

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Threefold Amen*  
Adult Choir

M. Haugen

\*POSTLUDE

*Postlude for Ascensiontide*

B. Harwood

\*Please stand if you are able

Woods Church services are live streamed and available for public viewing via YouTube on our website ([www.woodschurch.org](http://www.woodschurch.org)). Current church activities and events are also available for viewing. Check us out!

A Stephen Minister will be available, to the side of the chancel by the Stephen Minister banner, at the end of the service to listen and to pray with you. 9:30AM Gale Gillespie | 11AM Bill Hadley

# Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

## Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church Staff

The Reverend  
J.C. Austin  
Lead Pastor  
[jaustin@woodschurch.org](mailto:jaustin@woodschurch.org)

Alec Green  
Sound Engineer  
[agreen@woodschurch.org](mailto:agreen@woodschurch.org)

Jason Jackson  
Director of Operations  
[jjackson@woodschurch.org](mailto:jjackson@woodschurch.org)

Sarah Kent  
Director of Contemporary Music  
[skent@woodschurch.org](mailto:skent@woodschurch.org)

Jeffery Pack  
Custodian

Olivia Rivers  
Administrative Assistant  
for Property  
[orivers@woodschurch.org](mailto:orivers@woodschurch.org)

Sarah Wilson  
Interim Pastoral Associate  
[swilson@woodschurch.org](mailto:swilson@woodschurch.org)

Kat Green  
Director of Children's Ministry  
[kgreen@woodschurch.org](mailto:kgreen@woodschurch.org)

Cornell Johnson  
Custodian

David Merrill  
Director of Music and Arts  
[dmerrill@woodschurch.org](mailto:dmerrill@woodschurch.org)

Oliver Page  
Director of Youth  
[opage@woodschurch.org](mailto:opage@woodschurch.org)

Pam Ward  
Office Administrator  
[pward@woodschurch.org](mailto:pward@woodschurch.org)

Parish Associate  
The Rev. Corinne Baker

Roxann Bartone  
Director of Woods Child Development Center  
[rbartone@woodscdc.org](mailto:rbartone@woodscdc.org)

Kathie Hamlett  
Administrative Assistant for Membership  
[khamlett@woodschurch.org](mailto:khamlett@woodschurch.org)

Jerome Keemer  
Custodian

Lindsey Miller  
Coordinator for Children and Youth  
[lmiller@woodschurch.org](mailto:lmiller@woodschurch.org)

Jung-hoon Park  
Organist  
[jpark@woodschurch.org](mailto:jpark@woodschurch.org)

Eric Willner  
Coordinator for Worship Technology  
[ewillner@woodschurch.org](mailto:ewillner@woodschurch.org)



## May 17, 2026 ~ 9:30AM



Giving

WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

611 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park, Maryland 21146

Telephone: 410.647.2550 · E-mail: [info@woodschurch.org](mailto:info@woodschurch.org) · Website: [www.woodschurch.org](http://www.woodschurch.org)

May 17, 2026 Ascension Sunday 9:30AM

PRELUDE **Prologue on "Ascension"** H. Willan  
from Festival Voluntaries

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY Pastor J. C. Austin

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL INTROIT *The Heavens Are Telling* J. Haydn  
Adult Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP Elder Jonathan Leer

Leader: What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

People: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord!

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord!

People: Let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving

People: Come, let us worship God!

\*HYMN 263 **All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!**  
Verses 1, 2, 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Sarah Wilson, Interim Pastoral Associate

Holy God, we confess that too often we have our head in the clouds. We are more comfortable with dreaming of the world as we wish it would be instead of working with you to bring that wish to reality. At times, we find it difficult to claim or even recognize the power you have given us. Forgive us, Lord; help us to see and embrace the opportunities for loving service in your name that are all around us. And bless us with your Spirit so that we may have the energy, courage, and vision to be your witnesses to the end of the earth. Through Christ we pray.

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Fear Not* D. Merrill  
Adult Choir

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI HYMN 581  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN Kathryn "Kat" Green, Director of Children's Ministry

ANTHEM *Like Him We Rise* T. Trenney  
Solo – Tom Magette

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Elder Jonathan Leer

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 47

SERMON "Up, Up, and All Around"  
Acts 1:6-14 Pastor J. C. Austin

\*HYMN 260 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*  
Verses – 1, 2, 4

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (the Apostles' Creed) Sarah Wilson

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CONFIRMAND PRESENTATION Ellie Freimuth  
Andrew Hanson

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING Elder Jonathan Leer

A portion of today's offering supports our Mission committee and its international partners. This includes the Ministry of Hope program in Malawi, the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA), and the Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada in Cuba.

To give: text Woods to **73256** or go to "**Give**" on woodschurch.org or use the QR-Code on the back of the bulletin.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise* D. Forrest  
Adult Choir

\*DOXOLOGY HYMN 607  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION AND **THE LORD'S PRAYER** Sarah Wilson

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

STEPHEN MINISTER LEADER COMMISSIONING Bill Daniel Pastor J. C. Austin  
Sarah Wilson  
Bill Hadley

\*HYMN 749 *Come! Live in the Light!*  
Verses 1, 3

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING Pastor J. C. Austin



**Luke Redmond**  
 Youngest child of Kristin and Mike Redmond.  
 I'm in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Severna Park Middle School. I swim, run, and fence, and I am a Scout. I also play the French horn, and I spend a lot of time thinking about superheroes. Woods has always been an important part of my life, as I was baptized here, went to preschool here, and went through Cub Scouts here. I really look forward to being confirmed here as well. Thanks!



**Ihrie Rosenblatt**  
 Daughter of Megan and John Rosenblatt  
 I'm currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Severn River Middle School. For me, I love the community of Woods Church. I love how it brings everyone together, no matter their backgrounds. I'm very passionate about volleyball. It's taught me many things like how to be patient with yourself and others. It also taught me how to be a team player and communicate.



**Liam Stein**  
 Son of Gary and Sarah Stein  
 I am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Severna Park Middle School. I have been Christian my whole life and my favorite Bible story is David and Goliath because it teaches a great lesson about humility. I like to play soccer, hangout with my friends and go on vacations. My favorite ice cream flavor is orange sherbet. Confirmation has taught me many things like how strong faith can be and how Jesus calls us to live.



**Will Viera**  
 Son of Jim and Julie Viera  
 My name is William Viera, and I am in 8<sup>th</sup> at Severna Park Middle School. My parents are Jim and Julie Viera, and I have an older brother, Tyson, and a younger brother, Cal. I play travel baseball, soccer, and basketball. Competing in sports brings me so much joy. Over the past year, Confirmation class has brought me closer to God and strengthened my faith in meaningful ways. I feel His presence every day, but especially when I am playing sports. I am incredibly grateful for this experience and look forward to continuing to grow in my faith in the years ahead.

# Confirmation Class of 2025



**Grayson Davis**  
 Son of Jim and Melissa Davis  
 My name is Grayson Davis. I am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Severna Park middle school. I like to play basketball with my friends when I'm not playing baseball. In baseball I see God in my life the most. My favorite story in the bible is the story of the lost son because it shows how you are forgiven. This year in confirmation class I learned how to be closer with God.



**Will Dyck**  
 Child of Meredith Dyck



**Ellie Freimuth**  
 Child of Courtney and Justin Freimuth  
 I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Severn River Middle School. My favorite classes are math, English, and art. When I'm older I want to be a Pediatric Psychiatrist. I am an avid reader and love to crochet, pet my dog, ride my bike with friends, play games, and craft. My favorite place in Woods is the youth room because I love going to youth group every week. While taking the confirmation class this past year I became closer to God and was able to develop my relationship with him. My favorite bible verse is Corinthians 13. I love the message about love, and it reminds me of my family and friends. It makes me strive to be a better person. It also makes me think of my grandparents' house in Michigan and happy memories I have there because they have a cross stitch of this verse on their wall. Thank you to everyone who has helped me on this part of my faith journey, especially my parents, Oliver, and my confirmation sponsor, Nancy.



**Everett "Evo" Hall**  
 Son of Lisa Anderson and Justin Hall and grandson of Sandy and Gary Anderson  
 I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Magothy River Middle School. I enjoy playing soccer, piano, and participating in Boy Scouts. I have a brother, Ryder, and a cat, Ghost. This summer, I am going to Woodswork just as my mother and uncle did many years ago.



**Andrew Hanson**  
Child of Mark and Christina Hanson

I am finishing 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Severn School. I play on school and travel basketball teams, and also enjoy hanging out with family and friends and being on the water. Confirmation this year has strengthened my relationship with God and how I connect with Him. I see Him every day throughout my life whenever I need a friend or someone to talk to. Confirmation has also surrounded me with such great people who have guided me through the faith journey including Oliver and many elders. I am excited to continue attending Woods and keep strengthening my belief in God and the church in the years to come.



**Katherine Mello**  
Daughter of Terry and Charlie Mello

My name is Katherine Mello. I am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. My favorite activities are lacrosse and hanging out with friends. I had such an amazing experience in confirmation this year! This year I learned all about what I believe in and what my faith truly means to me. I feel most connected to God when I am around nature and in prayer. My favorite bible story is any parable because I think the parables teach very valuable lessons throughout this year. My favorite part of church is the inclusion and all the activities we can do together! I am so proud of how far this class has come and everything we can accomplish!



**Fiona Laque**  
Daughter of Ted and Mary Laque

I am an 8<sup>th</sup> at Old Mill Middle North. I competed in Eskrima (Filipino martial art) at the 2024 WEKAF World Championship, and am currently a red belt in Tae Kwon Do (working toward my black belt), I also like to draw, spend time with friends, listen to music, go to the shooting range, sing, and practice bass. I am a member of Friendship outdoor skills 4-H club and love outdoor activities (hence wanting to be a park ranger). I have been going to Woods since I was born. I would love to thank my friends and family for helping me through my faith journey. Love all, stay happy, and be kind!



**Jonah Morgan**  
Son of Chris Morgan and Christy Morgan

I am Jonah Morgan and I am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Severn School. I have been going to woods church for about 7 years, and I enjoy playing soccer, spending time outside, and hanging out with friends. This year, I have finally made time every day to read the bible, and my grandfather and I have been able to chat about it over text message. Just 10 minutes of reading and two text messages every day has had a bigger impact than I had thought possible on my life. I feel more in touch with The Lord, and now I feel more knowledgeable about The Bible. This year, confirmation class has been something that I look forward to, as it is a place to hear different perspectives, be myself, and learn even more about The Lord. I feel the most in Touch with God when I'm alone. I talk to him, and I never can hear his response, but see it.



**Sophia Lebowitz**  
Daughter of Jonathan and Julia Lebowitz

I am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Indian Creek School. I play softball, soccer, and basketball. In my free time I enjoy hanging out with friends, playing with my dog, and playing board games with my family. I enjoy learning about stories in the bible and analyzing them every Sunday at Woods in Sunday School. One of my favorite bible verses is "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." (John 13:34) I like this verse because I think it shows a good notion to live by. Through participating in Confirmation, verses like this have taught me how to be a better person.



**Noah Newlin**  
Child of John and Trina Newlin

My favorite bible story is when "The ark (Noah's Ark) came to rest on the mountains of Ararat", found in Genesis 8:4. I am an 8<sup>th</sup> at Severn River Middle School. I enjoy being around my friends either playing games online, or in the field. My favorite hobbies are flying airplanes, football and snowboarding. At Woods Church Theater, I had small roles in Jesus Christ Superstar and Garden of Eden. I was also able to sing several solo songs during the service when I was younger. I hope to travel with the Woods Mission group to Cuba very soon!



**Gavin McNaboe**  
Child of Sean and Erin McNaboe

I am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Severn River Middle School and will be attending Saint Mary's High School next fall. I enjoy playing sports with friends and playing on my lacrosse and ice hockey teams. I have attended Woods Church all of my life. I would like to thank my family and the members of Woods Church for helping me on my journey of faith. I see and feel God the most in nature, and my favorite part of church is the singing all as one, unified as God's children. I am passionate about sports, and proud of the man that I am growing into as a child of God.



**Jacob Pruitt**  
Son of Pam and Keith Pruitt

I'm Jacob Pruitt, and I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Magothy River Middle School. I enjoy playing soccer, spending time with my friends, and staying active. I have attended Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church my entire life, where I have grown in my faith and built relationships within the community. I am excited to continue my faith journey through confirmation and look forward to becoming a member of the congregation.