

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)



August 23, 2026 ~ 9:30 AM

August 23, 2026

13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

I know That My Savior Loves Me

Arr. C. Young

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor J. C. Austin

INTROIT

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

John Dunham

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart!

People: Give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness!

Leader: Sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of God!

People: Come, let us worship God!

*PRAISE SONG

Only King Forever

M. Brock, C. Brown,
S. Furtick, W. Joye

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Sarah Wilson, Interim Pastoral Associate

Gracious and Loving God, like Peter we believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, Son of the Living God. Yet like Peter, we often want to tell Jesus what kind of Messiah he should or should not be: one who gives rather than asks, one who solves our problems for us rather than accompanies us through them. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to get behind Jesus so that we may follow him faithfully and proclaim his good news joyfully. Through Christ we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Oliver Page, Director of Youth Ministry

*PRAISE SONG

Your Are My All in All

D. Jernigan

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

John Dunham

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 51:1-5

SERMON

"Building on Shaky Ground"
Matthew 16:13-25

Pastor J. C. Austin

*HYMN 353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING

John Dunham

A portion of today's offering supports our Outreach and Service committee in the area of housing assistance. This includes our donations to "HOPE for All," which provides necessities to those moving out of homelessness, to "Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake," and "Light House, Inc." assistance to the housing-insecure population.

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

Goodness of God

E. Cash, J. Johnson

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.

*PRAISE SONG

Rock of Ages

Arr. R. Baloché

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor J. C. Austin

*POSTLUDE

Organ Postlude in C

J. Neander, L. Forsdick

*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). 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. 9:30 AM Phyllis Beardmore

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church Staff

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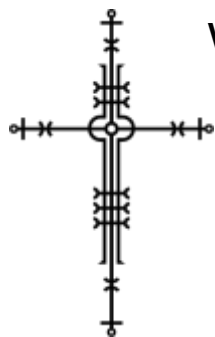
Director of Youth Ministry

opage@woodschurch.org

Pam Ward

Office Administrator

pward@woodschurch.org



Welcome to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

August 23, 2026

Our Vision: To be a voice of faith transforming lives
and society through Jesus Christ

Our Mission: Welcoming all to grow and serve in Christ

Flowers today were arranged by Delia Edelman and are given for the glory of God.

Join us for bagels, coffee, and fellowship after the service in Fellowship Hall.

Christian Education/Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday School Registration Forms are Located on the Welcome Desk

Time	Location
8AM Men's Bible Study	Room 208/Virtual
9:30 AM Nursery 0-3-year-olds 4, year-olds – 5 th graders	Room 115 Room 150

Upcoming Events & Church News

Coed Softball! Today's game is at 2PM, against Saint Andrew's, on Cypress #2. Interested? Contact Andrew Wiley at wileyas1@gmail.com or call 443.867.8803

Family Summer Choir - Are you around over the summer and interested in singing, then come on by and sing with us! The Family Summer Choir sings on: September 6. We will meet at 8:45AM in the Sanctuary Choir Loft and learn the piece that morning. Not to worry all the tunes are recognizable, and a quick learn! If you have any questions, please email David at dmerrill@woodschurch.org. Looking forward to hearing you sing!

Woods Youth FroYo meet-ups! All throughout August, any youth grades 6th-12th are invited to join us at The Froyo House on Tuesdays at 5PM. This will be our fun way of keeping in touch until Youth Group starts back up. Just tell them you're with Woods and you'll get 15% off! See you there!

Save the Date – August 30, 11AM – Learning Opportunity with our own Kat Green – “Neurodiversity and **Inclusivity in the Local Church**” A more just, faithful, and compassionate church and world will seek to include typical and atypical neurodiverse folks. As understanding evolves in the educational and social systems of our world, the church must evolve and transform the ways diversity is welcomed, embraced, and included in the life of the church and the mission of church. How will we nurture communities of faith and equip leadership in ways that are accessible and meaningful for post global pandemic traumatized demographic?

Woman's Priscilla Circle Bible Study – Our Bible study starting in September 2026, is based on **Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. "Love is patient; Love is kind"** ... Stop by the table in Fellowship Hall and pick-up a study guide based on Paul's Letters. The Priscilla Circle meets once a month on the 2nd Tuesday at 10:15AM in room 212. The cost of the book is \$14.00 and our first study lesson will be September 15. Books will be available on Sunday, August 23 and 30. We hope to have you join us this year. Contact Bev Haines 410.511.8412.

A new class at 11AM Sundays, September 20 – October 25 featuring **Genesis: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning**. This study invites readers into the foundational stories of the Old Testament with clarity, depth, and imagination. Dr. Amy-Jill Levine presents Genesis as a living text, one that continues to shape faith, identity, and our understanding of what it means to be human. These familiar stories are often heard in fragments; here, they are explored with care, curiosity, and theological insight. Meeting in Conference Room and on Zoom. Books will be available.

Want to know more about Woods Church? Come join us for our New Member info class on September 20 at 10:45AM in the Founders Room. We'll open up the hood and look at the many pieces of the Woods community and how they work together in service to God. We'll learn about the different types of fellowship groups at Woods, special missions and activities, Presbyterian church polity and how the Session and its committees work. If you feel called to membership, you will be welcomed into the congregation the following Sunday, September 27. If you aren't ready to join, but still want to know more, please come and learn with us! We look forward to knowing you better.

Kick-Off Sunday! Join us on Sunday, September 13 as we celebrate the start of a new ministry season with a day of worship, fellowship, and fun!

🕒 Family Picnic | 11AM–1PM

🍽️ Enjoy lunch together

🎲 Activities and games for all ages

☐ Bring a lawn chair and spend the afternoon with your Woods Church family!

There's something for everyone—kids, adults, and kids-at-heart! We can't wait to celebrate with you. Please Note: This will be our last Summer worship service. Beginning Sunday, September 20, we will return to our regular schedule of two worship services: at 9:30AM Traditional and 11AM Contemporary. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors—we'll see you at Woods Church!

Woods Children's Ministry Pop-Up Days are now open for registration. Join us on Monday, September 21, and October 26, from 9AM to 4PM for children in grades K-5. Space is limited, so please email Lindsey Miller, Coordinator for Children and Youth, lmiller@woodschurch.org to secure a spot.

Adult Choir - Season is Starting! Come join us as we sing and lead worship through all styles of music. All are welcome to come and sing! We rehearse Thursday evenings at 7PM, beginning September 3, in the choir room. We look forward to having you with us. For questions please email David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org

SEEK Band - Do you play an instrument, enjoy singing, or just love music? Then come on out! Any youth in grades 6-12, can join our SEEK Band. The SEEK Band offers music for worship regularly, with many wonderful solo and musical opportunities. Our first rehearsal is Sunday, September 27, 12:15-1PM, in the Choir Room. For questions please email David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org

Children's Choir - Do you have child that just loves to sing, or wants to give it a try? Then come on out to Children's Choir grades 1st – 5th! It's super fun, and the tunes are catchy and easy to learn. Our first rehearsal is Sunday September 20 from 10:35 – 11AM. For questions please email David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org

Praise Band - Do you play an instrument, sing, or just love music? Then join our Praise Band! Our Praise Band leads worship at the 11AM service, with rehearsals on Thursday nights at 7PM. Reach out to Sarah Kent with any questions at skent@woodschurch.org

Hope for All is in need of donations! We're currently collecting the following items:

Liquid & dry measuring cups

Cooking tongs

Whisks

Meat forks

Children's socks and underwear (new)

Mops

Measuring spoons

Vegetable peelers

Pizza cutters

Pasta servers/grabbers

Toasters

Brooms

Every donation, big or small, makes a difference and helps support those in need in our community. Please place your donation in the barrel in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your generosity and for helping Hope for All serve others!



Prayer Requests



Pledge Card



Giving

WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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