

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 1, 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

Dr. Robert Wm Lowry, Pastor

PRELUDE

David Austin, Director of Music

+CALL TO WORSHIP

John MacLeod, Liturgist

Welcome to the family

There's room for all who enter

Welcome to the feast

There's a place for everyone at the table

Scarcity has no home here

For this is a place of God's great abundance

Let us worship God.

+OPENING PRAYER

God, You reign!

Robed in majesty and armed with strength,

You hold our world and our lives securely.

Your throne has stood for all eternity.

From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Even when the waters rise up—

when surging seas threaten to overwhelm us,

and pounding waves crash around us—

we know that You are mightier,

You are more powerful than the threats we face.

Holy God, Your decrees are firm and unshakeable

and will last forevermore.

+GATHERING HYMN

“Hope of the World”

Purple #734

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgive us, O God, when something we have done or left undone
or said or left unsaid causes harm or hurt to another.**

**Forgive our carelessness with our words and our inattention to
our actions.**

**Have mercy on us when we blame others
instead of taking responsibility for our own actions.**

**Give us your grace when we do not stand up
and speak out for those who have no voice.**

**Help us to become thoughtful, loving people, intent on living
the way you have called us to live and serving the way you
have called us to serve. 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 4

SERMON

“If It's Not OK, It's Not the End”

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

Purple #683

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Study Catechism of the PC(USA)

What is the nature of resurrection hope?

Resurrection hope is a hope for the transformation of this world, not a hope for escape from it. It is the hope that evil in all its forms will be utterly eradicated, that past history will be redeemed, and that all the things that ever were will be made new.

It is the hope of a new creation, a new heaven, and a new earth, in which God is really honored as God, human beings are truly loving, and peace and justice reign on earth.

What do you affirm when you speak of "the life everlasting?"

That God does not will to be God without us, but instead grants to us creatures-- fallen and mortal as we are-- eternal life.

Communion with Jesus Christ is eternal life itself. In him we were chosen before the foundation of the world.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Matthew 25 Team

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

† 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

† THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

† THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

† CLOSING HYMN

"Our Hope, Our Life"

Purple #436

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Join Us on the Journey!

SEPTEMBER 1-7, 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.

PW Bible Study Kick-off

Pastor Rob Lowry will lead an introduction to “Let Justice Roll Down”, the 2024-2025 Horizons Bible Study, at a joint meeting of the WH Morning & Evening Circles on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 6:30pm in the WH Chapel. Books leading us in “God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation” may be purchased for \$10 from Kay Stephens. Refreshments will be served. All women are invited. Bring a friend, too. Park in the North Parking Lot and use the copper doors which will be open for all at 6pm. Contact Julie Naylor and Nancy Passini for more information; and if you need a ride. See you there!

Enneagram Journey

Robert and Catherine Lowry will lead a six-week introductory class on the Enneagram. A well-known and broadly studied way to understand spirituality, personality, and relationships, the Enneagram is a valuable tool in better understanding ourselves and one another.

For more information or to register for the Monday evening or Tuesday afternoon groups, please see the insert in the bulletin today.

New Worship Service

A new worship opportunity is on the horizon. This new service will be on Sunday evenings initially twice per month in the Chapel. As you are likely aware, the Table has been on hiatus for several months as the original community discerned next steps. While the Table in its original form is not continuing, the spirit of that community of faith dedicated to worshiping in a new way and creating a place where people who are unsure about church or have a painful history of church can come and find community.

The first gathering will be on Sunday September 8. Details of the new

service will be shared in this week's Careline.

Adult Class in September

In September, the adult class will focus on Peace Month and Arkansas Peace Week with a series of dynamic speakers and programs to give us some stories and ideas about peacemaking. We'll be hosting the Interfaith Dinner at Westover Hills on September 15. All of these go along with the Matthew 25 focus on congregational vitality — and serving “the least of these.”

- September 8 – Peacemaking in Northern Ireland - Dr. Olwen Griffith
- September 15 – Preview of Peace Week events for September 2024 - Bob Estes

AWEsome Allies Training

Even generous and loving people can find some of the realities surrounding the realities of the LGBTQIA+ community today.

Our ministry partners in the Queer Collective have extended an invitation to WHPC members to join an afternoon ally training on Saturday September 7 from 3-5pm. The training will take place at Wellspring Renewal Center at 101 Woodrow St. The leader of the training, Braelyn, is a member of the QC and a gifted teacher.

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 Wednesday 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:

Friends and Family of Rosanna King Taylor who died on August 22nd after a long battle with cancer;

Stacy Harter dealing with cancer;

Lila Quinn (daughter-in-law of Bob and Alicia Quinn) surgery to remove cancer and recovery;

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 September are Mary Henry and Marcey Berry.

Westover Hills Presbyterian Church

501-663-6383 www.westoverhills.org