



10 Promises for a Whole Life: You Don't Have to Live Divided

Rev. Betsy Swetenburg

9 am | September 13, 2026

westpreschurch.org

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.

At Westminster Presbyterian Church, we are a community learning to follow Jesus together. Our purpose is simple and bold: **Celebrating Grace. Following Jesus. Healing God's World.** We seek to live that out through: inspiring worship, deep belonging, and tangible compassion.

A FEW THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT US:

You will be warmly welcomed and genuinely known.

Westminster is large enough to offer depth and opportunity, yet small enough that relationships matter. We believe faith grows best in community, where people are seen, remembered, and cared for.

Worship here is joyful, thoughtful, and musically rich.

Rooted in the Reformed tradition, our worship engages both heart and mind. We cherish the beauty of tradition while allowing it to breathe through vibrant music, meaningful liturgy, and a spirit of creativity.

Our faith shows up beyond our walls.

We believe following Jesus leads us toward compassion. From caring for neighbors in crisis to working toward deeper healing in our community, Westminster seeks to embody God's love in tangible ways.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

The wiggles, whispers, and wonder children bring to worship only add to the joy. Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary. Worship bags are available in the narthex, and our nursery is open during the service for children ages three and under. However you and your children participate today, we're glad you're here.

JOIN US!

We believe the church is a gift everyone deserves to enjoy; a community of people committed to doing life together—enduring heartaches, celebrating joys, seeking out laughter, and pursuing a more just world as we follow the path of Jesus. We welcome new members on the third Sunday of every month. If you think Westminster may be the community for you, please reach out to Meredith Spagh, Director of Community Connections.

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Our Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop system for those with hearing aids or cochlear implants equipped with a T-coil (telecoil). Simply switch your device to the "T" or telecoil setting to connect directly to the sound system.

If today is your first visit, or one of many, we hope you'll come back and learn to follow Jesus with us.

9 AM SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC

*You Are My Fortress
Trust in God
Oh My Soul*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

There are many voices that claim our loyalty.

But only one voice calls us by name.

There are many things that promise security.

But only God is our refuge and our hope.

These ancient words are more than rules.

They are promises for a whole life.

They show us the freedom God desires for the world.

With open hearts, we come to learn God's way.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Goodness of God

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

With hearts of sorrow,
we come before you, O God,
to confess what you already know:
we have failed to keep your laws.
Again and again, we have followed our own selfish will,
rather than your holy and life-giving will for our lives.
We have twisted your decrees and institutions
to suit our preconceptions and interests rather than your own.

Silence

Forgive us, O God, and cleanse us from hidden faults,
that the words of our mouths, and the meditations of all our hearts,
may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

9 AM SERVICE

*RESPONSE

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

SHARING GOD'S STORY WITH OUR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

You Don't Have to Live Divided | Rev. Betsy Swetenburg

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism

What do we believe about God?

We believe that the living God alone is worthy of our trust, our love, and our devotion.

How do we honor God?

**We honor God by knowing and acknowledging God as our Creator and Redeemer,
by trusting in God's goodness,
and by loving God with heart, mind, and strength.**

What does this commandment free us from?

**It frees us from the idols that claim our loyalty:
fear, wealth, power, and the praise of others.**

**We turn again to the living God,
in whom our life begins,
our hope is held,
and our joy is made complete.**

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Love the Lord Your God

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit.

Bolded font denotes unison speaking & singing.

9 AM SERVICE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

SHARING OF GIFTS & OFFERTORY

Less Like Me

*DOXOLOGY

Thomas Ken

Praise for the Father, Praise for the Father, Praise for the Son and Holy Ghost
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise for the Father, Praise for the Father, Praise for the Son and Holy Ghost

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Go out into God's world in peace; have courage;
Hold on to what is good; return no evil for evil;
Strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
Help the suffering; honor all persons;
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Let Us Be Known By Our Love

WORSHIP LEADERS

PREACHING

Rev. Betsy Swetenburg

LITURGISTS

Rev. Sam Perkins

Lucy Jefferies

Reagan Woodliff

MUSIC

Chrishawn Darby, drums

Ramon Garcia, bass

Kim Harrison, vocals

Tom Swanton, guitar

Jane Whitlow, vocals

Clint Whitlow, Director of Music

FLOWERS IN WORSHIP

The flowers in worship today are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Caroline North.

DID YOU KNOW?

People are more likely to stay connected to a church when they build relationships. Faith grows best in community. That's why we invest in small groups, gatherings, and opportunities to know one another beyond Sunday worship.

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: PROMISES FOR A WHOLE LIFE

The Ten Commandments are often treated simply as rules to follow, but what if we understood them as promises for life as it was meant to be lived? They begin not with demands, but with grace. Before God tells the Israelites how to live, God reminds them who they are: already loved and already chosen.

As we begin a new year of worship, faith formation, and fellowship, this sermon series will explore the commandments as invitations into a more spacious and faithful way of living—rooted in the good news that we belong to God & one another.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, September 19 | 8:00 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

Men of all ages are invited for breakfast and conversation with Brian Mackin, Director of Athletics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Brian will discuss changes in college athletics and the evolving landscape of collegiate sports. Feel free to bring a friend! Please register through Realm.

For more information, contact meredith.spaugh@westpreschurch.org.

EXPLORING LESSER KNOWN LOCAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Thursday, September 24 | 7 pm. Westminster Chapel

Join us for a delightful evening with James Shields, local historian, civil rights activist and storyteller. For 20 years, James Shields directed the Bonner Center for Community Service at Guilford College, where he did extensive research on the Underground Railroad. He is currently the manager of the African American Cultural Arts and History Center in Burlington. A dynamic speaker and dramatist, Mr. Shields will share stories about local African American history that will broaden our understanding of the past and how it has shaped the present.

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT TRIP

October 18–21 | Jonesville, Virginia | \$75

Westminster will return to Appalachia Service Project this fall for a few days of service, fellowship and learning in Central Appalachia. Participants will spend two days working in small teams on home repair projects while building relationships with homeowners and the local community. The \$75 cost includes transportation, lodging and meals at ASP headquarters. Register by Sunday, September 27.



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[Westminster Presbyterian GSO](https://www.youtube.com/WestminsterPresbyterianGSO)



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