



# WESTMINSTER

presbyterian church | epc

GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

**March 2020**

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Harry White and Todd Sisley in concert at Westminster on Feb. 21.

Keyboardist Todd Sisley from upstate New York and saxophonist Harry White of Zurich, Switzerland, performed as part of a South Mississippi tour in Westminster's sanctuary. White, who was baptized at Westminster and whose great-grandmother, Margaret Richie, provided the funding for Westminster's original pipe organ, played several classical selections transcribed for saxophone, as well as "His Eye is On the Sparrow," "Amazing Grace," and settings from the Genevan Psalter.



The Coast Ecumenical Fellowship met with the Homeless to Housing Coalition at First United Methodist Church. The Coalition is planning to include churches and church leaders as participants in a new app that will allow churches, and all Coalition partners, the ability to track services that have been received by homeless individuals in Gulfport.

Save the date!!!



Vacation Bible School  
June 22-26



Girl Scout cookies have arrived. Troop 3542 hosted their cookie distribution in Westminster's fellowship hall.



### New Women's Bible Study: Thursdays at noon

A light lunch will be served followed by video and discussion.

This new class, based on Jen Wilkin's book, "Sermon on the Mount," articulates what the life of a Christ-follower should look like, asking us the same questions it posed to its original hearers: How should a disciple relate to sin? To others? To the Law? How does a disciple think, speak, and act? In this 9-session study, examine the words of Jesus in-depth as He challenges us to think differently about repentance, salvation, and sanctification. Call the church office or see Jane Bloss or Anna Cuevas if you have any questions or would like additional information.

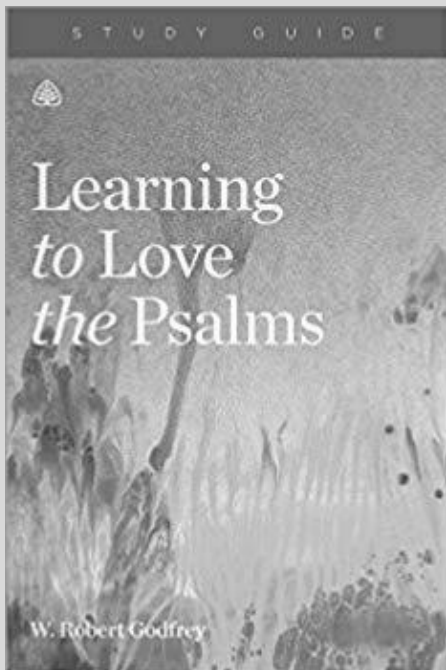
### NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

Sundays at 9 a.m. led by Pete Bloss in the Library.

In mid-late March, the Adult Sunday School class led by Elder Pete Bloss will begin a new video study by Robert Godfrey, "Learning to Love the Psalms."

The Book of Psalms is one of the greatest

treasures the Lord has given to His people. Through these sacred poems, God has given us a rich songbook and a divinely inspired guide for our prayers. In this video teaching series, Dr. W. Robert Godfrey provides an overview of the Psalms with the specific goal of learning to love them through a study of their themes, structure, and beauty.



### WESTMINSTER KIDS

Mark your calendar for some wonderful opportunities for children this summer!

**Sunday, April 4:** Children singing in worship. To participate, please plan to attend children's choir practices this month on Sundays at 9 a.m.

**Sunday, June 21:** Children-led service of worship. Look in next month's newsletter for how your child can help with this new worship opportunity.

**Monday, June 22-26:** Vacation Bible School!

**July: Christmas in July!** Children will begin learning about the Chrismons that adorn Westminster's Christmas tree, and will make their own Chrismons for a Children's Tree in the narthex this Advent.

**Sunday, November 15:** Westminster's First Family Advent Festival. Families will enjoy making Advent wreaths and other crafts to use at home during the Advent season.



Cub Scout Pack 209 hosted their annual "Blue and Gold" banquet at Westminster. The banquet celebrates the values of scouting instilled in young men through local scout organizations, which are chartered by, and responsible to, local chartering organizations like Westminster.

**FAMOUS PRESBYTERIANS:** Did you know that John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, was Presbyterian? He was raised at the Westminster Presbyterian Church of New Concord, OH. When he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1974, he attended the National Presbyterian Church of Washington D.C. where he served on the Session.

Also, Buzz Aldrin one of the first men to land on the moon was a Presbyterian ruling elder. One of the first things he did on the moon was serve himself communion.

# Prayer Warrior Breakfast

Sunday, April 5 at 9 a.m.



Westminster's Prayer Warriors and the children they pray for are invited to enjoy pancakes and fellowship together at this special breakfast.

*Easter Egg Hunt to follow morning worship.*

**ATTENTION PARENTS:** If you have a child participating in Westminster's Prayer Warrior ministry we are asking you to update your child's picture for our Prayer Warrior cards prior to our breakfast on Palm Sunday. Please email a current photo to [office@gulfportchurch.org](mailto:office@gulfportchurch.org) prior to March 30.

## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS:

Westminster has welcomed many new members in the past several months. John Echols was able to catch up to some of them to introduce them to our family of faith. Look in upcoming newsletters for more new member spotlights.

**DONNA SMITH:** Donna was born in Oxford, MS and was raised here in Gulfport. She attended the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg where she received a BS in Science Education and a MA in Special Education. Donna is a Special Educator at Saucier Elementary School in Saucier. She currently resides in Gulfport and enjoys reading and quilting.

**JUDY HAZELWOOD:** Judy was born in Sandersville, GA and was raised in the Statesboro and Atlanta areas. She attended North Georgia College in Dahlonega and The Fashion Institute in Atlanta. Judy ended up working as a Legal Secretary and is now retired. She currently resides in Gulfport and enjoys backgammon, knitting, gardening, and reading.

**HOWARD HAZELWOOD:** Howard was born in Decatur, GA and was raised in Decatur and Memphis, TN. He attended Georgia State University in Atlanta and Memphis State University in Memphis. Howard ended up working as a Security Consultant and is now retired. He currently resides in Gulfport and enjoys photography.

# The Passover Story from a Rabbi's Perspective

Come hear Congregation Beth Israel's Rabbi Hillel Norry speak about Passover and how the holiday is interpreted in Judaism and Christianity.

Passover-themed foods including charoset, matzo ball soup, kugel, dessert and more.

Non-alcoholic drinks included in admission and wine and beer will be available for purchase

Saturday, March 21  
6 pm

Magnolia Hall at Florence Gardens  
12321 Preservation Drive  
Gulfport, MS

We can build  
bridges through  
understanding the  
stories we share.

Everyone  
Welcome!

## TICKET PRICES:

\$25/person,  
includes 2 drinks until March 13

\$18/CBI member

\$30/person,  
includes 2 drinks after March 13

\$10/all children,  
13 and under

To purchase tickets, go to  
[CBIgulfcoast.org](http://CBIgulfcoast.org) and click  
donate or call 228.539.1655  
for more information.

## PROPERTY UPDATES

Thanks to a very generous, designated gift, the session has authorized the installation of new "warm-toned" LED lights in the sanctuary and narthex. These lights will replace all incandescent bulbs, including a number that are currently burned out, and will provide better lighting coverage with less energy usage and heat generation. Look for the new lights in the coming weeks.

The session has also received a bid of \$5,300 to paint the interior of the Christian Education building, including all doors, hallways, ceilings, and rooms, which are showing considerable wear and tear from many years of loving use since the last painting. Murals and other current decorations will be photographed so that the pictures can be displayed in the newly-painted rooms when needed. The session hopes this work, depending on funding, may be completed before VBS.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Westminster has an Amazon Smile account. To learn how to earn money for Westminster while shopping on Amazon (at no extra cost to you), call the church office or see Jane Bloss.

## MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES AT WESTMINSTER



### FEED MY SHEEP

Westminster will be serving on  
Wednesday, February 12 at 11:30 a.m.



### GULF COAST CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

We continue to collect items of personal hygiene to donate to the shelter. A basket is located in the library for your donations.

#### FEED MY SHEEP - DELIVERY VOLUNTEER FOR

**TUESDAYS NEEDED:** One of the ways Westminster supports Feed My Sheep is by delivering daily meals to the homebound on the "Westminster route." Currently, we have volunteers to deliver on Thursdays and Fridays; however, we now have a vacancy on the Tuesday route. If you are interested in volunteering on one, two, three or four Tuesdays a month, your efforts would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Rachel Price at 228-234-1326 to learn more about filling this position.



### Westminster Diner's Club

Westminster's Diners Club will be starting a new season in March. If you are interested in joining this monthly supper club, please see Karen Barnard or call the church office at 228-864-3143.

#### Annual Report

Copies of the 2019 Annual Report that was distributed on January 26 at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation are available in the Narthex. If you are unable to pick one up and would like a copy mailed, please contact the church office at (228) 864-3143.

**ARE YOU IN NEED OF PRAYER?** Would you like to talk through something? Our pastor is available to you. The best ways to make sure he knows about your particular prayer request or desire to talk is to call the office at (228) 864-3143, email [pastor@gulfportchurch.org](mailto:pastor@gulfportchurch.org), or make a note on the Sunday morning registry of fellowship pad. These are the best ways to make sure that he is able to contact you to set up a specific time to speak and pray with you. Please note: Medical facilities, including hospitals, are not able to contact pastors any longer. Even if you register as a Presbyterian or member of Westminster, they will not contact the church as a matter of routine practice.

#### ROGER LOWTHER: COMMUNITY ARTS TOKYO

Westminster enjoyed welcoming Roger Lowther, director of Community Arts Tokyo, for a special Sunday School class and minute for mission on March 1. Roger played several pieces on our organ to demonstrate the way in which his organization works to reach people through the performing arts in Tokyo. He also gave our congregation insight on the atmosphere in Tokyo in light of the Coronavirus and expressed three important ways that we can help. First, through prayer, second, send face masks, third, subscribe to their YouTube channel (we have a link on our website).



#### NEW DIRECTORY

New church directories are now available in the Narthex. Because the directory will be printed "in house," it can be edited, updated, and re-issued as needed. Any updates, corrections, or photos can be submitted to the church office.



# March 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Sunday School, 9 a.m. Communion/ Worship, 10:30 a.m.	<b>2</b> Tiger's Den Meeting, 6 p.m.	<b>3</b> Prayer Group, 10 a.m.  Casseroles to Seabee Base	<b>4</b> Congregational Life, 1 p.m.	<b>5</b> Women's Bible Study: 12 noon	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting: 12 p.m. 	<b>9</b> Girl Scouts Meeting, 6 p.m.	<b>10</b> Prayer Group, 10 a.m.  Missions Committee, 6:30 p.m.	<b>11</b> Feed My Sheep, 11:30 a.m.	<b>12</b> Women's Bible Study: 12 noon	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	<b>16</b> Discipleship Formation, 6:30 p.m.	<b>17</b> Prayer Group, 10 a.m.  	<b>18</b> Session, 7 p.m.	<b>19</b> Women's Bible Study: 12 noon	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Women's Bible Study: 12 noon	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> C.A.R. luncheon, 9 a.m.
<b>29</b> Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Missions Potluck Luncheon	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	<b>1</b> Congregational Life, 1 p.m.	<b>2</b> Women's Bible Study: 12 noon	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



  
**PALM SUNDAY**

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April 5  
9 a.m. Prayer Warrior Breakfast  
Easter Egg Hunt following morning worship



  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

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April 9  
6 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Supper



  
**GOOD FRIDAY**

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April 10  
7 p.m. Tenebrae Service of Shadows  
at First United Methodist Church



  
*He is Risen!*  
**EASTER SUNDAY**

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April 12  
6:30 a.m. Sunrise service and breakfast  
10:30 a.m. Festival service of worship with  
brass and organ



#### HOME COMMUNION

Baptized Christians, who are repentant of their sins, and seek to live in love and charity with their neighbors, are welcome at Westminster's communion table. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is both a deeply personal experience and a joyful communal activity to be shared, reverently, within the covenantal community of believers gathered together.

While the sacrament, as a means of grace--the spiritual partaking of Christ's own body and blood given for us--should be received regularly and communally, the session recognizes that some members of the church, due to ongoing health concerns and an inability to be present in worship, may not be able to partake of the sacrament with the rest of the church family. For those members, home communion service, provided by the pastor and at least one ruling elder, whose role is to represent the presence of the whole congregation, is available. If you have not been offered home communion, but would like to receive it, please call the office at (228) 864-3143.

**EASTER FOR EVERYONE**

WORK ON SUNDAY?

WE WILL BE OPEN FOR YOU ON SATURDAY

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2020 • 4:00 PM  
5005 LAWSON AVENUE IN GULFPORT

COME AS YOU ARE. CHILDCARE PROVIDED.

NOT ENDORSED BY ANY EMPLOYER: POSTED AS COMMUNITY SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT ONLY.

## EASTER FOR EVERYONE

According to church health expert Thom Rainer, nearly one-third of a community's workforce has to work on Sunday mornings--and churches that will be willing to emphasize more opportunities for worship, even if those are smaller gatherings, will better reach unchurched and dechurched residents than those churches focused only on cultivating attendance at one traditional Sunday mid-morning service. This Easter, to test Rainer's theory, and to make Easter worship available to as many of Westminster's neighbors as possible, the session has authorized "Easter for Everyone," a Saturday afternoon Easter service that will be nearly identical to our traditional 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday. The 4 p.m. service will include childcare, and most of the music and liturgy one will expect the following day.

To make this service successful, however, will require help from the congregation. We will need approximately 30 members to attend "Easter for Everyone," likely in addition to the Sunday morning service, in order to make sure the sanctuary is warm and welcoming to those we hope will visit. In addition, we will need members who will be willing to "beat the pavement," and distribute "Easter for Everyone" fliers to businesses and organizations who have workforces that would benefit from this new worship opportunity.

If you are interested in learning more, and are willing to help with this new endeavor, please plan to attend the mission committee meeting on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m.




## April

- 1 Gracey Busby
- 1 Ted Hammer
- 2 Christie Batson
- 7 Amy Underhill

## March

- 7 Robert Wood
- 8 Skip Ryland
- 15 John Echols
- 19 Gene Cox
- 19 Sally Wilson
- 20 Terry Barnes
- 20 Bryan Batson
- 23 Will Shurley
- 27 Paula King
- 28 Karen Dobbs
- 14 Nancy Lamey
- 15 Katy Symmes
- 16 Briggs Nault
- 18 Marilyn Lacy
- 18 Beth Skeen
- 19 Lilah Congleton
- 19 Joe Gewin
- 21 Mallory Symmes
- 22 Elaine Dukes
- 30 John Heath

## ONLINE AND APP-BASED GIVING

 **TITHE.LY** By popular request, Westminster is now set up for online and app-based. 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. Gifts can be made through credit card, debit card or bank transfer, and can be set up on a recurring basis. Tithely does charge a small fee for each transaction: You will have the option to add to your gift to cover these fees. Westminster is grateful to everyone who has pledged and/or given his or her financial support to keep this Christian ministry alive and robust for generations to come. For more information about Westminster's financial health, please see Stewardship chairman Wayne Tisdale or Treasurer Jane Bloss.

## Upcoming Duty Elder:

March - Ted Hammer

April - Pete Bloss

## Interested in Becoming a Member of

**Westminster?** At their best, Christian churches function like families: They build one another up and support each other--through good times and bad--in their life of faith. All families require some level of commitment and self-giving in order to live and thrive. Members of families commit to supporting the whole, and families support each of their members, in order that all may grow. For those who enjoy visiting with our family of faith, if you are ready to consider making this your own church family, please speak with any of our elders, our pastor, or call the church office at (228) 864-3143.



**WESTMINSTER**

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5005 Lawson Avenue  
Gulfport, Mississippi 39507

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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**



**WESTMINSTER**

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phone 228.864.3143  
[gulfportchurch.org](http://gulfportchurch.org)

*Westminster Presbyterian Church's  
vision is to be a vibrant community  
of Christian disciples who seek to  
transform the world with the power  
of the Gospel.*