

READING THE BIBLE AGAIN

(Maybe for the first time)



Dear Church,
Rev. Sam Perkins

September 6, 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 Spaugh, Director of Community Connections.

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

10 AM SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC

Andante from Sonata No. 6 | Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God, prepare our hearts to worship you.

Kindle a great joy inside of us.

Help us pause, be silent, and focus,

So we truly understand the gifts that you have given us.

We are ready to worship,

As members of a beloved community.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

God of creation,

God of abundance,

God of who loves us,

God who chooses us,

Too often we have been a people guilty of mistreating Your creation;

Too often we have squandered the richness of Your blessings;

Too often we have refused to love as You love

And have drawn our own boundary lines

Rather than live into Your love's limitlessness.

Too often we have not chosen You.

God of mercy,

Mend our brokenness,

Heal our stubborn hearts,

Help our ingratitude,

And make us more aware of Your righteous wisdom,

As we seek to be Your body

Ushering in Your perfect peace.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

**You are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

Bolded font denotes unison speaking & singing.

10 AM SERVICE

*RESPONSE

Baptized in Water

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

SHARING GOD'S STORY WITH OUR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:11-4:1

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dear Church, | Rev. Sam Perkins

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #515

I Come with Joy

INVITATION TO COMMUNION & PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**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.**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | Dan Forrest
Crystal Kachevas, soprano

10 AM SERVICE

SHARING OF GIFTS & OFFERTORY

*As we gather at your Table,
As we listen to your Word,
Help us know, O God, your presence;
Let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
Till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet
How to make Love's victory known.*

*Turn our worship into witness
In the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you,
Bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
To forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image
In the world you died to save.*

As We Gather at Your Table | K. Lee Scott

*Gracious Spirit, help us summon
Other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome
Those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
Nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels
To repeat the sounding joy.*

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**Go out into God's world in peace; have courage;
Hold on to what is good; return no one 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.**

*SENDING HYMN #498

*Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken
Verses 3 & 4*

POSTLUDE

Beach Spring | Wilbur Held

WORSHIP LEADERS

PREACHING

Rev. Sam Perkins

LITURGIST

Rev. Cindy Higgins

MUSIC

Laura Alexander, Associate Director of Music
Westminster Summer Choir



As our summer worship schedule winds down, we want to remind you that beginning September 13, Westminster will return to its standard Sunday schedule, with worship at 9 and 11 a.m. and Faith Formation for all ages at 10 a.m.

FALL SMALL GROUPS

This fall, Westminster's five-week small groups will gather around themes related to the Ten Commandments being explored in worship. These groups are not Bible studies. Instead, they offer space to share stories, explore questions of faith, build deeper relationships and discover where our lives intersect.

Groups will meet from late September through October, with a variety of days and times available. Please sign up by visiting westpreschurch.org/smallgroups or contacting the church office.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: PROMISES FOR A WHOLE LIFE

New Sermon Series Begins Sunday, September 13

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.

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT MISSION TRIP

Sunday, October 18–Wednesday, October 21 | Jonesville, Virginia

Cost: \$75 per person | Registration deadline: Sunday, September 27

For more than 25 years, Westminster volunteers have served with Appalachia Service Project, a Christian ministry open to all people that provides home repairs and replacement for low-income families in Central Appalachia.

This fall, we will return to ASP's headquarters in Jonesville, Virginia. Participants will spend two days working in teams of five to seven people while building relationships with homeowners and learning more about the Appalachian region.

Workdays run from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Evenings include fellowship, reflection, local music and free time. To register and learn more contact, scott.neely@westpreschurch.org

DID YOU KNOW?

Deep belonging is one of the earliest signs of Christian community.

The first Christians shared life together, caring for one another and growing in faith. We seek to continue that tradition today. Whether through classes, fellowship groups, service opportunities, or special events, our staff delights in creating opportunities for meaningful connection.



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WESTMINSTER STAFF

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