

Westminster Presbyterian Church



**This is the day that our God has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

The Service for the Lord's Day
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2020

Our Mission: "Caring, sharing and growing God's love in our communities."

For Reflection and Prayer

"Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is the net by which you can catch souls."
-Mother Teresa

"Devote some time (over dinner is perfect) to sharing stories of rejoicing (high school championship games, playing with pets, the birth of children, marriage proposals, public announcements that changed everything, etc.) Now consider, when was the last time you felt that way in our church? Do you experience our congregation as a community of joy? Do young people?"

-adapted from *Delighted: What Teenagers Are Teaching the Church about Joy*

Westminster Chimes

Words of Welcome

Organ Prelude

"Fantasy in D Minor"

~ Smith

Call to Worship

Come, all who hunger for good news.

✠ **We thirst for words of hope and healing.**

Come, from rural road and city street.

✠ **We gather at the King's invitation.**

Come, join the celebration.

✠ **Let us worship the Lord!**

Hymn

"Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above"

(All are invited to join Ric Fernandes in singing the hymn.)

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right.
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,
An ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,
As with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band.
To God all praise and glory!

Call to Confession

In disobedience,
we have turned aside from the Lord
and turned toward distractions
that vie for our attention and allegiance.
But the Lord does not turn away from us.
In humility and faith,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

✘ **Extravagant God,**
you invite us to your table in the kingdom of heaven.
But we do not take our place at the feast.
We say, "We have more important things to do,"
and turn back to labors that threaten to consume us.
Beckon us again, we pray,
that we may respond with gratitude.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice!
For the Lord draws near to us
to shower us with grace
and fill us with peace
that surpasses all understanding.

✘ **O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;**
God's steadfast love endures forever!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

**Passing the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you.

✠ **And also with you.**

Prayer for Illumination

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts
and your Spirit govern our lives
until at last we see the fulfillment
of your realm of justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

✠ **Amen.**

First Lesson -Isaiah 25: 1-9

Here ends the first lesson.

✠ **Thanks be to God!**

Vocal Solo

“The Lord Is My Shepherd”

~ *Liddle*

Ric Fernandes

Second Lesson – Philippians 4: 1-9

May these ancient words of scripture become for us the living voice of God.

✠ **Amen!**

Sermon

“Fall Marching Orders”

**Affirmation of Faith - Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32–33*

✠ **The life, death, resurrection,
and promised coming of Jesus Christ
has set the pattern for the church’s mission.
His human life involves the church
in the common life of all people.
His service to men and women
commits the church
to work for every form of human well-being.
His suffering makes the church sensitive
to all human suffering
so that it sees the face of Christ
in the faces of persons in every kind of need.
His crucifixion discloses to the church
God’s judgment on the inhumanity**

that marks human relations,
and the awful consequences
of the church's own complicity in injustice.
In the power of the risen Christ
and the hope of his coming,
the church sees the promise
of God's renewal of human life in society
and of God's victory over all wrong.
The church follows this pattern
in the form of its life
and in the method of its action.
So to live and serve
is to confess Christ as Lord.

Pastoral Prayer

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 this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

When halls of power try to turn our gaze away from suffering and neglect, how are we to respond? In this community, we choose to pay attention. We will not hide from trouble or silence suffering that surrounds. God has woven our lives together. With renewed commitment to solidarity, let us share our gifts and offerings.

The Offering

If you have your offering ready to mail or to set aside until we are able to worship together again, please hold it in your hands as we pray together.

**Prayer of Dedication*

God of the harvest,
You are continually planting the seeds of your love
In our world and in our lives.
As we bring our gifts to you,
May they be seeds of your grace, peace and hope,
Planted deeply in our community.

✠ **Amen**

**Hymn*

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"

(All are invited to join Ric Fernandes in singing the hymn.)

Rejoice ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice give thanks and sing.

With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice give thanks and sing.

Then on ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing.

**Benediction – "Blessing the Ordinary" by Jan Richardson*

Let these words lay themselves like a blessing upon your head, your shoulders,
as if, like hands, they could pass on to you what you most need for this day, as if they
could anoint you not merely for the path ahead but for this ordinary moment that
opens itself to you—opens itself like another hand
that unfurls itself, that reaches out to gather these words in the bowl of its palm.

You may think this blessing lives within these words,
but I tell you it lives in the opening and in the reaching;
it lives in the ache where this blessing begins; it lives in the hollow
made by the place where the hands of this blessing meet.

Benediction Response

Assisting in Worship

Our Music Director is Sally Waugaman

Our Soloist is Ric Fernandes

Our Lay Reader and Service Recorder is Beverly Cook

Remember in Prayer

Pray for all those touched recently by violence and natural disasters, the healing of national hostility and mistrust, efforts to feed the poor and provide shelter for the homeless in our area, and the following people:

Audrey Bachman & family - friend of Sarah Altvater, dealing with the sudden, tragic death of her son.

Linda Book – is feeling stronger as she continues chemotherapy.

Ed Carter – his daughter, Betty Rapier, died of complications from a poisonous spider bite.

Bonnie Charnock – neighbor of Deb Norton's Sister, has had to postpone chemo therapy because of fever resulting from poor blood platelet count.

Frances Cowgill – has a genetic condition causing serious loss of calcium in her bones. She is being treated on an outpatient basis with an intravenous calcium drip.

Peter Culin – Sue Culin's brother-in-law, going back on chemotherapy.

Susan Frost – Sally Waugaman's daughter, undergoing chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer.

Kathryn Hacker – Mimi Peters' daughter, had two hip replacements and is undergoing therapy.

Leon Hendershot – cousin of Sandra Hrin and Mary Boyer, has suffered liver failure and has been removed from the clinical trial at Sloan Kettering.

Judy Marsden – friend of Deb Norton, still in discomfort but having at-home physical therapy.

Bob Moore – is dealing with pulmonary fibrosis.

Elise Moore – Bob & Dee Moore's daughter-in-law, recovering from knee surgery.

Joan Nicholls – improving steadily.

Bud Nicholson – Bob Nicholson's brother, will undergo vascular leg surgery soon for severe circulatory problems.

Bob Paulding – John Paulding's brother, working through a long journey of rehab, re-learning how to swallow, eat and walk independently.

Betty Pratt - working hard on therapy but still weak and tires easily.

Col. Richard Quinn (Ret.) – in and out of the hospital, still battling numerous health issues.

Samuel Ryan – 8 year-old grandson of Karen and Glenn Dixon, undergoing tests for health issues.

Mike Sant Angelo – brother of a friend of Mary Boyer, on hospice care and declining each day.

Betsy Tellier – Deb Norton's niece, diagnosed with serious heart problems and severe sleep apnea

Carl Wagner – Bob & Jane Nicholson's son-in-law, suffering from a herniated disk and a partial rotator cuff tear. Anticipating surgery.

Janet Waugaman – Sally's Waugaman's daughter, diagnosed with Parkinson's disease two years ago has developed Multiple System Atrophy, a more progressive form of Parkinsons.

Prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Peggy Burkat (friend of Karen and Glenn Dixon) who died last week after a long illness.

Our church has a prayer chain of members who will pray for any person you ask. Contact Karen Dixon by phone at 302-858-8968 or email at k_dixon221@hotmail.com

Announcements

Welcome to worship! Even though we are not able to be together physically, we hope that as you participate in the recorded worship service today that you will encounter the unity that we share in Christ's Spirit. If you would prefer to listen to the worship service by phone, you may contact Leslie Marsh; either send her an email (cmarshjr@verizon.net) or call her at (302-945-4604) to arrange a conference call in which you will listen to the service together.

It is with great sadness we pass on the news we received this week that Shannon Dunford (daughter-in-law of Michael and Holly Otten, church custodians) died after her long battle with cancer. Thanks go to all those in our congregation who supported her family with funds for so many years.

Including its latest donation of \$300.00, Giant Supermarket has contributed \$28,650 to us. Pandemic or no, please continue to keep those receipts rolling in! The expenses of the church go on even if the doors aren't yet open. Thanks to Giant and thousand thanks to all of you loyal members and friends for continuing to support this effort.

TECHNOLOGY CORNER:

Are you a **Facebook** user? Please **like and share** our [WPC's Facebook page](#) with all your friends! This action would widen our presence in our community and beyond.

Are you an **Instagram** user? Please **follow** the [church's new Instagram account](#). This is an opportunity to engage with the younger generations in our communities.

Want to watch the church's videos online through **YouTube** without going through Facebook or Instagram? **Subscribe** to the church's new [YouTube Channel](#).

In light of the ongoing threats posed by the coronavirus, the Session decided to keep the church building closed to gatherings through December 31st. Should there be any change in the schedule, the congregation will be notified.

The Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice (SDARJ) will host a discussion on “Christianity and Racism” at their virtual Town Hall Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 13.

A diverse panel of local clergy will discuss the interface of Christianity and structural racism. The panel includes Rev. Marjorie Belmont-Burns from the Lewes United Methodist Charge (Faith and Israel United Methodist Churches), Rev. Dania Griffin from the Antioch African Methodist Episcopal Church in Frankford, Rev. Vicki Gordy-Stith from the Epworth United Methodist Church in Rehoboth, and Rev. Mark Harris from St. Peters Episcopal Church in Lewes. Rev. Paula Maiorano of the Unitarian Universalists of Southern DE will serve as moderator for the discussion.

Participants who register on Eventbrite will be invited to submit questions before the program. To register go to <https://christianity.eventbrite.com> or go to sdarj.org for more information.

(The work of the Church goes on. Events are routinely scheduled using Zoom virtual meetings online or by phone. Check with the office for details.)

Calendar

Tuesday, October 13 – *Praying the Psalms* at 11:00 AM with Pastor Shannon Smythe.

Wednesday, October 14– Bible Study with Pastor Shannon. John II Bible Study guidebooks are available at the church.

Sunday October 18 – Recorded Worship Service (and bulletin) available on our website.

The church office is closed. However, calls and emails to the church office will be addressed during regular office hours, Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

DEACONS 2020

Moderator: Deb Norton

Class of 2020

Diana Green
Linda Huxtable

Class of 2021

Suzi Berry
Bill Hrin
Ed Pillsbury

Class of 2022

Nancy Brock
Linda Crowe
Deb Norton

SESSION 2020

Moderator – Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Clerk of Session – Lois Gillespie

Class of 2020

Beverly Cook
Bill Huxtable
Sally Stokes

Class of 2021

Charlotte Jacobs
David Norton
Silvia Ritchie

Class of 2022

John Rotach
John Still

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

Church Office Hours: 9:30 to 1:30 Tuesday through Friday

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web site: <http://www.westminster-rehoboth.org>

Music Director: Sally Waugaman

Church Secretary: Carol D. Jones

PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

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Cell phone: 302-703-9129

email: shannonsmytheWPC2@gmail.com