



# WESTMINSTER

presbyterian church | epc

## October 2022

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### LIFEHOUSE YOUTH UPDATE FROM ALICE BELLANGER

LifeHouse Youth Group met September 11 and 18. On Sept. 11, supper was provided from the leftover hamburgers and hotdogs from our Rally Day celebration! We ate and then went to Bayou View Park for some games and fellowship. As the pictures can attest, everyone had a good time!

Sept. 18 supper was provided by Pat West. It was spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread. The highlight was her specialty dessert (and my FAVORITE): chocolate lasagna!!

We talked about "acceptance" and what that means as it relates to our relationship with God. We looked specifically at Colossians 3:12-13, which says, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you." There are things about ourselves that we struggle to accept. God chose YOU because he loves YOU for who you are. Just as he made allowances for your faults, he expects you to make allowances for the faults of others. God chose us to be holy. We need to forgive like Jesus did and accept others the way we were accepted.

Our meeting dates for October are Oct. 9, 16, and 23. We will be at the Fall Festival on October 29.





### FALL FESTIVAL

We can't wait for Westminster's annual Neighborhood Fall Festival on Saturday, October 29 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This is one of the church's largest public outreach events of the year: Please make plans to attend, and, if you can, to lend a hand, especially with set

up at 11:30 a.m. (meet for prayer at 11 a.m.) or clean up after the festival. Elder Karen Barnard is chairing this year's event: Please see her for more information, call the church office at (228) 864-3143, or email [office@gulfportchurch.org](mailto:office@gulfportchurch.org).

So far, this year's Fall Festival line up will include, subject to change:

- ◆ Cornhole and sack race games
- ◆ Arts and crafts
- ◆ Face painting
- ◆ Dunk tank
- ◆ Children's costume parade
- ◆ Hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks
- ◆ Cake walk
- ◆ Hay ride
- ◆ Canned good collection for Feed My Sheep
- ◆ Bounce house / slide
- ◆ Gulfport fire truck
- ◆ Shriner tin lizzies
- ◆ Lynn Meadows Discovery Center booth
- ◆ Niall O'Leary School of Irish Dance dancers
- ◆ St. John's Pipers bagpipe band
- ◆ Live music
- ◆ Mississippi Gulf Coast Humane Society

...and more to come!

### RALLY SUNDAY

Westminster's Rally Sunday was such a delightful celebration! From Young Rejoicers singing in worship, to rising first graders being presented with their very own bibles, to a church family cookout, there was much joy. Children and youth are welcome each Sunday morning to Sunday School and Young Rejoicers practice at 9:15 a.m., and to LifeHouse Youth. See LifeHouse October schedule on page one.





**NEW EAGLE SCOUT:** Many congratulations to Boy Scout Troop 209's newest Eagle Scout, John Michael Moran, whose Court of Honor was at Westminster on August 30.



**BOY SCOUT TROOP 209 RED BEANS AND RICE SALE:** Thank you to everyone who participated in Boy Scout Troop 209's red beans and rice sale on Sept. 18. The young men and their leaders express their appreciation to Westminster for its ongoing and vital support for their effort to build young men of character in the Gulfport community.



**CUB SCOUT PACK 209:** Westminster's own Cub Scout Pack 209 continues to grow beyond most imagination. The pack's first meeting was held at Westminster's picnic area on September 12. Nearly 100 elementary-aged cub scouts and their parents attended. The boys began with a friendship scavenger hunt, followed by learning about the scouts' motto, law, and oath.

Throughout the month the pack's dens, or age-specific groups, have been meeting in church facilities. They have learned skills like first aid, hiking safety, plant identification, and others that will be useful their whole lives. Coming up, the Webelos, or the oldest of the cub scouts, will host the Gulfport Fire Department for a lesson on major medical emergencies, such as stroke, heart attack, and shock. Later, Mississippi State University Harrison County Extension Agent Tim Ray will speak to them about the region's flora and fauna—particularly that which should be left alone!—before the boys take a three mile hike at Camp Wilkes in October.

Currently, Pack 209 is also conducting its annual popcorn sale. If you miss them at Rouse's the next few Saturdays, popcorn can be purchased from any of the Cub Scouts who attend Westminster!



## Ladies Lunch Bunch

The Westminster Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the last Friday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

They will meet on **September 30 at Salute Italian Restaurant** in Gulfport.

The location of the **October 28** meeting is to be determined.

See the bulletin, Westminster Welcome, or Rachel Price for more information.

# CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Sunday School for children and youth happens each week at 9:15 a.m.

How did you learn the story of Joshua fighting the battle of Jericho?

Westminster's kids read it from the Bible...and then acted it out! The day was complete with trumpets and "tumbling walls" made out of a homemade cake, courtesy of classmate Olivia Russell, with some help from her mom and big sisters. *Fun faith and fellowship like this happens each week, thanks to a dedicated crew of teachers and parents: All children are welcome to learn about Jesus Christ each week at 9:15 a.m.*



DOUGLAS CONNELLY  
**ANGELS**  
Leading Guard

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY:** Sundays at 9:15 a.m. Adult Education Class led by Ted Hammer, in-person in the Library. Don't miss the fellowship and deep discussion of important topics in Westminster's Adult Sunday School class each week.



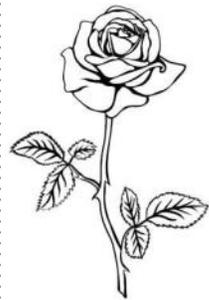
**Current study:** "Angels Standing Guard" by Douglas Connelly **Description:** Do angels really have wings? Do they protect people from harm? Can people become angels after death? Misconceptions about angels abound--in books, in movies and on talk shows. In this eight-session Bible Study, Douglas Connelly explores with you what the Bible really says about angels, including their service to God and their ministry to people.



**GIRL SCOUT TROOP UPDATE:** Troop 3542 is having a great Fall! On September 12, Wildlife on the Geaux came to our troop meeting and talked about the importance of proper care for exotic animals. So much fun! October will be a particularly special month for our troop and for Girl Scouts everywhere, as we celebrate our

founder, Juliette Gordon Low, who was born in October 31. During this month, we'll talk about the values we hold dear and think about how we can live them out in our community.

### IN MEMORIAM



*Bucky Houtz, son of Dot Houtz,  
who died September 6.*

*Tricia Weatherly Graves, who died  
September 9.*

*B.J. Muller, who died September 9.*



Westminster has an Amazon Smile account.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/64-0386498>



Alcoholics Anonymous meets weekly on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the C.E. Building. For more information, call the church office at (228) 864-3143.

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The sign up sheet for sanctuary flowers is posted on the bulletin board next to the nursery. *A link to an online signup chart is also available at [gulfportchurch.org](http://gulfportchurch.org).*

### ONLINE AND APP-BASED GIVING

Westminster is now set up for online and app-based giving. Visit [gulfportchurch.org](http://gulfportchurch.org) to give online, or download the secure Tithely app from Android or Apple to your phone and search for Westminster to give via app. For additional information, please call the church office at (228) 864-3143.



**UPCOMING IN WORSHIP**

Westminster will continue in its year-long lectionary readings, which will give an overview of Jesus's life and work through the course of one calendar year.

- October 2: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Rev. John Culp, guest preacher. Romans 6:23. The celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be delayed to the second Sunday of October.
- October 9: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Matthew 22:1-14. The parable of the wedding feast. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
- October 16: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Matthew 22:15-22. Rendering God's things to God and Caesar's things to Caesar.
- October 23: Nineteenth in Ordinary Time. Matthew 21:23-32: The Great Commandment. The Young Rejoicers will sing in worship.
- October 30: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time & Reformation Sunday. Jesus calls out the scribes and pharisees. Bagpiper Elizabeth Doss will play during worship.

**REFORMATION SUNDAY & FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK**

On October 30, Westminster will observe Reformation Sunday, the day that commemorates Martin Luther's proposing of 95 theses for debate in the Western church. Bagpiper Elizabeth Doss will return to offer special music. **Don't miss! This Sunday will also include a Fifth Sunday potluck lunch after worship. Bring your favorite dish to share.**

**CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY COMPLETED**

Westminster's congregational survey closed, after a brief extension, on September 21. More than 50 people responded, which far exceeded the survey company's recommendation of at least 30% participation. The raw data, which covers 32 pages, has been distributed to the session for review. A good deal of work will now begin to take the information and turn it into plans to guide the church in its future programs and ministries.

The break down of responses was as follows:

- Gender: 31 (women), 20 (men)
- Age: 3 (30-39), 7 (40-49), 4 (50-59), 9 (60-69), 28 (70+)
- Years as Church Member: 3 (<1 year), 10 (1-5 years), 10 (6-10 years), 28 (>11 years)
- Years as a Christian: 51 (>11 years)
- Weekly Hours in WPC Ministry: 7 (<1 hour), 39 (1-5 hours), 4 (6-10 hours), 1 (>11)



In terms of very preliminary highlights, according to those surveyed, Westminster perceived itself to be most healthy in the following:

- Prayer: The belief that prayer works, and that the Bible teaches prayer should be a daily part of life.
- Worship: That our sanctuary is a good place to worship, and that parking is accessible.
- Fellowship: That there is a healthy relationship between the congregation and church staff, and that members feel as if they belong to the church.
- Ministry: That Westminster is willing to minister to people regardless of ethnic background, and that people are personally willing to serve in the church.
- Discipleship: That Westminster's members know what they believe as Christians and why, and that participants are maturing in their faith.
- Evangelism: That Westminster has a healthy mission budget and supports missionaries generously.

Conversely, Westminster perceived itself to have the most room for growth in the following:

- Prayer: That finding 30-60 minutes for daily prayer is increasingly hard, and more time should be directed to praying for non-Christians by name.
- Worship: That participation in congregational singing is lacking.
- Fellowship: That encouraging one another to holiness should be increased, and a greater openness to ministry beyond the church members' needs should be sought.
- Ministry: That Westminster members' spiritual gifts are underused while a small number of people do a large portion of the church's work.
- Discipleship: That Westminster's members are under-involved in regular Bible study.
- Evangelism: That Westminster is under-involved in new church development efforts.

Look in upcoming newsletters for more information and analysis from this survey.

**SESSION NEWS**

At its September stated meeting, Westminster's session elected its committee chairs and officers for the 2022-2023 year:

- Clerk of Session: Buddy Weir\*
- Assistant Clerk of Session: Chip Westbrook
- Treasurer: Jane Bloss
- Assistant Treasurer: Rachel Price
- Congregational Life: Karen Barnard
- Discipleship Formation: Ted Hammer
- Missions and Outreach: Brenda Pace
- Nominating: Chip Westbrook+
- Property: Cummings King
- Stewardship: Amy Underhill
- Worship: Rachel Price

\*Not serving as a current elder on session.  
 +Elected by congregation previously.

The session also set its regular stated meeting schedule: It will meet the third Monday of each month in the Library at 6 p.m. beginning in October.

Please see any of Westminster's current session members to learn more about the church's current ministries and to learn more about becoming an active part of them.

**HANDBELLS**

Would you like to try handbells this Advent? Our organist, Bob Chism, is looking for folks who would be open to playing simple pieces during Advent, particularly on the first Sunday, November 27. Rehearsals will be immediately following worship November 6, 13 and 20. Please see Bob with questions and for more information.



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

This year, the Sunday School children are participating in their very own service project through Operation Christmas Child. In early December, the children will pack boxes of toys, school supplies, and other needed items for children around the world. In each box will also be a short message about the meaning of Jesus's birth. The children hope to be able to contribute 50 or more of these boxes this year. Will you help them? This month, the children are collecting socks of any child or youth's sizes, which can be found online or at stores like Walmart, Target, Old Navy, etc. All items for Operation Christmas Child can be left in the red Mission Cart in the narthex.



**October**

- 1 Riley Pickich
- 2 Jerrye Tisdale
- 2 Chip Westbrook
- 8 Peter Russell
- 9 Ben Taylor
- 11 Marley Pickich
- 12 Carl Parker Jr.
- 15 Justin Cuevas
- 17 Cindy Taylor
- 19 Louis Congleton
- 20 Millie Pittman

**October (continued)**

- 28 Carmen Allen
- 29 Amelia Allen
- 29 Donna Smith
- 31 Emily Winter

**November**

- 3 Amelia Hopkins
- 7 Rachel Price
- 18 Jeanel Pettey
- 20 Dee Lineberger
- 24 Patty McKinley

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT**

**NOVEMBER 13:** Advent Festival after worship. *The whole congregation is invited to stay for a light lunch and to make Advent crafts, wreaths, and other art projects to prepare for Christmas.*

**NOVEMBER 20:** Joint Thanksgiving Service with Trinity United Methodist Church and St. Mark's Episcopal Church. 6 p.m. at Westminster.

**NOVEMBER 27, DECEMBER 4, 11, AND 18:** Advent musical vespers service. *These 30-minute prayer gatherings, based on the "Holden Evening Prayer" service Westminster used several years ago, will begin at 7 p.m. each Sunday of Advent. Would you like to be part of a small choir to help lead the congregation in song? There will be one rehearsal on November 20 at 5 p.m.*

**DECEMBER 24:** Christmas Eve Service of Worship. *There will be one Christmas Eve service this year, with an emphasis on lessons and carols, at 6 p.m.*

**DECEMBER 25:** Service for the Lord's Day. *This come-as-you-are service at 10:30 a.m. will be designed for children to learn the meaning of Jesus's birth.*

**JANUARY 1:** Service for the Lord's Day. *This service will feature a hymn sing particularly focused on music from "The Sounding Joy," or "the green hymnal."*

**SCHOOL CODES:**

- Bayou View Elem.: 70058691
- Bayou View Middle: 70058689
- Gulfport High: 70058688

# OCTOBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m.		Prayer Group, 10 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.	Lunch Bunch at Salute, 11:30 a.m.	
Gulfport Schools - Intersession						
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. <i>No LifeHouse Youth</i>	Missions Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	Prayer Group, 10 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m. Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6:30 p.m.		
Gulfport Schools - Intersession						
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Communion / Worship, 10:30 a.m. Hamburger luncheon after worship. LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m.	Girl Scouts, 6 p.m. Cub Scouts, 6 p.m.	Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	Stewardship Meeting, 1 p.m.	AA Meeting, 6 p.m. Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6:30 p.m.		
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m.		Gulfport School District Strategic Planning Meeting, 9 a.m. Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	Session Meeting, 6 p.m.	AA Meeting, 6 p.m. Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	MGCCC Choral Concert, 7 p.m.	
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m.		Prayer Group, 10 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m. Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	Lunch Bunch at 11:30 a.m.	<i>Fall Festival 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</i>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. <i>No LifeHouse Youth</i>	  	Prayer Group, 10 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m. Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6:30 p.m.		



**WESTMINSTER**  
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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**



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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Fall Festival: October 29

Reformation Day: October 30

Advent Fest: November 13