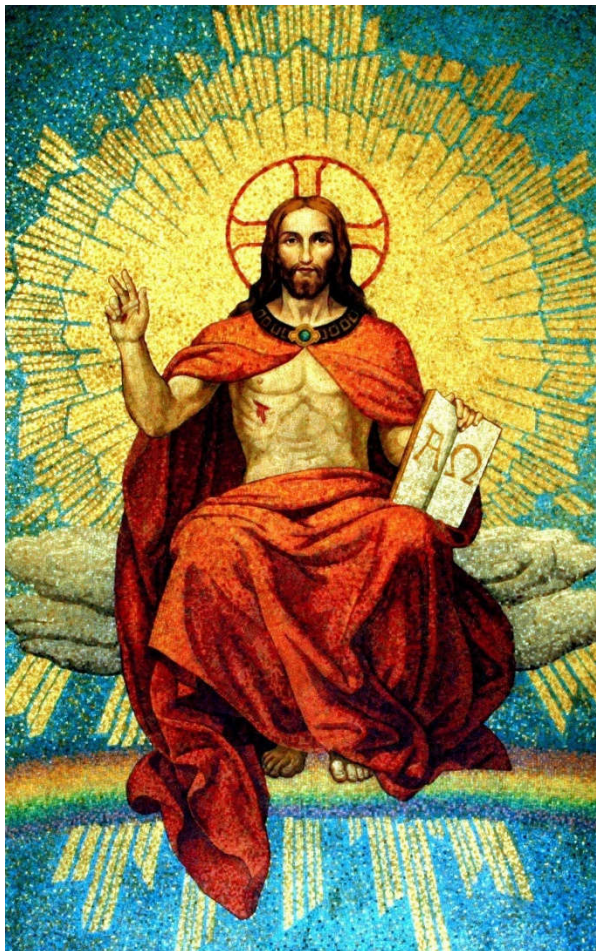


# WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 9, 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

Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry

PRELUDE

David Austin, Director of Music

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ray Stephens, Liturgist

In the face of a culture of death  
a world of killing fields  
a world of the walking dead  
Christ is at the head of the resurrection parade  
transforming our tears of betrayal into tears of joy  
giving us dancing shoes for the resurrection party

**And this glittering dancing Lord  
who has danced in the dragon's jaws of death  
now dances with a dance that is full  
of nothing less than the fullness of God**

this is the dance of the new creation

**this is the dance of life out of death**

and in this dance all that was broken  
all that was estranged  
all that was alienated  
all that was dislocated and disconnected  
is reconciled

**comes home**

is healed

**and is made whole.**

**Let us worship our dancing loving Lord.**

OPENING PRAYER

**In your kingdom, Lord, there are no favourites,  
all are equal, all carry the image of the one who made all things,  
and all are welcome in your home.  
You forgive those who in humility make the journey to repentance,  
even those who now reject you.  
Such love, beyond our imagining.  
Such love, that could die for us.  
Such love sown into hearts,  
that we might display its beauty through lives and words.  
Thank you Lord!**

† GATHERING HYMN

*"I Danced in the Morning"*

Purple #157

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**They may not be beaten down or lying by the road,  
but there are people we pass by, Watching God.  
Some are family and friends we take so much for granted  
we cannot see how we have stripped them of our love and compassion.  
Others are neighbors: who have been left half-dead by crushing work;  
who have fallen into the hands of despair;  
who have been abandoned by all those who walked on by them.  
Many are strangers, people we don't know, but quickly judge:  
they are weak, or poor, or the enemy  
or because they remind us of who we once were, or could become.  
Rescue us from the power of our sins, Righteous One of all generations.  
Pour out your justice on us, rather than your judgement,  
that we would be moved with pity, and spurred to action;  
that we would hear of the hope that is ours,  
and share it with our sisters and brothers;  
that we would shower mercy on all we meet,  
even as we have received forgiveness for our sins  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*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

Colossians 1:15-23

SERMON

“First and Foremost”

Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE

*“Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”*

Purple #305

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God.**

**The God of all creeds, with all their truths.**

**But, above all, in the God that rises from the dead to become part of life.**

**I believe in the God that accompanies me along  
every step of my path on this earth,  
many times walking behind me, watching me and suffering with my  
mistakes,  
other times walking beside me, talking to me and teaching me,  
and other times walking ahead of me, guiding and marking my pace.**

**I believe in the God who is attentive today, who looks at the world  
and sees the hatred that segregates, divides,  
sets people aside, hurts and kills,**

who sees the bullets piercing the flesh,  
and the blood of innocent people flowing on the earth,  
who sees the hand that dips into another's pocket,  
stealing what somebody needs to eat,  
who sees the judge that favours the highest bidder,  
the truth and justice of hypocrites,  
who sees the dirty rivers and the dead fish,  
the toxic substances destroying the earth and piercing the sky  
who sees the future mortgaged and man's debt growing.

I believe in God who sees all this ...  
and keeps on crying.

But I also believe in God  
who sees a mother giving birth – a life born from pain,  
who sees two children playing - a seed growing,  
who sees a flower blooming out of the debris - a new beginning,  
who sees three crazy women clamoring for justice –  
an illusion that doesn't die  
who sees the sun rising every morning - a time of opportunities.

I believe in God who sees all this ...  
and laughs,  
because, in spite of it all,  
there is hope.

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'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"*

Purple #700

+CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE



THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY!*

*FEB. 9 – FEB. 15, 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

**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 February work date is February 12 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.

**Support The Presbyterian Village**

The Presbyterian Village Auxiliary Board is beginning the new year by asking Westover Hills members to consider becoming "Friends of the Presbyterian Village Auxiliary" for 2025. You just make a donation of your choosing!! This enables us to financially supplement activities and events for our senior residents.

Charlotte Frith and Shirley Garlington will be in the foyer after church today, Feb. 9th and next Sunday, Feb. 16th to take donations if you wish to become a friend of the Village. Or you can mail or drop off a check to the Village.

### **Deacon Luncheon & Workshop**

Deacons Class of 2025 and Class of 2026, please join us after worship on February 16, for a luncheon and workshop in The Chapel. We will work on plans for serving our congregation in the coming months.

### **Westover Hills Preschool Registration 2025-26**

Registration for Westover Hills Preschool is now open for current students and any interested church members who have children or grandchildren ages 18 months to four years (in September). Call Director Shawn Mittedorf at (501) 666-0880 or email [westoverhillspreschool@gmail.com](mailto:westoverhillspreschool@gmail.com) for more information. Registration opens to the public in February.

### **Manna Studies Micah**

Midweek Manna is back with a study of the prophet Micah. Over the next six weeks we will do a close read of the prophet's writing and explore how it speaks to us today.

Feb 12 in-person in the Chapel

### *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:

**Please pray for Tammy Miller's brother Robin as he is in Hospice;**

**Anna Morgan - Grandniece of Kathy Phillips - Suffering from cystic fibrosis, and in ICU;**

**From Charlie Frith: "I would like to thank everyone for the cards, the thoughts, and especially the prayers. I am recuperating slowly. I am still on a liquid diet and my appetite is not good but other than that I am feeling fine. Charlotte has been taking really good care of me and even put a small bell by my chair which I can ring if I needed her. Not quite**

**ready for visitors yet. Hope to see everyone in church soon.”;**

From Liz Gath: “Thanks to your prayers, visits, cards, well wishes and good medical care, I have recovered from colon cancer surgery. I have embarked on a 6-month journey of chemotherapy.

Please pray for acceptance of whatever is in store.”;

Jennifer Garlington, Shirley Garlington's niece, started new treatments to combat renewed cancer growth;

Survivors, responders, and communities impacted by wildfires, especially in the LA area;

John Bowyer, friend of Ann & Max, bone biopsy procedure;

Judi King, ongoing health concerns;

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;

Ellen Dreyfuss, Nancy's friend, just had emergency brain surgery;

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](mailto:office.westoverhills@gmail.com) and Robert at [robertwilliamlowry@gmail.com](mailto:robertwilliamlowry@gmail.com)

### **Deacon's Ministry**

Deacons for February are Shirley Garlington and Mary Henry

### **Westover Hills Presbyterian Church**

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501-663-6383

