

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)



October 11, 2026 ~ 9:30 AM

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20th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

Little Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor J. C. Austin

PASSING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT

The Years at the Spring

A. Beach

Solo – Lauren Mariah

The year's at the spring, and day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven; the hill-side's dew-pearl'd;
The lark's on the wing; the snail's on the thorn;
God's in heaven – all's right with the world!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Laura Ivey

Leader: O Come, let us sing to the Lord,

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

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

People: singing joyful songs of praise!

*HYMN 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Verses 1, 2, 5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Pastor Ashley Brown

Gracious and Loving God, you have set us free in Christ, and yet we have so often lived as though we were not. We return to old yokes: the need to prove our worth, the fear of what others will think, the habit of keeping score. You call us to freedom, and we have turned it into self-indulgence: we have served our own comfort, our own opinions, our own security, and called it liberty. Forgive us, Lord. Break the chains we have chosen to keep, and free us from the freedom we have misused. Lead us by your Spirit into the life of love, that we may live as people truly free. Through Christ we pray.

*MUSICAL MEDITATION

The Gift of Love

H. Hopson

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

Pastor J. C. Austin

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Pastor J.C. Austin
Pastor Ashley Brown
Elder Laura Ivey

June Elise Mennie

Daughter of Alexander and Colleen Mennie

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Apostles' Creed)

Pastor Ashley Brown

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 June in her journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ? We do.

Will you be examples for June by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her 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 Laura Ivey

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 119:1-7, 44-50

SERMON

"Being Human in an AI Age: Free for All"
Galatians 5:1, 13-26

Pastor J. C. Austin

*HYMN 462

I Love to Tell the Story
Verses 1, 2

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING

Elder Laura Ivey

A portion of today's offering supports our Outreach and Service committee in the area of specialized services, such as donations that support the Baltimore Station's programs providing therapeutic and outpatient treatment options for veterans, and the Langton Green residence for adults with intellectual disabilities.

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

Give Me Jesus
Solo – Lucas White

P. Trenney

*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 839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor J.C. Austin

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Threefold Amen
Adult Choir

M. Haugen

*POSTLUDE

Fanfare for the Common Man

A. Copland
Arr. L. Deutsch

*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



Prayer Requests



Pledge Card

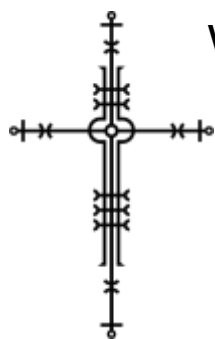


Giving

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)

October 11, 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	Time	Location
8AM Men's Bible Study	Room 208/Virtual	10:30AM Children's Choir	Choir Room
9:30AM Spiritual Exploration Group	Conference/Virtual	11AM Genesis	Conference Room/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	12:15PM SEEK Band	Choir Room
1 st – 2 nd graders	Room 150	2PM Confirmation	Room 212
3 rd – 5 th graders	Room 155		
Middle & High School	Room 208/212		

Upcoming Events & Church News

Adult Formation Class 11AM Sundays, through October 25 **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. Meeting in Conference Room and on Zoom Meeting ID: 827 4541 2791 | Passcode: 50 0840.

Picnic Table Pre-Order – The Youth and Outreach & Service Committees are partnering for the annual Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake picnic table build. To reserve a picnic table 7 foot or bench 6 foot. Pre-order by October 15. Forms are available in the Welcome area in the Woods News holder on the wall. Return forms to Beth Hadley at bbhadley@gmail.com. Questions? Call 443.668.2551. Delivery options are available.

Fall Costume Party & Parade! Join the Woods Children's Committee for a fun-filled evening of costumes, games, crafts, music, prizes, and treats on Thursday, October 15 from 4:30-6PM! Children and families are invited to celebrate the season with friends and show off their favorite costumes during our festive parade. The party will take place in the **Children's Garden near the Counselling Center** at 4:30PM, with a parade to Sunrise Assisted living at 5:30PM. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Flower Workshop – The Flower Ministry invites members and friends of Woods Church to a workshop on Saturday, October 17, 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.

Meet and Greet Pastor Ashley! Interested in participating in an in-home gathering with Pastor Ashley? Please email Karen Lerario at apnc@woodschurch.org for more information.

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

Woods Young Adults – Back from college? New to the area? Looking for your people? Let's get the gang back together! We're gathering young adults, ages 21 -late 30s together to reconnect, meet new people, and talk about the future of young adults at Woods could look like. Join us and Pastor Ashley for dinner and fellowship at Vida Taco Bar (Severna Park location) on Thursday, October 22, 6PM. Know someone who should be here? Pass this along and invite them! Email or text Pastor Ashley to RSVP at abrown@woodschurch.org or 512.210.9330.

Youth Summit Retreat! – Woods Youth's Fall Overnight Retreat at West River Retreat Center, for all youth 6th-12th grade! "The Youth Summit" is a coming together of all the various programs that make up Woods Youth. Join us for team building, fireside worship, and lots of fun and fellowship! The Youth Summit retreat is October 23 & 24 at West River Retreat Center. Drop off at West River between 5-5:30PM, and pick-up the next day at 2PM. The retreat costs \$50 per person sign up on the Website or use the QR-Code.



On All Saints Sunday, November 1 we will gather as one community for one worship service at 9:30 AM. This special service gives us an opportunity to pause, remember, and give thanks for the lives of those who have died over the past year. Together, we will honor their memory, celebrate the love they shared, and hold their families and loved ones in prayer.

Family Fellowship time All Saints Day...Picnic on the Playground following our one worship service. Chicken and biscuits are provided. Come welcome Pastor Ashley to our family.

Cecilia McKay Good Neighbor Fund is in Need. In September, we had 62 requests for assistance and we provided some help to 25....expending over \$7,000.00 of your donated funds...thank you all. Over \$4,200 of that was to prevent BGE shut-off!! 20 of the 25 have never requested assistance before. We're in a season of unprecedented need. Please consider a special gift to the Cecilia McKay Good Neighbor Fund to help us care for all of our neighbors. Give online at woodschurch.org/give and select the Cecilia McKay fund or make a check payable to Woods Church with "Cecelia McKay" in the memo line.

Outreach and Service Partner SPAN is in critical need of canned meats, oatmeal, sides of all kinds, basic toiletries of all kinds, cleaning supplies and diapers sizes 4 and up. Please place your items in the SPAN boxes behind the Welcome Desk. Thank you for your kindness and caring by supporting our neighbors in need.

Holiday Bazaar Jewelry Donations & Sale. Our jewelry table will be loaded with costume jewelry of all types, including necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings, and watches, with most prices ranging from \$1.00 to \$5.00. Start gathering your unbroken costume jewelry now to donate to the Bazaar. But wait until the week of November 15th to bring it to Zimmerman Hall. Then shop on Saturday, November 21 from 9AM to 1PM!

Inside the Belhar Confession - As we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Belhar Confession, you are invited to a special Lunch and Learn, led by Pastor J.C. Austin on Reformation Sunday, October 25 from 12:30-1:20PM in Room 208. Learn more about the history of this Confession in the wake of Apartheid in South Africa, and why the PC(USA) voted to adopt it into our Book of Confessions years later. The Children's Formation Committee will provide a special program for children during this time frame.