

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)



September 20, 2026 ~ 9:30 AM

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17th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

A Hermit Thrush at Eve Op. 92, No. 1

A. Beach

"Holy, Holy in the hush, Hearken to the hermit thrush. All the air. Is in prayer." – John Vance Cheney, A Hermit Thrush

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor J. C. Austin

PASSING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT

Joyful Joyful

L. Beethoven

Piano – Jung-hoon Park

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder David Lohff

Leader: O, give thanks to the Lord; call on God's name!

People: Make God's deeds known among all the peoples!

Leader: Sing praises, sing praises to the Lord!

People: Come, let us worship God!

***HYMN 15**

All Creatures of Our God and King

Verses 1, 2, 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Pastor Ashley Brown

Gracious and Loving God, Scripture reminds us that you have "made us alive together in Christ." Yet all too often we treat your grace as something that is earned by us rather than given by you. We act as if your grace pardons us from our calling to love others, and we wander off rather than walking in the good works which you have prepared for us: loving our neighbors, serving the vulnerable, building up your kingdom in this world. Forgive us, Lord, and strengthen us to walk in the ways you would have us go, so that we embody your grace in all that we do. Through Christ we pray.

***MUSICAL MEDITATION**

For The Fruit of All Creation

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Pastor J.C. Austin

Pastor Ashley Brown

Elder David Lohff

Joseph Moncure Rossiello

Son of David and Caroline Rossiello

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.

To the Congregation:

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to teach, guide, and nurture Joseph in his journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Will you be examples for Joseph by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of this church? **We will.**

Welcome and Promise:

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder David Lohff

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 104:1-6, 10-15

SERMON

"Being Human in an AI Age: Covering Over"
Ephesians 2:1-10

Pastor J. C. Austin

***HYMN 700**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
Verses 1, 2, 4

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING

Elder David Lohff

A portion of today's offering supports our Outreach and Service committee in the area of emergency assistance. This includes our donations to the Cecilia McKay Good Neighbor Fund, which provides financial assistance for utilities, rent or other crisis needs, and to the SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) regional food pantry.

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

We Are One
Solo – Mary Jo Greenly, Adult Choir

AI/D. Merrill

A note about our anthem - Today, music publishers have placed a disclaimer on their websites that says "created by real people." Streaming platforms, like Spotify, have launched badges to verify human authenticity standards, and our own US Copyright Office has ruled that any music made entirely by AI cannot be copyrighted because the law only protects meaningful human authorship. As an illustration, for the first and last time, we asked AI to create a choral anthem. We then took that piece and created an original work, inspired by its themes, but made by humans. Although AI might have the knowledge of how notes and music theory works (sort of), it can never take away the human soul, the human heart, and the human's creativity and innate love of music. The choir will sing

part of the AI anthem and then transition into the newly composed anthem - made entirely by humans.

***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.

***HYMN 37**

Let All Things Now Living

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor J.C. Austin

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Threefold Amen
Adult Choir

M. Haugen

***POSTLUDE**

Carmen Variations

Horowitz

*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. 9:30AM Gale Gillespie



Prayer Requests



Pledge Card

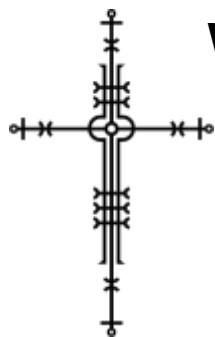


Giving

WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

611 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park, Maryland 21146

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



Welcome to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

September 20, 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 Sue Hannahs 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	10:30 AM Children's Choir	Choir Room
9:30 AM Spiritual Exploration Group	Conference/Virtual	11AM Genesis	Room 208/Virtual
Nursery 0-2-year-olds	Room 110	Nursery 0-2-year-olds	Room 110
2 & 3-year-olds	Room 115	All Children	Room 107
4, year-olds – 5 th graders	Room 107	3:30 PM H.S. Bible Study	Room 212
1 st – 2 nd graders	Room 150		
3 rd – 5 th graders	Room 155		
Middle & High School	Room 208/212		

Upcoming Events & Church News

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 **Today 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.

Today 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 **\$20**, which includes materials. Please bring garden cutters (clippers). For registration assistance, contact **Pam Ward at 443.261.3263** or visit the church office.

Home Communion will be offered on Sunday, October 4, 2026 following the 9:30AM service. If you would like to be included or know of anyone in the congregation who might enjoy having communion brought to their home, please contact Lauren Lohff at 410.647.2550 or email her at llohff@woodschurch.org.

A Broadway Afternoon - From Golden Classics to Today - October 25 at 2PM in the Sanctuary – FREE. Come and join us for a fun filled, Broadway Afternoon on Sunday October 25 at 2PM! The concert features renowned singers - Andrew Fowler (Tenor), Jennifer Cooper (Alto), Shouvik Mondle (Baritone), Tabitha Popernack (Soprano), David Merrill (Tenor), and pianist Sandy Daelemans. We'll take you on a journey through some of the most beloved Musical Theater songs ever written! From West Side Story, to Cats, Phantom of the Opera, to Pippin there is something for everyone! This event is free, but a registration is required, please register at www.woodstix.org. For more information please email David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org. (Original concert concept created by Shouvik Mondle)



Register QR-Code

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 18 and older are welcome. Interested in joining? Contact **Todd McDowell**, toddmcowell@gmail.com for more information. Come shoot some hoops and meet some new friends!