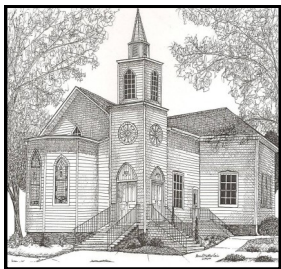


THE ABBEY NEWS



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OCTOBER 2020

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FROM THE PASTOR

"Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ." ~ Ephesians 5:21

During the first two weeks of October, we will wrap up our sermon series on Ephesians. It is my prayer that this letter has provided each of us with new insight as to what it means to practice resurrection, to be the Easter people God has called us to be.

I think the one lesson that has really resonated with me is the primacy and previous-ness of our God. In church work, whether paid or volunteer, it is so easy to slip into the notion that "if I don't do it, no one will." When we think like this, we put God in a box, on a shelf to be pulled down when we are at a loss, and we put ourselves in the spotlight. That is not what Paul is encouraging, and it is certainly not what God wants.

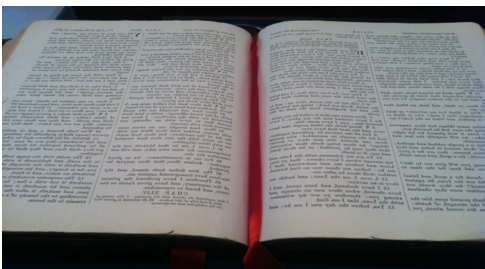
But the primacy and previous-ness of God is not just evidenced in the church. Rather, it should be evident in all of creation. As we wrap up this series, we will have a brief look into how we are to live with one another and practice resurrection together. That section begins with chapter 5 verse 21. It is a call to lean into one another, for sure. It's a call to put aside our own egos and accept that we are not an island, nor can we do this resurrection thing alone. Rather, we do it *subject to one another*.

If there is every a section of Ephesians that is antithetical to what our society and culture teaches us about how to operate in the world, it is this last half of chapter 5. Thomas Jefferson was known for many things, both good and bad, but one thing he was known for might be new to you. He was known to have gone through his Bible and tear out pages of those things he didn't believe. In my message on October 4, we'll take a quick look at what those sections were, but suffice it to say for now, that if I did not believe in the primacy and previous-ness of God, and the Truth of God's Living Word for all, this last half of chapter 5 would be one of those sections I'd be tempted to rip out. I'd want to do that simply because if we are really honest with ourselves, being subject to God is okay, but being subject to other people? We just don't like that very much.

And yet, if we foster healthy spiritual relationships with our fellow children of God, that is exactly what we are. So as we finish this study of Ephesians together, I encourage you to take a deeper look at your human relationships. A friend of mine once gave me a beautiful image of marriage. She told me that she and her husband a the time had a unique perspective that marriage is kind of like building a house. You have to have a strong foundation, but the columns (people) that hold the house have to be supportive of one another, placed just right. If the columns are too close together, the house buckles and falls away from its center. If the columns are too far apart, the house buckles and the center sinks in the middle. Either way, if the columns aren't perfectly spaced, with room to breathe and also support one another, the house will not stand. As we are subject to Christ, the head of the Church, we are also subject to one another to hold the house up.

May we all, Easter people, be subject to one another and hold the house up.

Blessings,
Rev. Audrey



OCTOBER SERMONS

4: "The Unglamorous Ordinary"
Ephesians 5:22-6:9

11: "Be Strong, Be Easter People"
Ephesians 6:10-23

18: Art Williams Preaching

25: "A Permanent Place in the House"
Jeremiah 31:27-34 and John 8:31-36

We will celebrate World Communion Sunday on Sunday, October 4th during Morning Worship, 11:00 am.



We are so blessed to have a loving and caring church family here at WPC! If you would like to be a part of this family, we would LOVE to have you! You are only a visitor once at WPC! There are so many offerings of service through our church. There is one for YOU!





Our doors are open again to our beautiful sanctuary! It is such a blessing to see our church family members each Sunday! We are blessed with wonderful donors who have generously given to enhance our Virtual worship experience as well! Whether you are watching our service at home or sitting in our pews, God is there! God is with us, blessing us and holding each of us in the palm of His hand! Thanks to all for the donations for bags to OMH staff, police and firemen!



TREASURER’S REPORT

August Receipts: \$14,647.72
Expenses :\$ 9,497.59

YTD Receipts: \$99,249.57
YTD Expenses: \$80,569.52
+\$18,680.05



 **Your giving to WPC directly affects the ministry and programs of our church. We are grateful for all that you give in your time, talents and money!**

Please reach out to your Session with any concerns or needs. They are willing to serve in any way they can!
Clerk: Brad Stancil
Congregational Care: Martha Brancazio
Mission/Outreach: Trish McCoy
Worship: Virginia Gordon
Christian Education: Lou Haynes
Property: John Merritt
Stewardship/Finance: Michael Meades
**Session will be communicating via email and telephone to discern the best scenario for the health of our members.

October Flowers



10/4	Kim	Burden
10/11	Marie	Dunnam
10/18	Sandra	Powell
10/25	Jenna	Lesan

If you would like to make a donation to a favorite charity or to our church in lieu of flowers, please let Rev. Audrey or Nita know so we can acknowledge it in the bulletin! God bless you!

ZOOM INTO BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER!



Our noon prayer and devotion will pick back up in November, as we begin to prepare for the Advent Season. If you’re interested, let Rev. Audrey know!



Session met on Sunday, September 13th and had a Spirit-filled discussion about the life and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian. The 2021 Budget will be presented to the congregation in our Annual Congregational meeting in December. During this meeting, we will also vote on the pastor’s terms of call.

Our first congregational meeting is Sunday, October 4 to elect our nominating committee. Those nominated from the congregation are Sam Dillard, Nita McMillan, and Linda White. For those worshipping virtually, you are asked to watch the service on Facebook Live during the 11:00 hour, and stay on after worship to participate in the congregational meeting. When the nominees are presented, you can vote in the comments section with a “Yes/Aye” or “No/Nay.” If you prefer for your vote to be private, you can message the church FB page and vote that way. We will follow this same procedure for the Annual meeting on December 6.

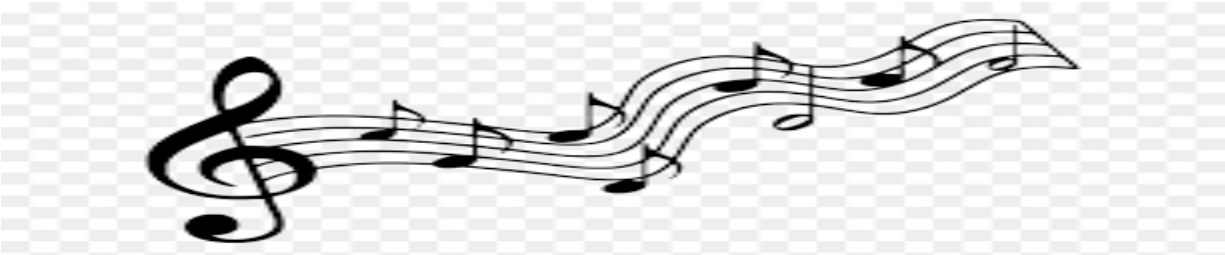
We also unanimously agreed to remain in Phase 1 at this time. Many Elders rejoiced at how God is at work in the life of our church, and how we are blessed with the gifts of our worship team.



“MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!” UPDATE



Our new musical endeavor, the Choir Chime ensemble, had our first rehearsal on September 8th at 3:30 pm in the sanctuary! We had a great turnout and played our first song the following Sunday! It is never too late to join us! If you would like to be a part of this awesome group, just meet us in the sanctuary each Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 pm and we will hook you up! It is always fun to make music together and give God all the praise and glory!



Many thanks to all who donated diapers, wipes and pajamas for all of our friends at Fostering Faithfully! One of the founding members is a teacher at Westminster Elementary and if you would like to donate at anytime during the year, feel free to drop off donations at Gossett Hall and Nita will deliver them for you! Thank you for your continued generosity!



WHAT A GREAT IDEA!

Do YOU have a great idea that you feel would make our worship more meaningful? We encourage you to share it with one of our session members or Rev. Audrey! Some of our most memorable services began with one great idea! Some ideas were, Hanging of the Greens, Christmas in July, choir chimes, etc.



A Time for Prayer

Prayer is the most powerful weapon we have. The prayer of a righteous person has great power..." (James 5:16)



Come and join our little town in a moment of Prayer! Rev. Audrey was asked to give the devotional in September. There are different area ministers that lead a prayer for our community and our world. Meet at the Westminster Depot at 9 am each Tuesday! We would love to see you there!

Praying for You

Imogene Giles
Ruth Payne
Kathy Darnell
Robbie McClure (Marie Dunnam's brother)
Nancy Dougherty
Fred Guidotti (Kathy Skillen's friend)



Presbyterian Women

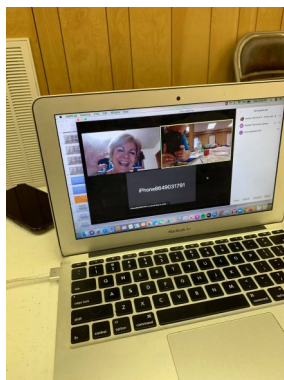
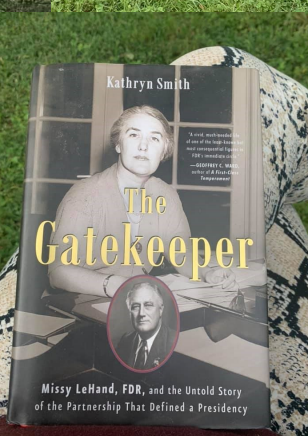
We enjoyed a time of fellowship and Bible study at our PW Circle meetings on September 14th! We are offering our meetings via Zoom for your convenience! The evening circle is also meeting face-to-face as well. Thank you to everyone who donated to our service projects so far this year! We delivered many, many diapers, wipes and pajamas to Fostering Faithfully and they were overwhelmed with our generosity! We will be starting a new donation drive for the residence at Lakeview Assisted Living very soon! Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in our community! If you have not joined a circle, now is the time! We would LOVE to have you! Our next meeting will be October 5th! Hope to see you there!



Are you looking for opportunities to share the love of Christ in our community? There are many of our church members that would love to tell you about these two awesome organizations! See Linda White or Joey Roeder for Dot's and De French about Oconee United Ministries.

Sit and Sip!

We had a wonderful time at our first Sit and Sip! We each shared a book that we loved, swapped some around, and just enjoyed the amazing weather and one another's company! Stay tuned for our next one later in October!



Dates to Remember!

- | | |
|-------|---------------|
| 10-5 | PW Circles |
| 10-7 | Dot's Kitchen |
| 10-13 | Dot's Kitchen |



Join Rev. Audrey each Wednesday at Noon for a time of Virtual Prayer, Bible Study and Fellowship! We are taking a break from noon prayer, but will pick back up in November.



Come join us for fun and fellowship!