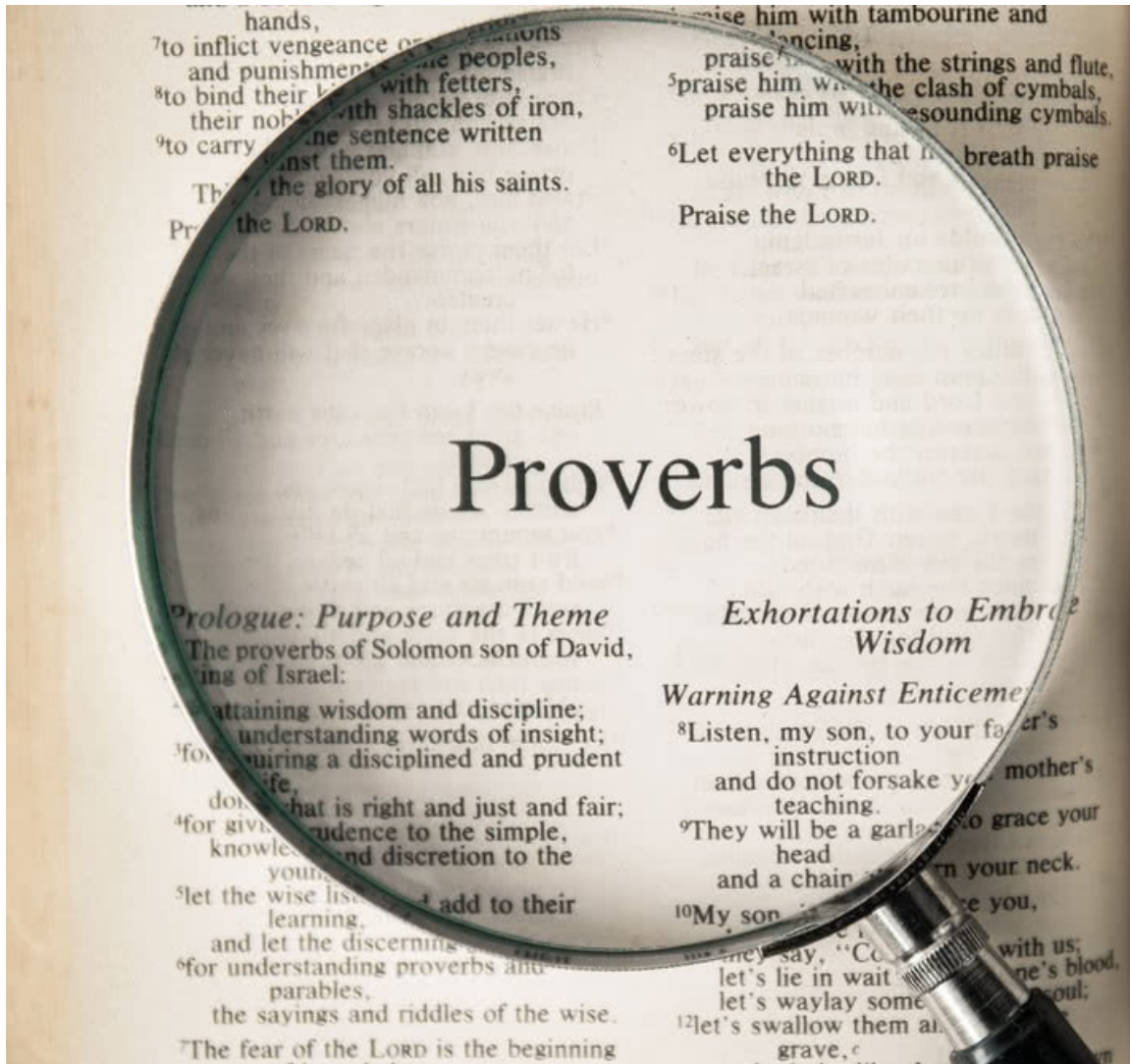


WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

A SERVICE OF WORD

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 10:30AM

Grace Notes

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 in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) 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.

WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP Dr. Robert Lowry, Pastor

PRELUDE "Since Jesus Came into My Heart" Mary Lois Stanfield, Piano
arr. Mark Hayes

+CALL TO WORSHIP Marianne Estes, Liturgist

Welcome!

There are many places you could be this morning,
but you have chosen to be here:

where we learn how to live in God's Kingdom.

Welcome to this place—full of music, of words, of prayer—
yet also filled with danger:

where we encounter a Wisdom we cannot always understand.

Welcome to God's House, the most dangerous place in town:

where we talk about and with God,

and are reduced to silence so we may hear again the call to discipleship.

+OPENING PRAYER

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

We long to be where You are;

to stand in Your very presence,

and to behold You, face to face!

And so we have come to this place today;

we have gathered together to worship You—

to offer the praise which belongs to You alone.

Bless us as we worship You together,

and as we open our hearts and minds

to Your presence among us.

For You alone are God,

the One in whom we trust. Amen.

+SONG OF PRAISE #376 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters, nothing we can say or do can ever separate us from God's mercy and love. The gifts of God are eternal and will never be withdrawn.

God's ultimate desire and purpose is not to punish but to forgive. So together we may pray with hope, not fear. Let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Everlasting God, we know how easy it is to forget your presence and power in our lives.

Focused on our daily planners, we do not pay attention to the night sky and the stars that glitter.

Grace Notes

What if we understood sin not as “doing bad things” but as failing to live with love, generosity, and mercy? That might lead us to do things we should not, but it might help us understand the Christian life in a different way. Rather than an obligation to follow rules, following Christ becomes an invitation to live more loving and full lives together.

**Surrounded by the sounds of anger, violence, and hate, we have trouble listening to your whispers of hope and grace.
Thinking that Scripture is filled only with ancient stories and bygone laws, we cannot understand your truth which can change lives.**

Forgive us.

There is no one who can hold a candle to you when it comes to mercy and hope.

Lift us to our feet so we may walk with you;

fill us with your strength so we may serve your people;

touch us with your healing so we may proclaim to everyone

the Good News that has come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

†SUNG RESPONSE

†THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

A E Bm E A D E A

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' written below the notes. The second staff includes guitar chord symbols: A, E, Bm, E, A, D, E, A.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ which passes all understanding be with you all. **And also with you.**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

POEM

"I Have Found Me a Home"

Words and Music by Jimmy Buffett

*The days drift by
They don't have names
And none of the streets here look the same
And there are so many quiet places
And smilin' eyes match the smilin' faces.*

*And I have found me a home
Yes, I have found me a home
And you can have the rest of everything I own
'Cause I have found me a home.*

My old red bike

There is some controversy around calling songs “poems”. In fact, in 2016 the Nobel committee caused quite a stir when they awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature to Bob Dylan!

Grace Notes

From his 1973 album "A White Sportcoat and a Pink Crustacean," this is one of the best known of Buffett's early songs. It is also one of the most personal.

There is something mystical about losing yourself in a place where you feel so comfortable and so at home that time just flies by. Home is so much more than a house; it is the place where "you can have the rest of everything I own."

*Gets me around
To the bars and the beaches of my town
And there aren't many reasons I would leave
Yes, I have found me some peace.*

*And the ladies aren't demanding there
They never ask too much
And when you're coming off a cold love
That's sure a nice warm touch.*

*And I have found me a home
Yes, I have found me a home
And you can have the rest of everything I own
'Cause I have found me a home.*

*The days drift by
They don't have names
And none of the streets here look the same
And there aren't many reasons I would leave
Yes, I have found me some peace
Yes, I have found me a home.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Proverbs 24:3,4

SERMON

"Finding Our Home"

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Seek Ye First"


1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek, and
3 You shall not live by bread a - lone, but by
1 Bus - ca pri - me - ro el rein - o de Dios y su per -

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
you shall find; knock, and the door shall be
ev - ery word that pro - ceeds from the
fec - ta just - i - cia, que lo de - más lo a - ña -

Grace Notes

In 1983 when the UPCUSA and the PCUS merged to form the PC (USA) it was decided that a new confession of faith celebrating the reunion of the two branches of Presbyterianism and articulating a modern sense of our core theological convictions was needed.

The result was "A Brief Statement of Faith." Written in a trinitarian formula like the Apostles' and Nicene creeds, this confessional statement was added officially to the constitution of the church in the late 1980's.



add-ed un-to you.
o-pened un-to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
mouth of God.
di - rá el Se - ñor. A - le - lu, a - le - lu - ya.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.**

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"God of the Sparrow"

J.J. Vajda/C.F. Schalk

Text may be found in the Hymnal #272

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

Grace Notes

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

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

†PARTING HYMN #374 *“Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace”*

DICKINSON COLLEGE

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY are Dr. Robert Lowry, Music Director David Austin, Liturgist Marianne Estes and the Westover Hills Chancel Choir.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MIDWEEK MANNA has returned! Manna takes place every Wednesday at 12:05 in the New Chapel and via Zoom. All are invited whether you have been to a class or not. See CareLine for the Zoom link.

YOGA has returned and takes place every Thursday at 10am in the New Chapel. Yoga is for everyone, whether you are an expert or you have no experience. All you need to bring is a yoga mat and an open mind.

ADULT CLASSES SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9 Adult Classes in September: Peacemaking

Be part of a different kind of conversation— one that welcomes every perspective in a search for the deeper truths that unite us. The theme this month is Peacemaking; the adult class will consider many facets of peacemaking in September. This is the month when Westover Hills joins a host of organizations throughout Arkansas who observe the UN International Day of Peace and Arkansas Peace Week (September 17-24). Class meets in the New Chapel and by Zoom.

- September 17– Intro to Peacemaking and Gun Violence Prevention– Pastor Robert
- September 24– Insights from the PCUSA Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention
- October 1– Responsible Gun Ownership– conversation with WHPC folks who own guns

2ND WEDNESDAY SPIRITUALITY GROUP Please join us for our Second Wednesday Spirituality Group every second Wednesday of the month. This group meets in the New Chapel and if you need directions you may contact H.K Stewart for more information or directions. The group will meet this Wednesday at 5:45pm in the New Chapel.

JOINT HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY– DAY AND EVENING CIRCLES The 2023-24 Horizons Bible study will begin on Monday, September 11th at 6:30pm in the New Chapel– with a “Come, all ye women!” meeting. All women– including morning circle members, night circle members, visitors, friends who haven’t visited yet– are invited! Study books will be available on Sunday morning for \$10 for regular print and \$15 for large print. You may get with Kay Stephens to purchase a book..

STEW POT CLOTHES CLOSET It is HOT! And the Clothes Closet has been having more and more folks in need. WE have had to increase the number of hours we are open. Donations have begun to slow down, so we are asking for the following items:

- Ball caps
- Men’s athletic shoes
- Men’s jeans and docker type pants waist size 30-36
- Travel size toothpaste, shampoo, lotion, soap and backpacks

There is a donation box in the office as well as in the Narthex of the Sanctuary. We do appreciate all that you do for the Clothes Closet!

STEW POT NEEDS YOUR HELP Barbara Polite (head of the clothes closet for Stewpot) is not able to help out at the moment. We need volunteers on Tuesdays 9:00-11:00 and on Thursdays from 9:00-1:00. Please contact Nancy Sherman Carter if you are able to help out; her email is nesherman57@yahoo.com.

PEACE WEEK activities start September 17 and end September 23rd with an announcement and celebration of school age winners of an art and essay contest. On Monday September 18th at 6pm a free meal will be offered at the Madina Mosque on Kanis Road. This event provides an opportunity to hear from leaders of the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian faiths. Westover Hills church hosted this event last year and we are continuing our commitment to this peace making activity. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with friends and to grow appreciated for each other’s faith.

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.

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.

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

PRAYER LIST UPDATE 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. The prayer list has been updated, so be sure to email the office if you or a loved one would like to remain on the list.

The Prayer List was updated on September 5, so if you or a loved one would like to be on the prayer list please contact the office.

PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS The Garcia family (friends of Sydney; recent loss of daughter/sister and father is recovering in the hospital from 2 strokes); Mary Ellen Holder; Jane Estes (recovery from long haul Covid, and toxic mold treatment and remediation of their home); Vivianna McAtee; Jonathon Simpson (scheduled for kidney transplant September 19th); Amber Simpson (donating her kidney to her brother Jonathon); Connie James (mother of Jonathon and Amber; Connie donated her kidney to Jonathon 27 years ago); Amy Crawford (late-stage liver cancer); Jim Miller (broken ankle; at home); Lila Quinn; Deran Abernathy (son-in-law of former member Judy Huffman; stage 4 lung cancer); Rev. Carol Ann Blow (health issues); Johnny Rhodes; Anna Grace Clark (brain cancer); Reverend Doug Kanney (heart issues); Those affected by wildfires in the United States; Preschool staff, children and parents; Church staff: Pastor Robert Lowry, Rev. Michael Gallup, Ulysses, Shawn, Tammy, David and Sydney.

DEACONS FOR SEPTEMBER are Charlotte Frith and Kay McCollum

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

6400 RICHARD B HARDIE DRIVE, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207

