

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OFF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



Pentecost, He Qi

PENTECOST

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

CELEBRATING GRADUATES

MAY 28, 2023

10:30 AM

Welcome to Westover Hills Presbyterian Church! We're so glad you're with us this morning for worship and fellowship. If you're a first-time visitor, welcome to our church home. If you're a return visitor, welcome back! Westover is an inclusive faith community where everyone is welcome to come and grow in Christ. If you would like to learn more about Westover, please seek out an usher or greeter or join us at the communion table after worship where one of our elders will be happy to share more about life at Westover Hills Presbyterian.

Again, welcome! We hope this time of worship will renew and uplift your spirit.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome to WHPC! If you are visiting us today, we are so glad you joined us for worship. If you have not already, please take a moment to record your contact information on the visitor card you will find in the pew and drop it in the offering box or hand it to a greeter at the door. We are always glad to share the great things happening at WHPC!

If you are looking for a new church home and would like to join in fellowship with Westover Hills, please join us at the communion table and we will gladly share more about life at WHPC or, if you are ready, receive you into membership.

Childcare is available in the nursery. Please check with a greeter.

**Those able may stand. + Those waiting in the vestibule may be seated. Bold type indicates a unison response.*

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP Dr. Robert Lowry, Pastor

+CALL TO WORSHIP "Come, O Holy Spirit, Come" WA EMIMIMO

The congregation is invited to join in singing the English translation when indicated.

Leaer
Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
E - mi - o - lo - ye.

All
Come, O Ho - ly Spir - it, come;
Wa wa wa E - mi - mi - mo;

al - might - y Spir - it, come.
A - lag - ba - ra - me - ta.

Come, al - might - y Spir - it, come;
Wa wa wa A - lag - ba - ra;

O Spir - it, come.
E - mi - mi - mo.

Come, come, come.
Wa - o, wa - o, wa - o.

+COLLECT (RESPONSIVE)

Shirley Garlington, Liturgist

When was the last time that we heard the wind of your Spirit roar through this place? When was the last time your fire lit up this room? When was the last time we took you at your word and met together in expectation of your Spirit filling this place and these lives with your Glory and Power?

Lord, you challenge us with Pentecost.

Do we believe that this was a once-in-eternity experience, never to be repeated? That the Holy Spirit was poured out on your followers for a single purpose and ended His work at that instant?

If so, then maybe that is why the Church seems so powerless in this age, helpless when faced with the needs, both spiritual and physical, that we see in the world. Lord, as we meet together, and celebrate once again the memory of that first Pentecost, may it be for us as it was then a time of empowerment, an awareness of your Glory in this dark world, a life-changing experience. Amen.

+GATHERING HYMN "In the Midst of New Dimensions" NEW DIMENSIONS

Unlike most hymns with separate composers and writers, this contemporary hymn was written simultaneously by composer Julian B. Rush in 1979 and revised in 1985.

The author/composer was seeking to incorporate imagery from both Native American and Hebrew spiritual traditions. Also included is the mythological phoenix, which had received a Christian interpretation as early as the first century.

The Rev. Julian Rush is a United Methodist pastor. Born in Meridian, MS, he is a graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson.

1 In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of
 2 Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions,
 3 As we stand, a world di - vid - ed by our own self -
 4 We are man and we are wom - an, all per - sua - sions,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with -

chang - ing ways, who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples
 and de - spair, who will lift the ol - ive branch - es?
 seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage,
 old and young, each a gift in your cre - a - tion,
 draw in pain, may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it

Refrain

wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will light the flame of care?
 might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain - bow, fi - ery pil - lar,
 each a love song to be sung.
 res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney

now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

THE PROMISE OF LIVING WATERS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our God, we come in humility, confessing who and what we are. We are often unresponsive for we are afraid. When your Spirit speaks, we turn deaf ears, for we fear what you might call us to do. When your Spirit touches our lips, we close our mouths, embarrassed to speak your Word. When the wind of your Spirit blows, we close the windows of our hearts, afraid the breeze will disrupt our ordered lives. When the fire of your Spirit touches us, we quench the flame, afraid of the new life it might bring. Forgive us, O Lord.

Silent Contemplation

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

+SONG OF RENEWAL

"Spirit of the Living God"

LIVING GOD

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The Prayer of Confession uses imagery related to speech and hearing. Not all witness requires words. Recall the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "preach the gospel and, when necessary, use words."

Both the words and music of this song were written by a Presbyterian pastor from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1-6. A friend helped him set the words to music at an evangelistic conference in Orlando, FL.

The story of Pentecost is one of the most familiar in scripture. The miracle of speaking in tongues is itself a story of resolution from an Old Testament story.

In the book of Genesis, the people try to build a tower to heaven in the city of Babel. God topples the tower and to keep people from conspiring to become like gods. In the Babel story, languages are confused so people cannot understand one another. At Pentecost that condition is reversed. Language does not disappear, but the barriers to understanding are lifted by the power of the Spirit.

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which passes all understanding, be with you all.

And also with you.

Please turn to those around you and share signs of the peace of Christ.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:1-4, 14-15, 42-47

SERMON

"Paying Attention"

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE #315

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

PENTECOST

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Michael Gallup

THE SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Loving God whose Divine breath brought the Spirit into our World,

your breath continues to transform our world from the still to the stirring.

Before the earth was formed the Spirit of God swirled through voids and shadows.

As humans were created the air of God filled the lungs of Adam and the soul of Eve.

This Divine Air continues to fill us up when our bones are dry and spirits are sluggish.

On this day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the breath of the Spirit coming upon the disciples, we invite the Spirit to come upon these elements.

Why did Jesus use bread and wine to institute the Lord's Supper? There is not a single answer to this question. At the most fundamental level, these were common things at an ancient Near Eastern table. People across cultures and even religions would recognize bread and wine as staples at a meal. Jesus frequently used common things to make uncommon or extraordinary statements.

Bread and wine are also both the product of making. Unlike a bunch of grapes eaten from the vine, wine requires the attention of the vintner just as bread requires the work of the baker. As a result, the different hands that go into growing, harvesting, and making the bread and wine all contribute to the final product. This is symbolic of the fundamental nature of community in Christ.

God of winds, pour out your Spirit to make the elements come alive for us.

Make this meal awaken our sleepy hearts and stagnant souls.

May this time of eating and drinking be one where we stir from our sadness and rise from our hopelessness.

May we begin to celebrate visions and animate the dreams that have only been alive in our minds.

As we share this meal, let us remember our siblings in faith who came to this table in decades and centuries past and our children who will surround this table in the future.

Each generation uniquely celebrates your presence, Spirit of Life.

The night before Jesus died was a solemn time around the table

Breaking bread.

Drinking from the cup

Jesus asks us to remember him in our eating and drinking.

There was a time to mourn followed by a time to dance.

After the day of resurrection the disciples ate on the beach with the risen Christ, celebrating new life, new hope, new vitality.

On this Pentecost, as we come to the table, let us celebrate the Spirit of Resurrection and the promise of a needed second-wind in our own lives.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.

THE LORD'S 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Laughing, loving, living God, your voice echoes through the world,
We have responded to your invitation to join in the Banquet.**

Here we have eaten, we have drunk, we have tasted your goodness.

**May the joy we find in this meal together lift up our hearts,
may we carry your laughter to the world around us,
may we live out that foolishness called love wherever we go.**

Amen.

If you are looking for a new church home or would like to learn more about life at Westover Hills, please let an usher or greeter know.

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

†PARTING HYMN

"Our Hope, Our Life"

O WALY WALY

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY are Dr. Robert Lowry, Rev. Michael Gallup, Music Director David Austin, Liturgist Shirley Garlington, and the Westover Hills Chancel Choir.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who made our "Welcome Summer Potluck" such a great success! There was great food, great company, and lots of laughter: the perfect recipe for a Wednesday night!



MIDWEEK MANNA BIBLE STUDY Midweek Manna meets every Wednesday at 12:05 in the New Chapel. This allows people who work to come on their lunch break either in person or via Zoom. We have begun our journey through Ezekiel which will provide deep insights and great discussion. Pop in and join us or you can find the zoom link in the CareLine.

NEW YEAR NEW YOU YOGA meets Thursdays in the New Chapel at 10am. This low-impact exercise is for all comers and is a great way to keep in shape and stay flexible. Yoga will be taking a break during the month of June but will return on July 6th.

THE SID MCCOLLUM FARMER'S MARKET The annual Farmer's Market has returned. The Farmer's Market is open every Tuesday from 3:30-6:00pm, so come and check out the local produce and other items from local vendors. If you have any questions, you may contact Bob Quinn.

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTER THEA BOWMAN ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Join the Sister Thea Bowman Ecumenical Catholic Church on Saturday, June 3 at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary here at Westover Hills. There will be a reception following the worship service, so this is a great opportunity if you are wanting to meet the members of the Sister Thea Bowman Church. Everyone is invited to come worship and celebrate the milestone! Revs. Marion Humphrey and Wendell Griffin will be leading worship with Rev. Carol-Ann Blow and Pastor Robert will be preaching.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE is available year-round. Presbyterian Women make fair trade products available to the congregation not as a moneymaker but as one of our missions. The price we pay for coffee is the price we charge. Purchasing fair trade coffee helps more money reach the hard-working farmers. Contact Carolyn Nash with questions or to purchase coffee.

SOME CARELINE CHANGES A few things have changed in the Careline. These include:

- Pastor Robert's calendar for the month
- The full church and building calendar for the month (rather than only the week as previously practiced)
- More info from mission partners for community events and opportunities.

THE CARELINE CONTINUES TO UNDERGO RENOVATIONS If you have suggestions on what needs to be included, how to make the Careline more readable, etc. please contact Sydney in the church office. We are committed to making this a resource to the whole church and welcome your input!

PRAYER LIST UPDATE The prayer list has been updated for this quarter, so if you or a loved one would like to be on the prayer list, please contact the church office at office.westoverhills@gmail.com. The name will remain on the prayer list until the office is notified to remove it or it will be removed at the beginning of a new quarter.

CALENDAR UPDATES AND SESSION DOCUMENTS should be sent to the office and copied to Candice Misenheimer.

PLEASE SEND NEWS FOR CARELINE to office.westoverhills@gmail.com. If you would like to receive the twice – weekly church e-newsletter (CareLine), please fill out a contact card from a pew rack, add 'CareLine request' and drop the card in an offering box

FOLLOW US on Instagram [@westoverhillspc](https://www.instagram.com/westoverhillspc) or on Twitter [@ChurchWestover](https://twitter.com/ChurchWestover)

PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS Jonathon Simpson (awaiting confirmation date for kidney transplant); Amber Simpson (awaiting approval as a donor for her brother); Connie James (mother of Jonathon and Amber, donated her kidney 27 years ago to Jonathon); Susan Mauney (knee surgery); Winnie Robinson (declining health); Michael Thompson (diagnosed with leukemia); Jane Estes (recovery from long haul Covid and toxic mold healing and remediation of their home); Vivianna McAtee; Ralph Cotham, Andrea Campbell; The young people at Pulaski County Juvenile Detention Center (PCJDC); Tornado victims and those who responded to the crisis; WHPC staff: Robert, David, Ulysses, Tammy, Shawn, and Sydney; WHPC Preschool kids, families, and staff.

DEACONS FOR MAY are John MacLeod and Rosemary McGinnis

CALENDAR

The church calendar is available on the website

(scan QR code or visit www.westoverhills.org to be directed to our website)



WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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