

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)



September 13, 2026 ~ 9:30 AM

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16th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace

L. Lafford

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor J. C. Austin

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL INTROIT

Guide My Feet

Adult Choir

W. Whalum

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Ellen Oakes

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord; call on God's name!

People: Let us seek the Lord's presence continually!

Leader: Sing to the Lord; sing praises to God!

People: Come, let us worship God!

*PRAISE SONG

All Creatures of Our God and King

T. Walker

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Pastor Ashley Brown

Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus Christ you offer us the free and full grace of abundant life in you. Yet so often we are tempted to complicate it for ourselves or for others. We build walls instead of bridges. We argue for preconditions or limitations to your grace that you never set. We trust in the unity of our own thoughts or behaviors, and not in the power of your Spirit to call, transform, and unite us all as your people. Forgive us, Lord, and fill us with your Spirit once again, that we may know your will for all of us and follow it, and we may hear you speaking through each other to help us do so. Through Christ we pray.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

We Are One

Solo – David Merrill

D. Merrill, A. Ingrid

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

PRAISE SONG

The Church

Solo – Sarah Kent

Praise Band

Bethel Music

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Ellen Oakes

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 27:5-6, 10, 17

SERMON

"Being Human in an AI Age: Finding the Friction"

Acts 15:1-20

Pastor J. C. Austin

***HYMN 301**

Let Us Build a House

Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

Pastor Ashley Brown

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING

Elder Ellen Oakes

A portion of today's offering supports our Worship committee as it seeks to praise God through the diverse musical and artistic gifts of our church and community. This includes our Praise Band and Adult Choir, our SEEK band and Children's Choir programs, our Art Gallery, and all liturgical aspects of our worship life.

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

Lean on Me (Everlasting Arms)

P. Choplin

Adult Choir

Praise Band

***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

Pastor Ashley Brown

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**

Blessed Assurance

P. Kipley, M. West

(My King is Coming)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor J.C. Austin

*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 Betsy Stewart

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Prayer Requests



Pledge Card

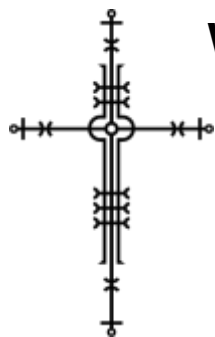


Giving

WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Telephone: 410.647.2550 · E-mail: info@woodschurch.org · Website: www.woodschurch.org



Welcome to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

September 13, 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 Edelmann 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	Time	Location
8AM Men's Bible Study	Room 208/Virtual	9:30 AM 4-year-olds – Kindergarten	Room 107
9:30 AM Nursery 0-2-year-olds 2 & 3-year-olds	Room 110 Room 115	1 st – 2 nd graders 3 rd – 5 th graders	Room 150 Room 152

Upcoming Events & Church News

Woods Family Picnic – Today, All Are Invited! Join us outside after worship for lunch, fellowship, and fun for all ages! Enjoy a picnic lunch at Boone Station from **11AM–12:30PM**, plus a balloon artist, moon bounce, pony rides, and games! Bring your family, invite a friend, and come enjoy the fun together! Bring a lawn chair and spend the afternoon with your Woods Church family. **Please Note:** This will be our **last Summer worship service**.

Woman's Priscilla Circle Bible Study – Our Bible study starting in September 15, is based on **Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians**. "Love is patient; Love is kind." The Priscilla Circle **meets once a month on the 2nd Tuesday at 10:15AM in room 212**. We hope to have you join us this year. Questions contact Bev Haines 410.511.8412.

Beginning **Sunday, September 20**, we will return to our regular schedule of **two worship services: 9:30 AM Traditional and 11AM Contemporary**. **Sunday School resumes at 9:30 AM this Sunday**, with all remaining classes beginning next Sunday. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors—we'll see you at Woods Church!

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. Meeting in Conference Room and on Zoom Meeting ID: 827 4541 2791 | Passcode: 50 0840. Books are available in the front office.

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 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.

On Sunday, September 20 at 2PM in the Sanctuary, join Jung-hoon Park for his piano recital - Americana 250: A Pianorama! Jung will play works by Bernstein, Beach, Horowitz, Gershwin and more! This concert is **free** and

no ticket is required. A love offering will go to support the Woods music program. For questions please email David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org

Dinner Church Experience - Join us on **Monday, September 21**, in **Fellowship Hall** for our **Dinner Church Experience!** We'll begin with a **gathering time at 5PM**, followed by **Dinner Worship at 5:30PM**, concluding around **6:30PM**. This will be a **family-friendly, multi-generational evening** of food, faith, and fellowship in a comfortable, casual setting. We'll gather around tables as dinner becomes part of the worship service.

Congregational Meeting – On **Sunday, September 27 following the 9:30 AM service**. The meeting is for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report.

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

Noah's Ark Blessing of the Animals will be held on **Sunday, October 4, 1PM** at the front of the church, all are welcome. For more info email noahsark@woodschurch.org

Men's Bible Study Celebrates 40 Years! Join the Men's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall between services on **October 4** as we celebrate 40 years together! Enjoy cake and refreshments, and be sure to stay for a **special song performed by the men**. All are welcome!

Flower Workshop – The Flower Ministry invites members and friends of Woods Church to a workshop on **Saturday, October 10, from 9:30 AM–12 PM in the Founders Room**. Space is limited to 25 participants. Cost is **\$25**, which includes materials. Please bring garden cutters (clippers). For registration assistance, contact **Pam Ward at 443.261.3263** or visit the church office.

2026 Bazaar Sweet Shop Donations Needed! Please Sign Up Today! We need ingredients to create the magnificent, sweet treats we offer at our annual Holiday Bazaar. Please look for our table on 9/13 or 9/20 and sign up to purchase items specifically needed. Return everything to the church by 10/11 and come to the Bazaar on November 21 to purchase the wonderful candies created from your donations. Contact Sue Hannahs with any questions: 443.871.0579.

2026 Bazaar Games & Puzzles Collection! Bring your new or gently used puzzles and board games to Fellowship Hall on Sunday, 9/20 and get up to two free raffle tickets for a chance to win the Big Holiday Bazaar Gift Basket! And Save the date to shop on **Saturday, November 21, 2026!**

Did You Know Woods Has a Basketball Group? Looking for some fun, fellowship, and a little friendly competition? Join the **Woods Basketball Group** on Saturday mornings! All skill levels are welcome. Interested in joining? Contact **Todd McDowell**, toddmcdowell@gmail.com for more information. Come shoot some hoops and meet some new friends!