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# WESTMINSTER

presbyterian church | epc

## NOVEMBER 2024

### LIFEHOUSE YOUTH UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR OF YOUTH, ALICE BELLANGER:



LifeHouse Youth Group has been working hard these past few weeks! In addition to our regular, newly reimagined meetings with evening prayer, we helped prepare for the Fall Festival by filling bags of candy and making posters. We have eaten delicious food provided by the Winter family and Mrs. Lynda Gary.

Looking forward to November and December, LifeHouse will have a lot going on. We will meet November 10 and 17. On November 24, we will participate in the joint Thanksgiving service with Trinity. In December, we will meet on the 1st to start preparing our goodie bags for our home bound members. On December 8, Oliver will be performing in the Nutcracker at the Beau Rivage, so we will not meet on that day. On December 15 we'll go caroling and December 22 will be the LifeHouse Christmas party!!

Please mark your calendars!! If anyone would like to provide supper for our very hungry youth, please let me know.



### FALL FESTIVAL 2024

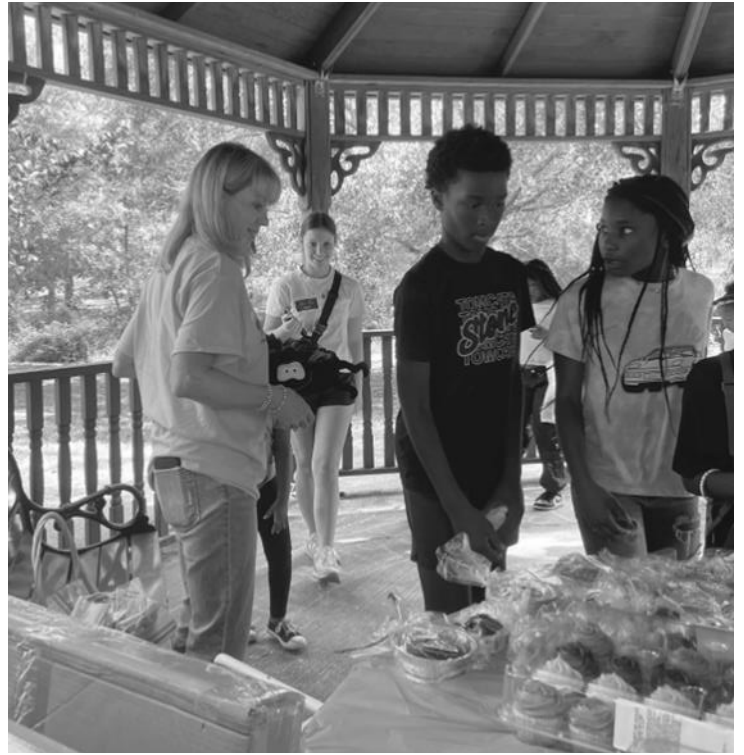
October 19 was an absolutely gorgeous day for Westminster's annual Fall Festival! An estimated 450 people attended this year's event from across the community, including multiple families who reported the Fall Festival having become an annual tradition for them. Many thanks to everyone who made the day so special: As always, the Fall Festival takes many hands. Festival goers were able to enjoy live music by Bryan Batson and the St. James Pipers, a cake walk, arts and crafts, mask making, a dunk tank, a bounce house, games and prizes, food by the Gulfport High School Culinary Arts students, and visits by Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, the Gulfport Police Department, the Department of Marine Resources, the Gulfport Fire Department, the Seabees, and the Shriners.



*more photos on pages 2-3*

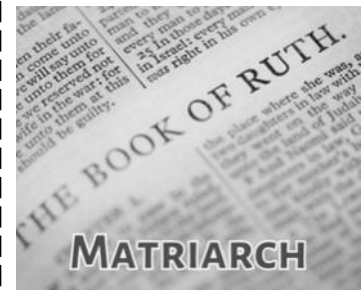


Thank you to our Fall Festival Donors: Allen Beverages, Brooklyn's Pizzeria, and Traintastic!  
Thank you to Karen Barnard, Garnie Dubuisson, and Lynda Gary for spearheading this year's festival.  
Congratulations to our door prize winners: Nicole Gillon—Brooklyn's Pizzeria: pizza a month for 6 months gift card and Courtney Zitterkopf — Traintastic: admission for 2 gift card.



**Matriarch: A November Series Through Ruth**

In four short weeks, the season of Advent will begin. Before entering this season of preparation, though, Westminster will take a quick step back and learn from the account of Ruth, the great-grandmother of King David and a direct ancestor of Jesus himself. This new series, “Matriarch,” will look at Ruth’s faithfulness as well as her own Moabite cultural background. This “faithful foreigner” in David’s lineage offers a foreshadowing of the radical inclusion of the Gentiles when Jesus fulfilled all of God’s covenant promises to Israel.



November 3: Ruth 1. *The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.*

November 10: Ruth 2.

November 17: Ruth 3.

November 24: Ruth 4.

*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. *Don’t miss Sunday, December 15! This will be a special music Sunday featuring choral anthems, instrumental works, and solo pieces for a unique Advent service of worship.*

**Special Worship Events**

November 24: Westminster will host its neighbors from Trinity Methodist Church for the annual Thanksgiving service at 6 p.m.

**GIRL SCOUT TROOP 3542 UPDATE FROM JEANNIE CONGLETON:**

Girl Scout Troop 3542 has been off to a great start this year! We recently went on a Glass Blowing field trip at Mohawk Steel and Glass. We watched a fun demonstration of glass blowing, and then everyone had the opportunity to make their own glass blown Christmas ornament. While there we went on a hay ride around their Christmas Tree Farm, and got to interact with goats. Our 9th grade scouts spent an afternoon with a scout dad working on their car maintenance badge. They learned many things like how to change oil, change a tire, check oil, change wiper blades, and more. We also celebrated the founder of Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low's, birthday this month. We read a book about her, completed activities about the Girl Scout Law, painted pumpkins, and enjoyed cupcakes. We are looking forward to hosting dinner for veterans on Veteran's Day.




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

**WHAT IS BETTER THAN A DONUT?**

Sharing a donut with our church family on Sunday morning! We love having folks bring donuts to church: Would you like to get in on this weekly treat? We are looking for volunteers to bring 2-3 dozen donuts to the narthex by-or-during the 9:15 a.m. Sunday school hour. You pick your favorites: Glazed, chocolate, cake. Just place them on the table near the curio cabinet! Sign up to volunteer when you get your donut this week!



Alcoholics Anonymous meets weekly on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the C.E. Building. For more information, call the church office at (228) 864-3143.



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:**

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Operation Christmas Child box packing after worship on October 27. This year, there were enough supplies to send almost 50 boxes of gifts to children across the world—with some supplies left over! The contributions have been incredible. Thank you, also, to everyone who has given items for this effort or contributed to the “making CHANGE” collection to help defray shipping costs.



**MISSISSIPPI BOYCHOIR VISIT**

On October 20 The Mississippi Boychoir sang during worship as part of their Fall tour through South Mississippi. Their sacred repertoire included Haydn’s “Sing a New Song,” a setting of Psalm 96; and three gospel pieces, “Hold Out Your Light,” “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho,” and “I Sing Because I’m Happy.” After worship, Westminster treated the nearly 20 singers and their families to an enormous potluck lunch: Many thanks to everyone who cooked so ably! The choir’s coast division will continue to rehearse at Westminster most Sundays at 3:30 p.m. They will return in March to sing with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Symphony.

**SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS**

**Lunch Bunch:** The ladies Lunch Bunch will gather at The Chimneys Restaurant on Friday, December 6 at 11:30 a.m. (this will serve as the November and December meetings). 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 Nov. 5.

**Tuesday Bible Study:** Westminster’s Tuesday Bible study through Daniel meets each Tuesday through November 19 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.

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

November 5: Daniel 10

November 12: Daniel 11

November 19: Daniel 12

October 25 meeting of Lunch Bunch at Jalapeño Grill.

**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, is beginning their new book study: “Waiting for God.”



Description: We spend much of our life waiting. For healing for ourselves or a friend. For a wayward daughter to return to God. For a new job. For marriage and children and grandchildren. Sometimes the waiting can cause us to feel stuck, or forgotten by God. But waiting time is not wasted time. These eight-session Bible Study by Juanita Ryan help you draw near to God in times of uncertainty and postponement. As she leads you and your group through significant moments of waiting in Scripture, you will become familiar with the dynamics of such times and learn to hear God’s call to rest in his timing.

**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!



*From Karen Barnard: Remembering Ron’s last Sunday at Westminster — September 11, 2024.*

*On that last Sunday you dressed with great care. You opened the door and greeted the people there. I don’t know why you danced over to me but the smile on your face was so clear. I will never forget that smile on your face.*

*I had a witness and she saw it too. Your smile filled her with happiness because she loves you too. You touched so many people at that front door the best greeter Westminster has ever had really had a great last Sunday at her front door.*

**STEWARDSHIP SEASON**

The session thanks all members and friends of Westminster who submitted a pledge card during the 2024 stewardship campaign, which ended officially on October 27.

Although the campaign ended officially, pledges are still most welcome! So far, out of 76 current giving units, the treasurer has received 32 pledges. As each covenant member of the church continues to consider how he or she will contribute to the financial wellbeing of the church, pledge cards will continue to be received with gratitude.

**ONLINE AND APP-BASED GIVING**

Westminster is set up for online and app-based giving. Visit [gulfportchurch.org](http://gulfportchurch.org) to give online, or download the secure Tithely app from Android or Apple to your phone and search for Westminster to give via app. For additional information, please call the church office at (228) 864-3143.



**December (cont.)**

**November**

- 3 Abigail Gregory
- 7 Rachel Price
- 24 Patty McKinley

**December**

- 1 Will Symmes
- 3 Shere Murray
- 3 Melahie Gilgan
- 4 Dona Haynes
- 6 Mary Davis

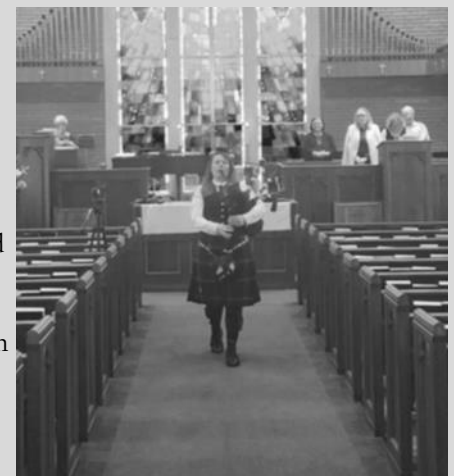
- 7 Carter Congleton
- 10 Betty Shaw
- 11 Lil McCollum
- 12 Kelly Cuevas
- 13 Jenny Ellzey
- 13 Braxton Williams
- 18 Jessica Thomas
- 23 Jane Bloss
- 23 Susan Blanchard
- 24 Mark Alspaugh
- 25 Annie Winter
- 26 Oliver Shurley
- 31 Jim Roberts

**MISSIONARY VISIT: KINDNESS FOUNDATION**

Dr. Olga Lutsenko, founder of Westminster’s long-time mission partner, The Kindness Foundation, spoke during a joint Sunday School class on October 13 and during a minute for mission during worship. Dr. Lutsenko detailed her work in providing Bibles for public school students in Russia, Ukraine, and Latvia, especially during the current Russia-Ukraine war. She noted that soldiers on both sides of the conflict have particularly found solace in being able to read God’s word. After worship, Dr. Lutsenko shared more about recent travels to Russia and provided an overview of the Stalinist history and cultural attitudes that have contributed to the strife between the two nations.

**REFORMATION SUNDAY**

Westminster celebrated the 507<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation on October 27. The service featured bagpipe solos and bagpipe and organ duets; two great Reformation era hymns, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” and “I Greet Thee



Who My Sure Redeemer Art;” and a sermon on Psalm 46, Martin Luther’s inspiration for “A Mighty Fortress.” This annual celebration reflects Westminster’s unique heritage: Biblical, catholic, protestant, reformed, and presbyterian.

# NOVEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Communion/Worship, 10:30 a.m. MS Boychoir rehearsal, 3 p.m. <i>No LifeHouse Youth</i>		Prayer Group, 10 a.m.  Daniel Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.   		
 <b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	 <b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. MS Boychoir rehearsal, 3 p.m. <i>No LifeHouse Youth</i>		Rise & Shine Men's Breakfast, 7 a.m.  Prayer Group, 10 a.m.  Daniel Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.  Mission Committee, 6:30 p.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.  Highlands & Islands Meeting, 6 p.m.		
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. MS Boychoir rehearsal, 3 p.m. LifeHouse Youth, 5-7 p.m.	Veterans Day Dinner, 6:15 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 p.m.		
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. MS Boychoir rehearsal, 3 p.m. 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.	Session Meeting, 6 p.m.	Communion at Summerfield, 2 p.m.  AA Meeting, 6 p.m.		
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
Children's Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. MS Boychoir rehearsal, 3 p.m. <i>No LifeHouse Youth</i> Joint Thanksgiving Service at Westminster, 6 p.m.		Prayer Group, 10 a.m.		AA Meeting, 6 p.m.    <i>Church office closed</i>	<i>Church office closed</i>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                         Gulfport Schools—Thanksgiving Holidays                     </div>						



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Gulfport, Mississippi 39507

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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**



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phone 228.864.3143  
gulfportchurch.org

**November 24: 6 p.m. at Westminster**



*Thanksgiving Worship Service*