



The Season of ORDINARY TIME

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 24, 2025

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

God of healing and reconciliation, you free us from our burdens and promise us safety and refuge.
Help us to trust in your power, that we may praise you without qualification and rejoice in the
power of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John E. Morgan

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Gini Campbell

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Stephen Ministry

Skip Perry

PRELUDE

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above
Summer Handbell Ensemble

arr. Jason Krug

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: God is our rock and our fortress, our refuge and strength.

All: God is our hope and our trust. Praise the Lord!

Please rise in body or spirit. The people's responses are in **bold type**.



Our sanctuary is equipped with a T-coil hearing loop. Look for the blue sticker on the pews.

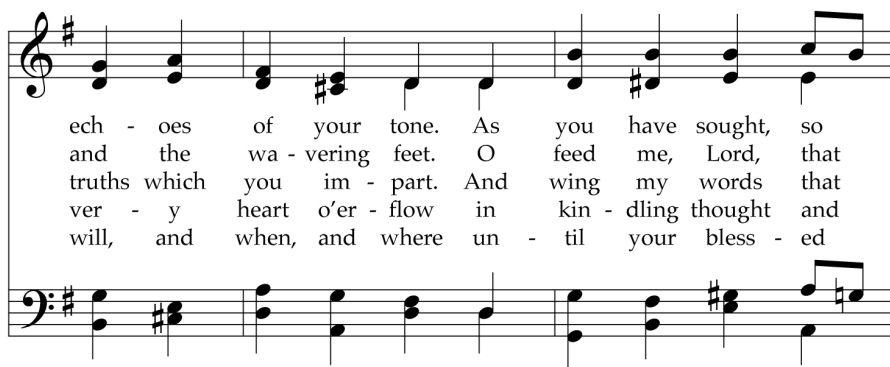
***HYMN 722**

Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

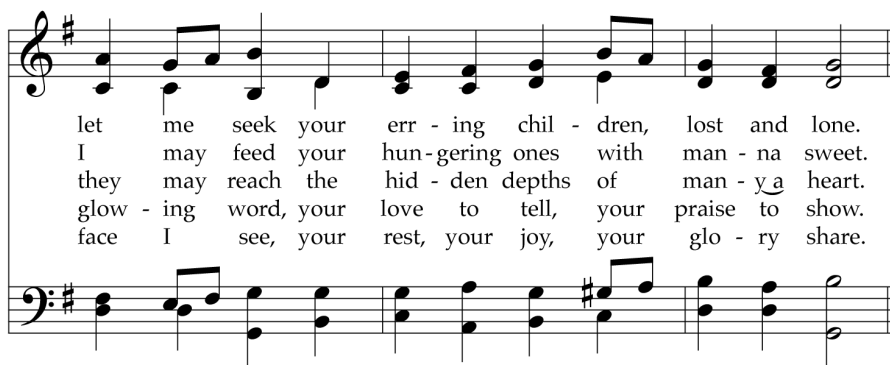
CANONBURY



1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak in liv - ing
 2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wan - dering
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the pre - cious
 4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un - til my
 5 O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just as you



ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so
 and the wa - vering feet. O feed me, Lord, that
 truths which you im - part. And wing my words that
 ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
 will, and when, and where un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Two great truths inform this text: first, that the testimony of experience is powerful and persuasive; and second, that no one should venture to minister on one's own strength rather than God's. The tune reflects a 19th-century practice of adapting piano pieces as hymn tunes.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Our God is compassionate and merciful, knowing us with an intimacy we cannot comprehend. There is nothing we have done, or left undone, that is not already known by God. This gives us confidence, to be fully ourselves, that we can be fully forgiven.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Life, you come to us as a consuming fire, and the one who has consecrated us before time. You promise us a kingdom that cannot be shaken and call us to serve you with praise and thanksgiving. But we forget, and yield to fear. We trust in the tangible rewards of this world, and neglect your promises. We confess that we are a divided people; we foster separations and widen rifts in our families, our communities, and in the world. Open us to your healing. Free us from all that distances us from your presence. Give us your grace and inspire us to serve you with courage; through Jesus Christ who comes to save. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

*KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

Weaver



*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Promising forgiveness and the sustenance we need to amend our lives, God rejoices in our longing for wholeness. Give thanks that we have been known and forgiven, set free to live the resurrected life of faith.

*GLORIA

Glory Be to the Father

Weaver



At this time, children, youth, and adults alike, if you have a backpack, briefcase, or even a bag that holds your work or studies, we invite you to bring it to the front for a blessing as we embark on this new season of learning and growth.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Melody Dillon

Leader: It is the beginning of a new school year!

All: We give thanks for a new year and for new beginnings.

Leader: In the year ahead, we will have days where we are overwhelmed or frustrated, and days where we are full of joy and wonder.

All: Remind us of our identity as beloved children of God.

Leader: We will learn and grow; accomplishing new things, facing new challenges, and encountering new friends.

All: Remind us that God is with us always.

Leader: God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools and classrooms and for teachers and students who fill them each day. We thank you for this new beginning and for the gift that every day you are making us into a new creation. Thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again, for the gift of curiosity and asking questions, for the gift of mentors and teachers and advisors who help us when we struggle, and for the gift of friends who journey along the way with us. Remind us that we are all connected by kindness. We give you thanks for these learners and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding, and joy. May their backpacks be a sign to them that they have everything they need in order to grow and learn this year. May they be guided by your love.

All: We hold you in our hearts and our prayers. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gini Campbell

God of justice and mercy, by your Holy Spirit inspire us through your word, and shape our lives according to your will. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Gini Campbell

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM 71:1-6 (unison)

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.
Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
From my birth I have leaned upon you,
my protector since my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 12:18-29

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Unshaken"

Rev. John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 463

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (unison)**

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

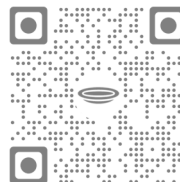
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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.

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ all over the world. Offering envelopes can be found inside the friendship register book. We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:

- Place your offering into the plates as you exit the sanctuary
- Visit mywpc.org/offering or scan the QR code at the right to give online
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

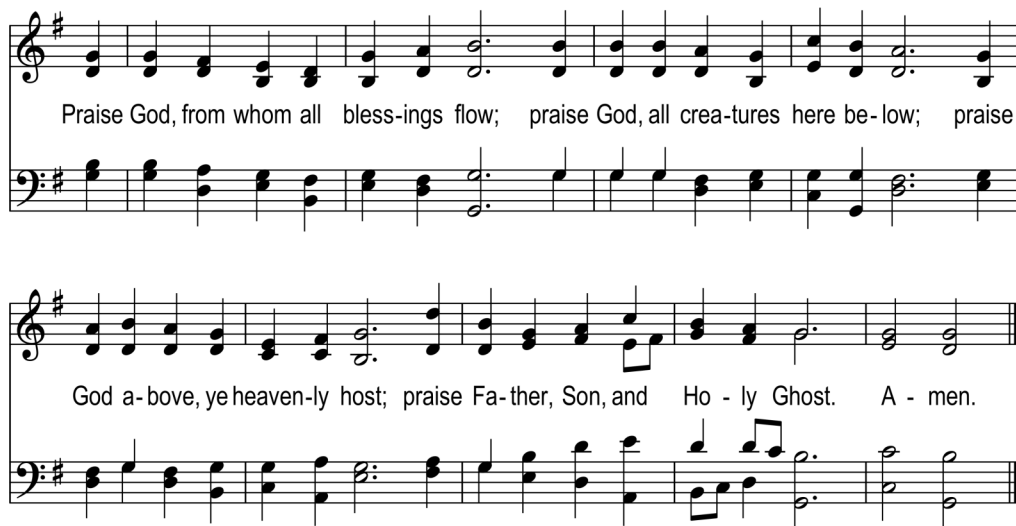
Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
Summer Handbell Ensemble

arr. Jason Krug

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be-low; praise
God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

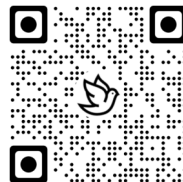
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

*INVITATION AND THE LORD'S DAY GREETING

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. If you are joining us online, please remember to 'sign' our online friendship register:

- Click on the *Welcome to WPC!* Click here to sign the Friendship Register banner at the top of the website page
- Visit mywpc.org/friendship or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



*HYMN 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Sortie

Franck

The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer. You may remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly and without disturbing those who choose to stay.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are given today to the glory of God
and in celebration of their 60th anniversary by Ruth and Tom Cobb.

✧ THOSE SERVING THIS MORNING ✧

PASTOR

John E. Morgan, Pastor, Head of Staff

Pam Hrcir, Associate Pastor

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

Summer Handbell Ensemble

LITURGIST

Gini Campbell

GREETER

9:30am Jim Winthrop, Rebecca Caprio

11:00am Ric Cheston

USHERS

9:30am Matthew Underwood, Pat Underwood, Karen Lauritzen, David Littell

11:00am Rick Murray, Pat Murray, Nancy Moseley, Rebecca Caprio

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Steve Young, Joseph Kinard, Bev Whitley

***WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Bill McGuire, Janice McGuire

***WINDSOR MEADE USHER**

Ray Whitney and Peter Moriarty

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Dave McLain and John Schoenberger

*Satellite campuses

✧ CHILDREN'S STATEMENT ✧

Children are welcome at WPC! We have a nursery for children ages 3 and below during our 9:30am service. Also, during our 9:30am service we have Sharing Faith with Children. There are children's worship bags and sensory objects available to be borrowed while in the building. Please ask an usher if you need assistance in locating anything.

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in this house of worship. Parents, feel free to sit near the front where children can see, explain the parts of the service to them, and invite them to learn by watching and copying. And relax, God put the wiggle in children, so don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

✧ T-LOOP ENABLED ✧



Did you know you can receive amplified sound in the Sanctuary with a t-loop enabled hearing aid? The "loop" signal is strongest in certain pews along the center aisle. Look for the blue symbol pictured here.

✧ SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ✧

- **In need of one-on-one prayer? Please look for a Stephen Minister in the Fellowship Hall or the church foyer after the morning services.** They will find a private place to talk and pray with you. Just look for the blue Stephen Ministry name tags.
- **The monthly grief support group resumes meeting the first Wednesday of the month, September 3, 2025** at 10am in room 227 on the second level. During this meeting we check in with one another and occasionally watch videos about a specific grief topic. All are welcome to attend.
- **Caregivers Support Group Summer Schedule: During August, 2025, the Caregivers Support Group will meet on Monday, August 25 in room 222 at 1pm.** The Caregiver Support Group will resume their weekly meetings on September 8, 2025.

✧ PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ✧

To share a joy or concern, please visit www.mywpc.org, select GET CARE on the menu bar, then PRAYER REQUEST from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click SEND REQUEST on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will be shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office (757) 229-4235 with your request. The Prayer Chain Coordinator is Jo Ann Youhas (handbellringer2@gmail.com). Please notify Jo Ann when you would like to remove your name from the prayer chain.

If you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request, please contact the Pastor-on-Call listed below for this week. During the week, please call the church office.

Pastor-on-Call

Sunday, August 24 – Saturday, August 30

Pastor Pam • phrncir@mywpc.org • 757-508-4668

The WPC Family extends its deepest Christian sympathy and prayers to:

- The family of WPC member Ellen Lorensen, who went home to be with our Lord and Savior, Friday, August 15, 2025. A visitation for Ellen will be held Saturday, August 23, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Nelsen Funeral Home, 3785 Strawberry Plains Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23188, with a celebration of life to follow at 1:00 PM. A graveside service will occur Monday, August 25, 2025 at 10:00 AM at Cedar Grove Cemetery, 809 S Henry St, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

Upcoming Memorial Services:

- James “Jim” Smith: Friday August 30, 2025, 1:00pm

All the services will be live-streamed at mywpc.org. The service bulletin will be available for viewing under the note tab the day before the service.

A reception will be held in Stevenson Hall after the services.

Please pray for:

- Terry Hancock, Nell Stowe, and families who have recently lost loved ones.

Please pray for those:

- Families who have recently lost loved ones, recovering from various surgeries, who are homebound, who have family and friend concerns, affected by natural disasters, country in the military services and their families, serving our country in leadership roles, experiencing homelessness and hunger, affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel, Sudan, and Ukraine.

🌀 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🌀

- **Today is the Back-to-School Bash!** The event will take place in the big parking lot, which will be filled with a bounce house, a visiting fire truck, games, and more! **The big parking lot will be closed starting at noon, so if you are parked there, please make plans to move your car quickly upon the completion of the 11:00 service.** Thank you and we hope to see you there!
- **Is God calling you to serve WPC in a new way? Would you like to help someone in our church family who is going through a tough time?** Please reach out to Pastor Pam, Toby Lane, Becky McKinley or Ann Schulte about being a Stephen Minister. You will be blessed in new ways as you serve.
- **Booking Deadline Wednesday, October 1, 2025: A Spiritual Journey through Greece and Turkey, March 8-19, 2026 with optional extension.** Join fellow members and friends of WPC to explore where Paul spread the Gospel and carried out his ministry to the early churches. We will visit Thessaloniki, Philippi, Delphi, Athens, Corinth, Izmir, Ephesus, and Istanbul, with an optional 4-day extension to cruise the Greek islands. Your tour leaders will be Pastor John Morgan and WPC member Ellen Peters.

Curious? Interested? Please join us for an info session via Zoom on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 6pm. Our guide from Sunlight Tours will provide an overview of the trip and answer your questions. Contact Ellen Peters* for the Zoom link and with any other questions about the trip.

- **The WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, September 23, 2025, at 2 pm in Room 220 (and on Zoom) to discuss The Covenant of Water, by Abraham Verghese.**
- **Fall Roundtable Pulpit Registration is Now Open.** The Roundtable Pulpit is a 5-week group that meets with Pastor John to discuss the upcoming Sunday's scripture and help shape the sermon. No special qualifications are needed—just a willingness to engage and explore the text together.
 - ♦ **Dates:** Tuesdays, September 9, 16, 23, 30 & October 7
 - ♦ **Time:** 7:00–8:30pm in the Church Library
 - ♦ **Group Size:** Limited to 15 participants

Together, the group explores the scripture for the coming Sunday, offering perspectives that help shape the sermon preached by Rev. Morgan. These conversations promote a collaborative, public forum of theology and deepen our shared witness to God's presence in our lives and world. Sermons will be posted online after they are preached, and feedback is always welcome. **WPC members and non-members are welcome.** Past participants are encouraged to join again! To register or learn more, email Pastor John, jmorgan@mywpc.org.

- **Preschool Dance and Play – Fall Session Registration Now Open:** Children ages 3–5 and their parents are invited to join us this fall for WPC's 10-week Preschool Dance and Play program! **Experience fun, movement, and connection every Wednesday at 1:30pm, September 10–November 12.** The program is taught by our Director of Children, Youth, and Families Ministries, Melody Dillon. Cost: \$95. Learn more and register at mywpc.org/danceandplay. Questions? Contact Melody at mdillon@mywpc.org.

- **Volunteers Needed to Help at Grove Christian Outreach Center on United Way Day of Caring.** WPC's Outreach Ministry is sponsoring a work day at the Grove Christian Outreach Center as part of the United Way Day of Caring on Friday, September 12 from 8:30pm. to 2:30pm. There are indoor jobs (shopping with neighbors, organizing the clothing closet, and painting) and outdoor jobs (pressure washing, weeding, trimming and yard cleanup). We only have half of the volunteers we need so if you can help us in this worthwhile endeavor, please contact Tom Moul* and let him know if you would like to work inside or outside and your t-shirt size. Thanks for volunteering!
- **Register now for the WPC Ice Cream Social: Sunday, September 21, 2pm. Ice cream is for everyone!** Drop in for yummy scoops of ice cream (including a non-dairy sorbet) with toppings, and enjoy time in fellowship with old friends and new acquaintances. We will be set up with tents and seating in the small parking lot next to the playground at the rear of the building. There is no charge for the event, but please register by Thursday, September 18, so we can plan for all. See mywpc.org/calendar or sign up in the back Welcome Lobby. Contact Bev Whitley* with any questions.
- **Rise Against Hunger – Sign Up Today!** Join us for WPC's annual meal-packaging event on **Saturday, September 27 in Stevenson Hall.** Our 2025 goals are big: **55,000 meals packaged** (bringing WPC's lifetime total to 600,000!) and **\$10,000 raised** to cover costs. This intergenerational event is a WPC favorite. Sign up for a two-hour shift or make a donation at mywpc.org/rah. Questions? Contact Wray Russell*.
- **Our next New Member Orientation Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, October 5, 2025, immediately after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.** Come and enjoy great food and great conversation with members and staff as you get to know the people and ministries of WPC. If the Holy Spirit is nudging you to become a part of this church community, reach out to Pastor Pam (phrncir@mywpc.org) after the service.
- **The Hunger and Homeless Team** is hosting a fall work weekend at Habitat for Humanity's Eastern Shore site on October 9-11, 2025. Space is limited. Contact Chuck Timko* to sign up.

❧ ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE ❧

- **Upcoming Office Schedule & Bulletin Deadlines:** Vanessa Gamble, our Church Secretary, will be out of the office from Monday, September 1 through Friday, September 12, 2025. **Worship bulletins for Sunday, September 7, 2025 and Sunday, September 14, 2025, will be prepared and printed in advance.**

Please email any announcements you would like published in bulletins for September 7 and/or September 14 to publications@mywpc.org no later than noon on Monday, August 25, 2025.

Thank you for your cooperation and timely submissions!

✧ THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ✧

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

9:30am ONLY Nursery open during 9:30am worship service

9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access

9:30am Blessing of the Backpacks during worship

11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Listen at FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or wmbgradio.com

12:30pm Back-to-School Bash! / Church Back Parking

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 255

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

11:30am Communications Ministry Mtg / Rm 220

7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

7:30am Men's Bible and Bacon Study / Stevenson Hall

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning

7:00pm Session Mtg / Rm 220

7:30pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Ring

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

1:00pm Memorial Service and Reception for James "Jim" Smith/ Sanctuary and Stevenson Hall

✧ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ✧

August 31, 2025 • 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor John's sermon, "*Let Mutual Love Continue*," will be based on Hebrews 13:1-8.