

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 25, 2024

10:30AM

OUR MISSION

Westover Hills Presbyterian Church exists to worship & learn, welcome & celebrate, advocate & serve with people open to a faith shaped by practice to be a congregation recognized as a safe place and a resource for action, acceptance, and joy.

Adopted May 2024

WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

**Those who are able are invited to stand. Bold text indicates unison readings.*

WELCOME & INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Dr. Robert Wm Lowry, Pastor

PRELUDE

David Austin, Director of Music

* CALL TO WORSHIP

H. K. Stewart, Liturgist

There is no place we can go

Where the love of God is not

There is no place we can flee

To escape God's care and concern

There is nothing we can do

To separate us from the love of God

Let's worship.

† OPENING PRAYER

It is good to be here in your presence, Lord.

Here we are at home with each other and with you.

Here we discover the joy of life and the strength to live each day
with praise in our hearts to you.

You alone are God!

You alone can show us the way to the life that lasts forever.

We love you, Lord,
and we lift this prayer in adoration of your holy name. **Amen.**

† GATHERING HYMN "*Hear the Good News of Salvation*"

Purple #441

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, O God,

**when we would rather insult each other on social media than
sit down to break bread and listen to one another;
when our anger over another's hatefulness
causes us to become hateful, too;
when it becomes easier to slam the door
than to serve one another.**

Guide us back to you, O God.

Let our love and hospitality

**not be dependent on the actions of others,
but fueled by our reaction to your glorious grace.**

Guide us back to You and Your way

**when we are drawn into the drama
that unfolds every day before us. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

SUNG RESPONSE

"Glory to God"

Purple #582

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *"Thy Word"*

Purple #458

SCRIPTURE READING

Ruth 3

SERMON

“Uncomfortable Stories”

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Take My Life”

Purple #697

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

What is God's purpose for your life?

God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

How do you live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

I am not my own. I bought it with a price. the Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.

How do you live for the love of God?

I love because God first loved me. God loves me in Christ with a love that never ends. Amazed by grace, I no longer live for myself. I live for the Lord who died and rose again, triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart, especially those in particular need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Stewpot

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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 today our daily bread.
And forgive our debts
as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

+CLOSING HYMN *“Open My Eyes That I May See”* Purple #451

+CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Join Us on the Journey! AUG. 25 - AUG. 31, 2024

Welcome

We are so glad to be worshiping with you today.

If this is your first visit, welcome! If you have been with us before, welcome back! Whether you are a life-long Presbyterian, a brand-new Christian, or someone who is just trying to make sense of this world we share, we hope you will feel at home at Westover Hills Presbyterian.

Let us know you are worshiping with us!

In the pew you will find an information card. Please leave us information on how we might be in touch with you to share more about life at Westover Hills. We would love to share a little about our story and hear more about yours. If you do not see a card in the pew near you, please ask one of the ushers you saw when you came in and we will be sure to get one for you. If you prefer,

please scan the QR code to the right to be directed to a digital visitor card.

Midweek Manna Resumes This Week

Midweek Manna, our weekly bible study, meets on Wednesday at noon in the chapel. This week we will kick-off fall with the question “How did the bible become the bible?” Have you ever wondered why this list of 66 books is the list we have? What does it mean that the canon is closed?

We will explore this and other questions about how this holy book became the definitive text of the Christian tradition. We will also decide what book we want to start studying this fall.

Yoga Resumes after Labor Day

Yoga will return the week after Labor Day. Keep an eye out for more details!

Volunteers Needed for Church Office

We are looking for volunteers to be in the office on Wednesdays from 10am to 3pm. Office keys are available if you need them.

To volunteer, please contact Liz Branch at erbranch@comcast.net and Bill Smith at wsmith425@hotmail.com

Meet Your Teacher Day a Big Success

Preschool staff, committee members, and Robert welcomed families for a “Meet Your Teacher” morning on Friday August 23. There was a lot of running, laughing, and reunions for classmates. One parent sent a message to the office that read in part, *“Thank you for making our family feel so welcome. It is easy to see that our children matter to you and we are so thankful for that!”*



Treats and Treasures A Great Success

Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, and shopped to make Treats and Treasures 2024 such a great success!! The sale raised more than \$22,000 for PW mission!

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Prayer and Meditation

There are two important traditions at Westover Hills that join our voices in prayer every week. The first is *Prayer on the 9's*. Every day you are able, join us in taking a minute to pause at 9am and 9pm to offer a short prayer for the church, the world, or someone you know who needs comfort.

Every Sunday in the bulletin and every Thursday in the Careline e-newsletter, we share the list of pastoral care concerns known to the church. Members and friends are invited to pray for those people and world issues named on the list. Prayers of comfort, for healing, and for peace are always appropriate ways to remember our friends and neighbors. This week we remember:

The family and friends of Rosanna King Taylor (friend of Ann Patterson) who died August 22 following a long battle with cancer;
our members and friends at Presbyterian Village;
Leah Shell (friend of Robert's) dealing with a cancer diagnosis and treatment;
Beth DuVall (Ann Patterson's cousin);
Monroe Flucas, Jr., Julie Gaffney, Martin Gaffney, Richard Gaffney, Eunice Holdcroft as they deal with health issues (friends of Judi King);
Jane Estes - dealing with multiple health issues;
the residents and staff at Women and Children First;
the clients and staff of Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services;
Robin Appleton - kidney tumor (sister-in-law of Rosemary & Paul McGinnis);
Jennifer Garlington (Shirley's niece) dealing with breast cancer;
The WHPC Staff: Robert, Tammy, David, Ulysses, and Shawn

Bold indicates new additions or updates.

To include a person or group on the Prayer List, please contact the church office at office.westoverhills@gmail.com and Robert at robertwilliamlowry@gmail.com

Deacon's Ministry

Deacons for August are Shirley Garlington and Ann Bell.

Deacons for September are Marcey Berry and Mary Henry.



Prayer Requests

STAFF AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Dr. Robert Wm Lowry Pastor/Head of Staff

David Austin Director of Music

Shawn Mitteldorf Preschool Director

Tammy Pflug Treasurer

Ulysses Neyland Sexton

Elder Liz Branch Recording Clerk & Christian Education Ministry

Elder Candice Misenheimer Corresponding Clerk & Matthew 25 (Yard Sign Ministry)

Elder Ray Stephens Worship and Arts
Elder Bob Quinn Building and Grounds
Elder Debbie Cooper Stewardship and Finance
Elder Ann Patterson Preschool Committee
Sally Browder Matthew 25 (Church Vitality)
Betty Glenn and Alice Ahart Presbyterian Women
Elder Bill Smith Personnel
Alice Ahart Kitchen
Deacons Shirley Garlington and Kay McCollum Co-Moderators Board of Deacons

Affiliated Ministries

Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell The Central Arkansas Queer Collective
Mother Carol-Ann Blow Sister Thea Bowman Ecumenical Catholic Church

Westover Hills Presbyterian Church

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Calendar and Church Website

