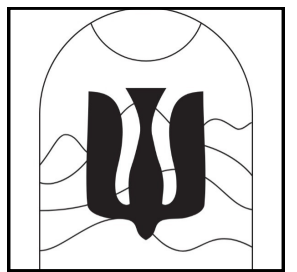


THE ABBEY NEWS



JULY 2026

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VBS Edition

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From the Pastor

"All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." ~John 1:3-5,9

They say that when something is beyond beautiful, a picture does not do the beauty justice. I've experienced this a few times in my life, but the most recent was on my first day in Barcelona, Spain. We went to the world famous Sagrada Familia Basilica, whose architect was Antoni Gaudi. He believed "sunshine is the best painter" and his approach to the stained glass features in this particular basilica reversed traditional Gothic church design.

He designed the stained glass to catch the light in such a way as to transform sunlight into an immersive, ever-shifting light show. It's designed in such a way as to evoke a forest canopy, and the windows follow a precise, symbolic layout guided by the sun's path, bathing the Basilica in cool blues and greens in the morning, and warm oranges and reds in the afternoon.

If you happen to find yourself there at just the right hour of the day, like we did, you can see this in one panoramic view from east to west. It's unfathomable, really, and very hard to even describe with words, much less the smartest iPhone ever created. Gaudi's work is breathtaking, and his "Gospel in a building," as I've come to understand the church, is a testament to his deeply rooted sense of God's light pervading even the darkest crevices of our broken and sinful world.

It's also not lost on me that I was bearing witness to this architectural testimony around the same time our VBS team was preparing to teach our children about Jesus being the light of the world! In what can only be a God moment, WPC was on my heart while I watched this natural light show, and learned that Gaudi began the massive building project in 1882, the same year our church was chartered! Truly the light was shining from Westminster to Spain and all around the world!

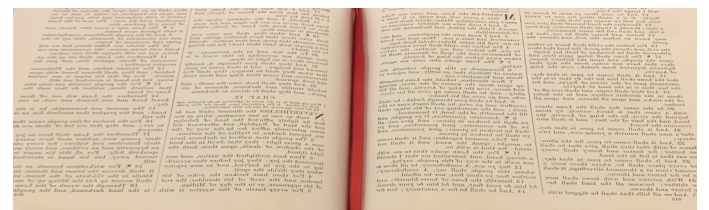
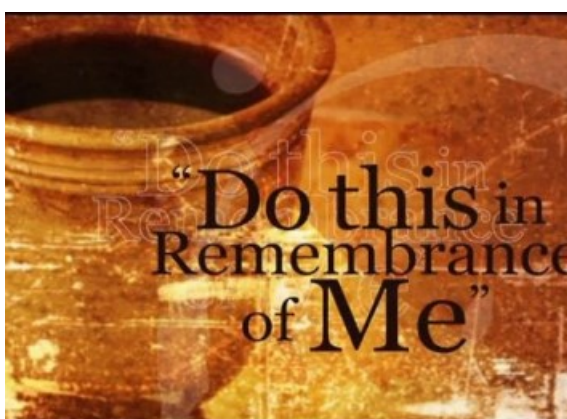
I love the prologue of the Gospel of John, and I love reflecting on it throughout the year. It's easy as we move further from the miracle of Jesus' birth, and later from the miracle of his resurrection at Easter, to feel the darkness creeping in. But if we live into John's promise, we recognize the fallacy of this temptation. Because the truth is, the light SHINES in the darkest corners, and the darkness, whatever it is, does not overshadow that light! So, continue to let your light shine, friends!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Audrey



We will Celebrate Holy Communion during worship on **July 5th.**



JULY SERMONS

7/5: You Were Born for This!
Esther 4:1-17

7/12: When Mourning turns to Joy, Esther 7:1-10, 9:1-2, 20-22, 29-32

7/19: What Real Hope Looks Like, 1 Timothy 6:6-19

7/26: Fanning into the Flame, 2 Timothy 1:1-14



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!



JUNE WORSHIP AND HYMN SING!



VBS FUN!! JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!



Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

TREASURER'S REPORT

May receipts: \$12,137.28
Expenses: \$10,755.57
+/-: \$1,381.44
YTD receipts: \$79,876.57
Expenses: \$70,489.92
+/-: \$9,386.65
We give thanks to God for the abundance of generosity displayed through the people of Westminster Presbyterian Church!



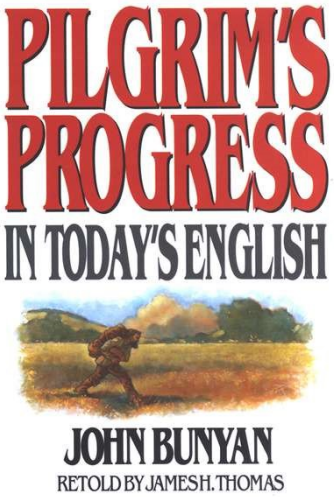
THANK YOU!



Thank you to Rev. Mary Morrison for leading worship and Holy Communion for us while Rev. Audrey was away!
June 7, 2026



Thank you to Barry Burden for bringing God's Word to us and leading worship while Rev. Audrey attended General Assembly



We have been having a great time studying the John Bunyan classic "Pilgrim's Progress". It is amazing to read this awesome literary work, written 348 years ago, and see how relevant it is in helping us with our walk with Christ here in 2026! This study also has scripture references that we follow with each lesson! Come join us for a blessing! We meet **each Monday afternoon at 4:30 pm in Gossett Hall**. Our last lesson will be July 27th! We would love to have you!

VBS FUN!!



What a wonderful morning of worship in SONG!! Thank you to everyone who made this service so very special. This service was held on June 14th while Rev Audrey was in Spain.

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary or make a monetary donation as a memorial or honorarium, please contact Nancy Johnston. God Bless You!

Fun at Dot's Kitchen!



Get Into God's Word!

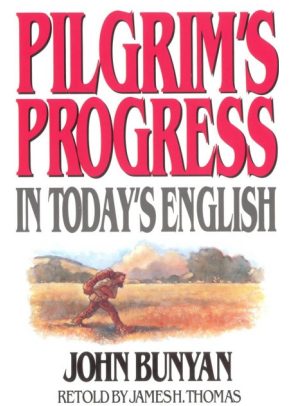


Our next **Men's Bible study** will be **July 5th**. All men will meet at Gossett Hall beginning at 9:30 am. God continues to bless us with Spirit-filled discussions and fellowship. Don't miss this awesome opportunity to share how God is working in your life, prayer requests and praise reports while diving into God's Word!



Remember, PW will be on Summer Break during the months of June and July! Nita will lead a Bible/Book study for Ladies during our time away from PW. We will be studying "Pilgrim's Progress". This is an easy to read study that references Bible verses and will help us in our daily walk with Christ! Please pick up a book and study guide! Even if you can't make the meetings, feel free to read this awesome study at home!

Our next session will be **Monday, July 6th, 4:30pm in Gossett, and will meet each Monday with the last session being on July 27th**. Sessions will be held for one hour. We will also have a time for prayer requests and praise reports before each lesson!



This month our Adult Sunday School class will meet on **July 12th (Barry Burden) and July 19th (Jim McMillan)**. We will have a time for prayer requests, fellowship, Bible Study and share how God is working in our lives. Come be a part of this awesome offering for us all to grow in Christ! Come join the fun, fellowship and thankfulness to God for enjoying the freedom to study His Word!



Come join us as we review our chronological Bible readings for the month! Rev. Audrey will be leading us on **July 26th, 9:30 am**. Bring your chronological Bible if you are using it as your daily study. We will have Bibles available for you in Gossett.



Our next 5th Sunday celebration will be **August 30th!** We are planning on having a great speaker join us from the Gideons! If you have not heard a presentation from this most worthy mission, please come out! You will be blessed!



The Gideons International



A Christian Perspective on Independence Day



For many Christians, Independence Day is more than a patriotic holiday — it is an opportunity to reflect on the deeper meaning of freedom, both political and spiritual.

Freedom in Scripture and History

The 4th of July commemorates the 1776 adoption of the Declaration of Independence, a moment when the American colonies sought self-governance. Christians see parallels to the biblical story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, a journey from bondage to freedom guided by God (Exodus 13:14). The Founding Fathers often drew on Christian principles, recognizing that human rights are gifts from a Creator (Genesis 1:27).

Spiritual Freedom in Christ

Central to Christian teaching is the idea that Christ has set believers free from sin and death (Galatians 5:1; John 8:36). This "freedom indeed" is not merely the absence of external constraints but the presence of righteousness and justice (Micah 6:8). On Independence Day, believers can view national liberty as a blessing from God, enabling them to worship freely, serve others, and live out their faith.

Gratitude and Civic Responsibility

Christians are encouraged to give thanks for the freedoms they enjoy, acknowledging that "every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17). At the same time, freedom comes with responsibility — to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Many churches use the day to pray for the nation, advocate for the marginalized, and engage in community service, blending patriotism with Christian duty.

Faith and National Identity

While Independence Day is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter, many Christians see it as a time to honor God's providence in shaping the nation's history (Daniel 2:21). The Liberty Bell's inscription, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10), reflects this Judeo-Christian heritage.

Practical Celebrations

Churches often combine traditional patriotic elements — flag ceremonies, patriotic hymns — with worship that affirms both earthly and heavenly citizenship. Programs may include service projects, testimonies, and educational sessions that emphasize unity over political division, focusing on shared values of faith, family, and community.

In sum, for Christians, Independence Day is a day to celebrate the blessings of freedom, to give thanks for God's guidance, and to commit to using those freedoms in ways that honor God and serve others.

Dates to Remember!

- 6, 13 Pilgrims Progress 4:30 in Gossett
- 20, 27 Pilgrims Progress 4:30 in Gossett
- 5 Men’s Bible Study 10 am
- 5 Holy Communion Sunday 11 am
- 1&7 Dot’s Kitchen
- 12 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am
- 19 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am
- 26 Adult Sunday School 9:30am

July Birthdays

- 2 Steve Moore
- 4 Jane Thomas
- 6 Marie Dunnam
- 10 Ash Reese
- 12 Clayton Haynes
- 21 Jim McMillan
- 21 Sandra Powell
- 27 Anna Marie Moore



WEEKLY BIBLE IN A YEAR SCRIPTURES



Yoga with Kate

Grab your yoga mat and come on to Gossett Hall for “Yoga with Kate!”

Tuesdays at 4:00 pm

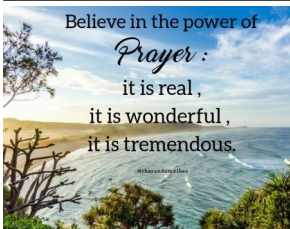
Our 2026 VBS Kids!



“Jesus Is the Light of the World” John 8:12

- 7/1: 2 Chronicles 29:3-31:21
- 7/2: Proverbs 25:1-29:27
- 7/3: Proverbs 30:1-31:31
- 7/4: Psalms 42-46
- 7/5: Psalms 47-49; Psalms 84-85, 87
- 7/6: Psalms 1-2; Psalm 10; Psalm 33; Psalm 71; Psalm 91
- 7/7: Psalms 92-97
- 7/8: Psalms 98-100; Psalms 102, 104
- 7/9: Psalms 105-106
- 7/10: Psalm 107; Psalms 111-114
- 7/11: Psalms 115-118
- 7/12: Psalm 119
- 7/13: Psalms 120-121, 123
- 7/14: Psalms 128-130, 132; Psalms 134-135
- 7/15: Psalm 136; Psalms 146-150
- 7/16: Isaiah 18:1-23:18
- 7/17: Isaiah 24:1-27:13; Isaiah 29:1-24
- 7/18: Isaiah 30:1-33:24
- 7/19: Isaiah 34:1-35:10; Micah 2:1-5:15
- 7/20: Micah 6:1-7:30; 2 Chronicles 32:1-8; 2 Kings 18:13-18; Isaiah 36:1-3; 2 Kings 18:19-37; Isaiah 36:4-22
- 7/21: 2 Kings 19:1-19; Isaiah 37:1-20; 2 Chronicles 32:9-19; 2 Kings 19:20-37; Isaiah 37:31-38; 2 Chronicles 32:20-23
- 7/22: 2 Kings 20:1-11; Isaiah 38:1-8; 2 Chronicles 32:24-31; Isaiah 38:9-22; 2 Kings 20:12-19; Isaiah 39:1-8
- 7/23: Isaiah 40:1-44:5
- 7/24: Isaiah 44:6-48:11
- 7/25: Isaiah 48:12-52:12
- 7/26: Isaiah 52:13-57:21
- 7/27: Isaiah 58:1-63:14
- 7/28: Isaiah 63:15-66:24; 2 Kings 20:20-21; 2 Chronicles 32:32-33
- 7/29: 2 Kings 21:1-9; 2 Chronicles 33:1-9; 2 Kings 21:10-17; 2 Chronicles 33:10-19; 2 Kings 21:18; 2 Chronicles 33:20; 2 Kings 21:19-26; 2 Chronicles 33:21-25; 2 Kings 22:1-2; 2 Chronicles 34:1-7; Jeremiah 1:1-2:22
- 7/30: Jeremiah 2:23-5:19
- 7/31: Jeremiah 5:20-6:30; 2 Kings 22:3-20; 2 Chronicles 34:8-28

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. --1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



I Believe In God And The Power Of Prayer. Amen



Town Prayer Meeting! Join us for prayer every Tuesday morning at 9 am at the gazebo in downtown Westminster.

In Our Prayers

Robbie McClure (Marie Dunnam's brother) Elizabeth Christensen (Kathy Skillen's niece), Bob and Debbie Hartness (Rev. Audrey's parents), Clifton Mabry, Edna Dillard, Kathy Skillen, Marie Dunnam, Trey Bratcher (Clifton Mabry's grandson), Nancy Dougherty, Martha Reid, Henrietta Wright (friend of WPC), Ed Black, Lou Haynes, Colleen Halvorson (Trish McCoy's daughter-in-law), Virginia Gordon, and Henry Gordon, Steve Wray, Doyle Hoover, Meddy Thomasselli, and Riley Medlin.



Collins CHILDREN'S HOME



Your Session is on Summer break for the months of June and July. This does not mean that we are not available to help you in any way we possibly can! Please feel free to contact any of us with questions, concerns, ideas or needs.

SESSION

Clerk: Brad Stancil

Mission/Outreach: Virginia Gordon

Christian Education: Nita McMillan

Property: Shepherd Chuites

Stewardship/Finance: Michael Meades

Congregational Care: Joey Roeder

Worship Elder: Otto Tysland

Come Join us EVERY Sunday morning at 9:30! We would LOVE to have YOU!!



- Sunday School Schedule 9:30am Gossett Hall**
- July 5** —Men's Bible Study—Jim
 - July 13**—Adult Sunday School - Barry
 - July 20** – Adult Sunday School—Jim
 - July 27**—Chronological Bible Review—Audrey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the mid-year Sunday School survey. We hope to offer even more opportunities to "Get Into God's Word"!

5th Sunday Breakfast Pot Luck Celebration!! (May 31, 2026)



1 Corinthians 10:31

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."