



WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 11, 2026

Greater Love

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

— John 15:13



PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Holy God, you set before us every day a bounty of good things. Bring us to your feasting table, hungry for your Word, eager to rebuild the cities you have made, and ready to receive strangers so that we celebrate at all times and in all places the peace which is life in you. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Hank Vernon

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Stewardship: Greater Love

Kai Salud and Sumner Long

PRELUDE

Acclamation in G Minor
Joyful Ringers

Karen Thompson

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

All: **Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

Leader: Let us bring all that we are to God in worship.

*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 327**

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Unison

1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre-a-tor's praise a-
 2 In ev-ery land be-gin the song; to ev-ery land the strains be-
 3 E-ter-nal are thy mer-cies, Lord; e-ter-nal truth at-tends thy

Harmony *Unison*

rise: Let the Re-deem-er's
 long: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! In cheer-ful sound all
 word: Thy praise shall sound from

name be sung through ev-ery land, in ev-ery tongue.
 voic-es raise and fill the world with joy-ful praise.
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

Harmony

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

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

Because Psalm 117 contains only two verses, Watts's paraphrase had only two stanzas. Most later hymnals have created or borrowed additional stanzas, like the one included here, to enlarge the hymn. Perhaps the best solution is found by adding Alleluias, as this tune invites.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We and our ancestors have sinned. Our ancestors exchanged the glory of God for the image of a golden calf. They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt. While our means are different, our compulsions are the same. Let us confess our brokenness, for God is merciful and just and will forgive us our sin.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, you are the Lord our God, who brought us out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. And yet our trust in you is fragile, easily weakened by our indifference and forgetfulness of your faithfulness. Our trust is fragile, easily broken by the slightest pause— an answer to prayer not instantly given, a request for peace not immediately felt. Our trust is fragile, easily displaced by gods of our own making— the god of self-sufficiency, chased at any cost, the god of illusion, pursued in any form. Lord, have mercy on us, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

*KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

Schubert

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has two lines of music. The first line of the first system has the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy;". The second line of the first system has the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.". The second system also has two lines of music. The first line of the second system has the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.". The second line of the second system has the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.". The score is written in a simple, clear style with a focus on the melody and harmony.

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy;

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Beloved, hear the good news: Jesus Christ came to stand in the breach to reconcile us to God. We are forgiven and freed!

*GLORIA

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Creatorex)

Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly
Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er
shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

WEEKLY WONDERING QUESTION

Laura Bechtler

I wonder, how does it feel to focus on God in your daily life?

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Hank Vernon

God of all wisdom, give us your Word and send us your Spirit so that we may know Christ.
Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 32:1-8

Hank Vernon

This is the Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

ISAIAH 25:1-9 (responsive)

Hank Vernon

Leader: O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

All: For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt.

Leader: Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

All: For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

Leader: When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

All: On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

Leader: And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

All: Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

Leader: It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:1-9

This is the Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"People Are Watching"

Rev. Pam Hrcir

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 623

I've Got Peace Like a River

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

1 I've got peace like a riv - er; I've got peace like a
2 I've got joy like a foun - tain; I've got joy like a
3 I've got love like an o - cean; I've got love like an

riv - er; I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
foun - tain; I've got joy like a foun - tain, in my
o - cean; I've got love like an o - cean, in my

soul. I've got riv - er, in my soul.
soul. I've got foun - tain, in my soul.
soul. I've got o - cean, in my soul.

In the King James Version, the promise of “peace like a river” is twice mentioned in Isaiah (48:18; 66:12) as a blessing that comes from doing God’s will. The water imagery of this African American spiritual also provides reminders of Christians’ baptismal identity.

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

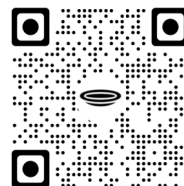
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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 Alway
Sofia Burbano, cello

Anonymous (16th century)

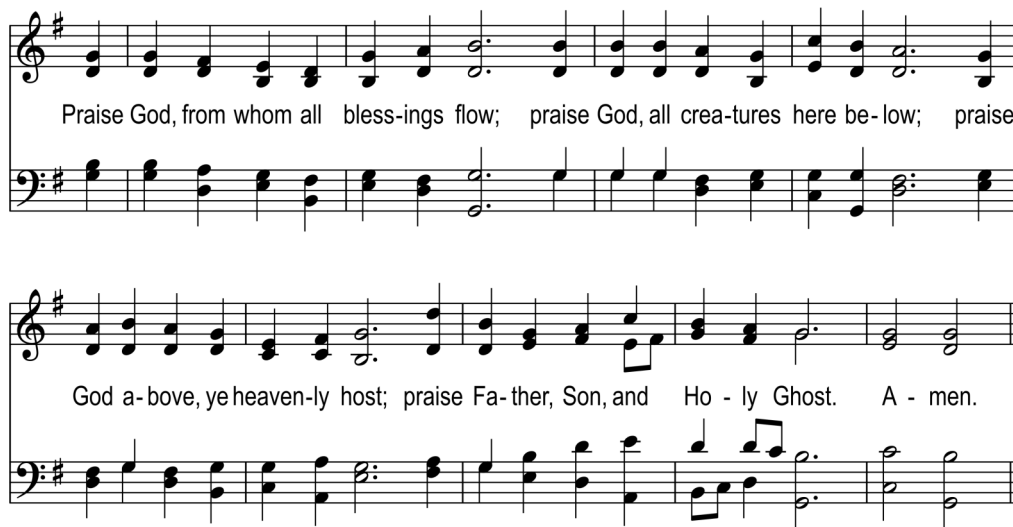
Rejoice in the Lord alway,
And again I say rejoice;
Rejoice ye in the Lord alway.
For the Lord our God is gracious,
And his mercy is everlasting;
His truth endureth forevermore.

—Philippians 4:4-5

*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.

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

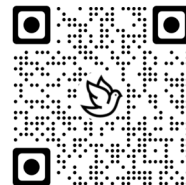
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

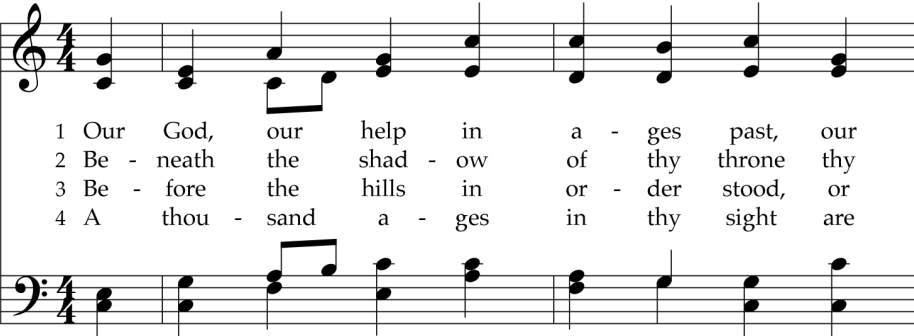
GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

*INVITATION AND THE LORD'S DAY GREETING

We are glad you are worshiping 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 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream, 6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 bears all our years away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day. our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Toccata on *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

Sedio

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.

❧ TODAY'S MUSIC NOTE ❧

The story of “Rejoice in the Lord Alway” is one of musical detective work. The only original source is a keyboard score with no text from between 1550 and 1575. The rhythm and other clues indicate that it was intended for the Epistle reading on the fourth Sunday of Advent at the time, and part of our reading today, Philippians 4:4–5. The vocal lines are derived from the keyboard score, and the text restored, with a few alterations, from the King James version of the Bible.

❧ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ❧

The flowers are given today to the glory of God and in memory Jan and Earl Merritt and in gratitude for the loving Williamsburg Presbyterian congregation who offered them friendship for many years. Daughter Lili will always be thankful for the love and help from those who brought joy to Jan as she embraced life after Earl died, with love by the Merritt daughters and grandchildren who miss them very much.

⌘ THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ⌘

PASTOR

Rev. John E. Morgan, Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Pam Hrnclir, Associate Pastor

MUSIC MINISTRY

Chris Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

Joyful Ringers directed by Chris Bechtler

Sofia Burbano, cello

WPC Chancel Choir

LITURGIST

Hank Vernon

GREETERS

9:30am Nick and Anne Nicastro

11:00am Elizabeth Padgett

USHERS

9:30am David Littell, John VanAken, Harley Stewart, Rebecca Caprio

11:00am Bob Bolstad, Ruth Cobb, Maxine Cunningham, Rebecca Caprio

WEEKLY WONDERING QUESTION

Laura Bechtler

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST

Jane Snyder, Phillip Jones, Sue Yeignst

***WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Jerry and Martha Jean Howell.

***WINDSOR MEADE USHER**

Ray Whitney and Peter Moriarty

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS

John Schoenberger

*Satellite campuses

≈ WPC'S PURPOSE STATEMENT ≈

*Joyfully led by the Spirit,
We are revolutionary in our hope and love.
Welcoming all, we nurture and equip people to
Serve God and care for our community in the way of Jesus.*

≈ CHILDREN'S STATEMENT ≈

Children are welcome at WPC! With the exception of today, October 11, 2026, we have Sunday School for all ages at 9:30am and a nursery for children ages 3 and below during both services. We also have 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!

≈ YOUTH STATEMENT ≈

All youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to join us every Sunday evening for WPC Youth Group! We meet from 5:30-7:00pm and enjoy dinner, singing, and a variety of activities from Bible study to Gaga Ball.

High schoolers in 9th-12th grade are invited to join a midweek Bible study held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm. Please reach out to Melody Dillon with any questions.

≈ WORSHIP WEEKLY WONDERING QUESTION ≈

In our effort to be an intentional and intergenerational church, we implemented a new weekly worship practice called "**Weekly Wondering Question.**" During this time, you are encouraged to apply your own meaning to a faith concept from the sermon. You are invited to engage with the Weekly Wondering Question by either wondering silently to yourself, or by turning to your neighbor and having a quiet discussion.

We hope this new practice will help all ages to think differently about their faith and engage in non-judgmental curiosity. There is no "right" or "wrong" answer to these questions, so feel free to use your imagination! It is our prayer that this practice will help us live out our WPC purpose statement to be joyful, revolutionary, and welcoming as we seek to follow the way of Jesus.

≈ 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 symbol pictured here.

✧ 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, added to the prayer chain, or 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.*

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 for this week. During the week, please call the church office.

Pastor-on-Call

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

Upcoming Memorial Services for WPC Members and Friends:

- Dorothy Geyer’s mother, Lillian Geyer, who went to be with Our Lord and Savior on Monday, August 24 2026. A **memorial service is planned for Saturday, November 7, 2026**, in our sanctuary followed by a reception.

Please pray for the families who have lost loved ones:

- The family of John Lowden
- The family of Lillian Geyer, mother of Dorothy Geyer

Please continue to pray for:

- Mary Jo Siclari, Bob Gustafson, Barbara Coughlan
- Gail Jamerson and Edward Woodley, wife and brother-in-law of our sexton, Hugh Jamerson
- Barb Timko’s brother for his strength during chemo and radiation treatment.

Please pray for those recovering from various surgeries; who are homebound; who have family and friend concerns; affected by fires and natural disasters; serving in the military services and their families; serving our country in leadership roles; experiencing homelessness and hunger; affected by the wars in Iran, Gaza, Israel, Sudan, and Ukraine.

🌀 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🌀

***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.

- **Help wanted to greet or usher for one or more Open Door concerts, and especially the Tuba Skinny concert on October 18.** Easy hours - a Sunday 3:15pm - 6pm, and enjoy a fabulous foot tappin' concert. See the Open Door Concert schedule at www.mywpc.org/concerts.

Contact Dick Hubbard* or Tom Bozek* for more information

- **Our annual Trunk or Treat Fall Festival will be back on Sunday, October 25, 2026, from 4:30-6:30pm!** Everyone is invited to come out that night for Trunk or Treating, pumpkin decorating, face painting, glitter tattoos, popcorn, hot dogs, hot cocoa, and a giant inflatable obstacle course! We need LOTS of help to make this event a success. You can sign up to host a trunk or to be a general volunteer helping with crowd control and additional activities. **We also encourage everyone to donate candy! Last year we actually ran out of candy, so this is a huge need!** Candy can be donated to the bin in the front office. You can find all the information and signups at mywpc.org/trunk.
- **The WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, October 26, at 2 pm in Room 220 (and on Zoom) to discuss *The Correspondent*, by Virginia Evans.**
- **WPC Prayer Chain:** Looking for a simple way to become more involved in the life of our church? **Consider joining the WPC Prayer Chain.** Each week, you will receive an email with the names of people who need prayer. Simply pray for them as often and for as long as the Lord directs. It's that easy! **Prayer requests and names are confidential and are to be shared only with God.**

To join this important ministry, email Jo Ann Youhas* with your name, phone number, and email address. If you have questions, please contact Jo Ann. We welcome you to this meaningful ministry of prayer!.

- **Fluvanna Prison Christmas Gifts:** For the 6th year, WPC Women are collecting 5 prescribed gift items for the inmates of the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. Giving these simple personal items sends the women a message that someone cares – God cares - about them, even though they have made mistakes. There are two ways members of the congregation can join us: by monetary donations (cash in an envelope designated for Fluvanna or check made out to WPC with Fluvanna on the memo line) or by contributing the requested items to the box designated for Fluvanna in the Welcome Center. **Cash/check is due by October 18 and actual items are due by October 23. The prison is very strict and set limits cannot be exceeded. They are:**

- ⇒ **One toothbrush (in its original container)**
- ⇒ **6 oz toothpaste (in its original container)**
- ⇒ **18 oz shampoo**
- ⇒ **18 oz body lotion (we usually can't find more than 10-12 oz)**
- ⇒ **2.6 oz stick deodorant (Walmart Suave is the best bet)**

Travel size items will not be accepted.

This program has been so meaningful to recipients that, after release, many have encouraged their churches to participate. If you have questions, contact Pat Underwood*.

- **New Member Luncheon—November 1.** Join us immediately following the 11:00am worship service in Stevenson Hall for a relaxed and joyful luncheon. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know others, meet the pastors and church leaders, and discover the many ways you can connect with our community to worship, grow in our faith, and serve our community.
- **Save the Date:** Planning has begun for the 9th Annual HART Multifaith Thanksgiving Service. Join us for this Williamsburg community tradition, held at **Walsingham Academy, Sunday, November 22, 7pm.** HART, the Historic Area Religions Together, brings together people of all faiths and backgrounds to celebrate and give thanks.

PRISON MINISTRY REPORT FROM KAIROS 89 AT GREENSVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER S1

The WPC Kairos team returned from the Kairos Prison Workshop at Greenville Correctional Center last Sunday evening. Sixty-one prisoners and 22 Kairos volunteers attended. WPC members baked 109 dozen cookies, which were taken into the prison with another 1,300 or so dozen. For those of you who don't have your calculators handy, that's over 17,000 cookies.

We would like to report that the cookies and prayers from the congregation during the four-day weekend were well received and appreciated. Not only did the workshop attendees receive the cookies but Kairos volunteers delivered a quart bag of one dozen cookie to every prisoner in Greenville S1.

At the one of the the open mike segments during the weekend, one inmates said that his family has forgotten him and he receives nothing from outside the prison. He said the fact that people who didn't know him gave him cookies, letters, and prayers meant more to him than anyone could possibly imagine. He said this has encouraged him and will help him to get over his feelings of shame and worthlessness. He said now has new hope that he can be a better person.

He was not the only one. We heard this throughout the weekend. Many now know they are blessed even though they are still in prison. The Kairos team will go back every month to help them to grow in their faith and support their efforts to live a better life closer to God.

A COMMUNITY EVENT

Troop 20 Shred-a-Thon — Fall 2026

October 17, 8:00–11:00am

Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School

\$5+ per bag.

Proceeds benefit Scouts BSA Troop 20, sponsored by King of Glory Lutheran Church.

☞ **THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS** ☞

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 9:30am Nursery open during both worship services
9:30am Sunday School for Children, Youth and Adults / CE Wing and Lower Level
9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary • Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access
9:30am Why Is Jesus Revolutionary? Short Course / LL049
10:30am Coffee Fellowship Hour / Stevenson Hall
11am In-person Worship / Sanctuary • *Listen at FM93.5 The Burg.com*
5:30pm WPC Youth Group / Rm 227

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 1pm Caregiver Support Grp / Rm 222
1pm Presbyterian Women's Circle 3-Miriam / Rm 220
1pm Caregiver Support Grp / Rm 222

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 Study . Rm 220

- 12pm PW Circle 8 - Deborah / Contact Cathy Cheney for Off-site Location
1pm Staff Meeting / Zoom
1:30pm Kirk Krafters / Church Library
2pm Stewardship Committee Meeting / Rm 220
5pm CE Children's Subcommittee / Rm 227
6:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting / Rm 220
6:30pm PW Circle 5 - Eunice / Rm 227
6:30pm UKirk Dinner & Dialogue / Stevenson Hall and Kitchen
7pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 7:30am Men's Bible & Bacon Study / Stephenson Hall
10am PW Circle 14 - Martha / Rm 227
1pm Short Course: The Path Ahead / Stevenson Hall
6:30pm Nominating Committee / Rm 220
6pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 9am Sanctuary Cleaning
4:30pm Outreach Tutoring Committee / Rm 220
4:30pm Carol Choir and Junior Choir Rehearsal / Children's Choir Rm
5pm Christian Outreach Ministry Meeting / LL010
7:30pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm Lower Level

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

- 2:30pm UKirk Fall Retreat / Afton, VA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

- 6pm Williamsburg Choral Guild Fall Concert /Stevenson Hall

☞ **NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP** ☞

OCTOBER 18 2026

Pastor John E. Morgan's sermon, "Give to God What is God's," is based on Matthew 22:15-22.