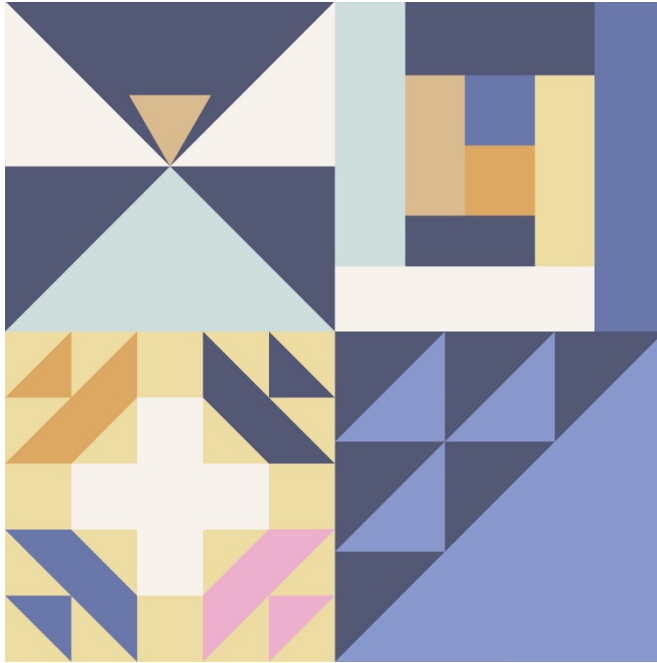


# Westover Hills Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



## A Service of Word and Sacrament Epiphany Sunday

January 5, 2025

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  
Lowry

The Rev. Dr. Robert Wm

Prelude

David Austin, Director of Music

Call to Worship  
Liturgist

David Stricklin,

Friends of God, believe this –  
God loved the world,  
God loves the world,  
**Thanks be to God, we are loved!**

May the truth of this great love story,  
shine through our worship today,  
and renew our sense of calling.

So come, with your tiredness,  
your frustrations and your discouragements;  
come with your doubts, your fears,  
and your longings;  
come, to discover yet again  
how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy.

**Thanks be to God, we are loved!**

Come, in friendship to God  
and to each other,  
and in friendship to the world,  
to listen for God's Word to us,  
to offer our prayers,  
and to renew our calling.

**Thanks be to God, we are loved!**

Friends of God, let us worship!

\*Gathering Hymn

*"Lift High the Cross"*

Purple #826

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**God, you loved this world so much  
that you sent your own son, Jesus Christ  
to live and even die among us,  
in order that we might have life and have it abundantly.**

**Forgive us for keeping that abundant life to ourselves,  
for jealously hoarding your generous gifts,  
for choosing self-interest over compassion and justice.**

**Teach us what it means to live as children of the light,  
generously sharing your abundance  
with our brothers and sisters in need.**

**Teach us what it means to live as children of life,  
generously sharing your grace  
with our brothers and sisters who have difficulty believing it.**

**Teach us what it means to walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

### Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

### \*Sung Response

*“Alleluia!”*

Purple #587

### \*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

John 3:1-18

### Sermon

“Loaded Words: Atonement”

Dr. Lowry

## We Respond to God's Word

\*Hymn of Response

*"Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand"*

Purple #832

\*Affirmation of Faith

What is faith?

**Faith is the knowledge of God's benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ.**

Is faith the same as belief?

**Faith is more than a personal opinion or human conviction. It is God's promise alive in us.**

How do we come to faith?

**Faith is revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit.**

Can we lose our faith?

**In every life, there are seasons when faith is too heavy to bear or when we feel distant from God. Although we may struggle to hold on to our faith in God, God's faithfulness toward us never fails.**

Offering

## 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 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

### We Depart in God's Name

\*Closing Hymn

*"What A Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"*

Purple #837

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

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# The Life of the Church

*Join Us on the Journey!*

*Jan. 5 – Jan 11,*

2025

## **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 below to be directed to the contact page of our website.



Digital Visitor Card

## **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 January work date is Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12noon. No experience is necessary & everyone is welcome. We always have great conversation and a lot of laughter. If you need a ride, please contact Kay Stephens, (501 765-1661, [rayandkaystephens@att.net](mailto:rayandkaystephens@att.net)).

## **A New Look for Sunday School Premiered Today**

Sunday School is taking on a new look in January. Sunday School will meet in the Sanctuary for a variety of options during our new “Coffee Hour.” We’ll have 3 options the month of January.

- 20 Minute Talks: Quick introductions to interesting topics. Kind of like TED Talks but more Westover and less Aspen! Have a suggestion? Let us know!
- Fun and Games: Busy week? Busy life?! Take a little time to have a cup of coffee and play a game of checkers. A rested spirit is a health spirit!

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL  
NEW TIME

SUNDAYS @ 9:30  
IN THE PARLOR

- Pastoral Care & Prayer Center: Need a little quiet space? Write a note to one of our friends at home or spend a little time in prayer.

### **First and Third Book Group Resumes Monday**

Led for years by Rev. Karen Akin, the First and Third group meets at Second Presbyterian on the first and third Mondays of the month. Led jointly by Robert and Rev. Ben Kane (Second Pres), the group meets at 9:30 in Second Hall (enter from north parking lot). This winter the group will be studying “Encountering God in Tyrannical Texts: Reflections on Paul, Women, and the Authority of Scripture.” The group is open to the community.

### **Midweek Manna Resumes**

Midweek Manna Bible Study resumes this Wednesday in the chapel at noon. We will be studying the prophet Micah this month.

### **Yoga Resumes Thursday**

Yoga with Jenny resumes on Thursday in the chapel at 10am.

### **Shea McGinnis Preaching January 12**

Robert will be taking a post-holiday break next Sunday and the Rev. Shea McGinnis will be preaching and leading worship.

### **Congregational Meeting Today**

A brief congregational meeting will be held following worship to vote on approval of the terms of call for Robert for 2025. These terms of call have been approved by the Finance and Stewardship Committee as well as the Session.

## ***Caring for One Another***

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### **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:

Judi King, ongoing health concerns;  
Liz Gath, recovering from colon cancer surgery;  
Max Snowden, undergoing treatment for cancer;

Sam Highsmith, in hospice care at Presbyterian Village; Beth Highsmith, in memory care in  
Alabama near her daughter;  
Isatu Lebbie continuing to recover from a stroke;  
Rene Thompson, friend of Joyce Smith, dealing with cancer treatments;  
Stacy Harter dealing with cancer;  
Monroe Flucas, Jr., Julie Gaffney, Martin Gaffney, Richard Gaffney, Eunice Holdcroft as they  
deal with health issues (friends of Judi King);  
Our members and friends at Presbyterian Village;  
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 January are Shirley Garlington and John MacLeod.

## **Westover Hills Presbyterian Church**

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