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PULPIT SUPPLY UPDATE FROM CHIP WESTBROOK, CLERK OF SESSION AND SCOTT WINTER, WORSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

It is with great joy and anticipation that we announce the arrival of our Interim Pastor, Doctor Rhett G. Payne, III, who will be joining us during this time of transition. We are confident that Reverend Payne's experience and leadership will guide us as we continue to grow and serve together. Rhett, a native of Jackson, AL, did his undergraduate work at Oral Roberts University. Rhett received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Bible from Oral Roberts University in 1977. From there, he received two master's degrees from Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO – a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies in 1981 and a Master of Divinity in 1985. Finally, Rhett received the Doctor of Ministry degree from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, FL, in 1995. Rhett began in student ministry, serving four different churches over eleven years. The last of the four was the Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, MO. He co-founded EPC youth ministry (now "Student Ministries") in the late '80s. Rhett began his pastoral ministry as a church planter in Marshall, TX, serving as the founding pastor of EPC of Marshall, from 1985 until 1991. In 1991, he moved to Dallas, TX, to take over a "stalled" church plant, which at the time was called "Grace Church." Rhett served as the reorganizing pastor of Grace Church, which later changed its name to CrossPointe Community Church, from 1991 until 2002. In the summer of 2002, Rhett became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Meridian, MS, where he served until his retirement in April of 2025. Rhett has served in both the Presbytery of the Central South and now the Presbytery of the Gulf South for his entire pastoral ministry. He has chaired both the Nominating Committee and the New Church Development Committee, as well as the Church Health Committee. And in 2006, he served as the Moderator of the Central South Presbytery. Rhett and his wife, Donna, have been married for 50 years as of May 17. They have three adult children, five grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. Rhett & Donna will begin their ministry with us on Father's Day.



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE (PSC): The PSC asks that the congregation pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and blessing during the search process. The committee will meet next on Sunday, May 4 after morning worship.



LIFEHOUSE YOUTH UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR OF YOUTH, ALICE BELLANGER:

LifeHouse Youth Group has had a great year so far! We have gotten together for delicious food, fellowship and lots of fun! We have had some great discussions about what God's plan is for our lives; what our current struggles are at school and at home; and what our roles are in the church family.

We are going to meet May 4th and May 18th. Those dates are available to provide supper, if anyone wants to volunteer it will be greatly appreciated!





LifeHouse Youth bonfire at the Underhill's on Feb. 16.



Baptism of S. J. Stiglets on Mar. 2.



Baptism of Frankie Sutton on Mar. 30.



5th Sunday Potluck and farewell to Shurley family on Mar. 30.





Volunteers stuffing Easter Eggs



Palm Sunday Processional



Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Sunday Choir



Easter Sunday
Pastor Kyle Palmer giving the Charge and Benediction

THE GENESIS PROJECT

Westminster's new ministry to children at Pass Road Elementary School continues to go gangbusters. Each Wednesday after school ends, volunteers from the church host music, art, and Bible story lessons for 15 students on the Pass Road campus. *Interested in participating in or observing this meaningful work? See Jeanie Pollard for more information.*



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

May 4: Rev. Sonny Walker from Covenant Presbyterian, Mobile, AL

May 11: Chaplain Jason Gregory, NCBC Gulfport

May 18: Rev. Dr. Sam Clark

May 25: Rev. Kory Duncan, FPC Ocean Springs, MS

June 1: Wyatt Gregory, FPC Ocean Springs, MS

June 8: Rev. James Kirkendall

June 15: Rev. Dr. Rhett Payne, WPC Interim Pastor, formerly FPC Meridian, MS

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.



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!

Alcoholics Anonymous®

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.

WESTMINSTER'S DINERS CLUB

Westminster Diners is a church-wide supper club that meets monthly in a host home or at a local restaurant.

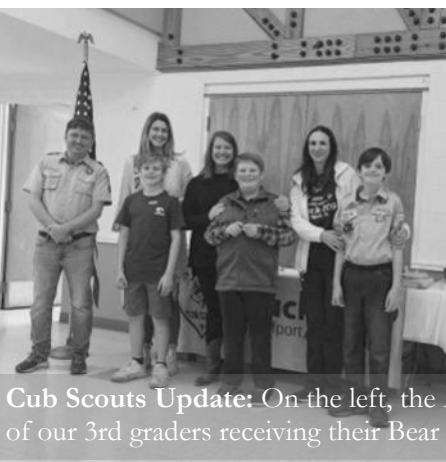
This ministry helps build meaningful relationships among members of the church.

The May meeting was hosted by Paula & Cummings King at Coterie Restaurant & Oyster Bar in Long Beach on May 4 after morning worship.

If you are interested in more information or in joining Westminster's Diners Club, please contact Teresa Alspaugh at (615)423-5653 or call the church office.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 3542 UPDATE FROM JEANNIE CONGLETON:

Girl Scout Troop 3542 has been busy so far this spring. Some of our scouts attended Scout Night at the Seawolves hockey game. They enjoyed spending time together, and participated in trivia at the game. We also visited Fisher Ranch. The girls were able to learn how to properly care for horses and even had the chance to go for a ride. Jeannie Congleton, Courtnay Bellanger, Olivia Bradley, Jennifer Hansen, Lily Congleton, Lilah Congleton, and Mackenzie Leonard attended the 2025 Girl Scout Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Camp Ita Kana. Courtnay Bellanger was a delegate for the 2025 Annual Meeting. Olivia Bradley received her 10 year volunteer pin. Jeannie Congleton received her 10 year volunteer pin and the Volunteer of Excellence Award. Lily, Lilah, and Mackenzie led the luncheon in the Girl Scout Promise and Law. We are looking forward to our troop bridging ceremony.



Cub Scouts Update: On the left, the Arrow of Light Scouts earned their rank and are moving up to the troop. The middle photo is of our 3rd graders receiving their Bear rank, on the right, Rohn Edwards is receiving the award for Outstanding Cubmaster.



DR. & MRS. C. A. WALKER, JR.



MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Walker, Jr. Scholarship Foundation is receiving applications for scholarships to individuals attending college. Applications must be received by **June 30, 2025**. Applicants are invited to apply 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

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. Children's and Youth classes meet in the Christian Education Building and the adult class meets in the Library.

The Adult class, led by Elder Ted Hammer, is beginning their new book study by Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Life Together."



Description: Famed Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* is a bold and daring look at Christian life, and what cross-centered living can look like for all believers.

Renowned for his thoughts on Christianity's role in the secular world, Bonhoeffer, also the author of bestselling *The Cost of Discipleship*, allows readers to deepen their faith and fellowship through actionable steps towards building lasting and meaningful communities.

In *Life Together*, Bonhoeffer, famous for his involvement in a plot to overthrow Adolph Hitler, recounts his unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years in Germany. Through this one-of-a-kind lived experience, he compassionately yet challengingly defines what living in a community is all about, and the divine importance of it.

In five brief, yet rich, chapters, Bonhoeffer enlightens us on:

- How to build a meaningful community, through both mutual affection for Christ and for each other
- The fundamental elements of community, including prayer, worship, and service, but also listening, comforting, and confessing sins to one another
- How love permeates every aspect of community—love for God, one another, and the beauty of connection
- The role that loneliness and uncertainty play in finding community and answering God's call

Practical yet profound, this book remains the most influential and modern book on the nature and spirit of authentic Christian community. It reveals the communal Christian spirit that inspired Bonhoeffer and his Christian associates to conspire to assassinate Hitler as an act of true Christian love and courage. *Life Together* is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship.

LUNCH BUNCH: The ladies Lunch Bunch met on April 25 at Patio 44. The next gathering will be at Sully's in downtown Gulfport on Friday, May 30 at 11:30 a.m. All women are welcome! RSVP to Rachel Price.



May

- 1 Peter Gregory
- 4 Chad Bryant
- 4 Tristan Mahand
- 6 Caroline Underhill
- 9 Colt Busby
- 15 Theresa Moncrief
- 16 Owen Bellanger
- 23 Donna Gewin
- 23 Christine Mahand
- 24 Virginia Shurley
- 25 Rena Dukes
- 27 Ayden Pickich
- 30 Cummings King



June

- 8 Hudson Williams
- 8 Haynes Nault
- 11 Stacy Charbonneau
- 12 Sophia Batson
- 13 Karen Barnard
- 21 Analeise Williams
- 23 Eliza Williams
- 24 Eddie Wilson
- 25 Jeannie Congleton
- 27 Summer Hewes

PRAYER GROUP



Do you have a heart for care and service? Do you want to learn more about prayer and strengthening your devotional life? Visit our Tuesday morning prayer group meeting any Tuesday at 10 a.m. For an hour, the group considers the prayer list from Sunday's bulletin, talks

about ways to help fellow members and friends in times of joy and sorrow, and prays for the church and world. This group also coordinates the church's home communion visit schedule and the blue "prayer cards" that go out each week.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Each week, we are focusing on a question from the New City Catechism. We consider how the concepts within each question and answer shape our faith and inform how we live out our faith every day. All children in grades 5 through 12 are invited to join us at 9:15 on Sundays!



ONLINE AND APP-BASED GIVING





TITHE.LY

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.

MAY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div>27</div> <div>Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Communion/Worship, 10:30 a.m. MS Boychoir rehearsal, 3 p.m. LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m.</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Prayer Group, 10 a.m.</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Genesis Project, 2:30-4:30 p.m.</div>	<div>1</div> <div>AA Meeting, 6 p.m.</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>
<div>4</div> <div>Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting, after morning worship Westminster Diners, after morning worship at Coterie in Long Beach MS Boychoir rehearsal, 3 p.m. LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m.</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Rise & Shine Men's Breakfast, 7 a.m. Prayer Group, 10 a.m.</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Genesis Project, 2:30-4:30 p.m.</div>	<div>8</div> <div>AA Meeting, 6 p.m. Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6:30 p.m.</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Discipleship Formation Meeting, after morning worship MS Boychoir rehearsal, 3 p.m. <i>No LifeHouse Youth</i></div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Prayer Group, 10 a.m.</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Genesis Project, 2:30-4:30 p.m.</div>	<div>15</div> <div>AA Meeting, 6 p.m.</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div>
<div>18</div> <div>Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. High School Graduate Recognition & Reception LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m.</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Cub Scouts Pack Meeting, 6 p.m.</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Prayer Group, 10 a.m.</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Genesis Project, 2:30-4:30 p.m. <i>No Session Meeting in May.</i></div>	<div>22</div> <div>AA Meeting, 6 p.m.</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>
<div>25</div> <div>Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. <i>No LifeHouse Youth</i></div>	<div>26</div> <div> <i>Church office closed</i></div>	<div>27</div> <div>Prayer Group, 10 a.m.</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Genesis Project, 2:30-4:30 p.m.</div>	<div>29</div> <div>AA Meeting, 6 p.m.</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Lunch Bunch at Sully's, 11:30 a.m.</div>	<div>31</div>



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**High School Graduate
Recognition and Reception**

May 18

On May 18, our graduating high school seniors will be recognized during morning worship. A reception honoring our seniors will follow the service.



Save the Date:

Vacation Bible School: June 23-27