



Third Sunday after Epiphany January 21, 2024

A Service of the Word

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WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

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\*Worshippers are invited to stand in body or spirit. **Bold text indicates unison readings.**

WELCOME AND INVITATIONS TO DISCIPLESHIP

The Rev. Dr. Robert Wm Lowry, Pastor

PRELUDE

David Austin, Director of Music

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus comes along side us and calls us by name:

“**[your name], follow me.**”

A simple call. A hard call.

**Because following requires leaving.**

And we look around to see who else Jesus could be talking to.

**And we look around to see the trappings of the life we know.**

It's hard to leave our nets and walk away from the lake.

**But we have come this far,**

**to this place,**

**where we can listen and be transformed.**

Come, let us continue the journey.

Come, let us worship together!

†OPENING PRAYER

Keeper of every moment in eternity:

we come, not only to hear

those words which can transform us,

but to be filled with your grace and hope.

We have come, not out of habit,

but to respond to your call,  
willing to be called away  
from the familiar ways of our lives.  
When uncertainty fills every block  
in our daily planners,  
you come, Grace's Companion,  
to offer that hope which anchors  
us in God's heart;  
to place our feet firmly  
on that rock called peace;  
to bring us safely to that haven  
filled with God's steadfast love. Amen.

+ HYMN OF PRAISE #473

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

DIX

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters, no one is perfect. Not you. Not me. Not that family down the street who seem to never have any problems or challenges. Whether we show it or not, each of us is flawed and frail and all of us fall short of the glory of God.

Thankfully the one thing that never falls short is the mercy and grace of God. It is all around us all the time and it is the one thing in this life that we can count on day in and day out.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,  
how many John the Baptists,  
how many prophets of your light,  
have we ignored  
because they were not what we were looking for?  
How many times have we ignored voices  
crying in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord."  
How many times have we breathed a sigh of relief,  
and turned our backs on your messengers,  
because they did not speak the message  
we expected to hear?  
Help us hear anew,  
the cry of those who would lead us to Christ.  
Tune our ears to your heralds,  
that we might also testify to your light. Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

LUKE 7

SERMON

"Parallel Lives"

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE #343

*"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"*

BEECHER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Elders

Don Campbell  
Kathy Mainard  
Debbie Cooper

Deacons

Katy Phillips    Marcey Berry  
Mary Henry     Shirley Garlington  
Jackie Oakes    John MacLeod

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

#### PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

#### DECLARATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

#### CHARGE TO THE NEWLY ORDAINED AND INSTALLED

#### CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

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#### WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

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†PARTING HYMN #535

*"Go with Us, Lord"*

TALLIS' CANON

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE



## ~~TODAY IS THE DAY!~~

**NOTE: Due to the weather the meetings with Ministry Architects have been postponed until February 18. The meetings will occur on the same schedule as below.**

This Sunday is the first very important step in our congregational visioning and planning process. The firm hired to lead us in the process, Ministry Architects, are here for open conversations with members, friends, and partners.

If you have not already signed up for a gathering time today, fear not and just show up at the time most convenient for you!

### **In-person**

Noon

1:30

6:30

### **via Zoom**

4:30

The success of this process depends on having as many voices as possible participate, so join us and share your vision for Westover Hills!

## Welcome

We are so glad to be worshipping with you today.

If this is your first visit, welcome! If you have been with us before, welcome back! Whether you are a life-long Presbyterian, a brand-new Christian, or someone who is just trying to make sense of this world we share, we hope you will feel at home at Westover Hills Presbyterian.

## Let us know you are worshipping with us!

In the pew you will find an information card. Please leave us information on how we might be in touch with you to share more about life at Westover Hills. We would love to share a little about our story and hear more about yours. If you do not see a card in the pew near you, please ask one of the ushers you saw when you came in and we will be sure to get one for you. You may also scan the QR code to the right to share your information or any questions you have about WHPC.



## Midweek Manna

Midweek Manna has resumed with a study of the book of Mark. Last week Robert gave an overview of the book and its history. This week Michael will lead a conversation on chapter 1.

## Yoga

Yoga ha returned Thursdays at 10 in the Chapel.

## Adult Class in January

Curious about the ministries that Westover Hills is involved in? Want to meet the people at the other end of the WHPC ministry partnerships? In January 2024, the Adult Class will be treated to an inside look at some of the ministries we supported with the Reverse Advent Calendar.

- January 28 – Preschool – Shawn Mittedorf & Laura Whitmore

## Volunteers Needed for Church Office

In January, we are looking for volunteers to be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (in particular) and Fridays (as a bonus), from 10am to 2:30pm. Office keys are available if you need them.

The expectations for office volunteers are:

- Answer phone (instructions for phone and email will be provided)
- Help anyone who drops by when possible and refer to Robert when appropriate
- Sort and distribute US mail
- Sort and distribute email from office account.
- Receive packages and deliveries

To volunteer, please contact Liz Branch at [erbranch@comcast.net](mailto:erbranch@comcast.net) and Bill Smith at [wsmith425@hotmail.com](mailto:wsmith425@hotmail.com)

## Online Giving

You can now make donations online! By donating you can choose to give to Westover Hills and/or our nested New Worshiping communities, The Table and The Queer Collective. You may find the link in the CareLine, and simply click the “funds” tab to pick which you’d like to give to. You can make a one-time donation or schedule a recurring gift. Also, by setting up an account, you can keep up with your digital records online. Our communities are so grateful for your generosity and hope this platform is helpful for you.

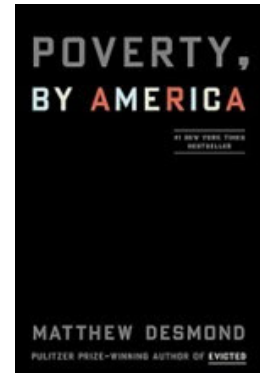
## MINISTRY BEYOND THE WALLS

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### Bridge Builders Reading Group

Dates: Tuesdays, February 27, March 5, 12, and 19 - 6:30-8:30pm

Matthew Desmond, the author of *Evicted!*, has given us a fresh view of poverty – and our role in keeping poverty and the poor in their places. If we don't have poor people, then how can we take care of our lawns, our children, our aging loved ones—at a price we're willing to pay? Desmond cuts to the heart of what has created poverty in our rich nation – and how poverty sustains our current economic system. Join Bridge Builders Reading Group for presentations on the week's chapters + talks by specialists + stimulating discussion.



## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

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### Prayer and Meditation

There are two important traditions at Westover Hills that join our voices in prayer every week. The first is *Prayer on the 9's*. Every day you are able, join us in taking a minute to pause at 9am and 9pm to offer a short prayer for the church, the world, or someone you know who needs comfort.

We also share every Sunday in the bulletin and every Wednesday in the Careline e-newsletter the list of pastoral care concerns known to the church. Members and friends are invited to pray for those people and world issues named on the list. Prayers of comfort, for healing, and for peace are always appropriate ways to remember our friends and neighbors. This week we remember:

The Family of Rev. Jim Miller (wife Rev. Catherine Allsbury) who died early Saturday morning; Lila Quinn (undergoing cancer treatment); Family of Stan Whisnant (died recently of brain cancer - friend of Judi King); Ann Patterson and Max Snowden's daughter-in-law Koni and grandson Han (in Wajima Japan near the recent earthquake); Helen Hughes and family on the death of Doyle Hughes; Ann Bell following the recent death of her brother Henry Hunt III in Delaware; Marilyn Ragar (Max Snowden's sister having a biopsy in January); Sabrina Brown (friend of Cindy and Sheila); The WHPC Staff: Robert, Tammy, David, Ulysses, and Shawn; WHPC Preschool, children, and families.

### Deacon's Ministry

Deacons for January are Charlotte Frith and Alice Ahart.

## STAY CONNECTED

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### CareLine

Stay up to date with news and pastoral care updates with the CareLine. If you do not already receive this now once-weekly email newsletter, please contact the church office to add your name to the distribution.

If you have information to be included in the CareLine, please contact the office (office.westoverhills@gmail.com) and copy Robert ([robertwilliamlowry@gmail.com](mailto:robertwilliamlowry@gmail.com)).

*The deadline for the bulletin and careline is 5pm Tuesday.*

### Calendar Updates and Session Reports

All updates to the church calendar and any information for the church session should be sent to the office.

## *STAFF AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP*

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**Dr. Robert Wm Lowry** Pastor/Head of Staff  
**David Austin** Director of Music  
**Shawn Mittedorf** Preschool Director  
**Tammy Pflug** Treasurer  
**Ulysses Neyland** Sexton  
**Elder Liz Branch** Recording Clerk & Christian Education Ministry  
**Elder Candice Misenheimer** Corresponding Clerk & Matthew 25 (Yard Sign Ministry)  
**Elder Ray Stephens** Worship and Arts  
**Elder Bob Quinn** Building and Grounds  
**Elder Ann Patterson** Preschool Committee  
**Elder Debbie Cooper** Stewardship and Finance  
**Sally Browder** Matthew 25 (Church Vitality)  
**Betty Glenn and Alice Ahart** Presbyterian Women  
**Elder Bill Smith** Personnel  
**Alice Ahart** Kitchen  
**Deacons Shirley Garlington and Kay McCollum** co-Moderators Board of Deacons

### AFFILIATED MINISTRIES

**Rev. Michael Gallup** The Table  
**Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell** The Central Arkansas Queer Collective  
**Rev. Deacon Carol-Ann Blow** Sister Thea Bowman Ecumenical Catholic Church

**Westover Hills Presbyterian Church**  
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Church Calendar and Website

