



***Inside this edition***

- Fall Festival, page 1
- Reformation Sunday, page 1
- Cub Scouts, page 2
- MGCCC Choir Concert, page 2
- LifeHouse Youth, page 3
- Stewardship, page 3
- Lunch Bunch, page 3
- Girl Scouts, page 4
- Fall Festival photos, insert
- Upcoming in Worship, page 5
- Advent, page 5
- Birthdays, page 6
- Calendar, page 7



**FALL FESTIVAL**

Who said a little rain could cancel Westminster’s annual Fall Festival? Westminster welcomed a crowd of approximately 400 neighbors and friends on October 29 for fun, food, and good fellowship. When the weather began to look ominous, the Fall Festival planners showed a remarkable level of adaptability, and moved swaths of the festivities into the church buildings. By God’s grace, the weather held long enough for the Sheriff’s train, the dunk tank, the bounce house, and the Gulfport Fire Department and Police Department displays to operate outside for nearly half of the festival’s time.

As always, Westminster is grateful to its members, friends, and LifeHouse Youth for giving of themselves to make this outreach possible, and acknowledges the following outside groups, in addition to the above, who participated:



- Rock N’ Roll Sushi, hot dogs
- Lynn Meadows Discovery Center
- Salute Italian Restaurant, door prize
- Mississippi Aquarium, door prize
- Cub Scout Pack 209, popcorn
- Cade Meyers, live music
- St. John’s Pipers, bagpipe band
- Allen Beverages, water and Hog Wash drinks

Please continue to pray for those who attended the Fall Festival, and consider ways you can help make next year’s even better.

*See the center insert for additional pictures.*

**REFORMATION SUNDAY & FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK**

On October 30, Westminster celebrated the 505<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation on Reformation Sunday. The day’s worship liturgy nodded to John Calvin’s liturgical forms, which he adapted for the Swiss cities of Strasbourg and Geneva, to return worship in those places to its biblical roots and early church practices. Elizabeth Doss and Terry Campbell returned to offer music for bagpipe and drum to reflect the Presbyterian church’s historical roots in the Scottish Reformation. Following worship, the congregation enjoyed a potluck lunch—with fried chicken as its centerpiece—and heard updates on the 2022-2023 stewardship campaign.



**A NOTE FROM FALL FESTIVAL CHAIR, KAREN BARNARD:**

I personally want to thank everyone involved in planning and volunteering for the Fall Festival this year. I feel it was a great success and went really well despite the bad weather. It takes a lot of time and effort but with everyone involved, I feel like this year's could have been the best Fall Festival yet! We learn something new every year and now we know we can host it right on the grounds of Westminster. It turned out perfect again. Thank you!

**CUB SCOUT PACK 209**

Cub Scout Pack 209 has been busy this month! The fourth and fifth grades learned about local flora and fauna—particularly poison ivy, oak, and sumac, along with a host of venomous snakes and spiders—from Harrison County Extension Agent Tim Ray. They took their new skills into the wild with a guided hike through Camp Wilkes in Biloxi. At October's pack meeting, all of the new Bobcat ranks—the first rank in cub scouting—were presented to a whole host of new scouts. In November, the boys will be participating in their annual Scouting for Food project in College Park, which benefits food pantries like Feed My Sheep and St. Vincent de Paul. They will also host at the Harrison County Sherriff's Farm their first campout of the year.



**MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONCERTS AT WESTMINSTER:** The choir of Mississippi Gulf Coast

Community College's Harrison County campus will present their annual Christmas choral concert in Westminster's sanctuary on Tuesday, December 6 at 7 p.m. The concert will free and open to the public.

This will be the second MGCCC choral concert at Westminster this Fall. More than 60 young people presented the college's Fall concert on October 21. The artistry and varied program was truly outstanding: Please consider making the Christmas concert part of your plans and invite neighbors. Not only will this performance provide great entertainment, but it offers Westminster the chance to show Christian hospitality and welcome to college-age students it would not otherwise meet.



**LIFEHOUSE YOUTH UPDATE FROM ALICE BELLANGER**

LifeHouse Youth Group was busy during the month of October!! At our October 9th meeting, we celebrated National Taco Day (a few days late ☺) with "Walking Tacos" provided with a generous donation from Mr. & Mrs. Frank Scott. We had a great time talking about the sweets & sour of the previous week, helping each other, congratulating each other and leaning on each other for support.



At Our October 16th & October 23rd meetings we had delicious food provided by Melissa Russell and her family and Pat West! We had great meetings on both Sundays, coming up with a service project plan to help a needy family during Thanksgiving have a wonderful meal. I'm really looking forward to it!



We volunteered at the Fall Festival on October 29th and had SO MUCH FUN!!!



Looking forward, our dates for November are the 6th, 13th (Advent Festival) and the 27th (The Peppermint Pops concert).

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE FROM STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR, AMY UNDERHILL**

Thank you to all who have responded to our pledge campaign! We so appreciate your acknowledgement of the effort to fund the church's ministries, and we are so grateful to those who were able to financially support Westminster's future with a pledge. If you



haven't already, please share the reason you are committed to Westminster's future by writing it on one of the pledge panes on the stained glass replica in the Narthex--and check out why others are committed, too!

If you haven't responded, please return your card (or reply on the website or via the QR code below) this week to show your support for Westminster, even if you can't make a financial commitment at this time. As of today, we have responses from just shy of 50% of our member families, and we need to hear from you to get to 100%!

If you are able to make a financial pledge, please prayerfully consider your contribution. We are at \$184,240 of our needed \$350,000. The narrative budget you received in the mail outlined budget needs by ministry--each of these is vital, and every dollar pledged helps make them possible!

Again, thank you to all who have responded--doing so enables your session to plan for 2023 and ensure Westminster continues its mission to bear witness to God's love for the world in Jesus Christ.



*Ladies Lunch Bunch*

The Westminster Ladies Lunch Bunch ordinarily meets the last Friday of each month at 11:30 a.m. However, the November meeting of Lunch Bunch will be on **December 2 at The Chimneys Restaurant in Gulfport.**

*(This is in lieu of meeting on our regular meeting date which falls the day after Thanksgiving.)*

Please RSVP to Rachel Price or see her for additional information.

**SHARE YOUR PICTURES**

Pictures tell stories words simply cannot always



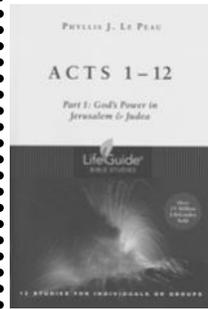
convey. If you take snapshots of events in the life of Westminster, would you share them with us? Email them to [office@gulfportchurch.org](mailto:office@gulfportchurch.org) or include the hashtag #loveGodloveGulfport on Facebook or Instagram! You may see your photography in an upcoming newsletter.

# CHILDREN'S Sunday School

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

Children of all ages meet every Sunday to learn from well-prepared teachers more about the faith into which they were baptized. Students are currently learning Old Testament stories that form the foundation of Christian discipleship. So far we have learned about -- and acted out -- stories of Joshua, David, Abraham, and many more.

All children are welcome to learn about Jesus Christ each week at 9:15 a.m.



**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:** "Acts 1-12, Part 1: God's Power in Jerusalem & Judea" by Phyllis J. Le Peau.

**Description:** Do you ever feel powerless? The people of the early church discovered what true power looks like. Jesus transformed their lives—and they changed the world! Acts is the extraordinary record of what these early Christian disciples did. The power that you see in action in this book is the same power that can transform your life. As Phyllis J. Le Peau leads you through the first half of Acts in this twelve-session study you will begin to understand what the Holy Spirit can do in you and in the world.

## GIRL SCOUT TROOP UPDATE FROM ANNA KATE SHURLEY:

In October, our Girl Scouts celebrated our founder's birthday--and our love of scouting--with a lovely tea party in the fellowship hall. Scouts decorated pumpkins, ate yummy snacks, and thought about the things that are most important to us. In November, our troop will gather at Feed My Sheep to learn more about this important ministry and to decorate the dining room for Thanksgiving. We have a lot for which to be thankful, including our troop, our community, and our friends at WPC! Thank you for continuing to support us!



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.



Simply make a purchase of qualifying products, provide our school ID at checkout and we'll receive 5% back in credits for FREE supplies.

**SCHOOL CODES:**  
Bayou View Elem.: 70058691  
Bayou View Middle: 70058689  
Gulfport High: 70058688

### 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**

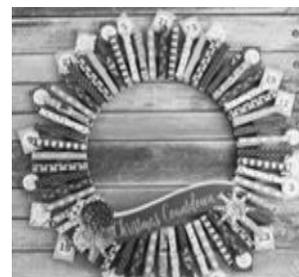
Westminster will continue in its year-long lectionary readings, which will give an overview of Jesus's life and work through the course of one calendar year.

- November 6: *Twenty-first in Ordinary Time*. Matthew 25:1-13. The parable of the ten virgins awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom. *The celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*.
- November 13: *Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Matthew 25:14-30. The parable of servants and their handling of their master's money.
- November 20: *Christ the King Sunday*. Matthew 25:31-46. The end of the Christian year: Jesus tells of the final judgment through the parable of the sheep and goats.
- November 27: *First Sunday of Advent*. John 1:1-5. Through the prologue to John's Gospel account, the church learns of the eternal, pre-existent Christ.

**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 wreaths. These wreaths will include 24 scripture readings coordinated to this year's Advent Reading Guide and will provide a great devotional resource for all ages.*

**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 services, 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 4 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."*

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDES**

Pastor Will is working on a follow up to this year's Lenten devotional guide for the coming Advent season. It will feature each week's Sunday morning liturgy as well as daily scripture readings that will be part of the Advent Festival's Advent wreath craft. The guide will focus on four aspects of the Christ: His eternal existence, prophecies pointing to his Incarnation, the announcement of his first coming, and the prophecies of his coming again. Look for the guides in the narthex beginning November 20.

**WE NEED OUR SINGERS!** Since the beginning of COVID-19, Westminster's choir has been on an extended hiatus. While returning to a weekly choir in worship is not quite possible at this time, we need voices to help lead the congregation in song. Singers are welcome to sit in the chancel during worship to help lead hymns on Sunday morning, and we hope many will participate in some, if not all, of our Advent evening meditations (see adjacent). The rehearsal for these meditations will be at 4 p.m. on November 20, before the joint Thanksgiving service.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** It is time to place your orders for poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary in memory or honor of loved ones this Christmas. The poinsettias will be \$11 a piece. Orders at the nursery are due early this year: Please have your orders placed by **Monday, November 28**.

To cover the whole cost of flowers on Sunday mornings, including taxes and delivery fees, the cost to place flowers in the sanctuary will be \$55 in 2023. Flower orders may be placed on the sign up sheet in the main hallway or through [gulfportchurch.org](http://gulfportchurch.org).



Boy Scout Troop 209 - Hiking at Black Creek Trail

**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.



**November**

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

**December**

- 1 Will Symmes
- 3 Melanie Gilgan
- 3 Shere Murray
- 4 Dona Haynes
- 4 Carol Wood

**December (continued)**

- 6 Mary Davis
- 7 Carter Congleton
- 10 Betty Shaw
- 11 Lil McCollum
- 12 Kelly Cuevas
- 13 Jenny Ellzey
- 13 Braxton Williams
- 23 Susan Blanchard
- 25 Annie Winter
- 26 Oliver Shurley
- 30 Milton Harris
- 31 Jim Roberts

**GULFPORT: CITY OF LIGHT PRAYER GATHERINGS**

Local church leaders along with the Coast Ecumenical Fellowship have come together to host a series of prayer services in each of the City of Gulfport's seven wards between now and Easter. The purpose of these gatherings is four-fold:

- That, through prayer, the Holy Spirit would work across the city to make Gulfport a city of light.
- That, through prayer, the Lord will bless and protect the citizens of Gulfport from the enemy who comes to steal, kill, and destroy.
- That local Christians will find real communities of friendship in faith and partners in ministry.
- That churches and Christians in each ward will begin to form partnerships to live out the Gospel together.

Westminster will host the Ward 4 prayer gathering on December 13 at 6 p.m.

Ward 2: First United Methodist Church. October 4 at 6 p.m.

Ward 3: Shiloh Baptist Church. November 1 at 7 p.m.

Ward 5: Coast Life Church. January 10 at 6 p.m.

Ward 6: First Baptist Church. February 7 at 6 p.m.

Ward 7: Grace Truth Baptist Church. March 7 at 6 p.m.

A city-wide final prayer gathering will be April 4 at Jones Park following the city's annual Easter Egg Hunt.

**WHAT IS BETTER THAN A DONUT?**



Sharing a donut with our church family on Sunday morning! We love having folks bring donuts to church: Would you like to get in on this weekly treat? We are looking for volunteers to bring 2-3 dozen donuts to the narthex by -or-during the 9:15 a.m. Sunday school hour. You pick your favorites: Glazed, chocolate, cake. Just place them on the table near the curio cabinet! Sign up to volunteer when you get your donut this week!

**NEW MEMBERS**

Westminster's session welcomed Susan and Al Littell into covenant membership at its meeting in October. The Littells will be presented before the congregation at an upcoming service of worship.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Will Daniel, grandson of Milton Harris.

*Many thanks to everyone who provided food and manpower to host a reception at Westminster following Will's funeral service.*



# NOVEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<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. Reformation Sunday/Worship, 10:30 a.m. Potluck after morning worship. <i>No LifeHouse Youth</i>		Prayer Group, 10 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.  Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6 p.m.		
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Communion / Worship, 10:30 a.m. Handbells practice after morning worship LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m.	Cub Scouts - Lions, 6 p.m.  Missions Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	Stewardship Meeting, 1 p.m.	AA Meeting, 6 p.m.  Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6 p.m.  Cub Scouts - Webelos, 6 p.m.		
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Handbells practice after morning worship. Advent Festival after morning worship. <i>No LifeHouse Youth evening meeting.</i>	Girl Scouts, 6 p.m.  Cub Scouts Pack, 6 p.m.	Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	Session Meeting, 6 p.m.	AA Meeting, 6 p.m.  Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6:30 p.m.		
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Handbells practice after morning worship <i>No LifeHouse Youth</i> Joint Thanksgiving Service at Westminster, 6 p.m.	Cub Scouts - Webelos, 6 p.m.	Prayer Group, 10 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.  	Church office closed	
GSD Thanksgiving Holidays						
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. LifeHouse Youth at Peppermint Pops Symphony, 4 p.m. Advent Evening Service, 7 p.m.	Cub Scouts - Webelos, 6 p.m.  Cub Scouts - Tigers, 6 p.m.	Prayer Group, 10 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.	Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.	



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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**Advent Fest**  
*for all ages:*  
November 13  
after morning worship

  
**WESTMINSTER**  
presbyterian church | epc  
phone 228.864.3143  
[gulfportchurch.org](http://gulfportchurch.org)



**Community  
Thanksgiving Service:**  
November 20, 6 p.m.  
at Westminster