



## INCLUDING ALL

Throughout its history, Westminster has welcomed all to worship, grow, and serve in a community filled with God's love. We celebrate that each person is created by God with unique qualities and talents, and believe we experience the fullness of God in our relationships with one another. We provide a safe place for all, LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, young, old, to grow together to serve Christ and actively work together for peace and justice in our community and world. —*Jim Caughen*

## NURTURING FAITH

For the sake of perspective, I invite you to take a step back and contemplate Westminster as one of many organizations that make Charlottesville a better place.

Like several other organizations, our church ministers to the marginalized in society. Like other organizations, our church brings together people of good will to enjoy fellowship and to share joys and sorrows.

We thank God for other organizations in the community that attract people who do good works and who benefit from each other's fellowship. Their service makes all of us better.

What distinguishes the church is that it is founded on faith in the Triune God. The church's humanitarianism is inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ and the acts of kindness He performed on Earth two millennia ago. And we are attracted to the church by our desire to praise and serve God.

Let us celebrate our experience as members of the church, and let us nurture the faith that binds us together. —*Gene Foreman*

## VALUING COMMUNITY

What does it mean to **value community** at Westminster?

At Westminster, church is community. Community sustains church. Community is love. In community we love each other and love God. Valuing community at Westminster is demonstrated in the many ways we respond to the needs of others, whether it is simply sharing a smile, expressing concern, raising funds for hunger through our annual CROP Walk, or supporting those individuals who are struggling financially through our benevolence program. There are many opportunities afforded to us as Christ moves among us in this place. —*Irene Townsend*



## IMAGINING CHANGE

At Westminster we Imagine Change, as we put it in our mission statement, by "working for justice in a complex world." Through our Peace, Justice and Inclusion initiatives, Westminster partners with many local, national and international organizations and mission projects that engage in the essential work of social justice and peacemaking. Opportunities abound at Westminster to imagine and create meaningful change in our community and in our world that make lives better. —*Mark Outlaw*



## THINKING AND LEARNING

Westminster is a community that celebrates thinking and learning. Although some of us are mature in life, all of us are constantly challenged to grow in our faith and knowledge. We value education and the sharing of insight about the practice of our faith and life in our world. Our emphasis on Christian formation includes the activities where our faith is nurtured by reflections of scripture and shared life experiences. We are challenged to listen to others, study, think, visualize. We also learn through experiential education that occurs in organized activities of mission and service to those in need. We pray for the life of the world and our part in it. —*Taylor Beard*

## EMBODYING CHRIST

We embody the love of Christ. Through our care of the community and one another, Westminster Presbyterian Church attempts to live out its witness and service to the community by following Christ's commandment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Mk. 12:31). We especially appreciate the work of our pastoral deacons as they minister to our needs and offer us a listening ear. If you are ever in need of a ride to an appointment, need assistance, or have a prayer concern, please contact a deacon or a member of the pastoral staff. —*Ken Henry*

## Dear Members and Friends of Westminster Presbyterian Church~



This year's stewardship theme, **INVITE**, is our invitation to you to think more deeply about your faith in God and the value of your spiritual community.

Here's how I see us inviting others to engage in the ministries at Westminster Presbyterian Church:

**Including All** means inviting someone. Indeed, God invites us to participate in the life of the church "regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, identity, disability, geography, or theological conviction" (F-1.0402). This means that, in turn, we are encouraged to invite a neighbor, a friend, or a stranger to Westminster. There is a home here for everyone.

**Nurturing** children, youth, and adults in their **faith** has always been our call and mission. Whether it is a UVA student attending Sunday morning worship and participating in activities at Common Grounds or our own children and youth going on a pilgrimage or asking questions about God, we strive to nurture a Christian faith that is open to God's mysterious and welcoming presence.

**Valuing Community**, caring for the hungry, providing shelter for the homeless, offering protection to the refugee, giving financial assistance to the poor, we seek to be a church that cares deeply for our spiritual community as well as the community surround around us.

**Imagining Change.** I love this phrase, because without strong and imaginative leadership, without ruling and teaching elders who are willing to take risks, we will not meet the challenges before us. We love this

church, and we continue to imagine a better and more inclusive spiritual community for all.

**Thinking and Learning** are values stated on our church's website. At Westminster, we value critical thinking in relation to God and how the Spirit moves in a complex world.

**Embodying Christ.** I hope and pray that this final phrase summarizes why we offer our time and talents to Westminster Presbyterian Church. The phrase "embodying Christ" supports our continuing belief in social justice and peacemaking activities. We are a church that engages with our community and spreads Christ's love to every corner of the globe.

Over the next several Sundays, I am looking forward to exploring this theme with you. Jesus always seems to be inviting the people we least expect. Of course, we are invited to love and participate in God's kingdom, but "the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind" also find a place at the table (Luke 14:1, 7-14).

So, as we move through this pandemic, attempting to return to church through hybrid forms of worship and Zoom gatherings, I invite us to carefully consider our financial gifts of support for the ministries and legacy of Westminster Presbyterian Church. **November 7, 2021** is Pledge Dedication Sunday. Those of us who are still uncomfortable with in-person worship are encouraged to send pledge cards to Westminster Presbyterian Church before that date so as to be included in our prayers of thanks.

So **INVITE!** Invite a friend to church. **INVITE!** Invite yourself. **INVITE!** Invite God's presence. **INVITE!**

Thanks be to God,  
Ken Henry, Pastor

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Charlottesville, VA

# INVITE

## STEWARDSHIP 2022



**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903

434-293-3133 • [westminsterva.org](http://westminsterva.org)

Please return your pledge card by mail or bring it to Westminster for drop-off on Dedication Sunday, November 7, 2021. You also can pledge online at: [www.westminsterva.org/giving/](http://www.westminsterva.org/giving/)



**We invite all, and we are invited!**  
"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Heb. 13:1-2).

The Church has always been about showing hospitality to all who enter its doors. At Westminster Presbyterian Church we continue to invite strangers, friends, neighbors, college students, children, youth, adults, and anyone God sends to us. We are an inclusive and welcoming congregation. Indeed, God's invites the most unlikely people to do ministry in the most unlikely places. This invitation includes the poor, the homeless, the lonely, the depressed, and those who live each day under unjust systems of oppression and exclusion. We invite all, and we are invited.

This stewardship season, we invite you to make a pledge and help us reach our goal of \$972,000.00. If you have never pledged, or have not pledged recently, we ask that you consider supporting the ministries of this church by filling out the enclosed pledge card. If you regularly make a pledge, thank you for your continued support. As you consider your pledge for the coming year, please take time to prayerfully consider whether you could increase your pledge to reflect God's many blessing in your life.

We realize this has been another unusual year, but we hope and pray that Westminster can be a sustaining and comforting presence in your life. Don't hesitate to contact the pastoral staff. Our door is always open. Please return your pledge card by mail or bring it on Pledge Dedication Sunday on November 7th at either the 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. in-person worship service.