

# The Good News

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

September 2025



*Westminster  
Presbyterian Church*

*3819 Central Avenue  
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71913*

Dear Members and Friends,

As the curtain comes down on the dramatic 9½ year run that has been Pastor Chip and Melinda Hatcher's ministry at Westminster, I couldn't help but think about my beginning as pastor here at Westminster. I went back and looked at my first sermon delivered on March 13, 2016. As a part of the sermon I asked the choir to sing the chorus of "Getting to Know You" from *The King and I* by Rodgers and Hammerstein. I preached that day on the Gospel Reading, John 12:1-8, the story of Mary (Lazarus & Martha's sister) who poured out a lavish offering of perfume onto Jesus' feet, which she then dried off with her hair. It's a dramatic portrait of her love for Jesus, literally being poured out. Today, as a way of expressing my gratitude to you for allowing me to serve the Lord among you at Westminster, I want to share the closing words of that first sermon as I write my last newsletter offering:

*(With her extravagant offering of herself) "...Mary gave all that she had as her response to God's life-saving love. She gave all that she had in her adoration of Jesus. She had seen the Lord at work! She cherished his friendship. She knew she could trust him. Jesus had raised her brother from the dead. How could she respond to Jesus half-heartedly!*

*Yes, her gift of perfume was wastefully extravagant! It was lavish! But Mary did not see it that way. Her "over-the-top" gift was her way of expressing her "over-the-top" adoration and devotion for Jesus. And gospel-writer John tells us that the whole house was filled with the fragrance of her offering. The effect of her offering lingered. We marvel over it even today.*

*As I continue getting to know you in the days, weeks & months ahead, I pray that you and I will be known for such acts of devotion and love as Mary mirrors for us today. I pray that my service to you as pastor will reflect this kind of sacrificial offering. I pray that your service as members of this church will reflect this kind of lavish, over-the-top adoration and thanksgiving. I pray that people who come into this place of worship and service will be knocked over by the love for Christ that they witness in you and in me and in us together.*

*Because it truly is Christ's love that brings us here. It is our Savior's dying love for us on the cross, and the Father's wondrous power in the resurrection that is the whole reason for our being as the church. We have seen the Lord at work! You and I cherish his friendship and the friendships in Christ that we share with one another. We want others to know and to share that relationship, getting to know him and to take part in the new thing that is springing forth at Westminster! How can we respond to the Lord with anything other than whole-hearted devotion and love? (In the days ahead) let us think about how we might live out our complete devotion to Jesus. May our acts of love be known and seen and experienced. And as we do so, may this house, and indeed our whole community, be filled with the fragrance of our offerings.*

With the fragrance from our common offerings lingering in the air, Melinda and I move back to Mississippi trusting that the same kind of devotion and love for Christ that we have witnessed over the past 9½ years will continue to be seen and felt and experienced in Hot Springs as you continue to serve the Lord as the infinitely marvelous collection of saints and sinners that you are at WPC. We are so glad that we "got to know you!" Please know that you always have our undying love and devotion.

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chip<sup>2</sup>*

## *Meet Rev. Carl McCormack*

Beginning September 2, 2025, Rev. Carl McCormack will serve Westminster Presbyterian Church as Transitional Pastor. Pastor Carl, as he wishes to be called, will



preach on Sundays and be in the church office usually on Mondays and Tuesdays. If an emergency arises, that will be handled as needed.

Rev. Carl McCormack, Honorably Retired, is a “second career” minister having answered the call to ministry after working at a variety of positions in public service and the business world.

He is a native Texan, attended the University of Texas in Arlington, and received his Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary ('95). He has served as the installed minister for FPC Woodward, OK, FPC Harrison, AR, FPC Malvern, AR, and FPC Graham, TX, and has served as interim for FPC Rogers, AR, First Presbyterian Church Graham, TX, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church Little Rock, AR and Park Hill Presbyterian in NLR.

Carl and his wife, Terry, live in Little Rock and recently celebrated 44 years of marriage. Terry retired from her career as a master's level Registered Nurse specializing in Emergency and Critical Care. Their son, Preston, and his family live in Little Rock and their daughter, Jennifer, and her family live in Mansfield, Texas. They enjoy spending as much time as possible with their four grandchildren Silas, Nora Jane, Reid, and Caiden.

Everyone is invited to a “Meet and Greet” with Pastor Carl following worship on Sunday, September 7, to be held in the Fellowship Hall.



## *September Milestones Happy Birthday To:*

- 04 Ella Segal
- 14 Rev. Jim Chaffin
- 16 Ezekiel Mahend
- 17 Tracy Esole
- 20 Gwen Stephens
- 20 Jim Alexander
- 28 Betty Corley



*Bob & Suzy Still*  
9-02-2009

*Todd & Golden Puckett*  
9-13-2008

### *Dinner with Friends*

Everyone is invited to come and share a meal and fellowship with friends at the home of Curtis and Susie Wright. If you are interested in attending on Thursday, September 18, at 6:00 pm, please call the church office no later than Tuesday, September 16, so that your spot can be reserved.



*Breakfast  
Men of the Church  
Wednesday*

*September 3*

*8:15 a.m.*

*Higdon Square Café*

### *Fellowship Luncheon*

A fellowship luncheon will be held on Sunday, September 21, following worship. Sign-up sheets for lasagna, salads, and desserts will be on the table in the narthex.

The fellowship committee is asking that we “shake things up” a bit—we are asking individuals to sit with those who share their birthday month as tables will be designated by months. Come and enjoy the fellowship and fantastic homemade foods.



## *NEW MEMBERS*

Anusha Chirayil Jose, along with Memphis Puckett and Elijah Evans-Hughes, recently completed confirmation classes taught by Pastor Chip and CRE Susie Wright. All three joined Westminster on Sunday, August 17, by profession of faith.



Anusha is a senior at Hot Springs High School, the daughter of Arul Biji and Biji Jose, and has two older sisters, Annie and Anju. She stated she has lived in Hot Springs almost 18 years. Anusha listed her hobbies and interests as volleyball and school clubs, Student Council, and reading. Anusha works part-time as a receptionist for CHI St. Vincent Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital.

Memphis Puckett, the son of Todd and Golden Puckett, grandson of Steven Smith, has lived in Hot Springs since his birth. Memphis is a sophomore at Lake Hamilton High School, and listed basketball and video games as hobbies



and interests.

Memphis has been active in Sunday School classes.



Our third new member is Elijah

Evans-Hughes, a senior at Lakeside High School, who has lived in Hot Springs 17 years.. His parents are Shannon Evans and Tim Hughes.

Elijah listed his hobbies and interests as theater, gaming, working out, and being with friends. He regularly attends the Spa City Youth Group. Elijah initiated the first "Sweets on the Streets" that the Youth Group has supported by passing out cookies to



homeless individuals or anyone who wished to have a cookie.

## *Christian Education Committee Report*

Seventeen students from preschool to graduate school joined two teachers for the annual Blessing of the Backpacks litany in worship on August 10. Nine schools, colleges, and universities were represented at the celebration.



Three high school students who have grown up at Westminster completed five classes with Pastor Chip and CRE Susie Wright to prepare for confirmation and joining the church on August 17 by profession of faith.

September is a great time to start attending either (or both!) the Disciples Adult Class which meets at 9:30 am every Sunday or the Wednesday Noon Verse-by-Verse Bible study. Both meet in the Community Room.

The Book Club, led by Golden Puckett, will meet from 4:30 to 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 25, to discuss "Educated: A Memoir" by Tara Westover. This 2018 award winning book "is a story of resiliency, courage, and hope" that does not disappoint.

## *Catherine Circle of Presbyterian Women*

The 2025-2026 study year for Catherine Circle kicks off on Tuesday, September 9, at 1:30 pm. Dee Renteria from Prince of Peace will lead discussion of Lesson One, "The Nature of Time: For Everything There Is A Season" from the Horizons study, "For Everything, A Season: A Study of the Liturgical Calendar." All women from both congregations are invited to the meeting to be held in the Community Room.

## *MISSION/EVANGELISM COMMITTEE*



Your \$361 in July Dollar Giving funded the purchase of 96 backpacks divided between and delivered to the primary schools of Lakeside, Lake Hamilton, and Hot Springs. September Dollar Giving is designated to be sent to the Texas Flood Disaster Assistance to help with their recovery.

Christians around the world will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 5, 2025. Presbyterians mark the day by participating in Peace



**WORLD  
COMMUNION  
SUNDAY**

and Global Witness special offering. Locally, 25 percent of this offering is designated for the Lake Hamilton School's New Horizons Alternative Learning Environment, of which Golden Puckett is a faculty member.

Our committee always appreciates your generous donations and support. We give thanks to Pastor Chip for his guidance and assistance to our committee.

### **FINANCIAL/STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

<b>Expenses and Revenue</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	\$ 30,993	\$ 238,454
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	37,971	230,323
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT (-)</b>	\$ (6,977)	\$ 8,131

Pastor  
Rev. Chip Hatcher

CRE, Pastoral Care  
Susie Wright

Organist/Choir Director/  
Handbell Choir Director  
Kristen La Madrid

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](http://www.wpchotsprings.org)



## *Lectioary*

**September 7**—Jer. 18:1-11 *and* Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18;  
Deut. 30:15-20 *and* Ps. 1; Philem. 1:13-21;  
Luke 14:25-33

**September 14**—Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28 *and* Ps. 14;  
Ex. 32:7-14 *and* Ps. 51:1-10; I Tim. 1:12-17;  
Luke 15:1-10

**September 21**—Jer. 8:18-9:1 *and* Ps. 79:1-9;  
Amos 8:4-7 *and* Ps. 113; I Tim. 2:1-7;  
Luke 16:1-13

**September 28**—Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15 *and* Ps. 91:1-6,  
14-16; Amos 6:1a, 4-7 *and* Ps. 146;  
I Tim. 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31





# September 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<b>1</b> Office Closed In observance of Labor Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:15 Men's Break- fast 12 Noon Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship/ Communion 11:30 Meet & Greet	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Catherine Circle 1:30 pm Community Room	<b>10</b> 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 5:30 Sr. High Youth	<b>15</b> Session Stated Meet- ing 6:30 pm, Community	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> Dinner With Friends 6:00 pm Wright's House	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 Fellowship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 Bell Choir	<b>25</b> Book Club 4:30 pm Community Room	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				