

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 15, 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

Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell

PRELUDE

David Austin, Director of Music

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Estes, Liturgist

We are met in the presence of God

And we do not meet alone.

With the angels in the highest heaven

We gather to worship the Lord.

With Abraham and Sarah

We gather to worship the Lord.

With the saints of every age

We gather to worship the Lord.

We embark on our own journey of faith

God's Holy name be praised.

God makes of us a great people

God's Holy name be praised.

In the desert and in the den, in barrio and basilica

God's Holy name be praised.

We journey in the presence of God.

And we do not journey alone.

†OPENING PRAYER

As in days of old, Creator God,

we come to look for your signs of covenant promises.

Like the rainbow days of Noah,

**we see and know your signs
and hear your voice again
directing us to the places of preparation
and transformation in our lives and in our world.
Thank you God,
for your covenant signs. Amen.**

†GATHERING HYMN

“To Abraham and Sarah”

Purple #51

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We hear the call to trust in God always,
But honestly, some days our stresses and doubts
are even more real to us than God, and trust is elusive.
We remember how Abram dared to believe in God’s promises,
But belief like that is hard to come by.
We are often inclined to think,
“God helps those who help themselves,”
instead of daring to rely on the word of our Creator.
When the world seems filled with dangers,
we can be quick to protect ourselves,
And we forget the wisdom of scripture,
which reminds us that we find traces of evil both
outside and inside of ourselves.
With God’s help, we confront our fears and struggles,
and we call upon a power greater than our own to resist their pull.
Hear us, Holy One, as we confess our frailty and failings.**

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 15:1-6

SERMON

Rev. Mainard-O'Connell

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE

"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

Purple #69

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Belonging to God: A First Catechism

What does God do to help us?

God chose the people of Israel to make a new beginning. They received God's covenant and prepared the way for Jesus to come as our Savior.

What is the covenant?

The covenant is an everlasting agreement between God and Israel.

What is in this agreement?

When God called Abraham and Sarah, God promised to bless their family, which was later called Israel. Through the people of Israel, God vowed to bless all the peoples of the earth. God

promised to be Israel's God, and they promised to be God's people. God vowed to love Israel and to be their hope forever. And Israel vowed to worship and serve only God.

How did God keep this covenant?

God led Israel out of slavery in Egypt, gave them the Ten Commandments through Moses, and brought them into the land that God had promised.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Matthew 25

The Matthew 25 team is responsible for leading our churchwide visioning and strategic planning process.

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

"The God of Abram Praise"

Purple #49

†CHARGE AND BENEDECTION

†POSTLUDE

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.

Let us know you are worshipping 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 the contact page of our website.

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

Interfaith Dinner TONIGHT

This 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.

Thank you to Kathy and to all of our volunteers!

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 links in the last Careline. Both classes begin this week on Monday at 7 and Tuesday at 1:30 respectively. Both meet in the Hardie Meeting Room in the office building. If you are not registered, feel free to just show up this week!

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 22 – Purity Culture - Robert Lowry
- September 29 – Language and Cultural Manners - Robert Lowry

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:

Peggy Willis, recovering from hip replacement surgery; 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; 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;

Our members and friends at Presbyterian Village;

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.