



WESTMINSTER

presbyterian church | epc

GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

July 2020

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VBS 2020: July 6-8



The coronavirus couldn't keep us from having an awesome time at Vacation Bible School! The Shurleys transformed their living room and dining room into our virtual VBS headquarters and, for three days, at least 15 children and lots of grownups logged on to Facebook Live to become "Rainforest Explorers!" Through songs, Bible stories, and crafts, we learned how Jesus leads our way as we journey through our lives—even when the way forward seems uncertain and even scary. Many thanks to all the grownups who helped their kiddos participate in this most unusual VBS experience, and to our church family who prayed us through it. We had a blast!



CUB SCOUT PACK 209 GRADUATION

Members of Cub Scout Pack 209 and their immediate families gathered for an outdoor, socially-distanced graduation in Westminster's courtyard on June 27. The boys received their respective den patches, and enjoyed pizza and cake. The pack looks forward to the 2020-2021 school year, and hopes to be able to gather again as soon as it is safe to do so. *(Note: You may have read a number of articles of late concerning developments within the larger Boy Scouts of America organization. As Westminster is the chartering organization for both Troop and Pack 209, the session is aware of these developments, and remains the final authority for the standards for the programming and leadership of both.)*



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. led by Pete Bloss via Zoom.

The Adult Sunday School class led by Elder Pete Bloss recently began a new video study by Sinclair B. Ferguson, **“Who is the Holy Spirit?”**

The Zoom meeting ID number is **817 0590 9102**, contact Pete Bloss at 228-861-0817 if you have issues or are prompted to give a password.



Class description: Although the Holy Spirit is sometimes the forgotten Person of the Trinity, His presence and work is found throughout redemptive history. In this twelve-message series, Dr. Sinclair Ferguson traces the work of the third person of the Trinity through Scripture - from creation to the work of Christ to His dwelling in our hearts today. See gulfportchurch.org for more information.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School Zoom class will be on hiatus July 12 and 19, and will resume at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 26. Per results of a parent survey, the current teacher, Anna Kate Shurley, will contact parents to explore a new time for children's Sunday School in order to make the class as accessible as possible

For both classes, the session and teachers continue to monitor developments with COVID-19, and hope to resume in-person classes on Sunday mornings as soon as it is safe to do so.

FEED MY SHEEP UPDATE: Westminster's homegrown local mission has remained open throughout COVID-19. The dining room remains closed, but to-go meals and home delivery meals to the homebound now total more than 700 each day. Feed My Sheep provided baked beans and bread for the recent "BBQ for the Blue" effort, which fed 850 law enforcement officers in Harrison, Jackson, Hancock, and Stone Counties on July 6. Through a partnership with Coastal Family Health, Feed My Sheep will offer free COVID-19 screening and testing on July 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feed My Sheep remains active in the local Homeless to Housing Hub, and has become the go-to place for agencies who are working to house Gulfport's chronically homeless population and need to find their clients.

COAST ECUMENICAL FELLOWSHIP

The Coast Ecumenical Fellowship continues its work in building relationships among Christian churches and leaders on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. On July 28 at noon, the CEF will host a Zoom meeting with Gulfport School District Superintendent Glen East to learn more about plans for reopening local schools this fall and how congregations might support the children in the Gulfport School District. On October 7 at 8 a.m., the CEF will gather for breakfast at Feed My Sheep to learn more about this long-time fixture of Christian mission in Gulfport.

NEW SERMON SERIES: “SABBATH: FINDING A RHYTHM FOR LIFE”

Does it ever feel like you just need a break from life? That things are either so mundane or so crazy busy that you sometimes feel desperate to get away from it all? Welcome to the modern world! This summer, and into the fall, we'll be taking a look at what it means to enjoy the gift of sabbath—not just periodic vacations from life, but the regular rhythm of work and holy rest that God himself has given to humankind. We'll explore the meaning of sabbath and discover ways to align the rhythms of our own lives so that we can be sustained and refreshed each and every day.

July 26: Sabbath as Time to Remember to Whom We Really Belong
Genesis 2:1-3 and Exodus 20:8-11

August 2: Sabbath as Time that Makes Our Work Productive
Genesis 2:5-7, 15-17; Genesis 3:17-19; Psalm 127:1-3; Psalm 128:1-2

August 9: Sabbath as Time to Allow God to Work in Us
Isaiah 58:13-14

August 16: Sabbath as Time for God to Clean Up Our Messes
Ezekiel 20:1-13 a and Exodus 31:12-17

August 23: Sabbath as Time to Remember to Let Others Breathe, Too
Exodus 5:1-9 and Luke 4:16-21

August 30: Break in Series—Blessing of the Backpacks
September 6: Jesus as the Sabbath
Luke 6:1-11 and Romans 6:1-4

September 13: Sabbath and the Joy of Corporate Worship
Romans 14:5-9; Hebrews 10:19-25; I Corinthians 14:40

September 20: Heaven as Our Eternal Sabbath Rest
Colossians 2:16-17; I Corinthians 15:20-28; Psalm 46:10a

HIGHLIGHTED PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP (See gulfportchurch.org for a full list.)**Who should attend worship in-person**

- Live streaming of worship will continue on Facebook Live and at gulfportchurch.org.
- People who show any signs of illness, have a fever, or have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 may not attend worship in-person, but should continue to do so via live stream.
- People who are over 65 years of age, have a disability or serious respiratory or cardiovascular condition, or are otherwise immunocompromised, should exercise careful judgment about attending worship in-person, as there will be a risk of exposure to COVID-19 no matter the precautions taken.

Preparations of the facility

- Hand sanitizer will be placed at all open entrances
- A small supply masks for those who need one will be available: worshippers should wear a mask upon entrance and exiting of the building, but may remove them once seated.
- Six-foot sections of pews will be marked for proper social distancing

Opening of the facility on The Lord's Day

- The fellowship hall, the kitchen, and their entrances will remain closed.
- The Christian Education Building will remain closed.
- An offering receptacle will be placed near the exit doors.

Temporary alteration of normal procedures

- There will be no nursery, childcare, or cry room, provided during worship.

July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 Children's Sunday School <i>via Zoom</i> , 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School <i>via Zoom</i> , 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	29	30 Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	1	2	3	4 
5 Children's Sunday School <i>via Zoom</i> , 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School <i>via Zoom</i> , 9:30 a.m. Communion Sunday / Worship, 10:30 a.m.	6	7 Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	<i>Virtual Vacation Bible School</i> 9 - 10 a.m. daily			11
12 <i>No Children's Sunday School</i> Adult Sunday School <i>via Zoom</i> , 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	13	14 Prayer Group, 10 a.m. Eagle Scout Court of Honor, 7 p.m.	15	16	17	18
19 <i>No Children's Sunday School</i> Adult Sunday School <i>via Zoom</i> , 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Hymn Sing <i>via Facebook</i> , 5 p.m.	20	21 Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	22	23	24	25
26 Children's Sunday School <i>via Zoom</i> , 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School <i>via Zoom</i> , 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Hymn Sing <i>via Facebook</i> , 5 p.m.	27	28 Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	29 Session, 7 p.m. <i>(tentative)</i>	30	31	1



- July**
- 4 Rylan Cuevas
 - 10 Dot Houtz
 - 11 Sarah Ellzey
 - 11 Peggy Ryland
 - 12 Charlotte Scott
 - 13 Thomas Batson
 - 15 Dot Cunningham
 - 15 Philip Shaw
 - 15 Nancy Stone
 - 20 Jake Ellzey
 - 21 Shanna Batson
 - 25 Elise Everett
 - 27 Carolyn Cadenhead
 - 28 Alice Bellanger
 - 30 Vicky Heath

- August**
- 1 Lily Congleton
 - 2 Tricia Graves
 - 5 Butch Williams
 - 6 Debbie Walker
 - 9 Dave Carlson
 - 14 Myra Bruce
 - 17 Garnie Dubuisson
 - 20 Jennifer Busby
 - 25 Anne Cole
 - 27 Brenda Pace
 - 31 Ric Williams



POP-UP HYMN SINGS

Because CDC guidelines suggest it is not safe to sing during worship, Will and Anna Kate Shurley have been hosting pop-up hymn sings on Facebook Live and gulfportchurch.org on Sunday afternoons. Requests for favorite hymns are welcome! We are only limited by the collection of hymnals available. Times may vary: See the church's Facebook page, Sunday worship bulletin, and Remind101 text service for weekly updates. The hymn sing will be on hiatus July 12, and will return July 19 at 5 p.m.



Thank You for Your Continued Generosity!

Westminster is blessed with a committed, generous church family. Thank you for your continued financial support of our church and its ministry during these challenging times. We are financially sound entirely because of your willingness to share the things with which God has blessed you. Please continue your support as together we marshal our resources to build up our family of faith and its collective ministry in our community.



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phone 228.864.3143
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In-person
Sunday Morning Worship
services have resumed,
live broadcasting on Facebook and
gulfportchurch.org will continue.