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LIFEHOUSE YOUTH UPDATE

LifeHouse Youth Group has had a wonderful Spring so far! After our extremely successful yard sale, some of our members went to First Baptist Church in Gulfport for the Love and Light concert on April 7th. The next Sunday, we attended Hope Fest, at Barksdale Pavilion at Jones Park. It was a wonderful time for great food (the Mexican street corn was delicious) and fellowship, not to mention music! The last couple of Sundays we've been busy working on our Youth Sunday service, which is May 19th!



We meet June 2nd for a regular meeting and then we'll have a party to start the summer at Big Play!!! Details on the party are coming soon, so stay tuned!



CITY OF LIGHT HOPEFEST



The 2023-2024 City of Light prayer gatherings culminated in a three-day HopeFest in Jones Park. The HopeFest events combined worship, fellowship, and social services under the Barksdale Pavilion roof. The event, which featured music, testimonies, prayer, and opportunities for residents to connect with helping groups, drew together people from local churches and the community at large. Pastor Will Shurley represented Westminster on the second night of the gathering as one of its prayer leaders and emcees.

MISSION COMMITTEE BREAKFAST AT CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Mission Committee was invited to provide a light breakfast for the faculty at Gulfport's Central Middle School as part of their annual teacher appreciation program. The committee members brought doughnuts, Chick-fil-A Chick-n-Minis, yogurt, fruit, and juice. Pete Bloss, Jane Bloss, and Pastor Will Shurley delivered and served them April 24 at 6:30 a.m. Westminster gives a big thank you to all of the educators that serve our children!



AIR CONDITIONER REPLACEMENTS



In 2018, the session hired a firm to complete reviews of Westminster’s electrical and mechanical systems. Since that time, the session, through the property committee, in order to ensure adequate funding for necessary repair and replacement work, has kept a particularly close eye on four air conditioner compressors—two in the Fellowship Hall and two in the Sanctuary—that have neared the end of their regular life spans.

In the last week of April, one of the two compressors that serve the Fellowship Hall failed. The session has authorized the replacement of the failed compressor, which was completed May 3, and ongoing replacement of the other three units as new ones become available for purchase at reasonable prices.

The cost to replace the two Fellowship Hall units is expected to be \$8,200 total, which will be drawn from the church’s Building Fund. The Building Fund exists to allow Westminster to absorb costs for significant repairs to the building and its systems. It was created, and has been maintained by, any annual budget surpluses, bequests, and contributions by members and friends over and above regular tithes. For more information about the Building Fund, please see Treasurer Jane Bloss.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Many things happen behind the scenes at Westminster to keep the church running smoothly and to God’s glory.

Thank you to Rosemary Chaloult, Susan Bourne, and Debby Lipely who faithfully fold bulletins each week and newsletters each month: We appreciate your work!



WILL YOU LEND A HAND IN WORSHIP?

Each week, a small pool of volunteers operate the sanctuary’s sound system and livestream camera. Would you be willing to help by being on our substitute list? These two systems are relatively simple to learn, and allow people to hear—and especially for shut ins and prospective visitors—to see what we do in worship. Youth are welcome to help! Simply see Chip Westbrook after worship to schedule an orientation to our equipment.



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday Mornings: "Life in the Spirit"

Westminster has concluded its 31-week journey through the Bible using "The Story," a highly-readable and abridged version of the Bible using selections from the New International Version (NIV). To follow up on this church-wide gathering, sermons this summer and fall will return to passages that will enable deeper study of themes "The Story" covered quickly.



Life in the Spirit

May 5: Born of the Spirit: John 3:1-8. *Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

May 12: Receiving the Spirit: Galatians 3:1-14

May 19: Break in Series: Youth Sunday

May 26: Memorial Day Weekend: Chaplain Jason Gregory preaching

June 2: Filled with the Spirit: Ephesians 5:1-20. *Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

June 9: Walking with the Spirit: Galatians 5:16-26

June 16: Gifts from the Spirit: I Corinthians 12:1-11

Guest Preachers

June 23: Elder Ted Hammer

June 30: Chaplain Jason Gregory

July 7: The Rev. Sam Clark

Ephesians: Paul's Pastoral Word for the Church
Begins July 14

Westminster Choir

Want to make a joyful noise with some great folks?

Westminster's choir sings occasionally in worship, and practices each Sunday at 10 a.m.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

JUNE 24-28

We can't wait for Camp Firelight this summer! Children in grades K-5 will enjoy Bible lessons, crafts, music, science, snacks, and so much more as



they explore what it means to trust in God. Would you like to register a little one? Visit

gulfportchurch.org or call the office at (228) 864-3143.

Would you like to volunteer? See Garnie Dubuisson, Mary Ellen Thornhill, Susan Littell, or any member of the Discipleship Formation committee.



REVELATION BIBLE STUDY



Revelation: A Study

Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.
April 9-June 4 (except May 7)

Westminster began a new study on Revelation April 9. This weekly gathering will continue through June 4 each Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., with the exception of May 7. *Did you miss the first study? No worries: Come on to the next one.*

April 9: Opening Session

Introductory matters and Revelation 1:1-8

April 16: Christ's Message to the Churches

Revelation 1:9-3:22

April 23: On Earth as It Is in Heaven: A Call to Worship

Revelation 4:1-5:14

April 30: The Seven Seals

Revelation 6:1-8:1

May 7: Break

May 14: The Seven Trumpets

Revelation 8:2-11:19

May 21: The Unholy Trinity

Revelation 12:1-14:20

May 28: The Seven Bowls

Revelation 15:1-19:10

June 4: The End: Victory Belongs to the Lamb

Revelation 19:11-22

Can't make Tuesday during the day? If you and a group of Westminster members or friends would like to form an evening study on Revelation, please contact Pastor Will and he will be glad to help establish another opportunity to meet.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—FOR ALL AGES: Adults and children of all ages meet every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. to learn from well-prepared teachers more about the faith into which they were baptized. In September, all classes began using our church-wide study “The Story” as the basis for their curriculum. Children’s classes meet in the Christian Education Building and the adult class meets in the Library.

MAKING CHANGE

For the last two years, Westminster’s Sunday School children have participated in the Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child. The church’s young people are grateful to everyone who has helped them collect items for shoeboxes full of goodies, which have been shipped to children across the world.



This year, the session has authorized the children to place a glass container in the narthex near the Operation Christmas Child collection area. Would you help them by dropping in any spare change you might have throughout this year? These coins will help defray shipping costs for the shoeboxes the Sunday School children send this Christmas.

SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS



Westminster Diners: Many thanks to Amy and Eli Underhill who hosted an all-church Diners picnic on April 27 at Circle Hook Distillery. More than 40 people brought favorite dishes to accompany a big supply of fried chicken. Attendees enjoyed beautiful weather, distillery tours, and a giant game of Jenga.



Lunch Bunch: The ladies Lunch Bunch will gather at 11:30 a.m. on May 31 at The Great Southern Club in downtown Gulfport. All women are welcome!

Rise and Shine: The men’s Rise and Shine breakfast continues monthly at the Gulfport Cracker Barrel. All men are welcome at 7 a.m. The May gathering will be May 7.

Wind Down: The women’s Wind Down social meets ordinarily on the second Wednesday of each month. The May gathering will be May 8 at the home of Anna Kate Shurley at 6 p.m.

Revelation Bible Study: A new study through Revelation began April 9. This group will meet each Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and a walk through the text. Many thanks to Paula and Cummings King and Pastor Will Shurley for providing lunch April 23 and 30. Melissa Russell and Susan and Al Littell will provide lunch on May 14 and 21. **No class May 7.** See below for schedule and outline.

DR. AND MRS. C.A. WALKER, JR. SCHOLARSHIP



Do you have a college student in your immediate family? Applications are now open for the Dr. C.A. and Helen Walker Scholarship. These scholarships, funded by generous gifts in member of Dr. and Mrs. Walker, both charter members of Westminster, are awarded on an annual basis depending on the endowment’s returns.

Applications are invited to apply before May 31, 2024, by sending a scholarship request along with your college plans to:
 Dr. and Mrs. C.A. Walker, Jr. Scholarship Foundation
 c/o Westminster Presbyterian Church
 5005 Lawson Ave.
 Gulfport, MS 39507

ORGAN UPDATE: After several days of work by Westminster’s insurance company’s preferred organ technician, the pipe organ functions again! According to the technician, a series of corroded wires caused a “grand cipher,” or a phenomenon in which all 37 ranks would play each time a key was pressed. (You may have heard this in worship back in March: It was an awful sound.) The amount of electricity this caused to flow through the circuitry in the console and in the pipe chambers caused the surge that blew a series five-amp fuses.

Now that the electrical components are working again, the church will need to continue the organ’s ongoing maintenance, which includes tuning, restoring dead notes, and possible resealing of wind chests that are reaching the end of their normal lifespans.



In the meantime, it is so good to have the instrument available to accompany the congregation in worship.



GET TO KNOW YOUR CHURCH: JOIN A FELLOWSHIP GROUP THIS YEAR

Did you know that Westminster has many opportunities for its members and friends to enjoy each other's company? As part of the church's strategic plan, Westminster encourages each member to be a part of a group outside of worship—and to invite friends to join in.

Adult Sunday School

Meets each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Library.
Class covers various biblical and theological topics throughout the year.
Contact: Ted Hammer

Children's Sunday School

Meets each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the CE Building.
Young children learn basic bible stories and youth learn more about their theological heritage.
Contact: Mary Ellen Thornhill

Prayer Group

Meets each Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Library
Participants manage the weekly prayer list, pray for the church and world, and participate in monthly communion at Summerfield.
Contact: Karen Barnard, Rosemary Chaloult, or Lynda Gary

LifeHouse Youth

Meets three Sundays a month at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and Youth Room.
Group explores biblical and theological topics and their application to real life.
Contact: Alice Bellanger

NEW: LifeHouse Families

Families and children travel periodically for a fun activity such as bowling, movie nights, etc.
Contact: Alice Bellanger

Westminster Diners

Meets monthly in private homes or a restaurant for fellowship.
Contact: Karen Barnard

Lunch Bunch

Meets last Friday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in a local restaurant for fellowship.
May 31 meeting will be at The Great Southern Club in downtown Gulfport.
Contact: Rachel Price

NEW: Rise and Shine Men's Breakfast

Meets first Tuesdays at 7 a.m. at Gulfport's Cracker Barrel for fellowship.
Contact: Will Shurley or Jason Gregory

NEW: Wind Down Women's Social

Meets monthly on a Wednesday at 6 p.m. for fellowship. The May 8 meeting will be at Anna Kate Shurley's home.
Contact: Anna Kate Shurley

Adult Choir and Special Music

Meets Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. to prepare to lead the congregation in worship.
Contact: Jeanie Pollard

Also during the year, Westminster hosts occasional confirmation and communicant classes for youth and children and weekday bible studies. Look in upcoming newsletters for more information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May	June
1 Peter Gregory	8 Hudson Williams
4 Chad Bryant	8 Haynes Nault
4 Tristan Mahand	11 Stacy Pair
6 Caroline Underhill	12 Sophia Batson
9 Colt Busby	13 Karen Barnard
15 Theresa Moncrief	19 Linda Necaise
16 Owen Bellanger	21 Analeise Williams
23 Christine Mahand	23 Eliza Williams
23 Donna Gewin	24 Eddie Wilson
24 Virginia Shurley	25 Jeannie Congleton
25 Rena Dukes	27 Summer Hewes
27 Ayden Pickich	29 Walter Dukes
30 Cummings King	




WHERE CAN YOU HELP?

Would you like to share a musical talent in worship? Visit Westminster's homebound member? Help keep the grounds looking spiffy? Please contact our session committee chairs for more information about opportunities to serve.

- ◇ Chip Westbrook: Stewardship
- ◇ Scott Winter: Worship
- ◇ Lynda Gary: Discipleship Formation
- ◇ Ted Hammer: Congregational Life
- ◇ Rachel Price: Missions
- ◇ Cummings King or Jim Roberts: Property
- ◇ Ted Hammer: Nominating

 **TITHE.LY** ONLINE AND APP-BASED GIVING
Westminster is set up for online and app-based giving. Visit 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.

 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.



Girl Scout Troop 3542 Update from Jeannie Conleton:

We had a lot of fun exploring different museums this Spring. We have visited Traintastic Train Museum, Infinity Science Center, and Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art. At Traintastic everyone enjoyed scavenger hunts, engineering, pretend play, and riding the trains. We were able to attend a Space Explorer class at Infinity Science Center, explore the exhibits, earn a Scouts in Space badge, and watch a 3D movie about the ocean. At the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art the girls began their day with a museum tour, where they learned about Biloxi potter George Ohr and internationally acclaimed architect Frank Gehry. Following the tour, they participated in a clay activity where they were able to build and glaze a ceramic house inspired by the museum's art and architecture and earned a Mad Potter patch. We are looking forward to our end of year potluck and bridging ceremony in May, and we are so thankful for the support of Westminster Presbyterian Church.



HOME COMMUNION AND COMMUNION AT SUMMERFIELD: Westminster is a community of faith that gathers to worship the risen Lord, to hear his Word, and to partake of his sacraments. Gathering for worship is the most basic right and responsibility of church membership: Neglecting to meet together does harm to the spiritual growth of the individual and also to the spiritual health of the church body overall.

However, the session knows well there are members of our church who by virtue of health or other condition simply cannot leave their homes or gather in a crowd; otherwise, they would joyfully be part of the worshipping body. For those members, the session has long authorized home delivery of the communion elements by the pastor and a ruling elder. This home communion service is an extension of the Lord's Table around which the congregation has gathered for worship: A ruling elder is required to join the pastor in home communion, in fact, as he or she functions as a representative of the gathered congregation.



The session recognizes beloved members of this church have been confined to their homes and have missed the simple joys of going to restaurants, making grocery trips, and living life as we know it. We want to make sure the experience of God's love and grace as signified by the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is not something that must be missed. Providing for communion with God and one another is among the session's greatest joys and responsibilities.

Westminster continues to host a brief communion service at Summerfield Senior Living each month on the third Thursday at 2 p.m. Westminster members and friends are welcome to attend and to visit with Summerfield residents.

If you have been unable to leave your home, and would like to receive Communion, please let Pastor Will or any elder know: We will be happy to arrange it for you.

MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
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. Revelation Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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.		Rise & Shine Men's Breakfast, 7 a.m. Prayer Group, 10 a.m. <i>No Bible Study this week</i> Missions Committee, 6:30 p.m.	Wind Down Women's Social, 6 p.m. at Anna Kate Shurley's home.	AA Meeting, 6 p.m. Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6 p.m.		
 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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. Revelation Bible Study, 11:30 a.m. Discipleship Formation, 1 p.m.	Session Meeting, 6 p.m.	AA Meeting, 6 p.m.		
<i>Youth Sunday</i> 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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. Revelation Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
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>	 <i>Church office closed</i>	Prayer Group, 10 a.m. Revelation Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.	Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m. at The Great Southern Club.	



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

- ◇ **Rise and Shine Men’s Breakfast:** *Meets first Tuesdays at 7 a.m. at Gulfport’s Cracker Barrel for fellowship.*
- ◇ **Revelation Bible Study:** *Meets Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. (no meeting May 7)*
- ◇ **Wind Down Women’s Social:** *Meets May 8 at 6 p.m. at Anna Kate Shurley’s home.*
- ◇ **Lunch Bunch:** *Meets on May 31 at 11:30 a.m. at The Great Southern Club in downtown Gulfport.*



WESTMINSTER
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 phone 228.864.3143
 gulfportchurch.org



VBS
 JUNE 24-28, 9-11:30 A.M.
 K-5TH GRADES

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Scan QR or visit
gulfportchurch.org



REGISTER