



Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
 what our hearts can no longer bear,
 and what has become for us a consuming sense of judgment.
 Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
 open us to a future in which we can be changed;
 and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
 through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

*RESPONSE Lord Have Mercy Healey Willan

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)
 Shepherd me, Love
 Lead me out of my attachments
 Lead me to the green meadow of your heart,
 The calm, clear stream of your peace and nourishment
 Fill me with your breath again,
 Breath of your Spirit
 Lead me in your way, not mine,
 Even through darkest canyons shadowed by death
 For your presence is my safety,
 Your will is my comfort
 You invite me to your table with my enemies
 To share with them your grace:
 Gift that overflows, blessings that make life beautiful
 Lead me where goodness and mercy go;
 Then on every road
 I will still be home with you. By Steve Garnass-Holmes

THE OFFERING

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle. Your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(9:00) Jesus, Still Lead On from *The Good Shepherd* Margaret Sandresky
 (11:00) Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake Richard Farrant/John Hilton

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,
 Lay not our sins to our charge,
 But forgive that is past, and give us grace
 to amend our sinful lives: to decline from sin,
 and incline to virtue,
 That we may walk in a perfect heart,
 that we may walk in a perfect heart
 before thee now and evermore,
 That we may walk in a perfect heart,
 that we may walk in a perfect heart,
 before thee now and evermore.
 Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

Text by Henry Bull, Christian Prayers and Holy Meditations

*AT THE PRESENTATION Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH
 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here
 below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
 Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ... The Lord's Prayer

During the Prayers of the People there will be a time of silence. You are invited to use this time for personal reflection, confession, thanksgiving, and 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.

The Order of Worship **March 15, 2026**
9:00 and 11:00am

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRELUDE Come, Faithful Shepherd Bind Me from *The Good Shepherd*
Margaret Sandresky
Reed Carringer

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

One: Open unto us, hope for our despair.
All: Open unto us, dreams for our dread.
 One: Open unto us, courage for our fear.
All: Open unto us, vision for our skepticism.
 One: Open unto us, wisdom for our confusion.
All: Open unto us, love for our hates.
 One: Open unto us, Your heart for our hearts.
All: O God, our God, open unto us. Amen.

By Howard Thurman

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

*HYMN NO. 394 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation WESTMINSTER ABBEY

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

Gracious God,
 our sins are too heavy to carry,
 too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*RESPONSE Live in Charity UBI CARITAS

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00) Julia Whipple
Children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to go downstairs for Children's Church

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-41

SERMON

"This Should be a Love Story"

Rev. Gradye Parsons

***HYMN NO. 393 O Day of Rest and Gladness**

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

***HYMN NO. 314** Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
(9:00 Stanzas 1, 3, and 5)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** How Great the Bliss to Be a Sheep of Jesus from *The Good Shepherd*
Margaret Sandresky

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

*Please stand in Body or Spirit

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Allie Brewington and Ken Hughes
CARE TEAM COORDINATOR FOR MARCH: Lana Daverman and Susan McKeehan

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS/ HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

GREETERS: (11:00) Rob and Susan McKeehan

LITURGIST: Reed Carringer

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: (11:00) Chancel Choir

SHEPHERD'S TEAM: Bryan and Rachel Powell

SENIOR USHER: Tom Byerley

USHERS: (9:00) Carol Beilharz and Jeff Bendy

(11:00) Barbara Froula, Judy Jordan, Betty McKeehan, Ron Alexander, Ken Hughes

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given by Carol Beilharz, children, and grandchildren in loving memory of Clark on his birthday.

MUSIC NEWS The Knoxville Chamber Music Society concert for Saturday March 21 **has been cancelled.** Please mark your calendars for their next performance on Saturday, April 11 at 7 p.m. when The Larkspur Trio (oboe, english horn, and clarinet) presents *Ethereal Senses*.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a special mission offering that supports various humanitarian efforts, including disaster relief and development programs.

OFFERING

You are welcome to give during the offering as the plates are shared, or you may contribute online through our secure giving page: www.wpcknox.org/donate-options/. Offerings can also be made by scanning this QR code.



CHILDREN'S OFFERINGS AT WESTMINSTER

During 10:00 Hour - Nursery available for children ages 0-3 years old

Sunday School for Preschool through 5th grade

During 11:00 Hour - Nursery available for children 0-3 years old

Children's Church for children Preschool through 5th grade

Children will be walked to Children's Church classes following the Time with Children during the 11:00 worship service

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (10:00am)

Adult Bible Study: reading the Book of Acts. (Adult/Handbell Room next to the Prayer Room)

Feasting on the Word: Studies scriptures used in Worship (McKinnon)

The Wired Word: Discusses current events with a theological eye (Library)

YOUTH NEWS March 15 - Amanda has a fun night planned at Top Golf from 5:00 to 7:00pm! Be on the lookout for detailed news about your time together.

** Reminder, please let Amanda know if your child is attending Montreat or the Middle School Maryville Retreat this summer! ***We still need chaperones for both!!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE A celebration of Scott Rutherford's life will be held at Westminster on March 22 at 2:00pm. Please let the church office know if you are able to bring finger foods for the reception that will follow the service.

EASTER BREAKFAST

The annual Easter Breakfast is April 5th! The buffet will begin in the Schilling Gallery as soon as the 9:00 service ends. We need your help- please click QR code to bring a dish to share. Some ideas are: casseroles, meats, sweets, fruit, etc. Items need to be ready to serve. The serving tables in the Schilling Gallery will have labels identifying where to place your contributions! Thank you so much for your help!



CALLING ALL EASTER BUNNIES! Join us for the annual Easter Egg Hunt April 5th. Here are the details:



Where: the courtyard off the Schilling Gallery

When: 10:30am- don't be late, eggs go quickly!

Who: kids 0-10 years old (big kids are welcome to help set up)

How many: Kids are asked to stop after collecting 10 eggs.

Please help the Flower Guild as they adorn the sanctuary in celebration of Easter. Donations of any amount are welcome and can be made payable to Westminster Flower Guild in honor or memory of loved ones. These names will be included in both the Easter Sunday bulletin and the following *Abbey* after Easter. The deadline to make the donation is March 29. Thank you for supporting this beautiful annual tradition.

\$_____ In memory of / honor of (circle one):

Given by:

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where Faith and Life Connect"

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Rev. Dr. Richard Coble, Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Gradye Parsons, Parish Associate

Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus

Amanda Fox, Interim Youth Director

Dr. Edie Johnson, Music Director/Organist

Jennifer Manrod, Assistant Children's Director

Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Joanna Warren, Administrative Assistant

Debbie Bendy, Abbey Editor

Benjamin Dockter, Worship Tech

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 15

9:00am - Worship

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship

12:15pm - Associate Pastor Nominating Committee meeting

3:45pm - Treble Choir

5:00pm - Youth Fellowship

5:00pm - *Abbey* deadline

Tuesday, March 17

10:00am - Staff Meeting

10:30am - Women's Book Club

11:00pm - Program Staff

Wednesday, March 18

4:30pm - Companions

5:30pm - Wednesday at WPC

7:00pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 19

10:30am - Funeral Committee Meeting

6:00pm - Handbells

Saturday, March 21

10:00am - Session Retreat

SPRING WORKDAY AT WESTMINSTER

Saturday, March 28th, anytime from 8:00am to 12 Noon



Help Us Maintain the Church Grounds

Come join us for part or all of this workday as we spruce up the church and grounds.

Numerous and diverse outside (and some inside) jobs for all.

Put on your old clothes and bring your favorite tools to help us

clean, weed, plant, haul, saw, mulch, trim, cut, rake, paint, and

various other tasks. You bring the energy and spirit; we'll

provide the job and leadership.

Help us give WPC a good Spring cleaning before Easter !!

WEDNESDAYS AT WESTMINSTER CONTINUES MARCH 18

We start with dinner at 5:30pm and follow with two program offerings for Adults:

1. Mindfulness Practices: *Finding Inner Calm in Chaotic Times* lead by David Dupper

The Youth will be joining Amanda to practice mindfulness in David Dupper’s class.

2. *The Gospel of Matthew: A Tale of Two Empires* lead by Wendy Neff

Wednesdays at Westminster for Kids (aged PreK-5th Grade)

Edie Johnson and Jennifer Manrod

We’re excited to invite all children to an engaging Wednesday night program during Lent! Each week, kids will gather for fun, interactive Bible lessons, creative activities, music experiences, and meaningful stories that help them learn what it means to walk with Jesus during the Lenten season.

KidSong will be offered to Pre-K through Second Grade where we learn songs, play music games, and participate in interactive stories. Older elementary students will have the opportunity to play hand chimes and learn Lenten and Easter hymns.

Lesson plans will be based on resources from Ministry to Children:

<https://ministry-to-children.com/lenten-bible-lessons-for-kids/>



SPRING RETREAT UPDATE...DEADLINE IS TODAY!

Please don’t forget to register your attendance and make your lodge reservations, as the deadline for both is today. We currently have 138 people registered to attend!! This retreat is designed for the whole family: meaningful faith moments, playful discovery, and space to connect across generations. Come build, laugh, reflect, and grow together — there’s something here for everyone.



Registration is open through TODAY.

This fee covers your breakfast both mornings, as well as your lunch and dinner on Saturday. You can also purchase retreat shirts during this registration process. Please feel free to come by the church office if you need assistance in registering.

Link to sign up for registration: wpcknox.org/retreat-registration

Room reservations open through TODAY!. A block of 70

rooms has been set aside for our group at a reduced rate. Tremont Lodge will release any unused rooms at this special rate the morning of March 16.

Link to sign up for a room:

<https://www.wpcknox.org/retreat-room-reservation/>

Need assistance?

- Registration questions: Jaclyn Beeler — 615-568-3929
- Room reservations: Jan Barber — 865-765-0437



WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP We look forward to you joining us for the next Book

Group discussions. The book selections for the next few months are:

March 17: *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge, discussion led by Cindy Spangler

April 21: *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi, discussion led by Janice Rawe

All women of the church are welcome to join us in the library on the third Tuesday of the month for discussion of these books. Contact Linda Rutherford for further information at 865-384-3435

WPC HIKE Our next WPC hike will occur on River Bluff Trail in the Norris

watershed on Monday, April 6. River Bluff is revered as one of the best wildflower trails in the area! Rain date will be Tuesday, April 7. We'll gather at the Karm parking lot (140 North Forest Park Blvd in Bearden--formerly Earth Fare) at 8:30 AM to organize carpools-- or meet at the Lenoir Museum, 2121 Norris Freeway, at 9:10 AM to pack cars before proceeding to the trailhead. The trail parking lot is small and the trail--popular! Following our



hike, we'll return to the museum to eat our lunch. Bring water, poncho, lunch, and wear sturdy shoes or boots. The trail can be slippery and muddy. Hike distance is ~3 miles round trip with some short climbs. Let me know if you're able to join us! Visit this link for a good trail description:

<https://www.nrtapplication.org/trails/river-bluff-trail>

Sign up today for Summer Camp @ Westminster!

Fellowship, Formation, Music and FUN

This unique Summer experience will include Bible verses and stories, a variety of crafts, singing, hand chimes, music theory games, water play and more!

Ages: Open to Pre-K through rising 8th grade.

Dates: Monday July 20-Friday July 24 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Payment: \$125 payable online

Food: All lunches and snacks will be provided.

Deadline: Registration deadline is April 30

Aftercare: Aftercare is available 2-5 p.m. at the rate of \$10/hour for the first child and \$5/hour for each additional child, payable at the end of the week for the time used.



The 2026 Nominating Committee Needs Your Input!

It is time to submit nominations for our Class of 2029 of officers. We will be electing (5)Elders for Session, (1) Trustee, and (1) Youth Elder. Please submit your suggestions to: Chair, Lucy Johnson (lucyjw49@gmail.com), Co-Chair, Ken Hughes (bkeh31@gmail.com), or any one of our at-large members: Steven Brewington (steven@windyhillfarmtn.com), Hap McSween (mcsween@utk.edu), or Lisa Oros (lisa_oros@hotmail.com). Please submit your nominations by **March 22**

If you prefer, please fill out the form below and put it in the offering plate or return to the church office. Please, no more than two nominations.

I would like to nominate _____

for Elder/Trustee/Youth Elder, because

Your
Name _____