Circle Wide

Mark A. Miller

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.  
Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone.  
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

### \*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

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## WE GO OUT TO SERVE

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### \*Closing Hymn No. 67

My Song Forever Shall Record

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

### \*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

Gigue

Georg Phillip Telemann

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**Leading in worship:** Ed Sutter, Christine Hestwood, Jim Burns, the Quartet, and Chancel Choir.

## Prayers of Concern and Thanksgiving

We rejoice with Samantha and Glenn Stewart as they present Peyton Alice for the Sacrament of Baptism.

Recent surgery, hospitalization, or illness: Carol Sutherland, Barbara Marsh

The congregation extends condolences to Eric Harrison on the death of his wife, Judy, on August 30.

The congregation extends condolences to Isabelle Holzapfel on the death of her husband, John Holzapfel, on September 8. A memorial service will be held on September 23 at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Worthy Notes and Upcoming Events



### Today is Super Sunday!

Join us for a time of fellowship and fun immediately following 11:00 worship. There will be something for everyone: food, special music, activities, games, and more ... start in the north courtyard for lunch and follow the map and signs from there.



### Deacons' Blood Drive

Today | 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. | Room 107

Westminster Deacons are hosting our final blood drive of the year. Please pre-register for your appointment by using sponsor code G0010171 to secure a time slot. Registration is easily done by calling Vitalant at 877-258-4825 or online at <http://www.vitalant.org>. The Westminster Deacons thank you in advance for your support of this worthy mission.



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**

Sundays, September 17, 24; October 1 | 9:45 a.m.  
Galbreath Chapel/Zoom

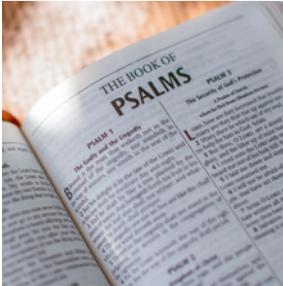
Professor Tappy will present a series of major inscriptions about ancient (Old Testament) Israel that were written by scribes and rulers in multiple powers outside Israel. The historical information recorded in these monumental inscriptions provides a sweeping view of Israel's history and supports the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



## Men's Group

Tuesday Mornings | 7:00 a.m. | Room 238

Men of Westminster - Our new year together has begun. Join us as we open God's Word to find how it guides us and challenges us in our daily lives. Coffee and donuts are on the house, and we'll have you on the road in time to meet the new day. For more information contact Ed Sutter.



## Poetry and Prayer of the Psalms

Wednesdays | 4:30 p.m. | Room 231

At the center of faith and worship, the Book of Psalms are grounded in the experiences of life: pain and joy, fear and peace, and praise and doubt. Read today, they give us permission to speak honestly and openly to God about complicated feelings, even to shake our fist at times. Join us to delve into a selection of psalms. Explore reading as a devotional. No homework. Drop in as you are able. Contact Jo Forrest for additional info.



## 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.



## T'ai Chi

Thursdays, starting October 5 | 10:00 a.m. | \$56

T'ai Chi is an ancient form of exercise that blends physical movement with deep meditative breathing. Instructor Dr. Clippenger is an expert in Yang, Chen, Sun, and Fu styles of T'ai Chi as well as countless health and medical Qigong forms. Visit [wroc.westminster-church.org](http://wroc.westminster-church.org) for a complete list of all classes.



## 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."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

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### Churchwide Bike Ride

**Saturday, September 30 | 9:30 a.m. | Montour Trail, Valleybrook Rd., Peters**

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.

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### 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>.

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### 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.

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### 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](mailto:jhayesesq@outlook.com).

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## STAY CONNECTED!

Fall into fall and join us for many exciting events and opportunities. Are you receiving an email from the church each Tuesday and Friday? If not, please visit our website at [www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org) and complete the Join Our Email List or contact Anna Hiner with your name and email address. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh/>.

# THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

SEPT. 17-23, 2023



Scan here  
for complete  
church  
calendar



Scan here for  
a full WROC  
schedule &  
information

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

8:00	Blood Drive	Room 107
8:30	<b>Traditional Worship</b>	<b>North Courtyard</b> <i>(weather permitting)</i>
9:00	Welcome Center	North Main Entry
9:45	<b>Bridge Contemporary Worship</b>	<b>WROC/Lvstrm.</b>
	Bridge Sunday School (PreK-4th Grd.)	Rm. 176
	Wiggle Room - The Bridge**	WROC Fitness
	Westminster Seminars	Galbreath Chapel
11:00	<b>Traditional Worship</b>	<b>Sanctuary/Lvstrm.</b>
	Wiggle Room**	Rm. 239
12:00	Super Sunday	Fellowship Hall
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 18

12:00	AA	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Cub Scout Den Meeting	Rm. 107
	Bridge Commission Meeting	Rm. 221
7:00	Session Meeting	Galbreath Chapel

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

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

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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.
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 21

12:00	Dementia Caregiver Support Group	Rm. 290
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 22

6:30a	Fishers of Men	Rm. 231
6:00	Bridge Worship Ladies Night	Offsite
7:00	AA	Rm. 107
	AI Anon	Rm. 231

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

10:30	John Holzapfel Memorial Service	Sanctuary
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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](mailto:forrest@westminster-church.org)

**Ann Morris**, Parish Associate, [morris@westminster-church.org](mailto:morris@westminster-church.org)

**Jack Kelly**, Director of Finance and Operations, [kelly@westminster-church.org](mailto:kelly@westminster-church.org)

**Jan Baumann**, Volunteer Coordinator, [baumann@westminster-church.org](mailto:baumann@westminster-church.org)

**Becky Boyer**, Director of Youth Ministry, [boyer@westminster-church.org](mailto:boyer@westminster-church.org)

**Christine Hestwood**, Director of Music, Interim Director of Communications, [hestwood@westminster-church.org](mailto:hestwood@westminster-church.org)

**Faith Kemmler**, Director of Children's & Family Ministry, [kemmler@westminster-church.org](mailto:kemmler@westminster-church.org)

**Kathy Long**, Director, Westminster Recreation & Outreach Center, [long@westminster-church.org](mailto:long@westminster-church.org)

**Ed Sutter**, Senior Director of Christian Education, [sutter@westminster-church.org](mailto: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](mailto:hiner@westminster-church.org) or 412-835-6630x207.*



**WESTMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
**CHURCH**

A PC(USA) Congregation

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