

The Good News

*"Striving to share Christ's love with all of
God's people"*

2026



*Westminster
Presbyterian Church*

*3819 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71913*

It is surprising how fast 11 months can fly by, but it was fun while it lasted.

When I first arrived last year I thought my biggest challenge would be gaining your trust and respect in an environment of grief. Your beloved minister, Chip, had decided to retire, and sometimes it is just too soon for someone new to step in and expect you to accept them. People need time to grieve their loss, and I get that.



Chip and I had gotten to know each other earlier as I served as interim at another church in the presbytery. He knew of my work, and recommended to session that I be asked to come and serve as an interim here. That's how I showed up the Sunday after Chip left.

It was a bit of a "slow go" at first, but it wasn't long before we got to know each other and began to enjoy working together. And the better you got to know me, the less anxiety and stress you felt. At the same time, the better I got to know you, the more I began to love you. Westminster has a terrific staff, a strong session, and you are all very generous givers. I think you know you are going to have to make some important decisions in the not-too-distant future, but you have options, good options, and **that** is a gift from God.

Now the time has come for me to step away, and it is time for you to move forward, and explore the future God has in store for Westminster. Am I happy that I am leaving? No. Some of you have become such good friends that it will be difficult not seeing you on a regular basis. Do I leave with any regrets? Yes, a few. I was not able to achieve every goal I had on my list, but I'll get over that, and you will be just fine.

Just remember, **you** are the church, not the pastor. It is up to **you** to make a choice: you can follow where God leads, and accept **all** of the challenges and risks that involves, or you can choose to continue to be the church the way you have always done it, until the party is over and someone turns out the lights. It's your choice. Choose wisely. And stay true to your calling.

My prayer is that God allows our paths to cross again, soon.

Meet Rev. William (Bill) Bailey

REV. WILLIAM (BILL) BAILEY will be serving as our Transitional Pastor in the coming months—his contract is for one year with an option to renew if needed. Pastor Bill served The Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, for 17 1/2 years, retiring in 2024. Before that, he served churches in Richmond, Kentucky, and Orlando, Florida. He lives with his wife Anne in Hot Springs Village. Together they have four children and six grandchildren living in California, Florida, and Arkansas.



From Pastor Bill: Many thanks to everyone in the congregation for all the ways you have helped welcome the Baileys to Westminster Presbyterian Church. The kind words of welcome have been greatly appreciated.

I am delighted to be serving as your interim pastor. I am grateful for the good work that has gone on before and look forward to sharing this ministry in Hot Springs with you.

My wife (Anne) and I are trying to get acclimated to the history and traditions of a new congregation. Some of them seem familiar to us, while there are many small things that are different and new. Still, we are excited to be here and are working hard learning new names and facts. Be patient with us as we find our way around.

We look forward to getting to know each of you and joining hands with you as we seek to discern and follow Christ's leading in the weeks and months ahead. Keep us and the church in your thoughts and prayers as we seek to be faithful.

In Christ's service,
William Bailey



August Milestones Happy Birthday To:

- 04 Joyce Walters
- 06 Nancy Ransweiler
- 07 Jeff Stoneburner
- 10 William Esose
- 17 Teresa Norton
- 18 Shannon Evans
- 19 Allie Norton
- 23 Tara Mahend
- 26 Mary Marasco
- 29 Jaylen Puckett
- 30 Susan Puls

Happy Anniversary To:

*Bill & Mariko McCallum
August 4, 1975*

You Are Invited

*Sunday, August 9
10:30 am Worship
Blessing of the Backpacks
Let's kick off the 2026-
2027 school year together!*



*Breakfast
Men of the Church
Wednesday
August 5
8:15 a.m.
Higdon Square Café*

Dinner with Friends



All are invited to join with friends for dinner on Thursday, August 20, at 6:00 pm at Quetzal's Mexican Restaurant. If you wish to attend, please call the church office by 4 pm on Tuesday, August 18, so that we will have a count as to how many are attending.

Scholarship Recipients

The Scholarship Committee of Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) met on June 15, 2026, to review seven applications. After reviewing the applications and transcripts, all applicants were approved to receive scholarships. Thanks to the generous donations from members and saints who are no longer with us, WPC was blessed to award \$32,000 in scholarships. Recipients of the awards included:



- Elijah Evans-Hughes, son of Shannon Evans and Tim Hughes, will be attending Hendrix College studying Psychology as he wishes to learn about the human mind and how to help others with mental health issues.
- Anusha Jose, daughter of Arul and Biji Jose, will be attending Southern Arkansas University studying Biology (pre-health) with plans to become a Physician's Assistant or find a profession in healthcare.
- Preston DeGrasse, son of Katrina Taylor and Stephen DeGrasse, will be attending National Park College to complete the final year of his welding certifications and become a successful welder.
- Tara Mahend will be attending the Clinton School of Public Service to achieve a Master of Public Service with a goal of combining her medical career with public service to serve communities in need.
- Claude Mahend will be attending the Clinton School of Public Service with a goal of achieving a Public Service—Doctorate in Nursing Practice and serving in community outreach in the domains of health and energy.
- Allison Norton, daughter of Teresa Norton, will be attending graduate school at the University of Central Arkansas studying Physical Therapy with a goal of pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) as she will be able to devote her career to helping people maintain the lifestyles they seek in the face of injury, illness, or other circumstances.
- Ella Segal, daughter of Connie Segal, will be attending Arkansas State University at Jonesboro with intentions to pursue a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM).

The WPC Scholarship Committee is always pleased to receive additional donations to the Scholarship Fund. Over the years since its inception in 1963, many young people from WPC have received scholarship assistance utilizing funds from the WPC Scholarship Fund. If you would like to contribute to this important work of the church, mark your donation on the "for line" as scholarship donation.

Welcome New Members



Joyce Sabin joined Westminster by Reaffirmation of Faith on Sunday, July 12. She has lived in Hot Springs for a number of years and taught school before retiring. She listed her hobbies or leisure-time activities as reading, knitting, playing with her cats, and jazzercise.

Mary Smith also joined Westminster by Reaffirmation of Faith on Sunday, July 12. Mary retired from sales in furniture wholesale. She has been a resident of Hot Springs for ten months, and lists her hobbies and leisure-time activities as reading, watching TV, walking, and playing with her dog.



Christian Education Committee News

Two of Westminster's ongoing classes will take a two-week break before starting new studies in August. The adult Disciples Class meeting at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in the Community Room will finish the current book study on August 2. The class will resume on August 23 with Charlotte Howell leading discussion on "Feasting on the Word" materials. The Wednesday noon Verse-by-Verse Bible study will have completed the study of the Gospel of Mark in July. Following their two-week break, the class will resume on Wednesday, August 19, with the study of the Book of Matthew led by Rev. Bill Bailey. All are invited to attend both classes .

Westminster's men's softball team this summer team will participate in "playoff" games on August 3 and August 10. All are invited to cheer on our team at Kimery Park. Young adults will share fellowship lunch on August 16, then meet in Room 11 and have scripture discussion and mutual prayers for their monthly gathering.

All are invited to join Dinner with Friends meeting at Quetzal's Mexican Restaurant on Thursday, August 20, at 6 pm. If you plan to attend, please call the church office by Tuesday, August 18, so we can ensure a seat for you.

Women of Faith, Catherine Circle

Through August 23, women in Circle will continue to collect staple, quick-serve groceries and personal care items with the congregation of Prince of Peace. These items may be left in bins outside the their chapel and will eventually be placed in Blessing boxes around town.

The study book "God's Promises: I Am With You" is still available for purchase at \$10.00, and those who have taken a book may pay Treasurer Robin Morrison. Monthly meetings resume at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, September 8. All women in both congregations are invited.

Mission/Evangelism Committee

On May 29, Karen Wacaster, Mariko McCallum, Carol Birmingham and granddaughter Bailey, Gwen Stephens, and Committee Moderator Tommy Waddell prepared and helped serve 148 lunches at Jackson House.

May and June Dollar Giving totaling \$862 enabled the purchase of 30 box fans for Jackson House to distribute this summer. July Dollar Giving will pay for backpacks which counselors will distribute to primary students in early August. The Community Resource Center has been designated as the August Dollar Giving recipient.

FINANCIAL/STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Expenses and Revenue	June	YTD
TOTAL REVENUE	27,951	190,800
TOTAL EXPENSES	27,245	159,819
SURPLUS/DEFICIT (-)	706	30,980

Pastor
Rev. William Bailey

CRE, Pastoral Care
Susie Wright

Organist/Choir Director/
Handbell Choir Director
Kristen La Madrid



Lectio *nary*

Administrative Assistant
Billie Wetzler

Custodian
Jack Davis

Mother's Day Out Director
Anita Dickson

Church Office
501-525-1367

E-Mail
wpchsar@gmail.com

Website
www.wpchotsprings.org

August 2—Gen. 32:22-31 *and Ps. 17:1-7, 15;*
Isa. 55:1-5 *and Ps. 145:8-9, 14-21;*
Rom. 9:1-5; Matt. 14:13-21

August 9—Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28 *and Ps. 105:1-6, 16-*
22, 45b; 1 Kings 19:9-18 and Ps. 85:8-13;
Rom. 10:5-15; Matt. 14:22-33

August 16—Gen. 45:1-15 *and Ps. 133; Isa. 56:1, 6-*
8 and Ps. 67; Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt. 15:
(10-20) 21-28

August 23—Ex. 1:8-2:10 *and Ps. 124; Isa. 51:1-6*
and Ps. 138; Rom. 12:1-8; Matt. 16:13-20

August 30—Ex. 3:1-15 *and Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26,*
45b; Jer. 15:15-21 and Ps. 26:1-8;
Rom. 12:9-21; Mat. 16:21-28

New address:

Adam & Kat Howell
2129 Blake Rd.
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship/ Communion	3 Softball Team Playoffs Kimery Park	4	5 8:15 Breakfast Men of Church 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 Bell Choir	6	7	8
9 10:30 a.m. Worship/ Blessing of the Backpacks	10 Softball Team Playoffs Kimery Park	11	12 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 Bell Choir	13	14	15
16 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 Fellowship Lunch 11:30 Young Adults	17 6:30 Session Community Room	18	19 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 Bell Choir	20 Dinner with Friends 6:00 pm Quetzal's	21	22
23 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	24 Newsletter Items due	25	26 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 Bell Choir	27 Mail September Newsletters	28	29
30 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	31					