



The Season of ORDINARY TIME

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 31, 2025

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Holy God, you alone are worthy of honor and praise. Open our eyes to see the world as you see it. Give us the wisdom to witness your presence in all people. Transform us in love, grow us in our faith, call us to love with a full heart and to share your promises with all people. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John E. Morgan

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Mary Margaret Evans

PRELUDE

Jazz Prelude on *Balm in Gilead*

Utterback

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: God calls us to service,

All: rather than honor.

Leader: God calls us to love the unknown,

All: rather than the familiar.

Leader: We come to this time of worship,

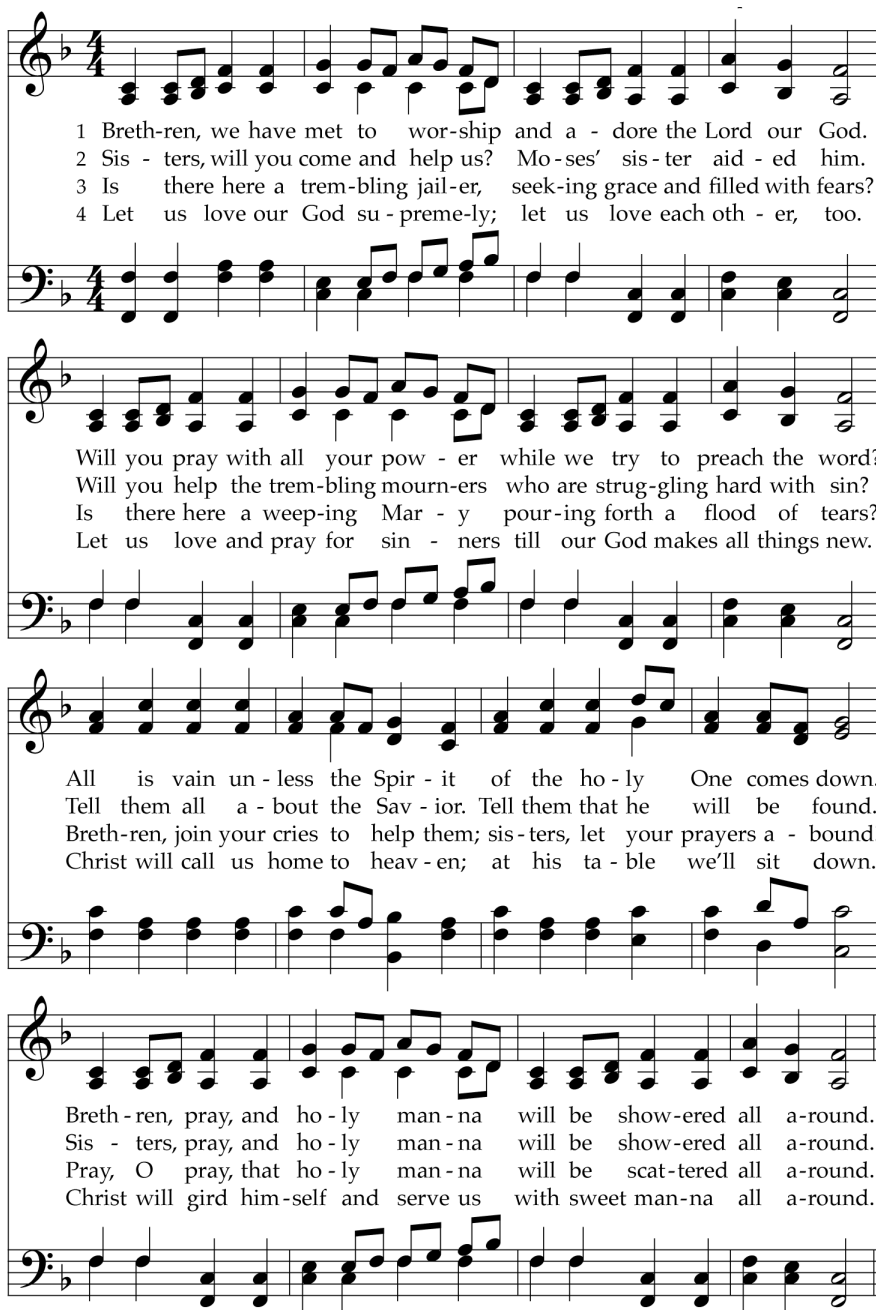
All: trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ,

Leader: who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

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.



1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.
 2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' sis-ter aid - ed him.
 3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?
 4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.

Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?
 Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?
 Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?
 Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.

All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.
 Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.
 Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!
 Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.

Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
 Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
 Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.
 Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.

This hymn comes out of the early 19th-century southern camp meeting experience, where believers were invited to pray for new converts, often likened to biblical characters such as Paul's jailer (Philippians 1:12-13). As its name shows, the five-note tune was created for this text.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God invites us to mutual love. But to find that mutuality, we must release our need for honor, our desire for privilege. In humility let us seek forgiveness, trusting in the promises of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, forgive us for we exalt ourselves and mock the humble. We choose to believe we are self-sufficient rather than trust in your strength. Open us to your spirit, that we might serve all people without regard to the outcome, devoting ourselves to your honor alone. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

*KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

Weaver



*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Beloved, your sins are forgiven, for God promises to never leave us. Therefore, be at peace and stand secure in the Lord.

*GLORIA

Glory Be to the Father

Weaver



**At this time any and all children through the 5th grade
are invited to come forward for Sharing Faith with Children.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER COMMISSIONING

Melody Dillon

Leader: God calls each of us to lead and serve using the gifts given to us. Some to be prophets, some to preach, some to encourage, and some to teach.

Congregation: God of wisdom and love, guide these teachers as they study your Word. Thank you for the gifts you have given them and we pray that they would receive energy, joy, and fulfillment through their preparation and teaching.

Leader: We also pray for all those who will be receiving and benefiting from these teachers. We pray for understanding, compassion, and joy through the opportunity to grow in faith in community. Whether four years old or 104 years old, we pray that all would learn and grow in their love and commitment to God and the ways of Christ.

All: We commit ourselves each to our part in this joyful task of learning and growing together.

Leader: God of wisdom and love, thank you for this community. We commission these teachers to lead and to love. Please give us all a spirit of curiosity and growth as we begin this new school year. May we all go through this year in peace as we grow to love and serve the Lord more each day. Amen

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Mary Margaret Evans

God of Wisdom, open us to the work of your Spirit, that we may hear and faithfully respond to your holy Word. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Mary Margaret Evans

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 81:1, 10-16 (responsive)

Leader: Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

**All: I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

Leader: "But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel would not submit to me.

**All: So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,
to follow their own counsels.**

Leader: O that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!

**All: Then I would quickly subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes.**

Leader: Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him,
and their doom would last forever.

**All: I would feed you with the finest of the wheat,
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."**

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

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

SERMON

"Let Mutual Love Continue"

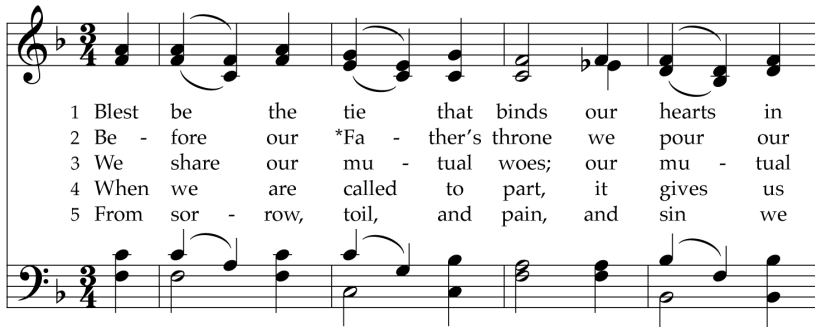
Rev. John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

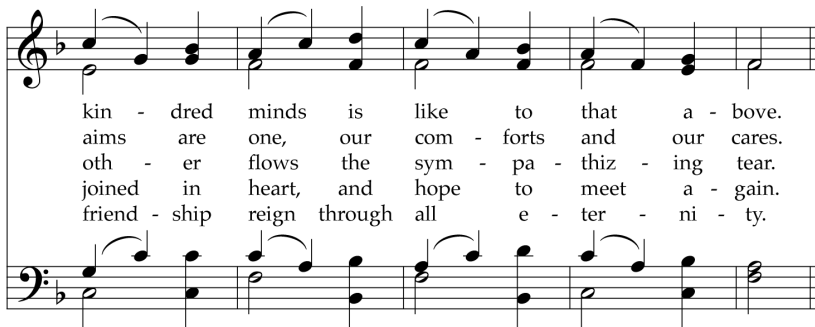
DENNIS



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we



Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 shall be free; and per - fect love and



kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM A DECLARATION OF FAITH (unison)**

Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor, to treat our neighbor's needs as our own, to care passionately for the other's good, to share what we have. It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity, avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain which love involves.

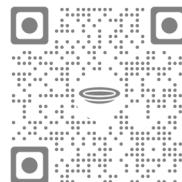
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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

Rejoice in the Lord
Vocal Ensemble

Anonymous (16th Century English)

Rejoice in the Lord alway;
And again I say, rejoice.

For the Lord our God is gracious,
And his mercy is everlasting;
His truth endureth for evermore.

—Philippians 4:4 and Psalm 100:5

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Musical score for the hymn 'Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow' (Old Hundredth). The score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.'

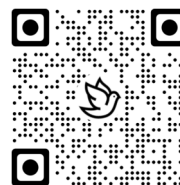
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil-some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn-ing glow or eve-ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

mur - mur stilled:
 all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 cho - sen band:
 take your part:

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Jazz Postlude on *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* Michel

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 memory of Jill and Cory Riffer, daughter and son of Cecelia Riffer.
"Twins together again."

∞ 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

Vocal Ensemble: Ellen Peters, Becky McKinley, Jennifer Lowekamp, Chris Bechtler, Doug Price,
and Jim Noran

LITURGIST

Mary Margaret Evans

GREETER

9:30am Harley Stewart, Cheryl Roettger

11:00am Elizabeth Padgett, Jackie Spiegel

USHERS

9:30am Matthew Underwood, Pat Underwood, Lynn Newcomer, Kelly Kirkpatrick

11:00am Ruth Cobb, Martha Jean Howell, Jerry Howell, Rebecca Caprio

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Jim Carey, Karol Sibley, Barb Timko

***WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Sharon Del Custer, Linda Eichhorn

***WINDSOR MEADE USHER**

Ray Whitney and Peter Moriarty

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Dick Sahlen 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** will resume their weekly meetings on Monday, 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 31 – Saturday, September 6
Pastor John • jmorgan@mywpc.org • 757-903-7800

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 ❧

- **Thanking God for Pastor John's 40 Years of Ministry! Join us on Sunday, September 14, immediately after the 11:00am worship service in Stevenson Hall, as we celebrate Pastor John's faithful service to God and God's people over the past 40 years.**

As part of our celebration, we will take a collection to make a donation to FISH in Pastor John's honor. Pastor John faithfully volunteers with FISH the first Wednesday of the month.

A basket will also be available for cards and personal notes of thanks. Come share in this joyful occasion as we give thanks to God for Pastor John's ministry among us!

- **Registration is now open for Sunday School!** All children ages four through 8th grade are asked to pre-register for Sunday School, so that our teachers can be prepared and ready for them. Sunday School begins on September 7. You can find the registration form online, or email Melody Dillon (mdillon@mywpc.org) if you need help.

- **Prayer Chain: Have you ever thought that you wanted to get more involved with the church but felt that you just didn't have the time? Joining the prayer chain is the perfect solution.** The process is simple: You will receive an e-mail every week listing the names of people who need prayers. You pray for those people as often and for as long as the Lord directs. That's it.

There is only one request. The names of the persons on the prayer chain are to be kept confidential shared by you with God. If this is something you'd like to do, please send an e-mail to Jo Ann Youhas* with your name, phone number, and e-mail address and she will add your name to the distribution list. We welcome you into this important ministry of our church. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Jo Ann Youhas* Thank you.

- **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 Square, right or wrong? Is it ever right to disobey?** That question is what some call, "a moral dilemma." The forever obedient Jesus apparently did disobey, according to Luke 2:41-51. Really? The Squares will dare to decide this perplexing question on **Thursday, September 4, 7:00 in room 227.** You are welcomed to join this men's group.

- **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.

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.**
- **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*.

🌀 ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE 🌀

Vanessa Gamble, our Church Secretary, will be away from Monday, September 1 through Friday, September 12, 2025. If you need assistance, please reach out to Martha Reier (mreier@mywpc.org) or contact the Church Office.

*Contact information can be found in our online directory.

You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.

More information about the events and announcements listed above can be found on our website at mywpc.org/news/ or on the church calendar.

✧ THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ✧

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

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

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

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 • LABOR DAY

The Church Office will be closed for the Labor Day Holiday.

We will reopen on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

1:00pm In-person Staff Mtg / Stevenson Hall

5:30PM Christian Education Mtg / Rm 220

7:00pm Earth Care Committee Mtg / Church Library / Zoom

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning

6:00pm Footsteps of Paul: A Spiritual Journey through Greece and Turkey information session / Zoom

7:00pm The Squares / Rm 255

7:30pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

3:00pm From His Hands Motel Food Prep / Kitchen

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

✧ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ✧

September 7, 2025 • 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of the Lord's Supper will be served at all worship services.

Pastor Pam's sermon, "*A Time to Connect*," will be based on Deuteronomy 30:15-20.