

August 31, 2025

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



WORTHINGTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In Christ's love, we connect, serve, and transform

Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves
Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice
Pastor for Discipleship

Rev. Betsy Rice
Pastor for Member
Ministries

Russell Nagy
Director of Music
Ministries

Nicholas Robison
Director for Youth
Ministries

Annie Barner
Int. Director for
Children's Ministries

Kim Anderson
Organist

*Visit our website for a
complete list of WPC staff.*

Sanctuary Flowers

*The flowers on the chancel
are given to the glory of God
by Carol Sterbenz in honor of
their 13th wedding
anniversary*

Serving Us Today

- Ushers: Team E - Ken & Elizabeth Short captains
- Video: Bill Yost
- Carillon: Linda Ranck

Church Office

Hours: M-Thurs: 8am-4pm;

Fri: 8am-2pm

Web: **wpcnow.org**

Ph: 614.885.5355

In Christ's love, we...

CONNECT ⊕ SERVE ⊕ TRANSFORM

Welcome

Welcome to Worthington Presbyterian Church. This congregation has worshiped together in the Worthington community since 1805. We welcome all who seek faith, hope, and joy.

Visiting for the first time today? You're invited to stay after the service. Join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Children & Youth

Children and youth are invited to join Sunday School at the 10am service, following a brief children's message. Nursery care begins at 9:45AM in the Nursery located outside Fellowship Hall.

You can pick your child up from Sunday School in the following rooms after the service. (Rooms 111-113 are located in the hallway below the Sanctuary).

- Pre-K: Room 113
- K-2: Room 112
- 3-5: Room 111
- Youth: Living Room or Youth Room

On the first Sunday of the month, Pre-K - 3rd grade goes to the chapel for "Wee Worship," while older children and youth stay with their families for communion.

Accessibility

Accessible features of the building include:

- Handicap parking near east and west entrances
- Wheelchair ramp at the main entrance
- Elevator access
- Multiple accessible restrooms
- T-coil hearing capabilities for those with compatible hearing aids
- Listening devices for the hearing impaired available



If you would like a large print bulletin and/or a hearing device, please see an usher.

Prayer Requests

Please write prayer requests on the pew prayer cards and place them in the offering plate. You can also share joys, concerns and sorrows with Pastor Betsy at **brice@wpcnow.org**.

Worthington Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 31, 2025

10:00 AM

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

**Please stand*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice

Invitation to Mission & Discipleship *(Please sign & pass the Friendship Pads)*

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"
Kim Anderson, organist

Don Wyrzten

The music is a call to open one's spirit to God's presence in our midst.

OPENING SENTENCES *(from Psalm 84)*

Leader: How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

Congregation: My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Leader: Happy are they who dwell in your house!

Congregation: They will be always praising you.

Leader: Happy are those whose strength is in you,

Congregation: whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

* HYMN # 403 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, you so long to dwell with us that you came among us in Christ and you pour the Spirit into our hearts. We confess that we do not respond with a similar desire for you. We pursue fleeting pleasures more than your eternal joy. We are quick to acquire things and slow to savor your loving presence. We seek comfort in what we can lose more than in your everlasting love. Forgive us and rekindle in us a desire for you, that we might delight in your dwelling with us and live for all that you hold dear. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

* Congregational Response “The Kyrie”

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

* Assurance of Pardon

* Gloria (*from Hymn #581*)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Pastor Betsy

Children will go to Sunday School in the chapel followed by play time on the playground. Please pick up your children outside (weather permitting).

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Peter Hazelton

1ST SCRIPTURE READING John 4:1-14

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” (although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM

Sing, Jerusalem Sing!

Charles Yannerella

The Chancel Choir – Russell Nagy, director

*Sing, Jerusalem Sing! O sing, Jerusalem Sing! He comes to set the sinner free. Hosanna!
Open your gates, open your gates and sing, Hosanna! He offers peace and victory.
Jerusalem Sing! Hosanna! Hosanna!*

*Behold Him now, the promised King! Hosanna! We praise Him now in one accord. Hosanna!
Hosanna! Behold Him now, the promised King! Hosanna! Redeeming King and living Lord.
Our praises be our offering. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!*

2nd SCRIPTURE READING Revelation 21:1-6, 22-27

Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them and be their God;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life....

...I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“God’s Home”

Pastor Matt

* HYMN #366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Nicholas Robison

Sharing of Prayer Requests and Blessings

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Sabbath"

Dennis Eliot

*** DOXOLOGY** (*from Hymn #607*)

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*** DEDICATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS**

Scan the QR code to give online or visit bit.ly/engagewpc



GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*** HYMN #377** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor Matt

POSTLUDE

"Allegro Energico"

Christian Cappelen

Please remain seated during the postlude as it is the final "Amen" to our worship

TODAY

The **REVELATION** series concludes today. The 8AM service is outdoors for the last Sunday of the summer. **"THE BIBLE IN ONE HAND, THE NEWSPAPER IN THE OTHER"** will take place at 9AM in Room 222 and on Zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **CHURCH OFFICE** is closed tomorrow for Labor Day. The **COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP DINNER** will be held next Monday, **SEPT 8**.

Two more meeting times have opened for a one-time **SMALL GROUP MEETING** to get to know Pastor Matt.

- **Tuesday, SEPT 2 at 1PM**
- **Wednesday, SEPT 10 at 3PM**

Look for the sign up sheet outside the church office, or scan the code to sign up online.

"How do we find resilience and joy in the midst of stressful life circumstances? Join Christian Life's **BIBLE STUDY**, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ*. on the 1st Thursday of each month beginning **SEPT 4 from 1 - 2PM** in Rm 222 led by Pastor Tom. Come at 12:30PM for coffee and fellowship - all are welcome!

Bestselling author Pastor Adam Hamilton helps us explore what Christians believe, why we believe it and why it matters. A 6-week video series looks at the history and relevance of the Nicene Creed (1700 years old this year!) and the Apostles' Creed. Books are in the church office. Begins next Sunday **SEPT 7 at 9AM** in Room 222 and Zoom.

CLIPPERS v. INDIANS: SEPT 7 - Tickets are \$5. We will leave WPC at noon, and you can bring lunch or buy it at the game. Limited seats are available in the church van. Interested? Contact Pastor Betsy at 614.885.5355x113.

Our **CONFIRMATION & BAPTISM** class will start **SEPT 14**. If you (or your youth) is interested in Confirmation or Baptism, contact Nick Robison.

Please plan to attend **PASTOR MATT'S INSTALLATION** on Sunday, **SEPT 14 at 3PM** in the Sanctuary.

FLOOD RELIEF BUCKETS - The Presbytery of Scioto Valley is challenging every church in our Presbytery to help respond to recent flood disasters in Texas, Kentucky, North Carolina, and elsewhere by filling up flood relief buckets. It's a great way to bring practical help and hope to families who have experienced flooding. The goal is to assemble buckets by **SEPT 21**. For a free bucket and a list of what goes inside, stop by the church office!

Interested in learning more about WPC or what it means to be a Presbyterian? Attend a **MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR** on **SEPT 28 at 4PM**. RSVP to Pastor Betsy.

THANK YOU for attending our first TNT of the season last week. Please join us on Tuesday, **SEPT 9** for the next one. Scan the code below or check your church email to sign up.



Scan the code to learn more or visit bit.ly/wpcupdates

NOW AVAILABLE: MEMBER DIRECTORY

Visit wpcnow.org/directory for more information or to get started. Scan the code to make a one-on-one appointment with church staff for a mini-tutorial or call the church office.



LINDA SLICKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In early 2025, Bob and Linda Slicker died within 3 weeks of each other. They were members of WPC for 45 years, with Linda teaching at our preschool for many years and working in the church office after retirement from teaching. One of Linda's greatest joys as a preschool teacher was encountering former students and witnessing their success as they grew and thrived in life.



At the suggestion of Bob and Linda's daughters, the Session has established the Linda Slicker Memorial Scholarship Fund to provide financial assistance to preschool families with need. Scholarships are usually for 50% of tuition or roughly \$1,000 per year. This is another way of living our vision, "In Christ's love, we connect, serve, and transform."

To support the Linda Slicker Memorial Scholarship Fund, make a check payable to WPC with "LSMSF" in the memo, pay electronically via Engage using the link bit.ly/lsmsfgift, or scan the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!

