

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 20, 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. Dr. Robert Lowry

PRELUDE David Austin, Director of Music

+CALL TO WORSHIP Ellen McEwen, Liturgist

Praise the Lord!

Come, sing and dance before the Lord.

Praise God with the sound of music and dancing!

Let every soul sing God's praises!

Let the mountains tremble and the seas roar!

Praise the King of glory who guides our lives.

Praise the Lord of hosts who watches over us. Amen.

+OPENING PRAYER

Creator God,

in praise and adoration our spirits dance before you today.

You have created this wondrous universe

and all the magnificent things within it.

You have blessed us with so much throughout our lives,

even to this day of praise and thanksgiving.

Let our spirits soar!

Let our hearts sing boldly of your wondrous love.

We celebrate your love and presence with us,

and it is in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,

that we offer this prayer. Amen.

†GATHERING HYMN “*On Jesus Christ I Will Stand*” Purple #832

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we hear the story of David and wonder how he could so abuse his power—serving his own interests in such a selfish way. How different from the way Jesus used his power—serving, healing and nurturing others.

Forgive us when our actions reflect those of David more than those of Jesus.

The account of David shows someone yielding to temptation by feeding his own particular hunger with disastrous results, whilst Jesus took time to feed the crowds with miraculous results.

Forgive us the times when we have yielded to the temptation of feeding our own interests to the detriment of others around us.

We confess that the way of the world does reflect more the way of David than the way of Jesus, and we pray that we may be powerfully strengthened by the Holy Spirit to witness to Jesus’ love and compassion in and through all we do and say. This we pray in Jesus’ name. **Amen**

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

2 Samuel 7:1-17

SERMON

"Unconditional"

Rev. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE *"Let Us Build a House"*

Purple #301

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin

Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;

he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 “*When the Lord Redeems*”

Purple #852

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY!

Oct. 20 – Oct. 26, 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 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.

Congregational Meeting Called for October 20

A brief congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on October 20 to elect members of the congregational nominating committee.

Blankets for UAMS Palliative Care

We will be in the gathering area after church to make no sew blankets for UAMS palliative care. Please join us. Snacks will be provided.

Adult Class in October

The topics for the Adult Class in October are:

October 20 – Hinduism - Dr. Arya Basu

October 27 – Voter Guide on Ballot Issues for Nov 5 - Kristen Netterstrom Higgins

Cotham Lecture Books Available

On November 3 and 10, in the 9:00 Sunday morning adult class, David Stricklin will lead the class in a study of Cotham lecturer Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber's *Accidental Saints*. For the first 12 requesters we have complimentary copies available — so that you

can read up before November 3 (adult class discussions) and November 16-17 (Cotham Lectures). To quote Wikipedia, "Bolz-Weber is known for her unusual approach to reaching others through her church. She has produced work in the church that scholar and writer Diana Butler Bass considers part of "a new Reformation."

Books are made available as part of your tithes and offerings to Westover Hills Presbyterian Church. To request a copy, please email or call Liz Branch.

Please be aware that Bolz-Weber uses language that some people would find offensive.

Westover Hills 2nd Wednesday Workgroup at Ferncliff

Each fall through spring, Westover Hills serves in mission at Ferncliff checking Gifts of the Heart disaster kits for accuracy and packing them ready for shipment to survivors in need of assistance. More than ever, extra hands are needed for this task. Our first work date will be Wednesday, October 9th from 9am-12noon. No experience is necessary & everyone is welcome. Ferncliff's young adult volunteers handle the heavy lifting. We always have great conversation and a lot of laughter. The weather is cooler & Ferncliff is a delightful place to spend a morning serving in mission. Rides provided if needed.

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 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: **Deepest sympathy to Mary Lois Stanfield in the death of her husband Ed**; Ellen Dreyfuss, Nancy's friend, had emergency brain surgery; From Johnny Rhodes: "Thank each & every one of you for the cards, texts & calls you sent to wish me a speedy recovery from my shoulder replacement. I appreciate your love & concern & will repay your many kindnesses."; Rene Thompson, friend of Joyce Smith, dealing with cancer treatments; Leigha McCrary, friend of Ann Patterson & Max Snowden granddaughter; Peggy Willis, recovering from hip replacement surgery; Friends & family of Rosanna King Taylor who died on Aug 22nd 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; Members & friends at Presbyterian Village; Residents & staff at Women & Children First; 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, and Shawn

Deacon's Ministry

Deacons for October are Jackie Oakes and Carol Enderlin