

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



JOSEPH'S COAT OF MANY COLORS YORAN RAANAN, ISRAELI

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 22, 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

PRELUDE

David Austin, Director of Music

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Estes, Liturgist

Here in this place, God welcomes dreamers and doubters, worriers and wanderers.

Thanks be to God!

Here in this moment, we remember what God has done and we envision what God has yet to do.

Thanks be to God!

Here in this gathered community are the audacious and the circumspect, the creatively inspired and the studiously constant.

We are all of this and more.

We are the children of God in all our wondrous diversity.

Together let us worship the God of all!

†OPENING PRAYER

God of open hearts and open minds, be with us today as we worship you. Be with us in the imagination of the Psalmist, the steady hand of the law-giver, the creative vision of the prophets, the hope of the evangelists, and even the dreams of

children. Give us the wisdom of your Spirit that as we sing, and pray, and celebrate today, we may be transformed from the cynicism of the age into the wondrous possibilities of your Kingdom. Amen.

†GATHERING HYMN *"God, How Can We Forgive"*

PURPLE #445

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of hope, we confess that we do not always understand your ways. We certainly do not always understand your timing. We get discouraged when our dreams stay at arm's length and life takes unexpected turns. We confess that we are quick to give up and give in when things do not work out as we think they should. Forgive us our impatience. Give us wisdom to see in your good timing the unfolding of your promise. Give us wisdom to continue dreaming of a better world until our imaginations align more fully with your will rather than our own wishes. Give us courage to step out in faith and live in hope trusting in your promised kingdom. We pray all these things in the name of the one whose love and grace are beyond our dreams.

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 37:3-8, 17B-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

SERMON "The Danger of Being Dreamers of Dreams"
Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE *"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"* Purple #69

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" Purple #435

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Study Catechism of the PC(USA)

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.

What does our creation in God's image reflect about God's reality?

Our being created in and for relationship is a reflection of the Holy Trinity. In the mystery of the one God, the three divine persons—

God, Christ, and Holy Spirit—live in, with, and for one another eternally in perfect love and freedom.

What does our creation in God’s image reflect about God’s love for us?

We are created to live wholeheartedly for God. When we honor our Creator as the source of all good things, we are like mirrors reflecting back the great beam of love that God shines on us. We are also created to honor God by showing love toward other human beings.

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 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”* Purple #377

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

Join Us on the Journey!

September 22-28, 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.

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.

Preschool Tour, Sip-and-Chat, and...Doorprizes!

Following worship this morning, please join the Preschool Committee in the Education Building to see our preschool classrooms set up for the new school year, hear about exciting things happening, and maybe go home with a doorprize!

New Worship Service Starts Today!

A new worship opportunity begins today, *September 22 at 5pm* in the Chapel. 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.

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.”

- Sept 29 – Language & Cultural Manners - Robert Lowry

Maglock Doors on Preschool

If you need to use the blue release lever on the preschool maglock doors (downstairs in Gathering Area and outside next to the columbarium), please *immediately* text Laura Whitmore or Bob Quinn if after regular school hours or Shawn Mittedorf or Ulysses Neyland during school hours. It is very important that we maintain the security of these doors when our children are present.

Publications Transition

This week we welcome Rev. Corey Turnpenny as our outside contractor for publications. Corey is a United Methodist pastor and wild church planter in upstate New York. She is excited to support her ministry by coming alongside churches to help with their communication. You can still submit announcements and prayer requests to her via the JotForm.

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:

Leigha McCrary - granddaughter of a friend of Ann Patterson & Max Snowden; Peggy Willis, recovering from hip replacement surgery; Friends & family of Rosanna King Taylor who died on 8/22 after a long battle with cancer; Stacy Harter dealing with cancer; Lila Quinn (daughter-in-law of Bob & Alicia Quinn) surgery to remove cancer & 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 & friends at Presbyterian Village; the residents & staff at Women & Children First; the clients & 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, & Shawn