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FALL FESTIVAL 2024—OCTOBER 19: Mark your calendars! The annual Westminster Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 19 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This annual event has become a staple of the community: Please plan to help your church show Christian welcome and hospitality to all of its neighbors.



In addition to our spread of games, music, and food, as of the newsletter deadline, the following groups have agreed to participate this year: The Gulfport Fire Department, the Gulfport Police Department, the Seabees, the Harrison County Sheriff's Department, the Division of Marine Resources, Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, the Shriners, St. John's Pipers, and our own Bryan Batson with his guitar! More groups are expected to confirm in the

coming weeks; however, as always, the schedule is subject to change.

The planning team is also looking for contributions of individually wrapped candy and cupcakes or small cakes for the cake walk. Candy may be dropped off in the narthex through Sunday, October 13, and small cakes and cupcakes may be dropped off in the kitchen the day before the festival. Thank you!

Need a new Westminster T-shirt? We'll have them! These are designed to be fun, a little funky, and eye-catching. They will be available for sale at the church for \$15 each. Sizes run from adult small to XXXL large.



LIFEHOUSE YOUTH UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR OF YOUTH, ALICE BELLANGER:



LifeHouse Youth Group is off to a great start for the fall! We have a new curriculum for the students and they are really excited about it! We revisit the New City Catechism lesson that was started in their Sunday school class. We ALWAYS play games, have our sweet and sour conversations and eat! We end each meeting with compline, or evening prayer at 6:45 p.m. on meeting days. Everyone is welcome.

Our dates for October are October 6th, 20th and 27th. We still need volunteers to provide supper on the 20th and 27th.



GIRL SCOUTS TROOP 3542 FROM TROOP LEADER, JEANNIE CONGLETON:

Girl Scout Troop 3542 has had a great start to our new year! We are so excited to have most of our scouts return this year, and many new girls join our troop. Our 4th-9th graders had a wonderful opportunity to experience a one-of-a-kind overnight at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. During their stay they had the opportunity to learn about coastal habitats and discover many species of plankton that live in our waters. They collected sea shells while going on a 3 mile hike on the beach and through the maritime forest habitats. They also were able to investigate the many species of phyto- and zooplankton using plankton nets to take live samples from Mobile Bay, and use microscopes in the laboratory to observe what they caught. Our 6th-9th graders were able to attend Girl Scouts Humanities Day at USM in Hattiesburg. They had a day of learning and fun in Digital Humanities through history, philosophy, linguistics, literature art, archeology, music, and cultural studies. We are looking forward to many more activities this coming scout year!



PLEASE JOIN GIRL SCOUT TROOP
3542 FOR A
— ★ ★ ★ —

VETERANS DAY
Dinner

A day to honor our veterans
for their service to our
country

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Westminster Presbyterian Church
5005 Lawson Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39507
(please park in the gravel parking lot)
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MONDAY
11 NOV 2024
6:15 PM

— ★ ★ ★ —
SPAGHETTI, PIZZA, AND SALAD WILL BE SERVED
PLEASE RSVP TO JEANNIE
228-343-9677



A BAPTISM

Welcome to the family of faith, Harlem Reign Hawk!
Harlem was baptized during worship on September 22.
His grandparents, Paula and Cummings King, presented
him for baptism upon their own professions of faith.



In Memoriam

Westminster extends its deepest
Christian sympathies to the family
of Ron Barnard. Ron died
September 21 after several
lengthy health battles. Please
continue to keep his wife Karen,
son and daughter-in-law Lance and Katie,
and granddaughter Stella, in your prayers.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: GRACE AND GRATITUDE: A SERIES THROUGH EPHESIANS

In a world that often seems to be falling apart, Paul's letter to the ancient Ephesian church offers a hope-filled message that in Christ, God has reconciled sinners to himself and is reconciling his beloved people to one another. This summer and early fall, Westminster will take a walk through this letter and study its message of gracious redemption, the call to a new way of life, and hope in the world. *Dates subject to change.*



September 29: Psalm 85:1-13. *Chaplain Jason Gregory preaching while Pastor Will attends the meeting of Gulf South Presbytery in San Antonio.*

October 6: Ephesians 6:10-20. *Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.*

October 13: Ephesians 6:21-23. *End of Ephesians series.*

Westminster Choir

Want to make a joyful noise with some great folks? Westminster's choir sings occasionally in worship, and practices each Sunday at 10 a.m.

SPECIAL WORSHIP EVENTS



October 13: Dr. Olga Lutsenko, founder of Westminster's long-time mission partner, The Kindness Foundation, will speak during a joint Sunday School class at 9:15 a.m. and during a minute for mission during worship. Immediately following worship, there will be a Dutch treat luncheon at the Gulfport Yacht Club with Dr. Lutsenko, who will speak more at length about her work in providing Bibles for public school students in Russia, Ukraine, and Latvia. To attend the luncheon, RSVP to mission committee chair Rachel Price.



October 20: The Mississippi Boy Choir will sing during worship as part of their Fall tour through South Mississippi. The choir's southern division rehearses at Westminster on Sunday afternoons. Now in its 30th season, the choir, which draws young men from across Mississippi, provides opportunities for developing vocal technique, self-discipline, and cultural learning. A potluck luncheon to allow Westminster members and friends the opportunity to meet the singers and their families will immediately follow worship.

October 27: Westminster will celebrate its annual Reformation Day observance with music and liturgy drawn from the era of the Reformers. Bagpiper Elizabeth Doss will return to offer music reflecting Westminster's Reformed, Presbyterian, and Scottish heritage.



October (cont.)

- 28 Wayne Tisdale
- 28 Carmen Allen
- 29 Riley Pickich
- 29 Amelia Allen
- 29 Jerrye Tisdale
- 29 Donna Smith
- 2 Chip Westbrook
- 31 Emily Winter
- 8 Peter Russell

November

- 9 Susan Littell
- 3 Abigail Gregory
- 11 Marley Pickich
- 7 Rachel Price
- 12 Carl Parker, Jr.
- 20 Dee Lineberger
- 15 Justin Cuevas
- 24 Patty McKinley
- 19 Louis Congleton

COMMUNION AT SUMMERFIELD

Westminster continues to host a brief communion service at Summerfield Senior Living each month on the third Thursday at 2 p.m.



Westminster members and friends are welcome to attend and to visit with Summerfield residents.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

The session invites all members and friends of Westminster to take a moment during the month of October to consider the bounty with which God has blessed all of us. As an act of thanksgiving, what portion of these bounties will you intentionally set aside as an offering to the Lord, that by them, he may continue his work of building his kingdom?

During worship in October, there will be brief testimonies about the ways in which God has blessed our own family of faith at Westminster. On October 27, the session will invite and encourage each covenant member of the church to present an estimate of these offerings via a pledge card. Cards will be available during worship each Sunday in October; estimates may also be sent to the church directly either by U.S. Mail to 5005 Lawson Avenue; Gulfport, Miss.; 39507; or by confidential email to treasurer Jane Bloss at treasurer@gulfportchurch.org.

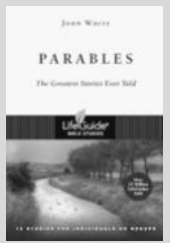
NEW ELDERS ELECTED

On September 1, the congregation elected Mark Alspaugh, Ben Stone, and Pat West as members of the session's Class of 2027. Upon successful examination by the current session, Mark and Ben will be ordained and installed to active service on the session, while Pat, having been ordained previously, will be installed. The congregation also elected Scott Winter, Lynda Gary, Chip Westbrook, and Ted Hammer to serve on the 2025 nominating committee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—FOR ALL AGES: Adults and children of all ages meet every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. to learn from well-prepared teachers more about the faith into which they were baptized. Children’s and Youth classes meet in the Christian Education Building and the adult class meets in the Library.

The Adult class, led by Elder Ted Hammer, recently began their new book study: “Parables: The Greatest Stories Ever Told.”

Description: We all love a good story. But the parables of Jesus are even better than that. They sneak up on us, catching us off guard and toppling our easy assumptions. When the familiar takes an unexpected twist, we find our secret thoughts exposed to the healing light of Jesus.



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL!



Each week, we are focusing on a question from the New City Catechism. We consider how the concepts within each question and answer shape our faith and inform how we live out our faith every day. All children in grades 5 through 12 are invited to join us at 9:15 on Sundays!



SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

Lunch Bunch: The ladies Lunch Bunch will gather on Friday, October 25 at 11:30 a.m. See bulletin and Westminster Welcome for location. All women are welcome!

Rise and Shine: The men’s Rise and Shine breakfast continues monthly at the Gulfport Cracker Barrel. All men are welcome at 7 a.m. The next gathering will be October 1.

Tuesday Bible Study: Westminster’s Tuesday Bible study began again August 20 with a new 12-week study through Daniel. The study meets each Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a light lunch and a walk through one of the most colorful books in the Old Testament.

An optional weekly reading guide by Todd Wilson, president of the Center for Pastoral Theologians, is available in the narthex. Cost of each copy is currently \$7. This guide pairs well with the English Standard Version (ESV) Study Bible and will help participants begin thinking about the text before the weekly study.

Can’t make it? Read along with us this month!



- October 1: Daniel 5:1-31 (rescheduled from September 24)
- October 8: Daniel 6:1-28
- October 15: Daniel 7:1-28
- October 22: Daniel 8:1-27
- October 29: Daniel 9:1-27

“THE GENESIS PROJECT” AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM IS COMING

Under the leadership of Jeanie Pollard, Westminster is preparing to host a new, weekly after-school music and arts program for children of the church and students from Pass Road Elementary School. The Genesis Project, so named as the church hopes this to be an opportunity for young people to make new discoveries about themselves and who God has called and equipped them to be, will be held once a week, and will include music and art lessons, a handbell ensemble, and a time for reading and exploring stories from the Bible.

The start date remains to be determined, but, please check out future newsletters, bulletins, and social media channels for how you can be part of this new effort to reach Gulfport’s young people. In the meantime, please keep this effort in prayer!

MISSISSIPPI BOY CHOIR

The session has authorized the Coast cohort of the Mississippi Boy Choir to rehearse in the church Sundays at 5 p.m. This choir is made up of young people across the state, and will go on tour in October. On October 20, the Choir will sing during Westminster’s Sunday morning service of worship with a celebratory potluck luncheon for the whole congregation to follow.



OCTOBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. <i>No LifeHouse Youth</i> MS Boy Choir rehearsal, 5 p.m.		Rise & Shine Men's Breakfast, 7 a.m. Prayer Group, 10 a.m. Daniel Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.		
Gulfport Schools—Intercession						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship/Communion, 10:30 a.m. LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m. MS Boy Choir rehearsal, 5 p.m.		Prayer Group, 10 a.m. Daniel Bible Study, 11:30 a.m. Discipleship Formation, 1 p.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m. Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6:30 p.m.		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. <i>No LifeHouse Youth</i> MS Boy Choir rehearsal, 5 p.m.		Prayer Group, 10 a.m. Daniel Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.	Session Meeting, 6 p.m.	Communion at Summerfield, 2 p.m. AA Meeting, 6 p.m. Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6:30 p.m.		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship/Boy Choir singing, 10:30 a.m. Potluck after morning worship. LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m.	Cub Scouts Pack Meeting, 6 p.m.	Prayer Group, 10 a.m. Daniel Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m. Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.	
Reformation 27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m. MS Boy Choir rehearsal, 5 p.m.		Prayer Group, 10 a.m. Daniel Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.		
						



WESTMINSTER

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Gulfport, Mississippi 39507

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



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Saturday, October 19
Lawson Ave. @ 50th St.

*Fall
Festival*

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Free to Enjoy!