

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



"THE CREATION OF THE WORLD AND THE EXPULSION FROM PARADISE"
GIOVANNI DI PAOLO, 1445

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

10:30 AM

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 Lowry, Pastor

PRELUDE David Austin, Director of Music

†CALL TO WORSHIP Liz Branch, Liturgist

It blows in a stiff wind and colors the sky on dry summer days,

But in God's hands, dust is the stuff of creation.

We walk on it without notice and pollute it without care,

But in God's hands, the dust of the ground is sacred.

Shaped from the dust and enlivened by the breath of God, let us embrace our holy beginnings from the dust and celebrate the holy work of God.

†OPENING PRAYER

God of creation, you made us in your image. You reached into the soil you made-the stuff of life and sustenance for creation- and shaped us. We are part of your creation, and your creation is part of us.

Open our hearts today so we may see and speak and hear and even feel "dirty." May we reconnect in word and sacrament and song with your holy work of creation. Amen.

†GATHERING HYMN *"For the Fruit of All Creation"* Purple #36

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all, how often we look at "the other" and consider them dirty, dingy, unclean.

How often we look at the troubles of our world and try to wipe them away like so much dust settled on a shelf.

How often we see ourselves as wholly other than the rest of your creation separated by our unique capacity to think and learn and invent.

Forgive us, Lord, for our neglect, our indifference, our hubris. Restore in us hearts of generosity and spirits of care so we may recall each day that we are the beloved work of your hands.

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

Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17, 3:1-8

SERMON

“Dirty Christians”

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

“There Is Now a New Creation”

Purple #774

What do you mean when you say that God is “Maker of heaven and earth?”

First, that called heaven and earth, with all that is in them, into being out of nothing simply by the power of God’s Word.

Second that by that same power all things are upheld and governed in perfect wisdom, according to God’s eternal purpose.

What does it mean to say that we human beings are created in the image of God?

That God created us to live together in love and freedom—with God, with one another, and with the world. Our distinctive capacities—reason, imagination, volition, and so on—are given primarily for this purpose. We are created to be loving companions of others so that something of God’s goodness may be reflected in our lives.

As creatures made in God’s image, what responsibility do we have for the earth?

God commands us to care for the earth in ways that reflect God’s loving care for us. We are responsible for ensuring that earth’s gifts be used fairly and wisely, that no creature suffers from the abuse of what we are given, and that future generations may continue to enjoy the abundance and goodness of the earth in praise to God.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

One Great Hour of Sharing

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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 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

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"

Purple

#436

†CHARGE AND BENEDECTION

†POSTLUDE



JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY!

SEPTEMBER 8-14, 2024

Welcome

We are so glad to be worshipping 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.

Publications Transition

As of this week, Caleb is no longer serving as our outside contractor for publications. We thank him for his work and wish him well. A new contractor has been assigned to our account and Robert will meet with that person on Tuesday. Until September 18, all announcements, calendar events, and prayer requests *should be sent to both* the office email and to Robert

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 *tomorrow night* 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 *September 22 at 5pm* in the Chapel.

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 15 – Preview of Peace Week events for September 2024 - Bob Estes
- September 22 – Purity Culture - Robert Lowry
- September 29 – Language and Cultural Manners - Robert Lowry

Interfaith Dinner Next Sunday

Next Sunday evening Westover Hills will host the annual interfaith dinner with our partner communities Congregation B'nai Israel and the Medina Center. The dinner this year has special importance due to the continuing violence in Israel/Palestine. More than ever it is essential that the children of Abraham who represent the three great Abrahamic faiths gather in peace, fellowship, and hope to break bread and build community.

Kathy Mainard serves on the leadership team and is the lead for Westover Hills. Please plan to join us next Sunday evening for this important gathering.

CARING FOR ΟΠΕ ΑΠΟΤΗΕΡ

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

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Calendar and Church Website

