

Why Church?

Why I Visited.

Why I Stayed.



**Booklet #3 of a Four-Part Deacon
Project called "Tell It Like It Is,"
Highlighting the Wisdom of
WPC Members & Friends**

What was the moment or experience that first brought you to this church, that initial spark of connection or curiosity that led you through our doors?

Reflecting on your journey since then, what is it about this church community, its teachings, its people, or its atmosphere, that keeps you returning and nourishing your spirit here?

How might you answer those questions?

How did others answer those same questions?

Welcome to our booklet, filled with stories and insights from Westminster Presbyterian Church members and friends. We asked everyone about what first made them curious about our church and what keeps them coming back. Their answers are like pieces of a puzzle, showing what brings us together. We've all had moments that sparked our interest, and as we look back on our time here, we see what makes this community special. It's about the things we learn, the people we meet, and the feeling of belonging. Come join us on this journey through our shared experiences.

The Deacons of
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Spring 2024

What was the moment or experience that first brought you to this church, that initial spark of connection or curiosity that led you through our doors?

My parents were members of Westminster Presbyterian Church, brought me to church, baptized in 1937 and have stayed ever since.

I did not feel I was being fed spiritually at my previous church. I was invited to attend WPC. The first time I entered the doors I was awed. The welcoming and the friendliness were outstanding. The choir was superb and the message was one that I took away with me. After a few more visits I knew WPC was where I wanted to be.

I came here so the church could make a difference in my life.

I was lost, lonely and sad on the closing of my church. My other church members called me to come here to this church.

In 2008 my husband retired and we moved back to the area. Our previous church, XXXXX, was in the process of closing so we needed to find a new church. We knew many former members of XXXXX had come here so we decided to give Westminster a try. The Sanctuary was beautiful, the sermon was uplifting, and the choir was amazing, but it was the feeling of warmth and welcome from the minister and members of the congregation that made us want to come back.

My family and I spent one summer going to lots of different churches, Protestant, Catholic, and even Greek Orthodox. In the fall, we attended a funeral service at Westminster and decided to go there again the next Sunday. Pastor Joachim recognized our last name from the downtown church (where my husband attended through seventh grade). He commented after church "I felt at home here". We're still here.

I've always attended church. Sometimes in my life I have attended more than at other times. At this time in my life, I look forward to going to church every Sunday. I am disappointed when I need to miss it.

I've been very cautious about attending any church, because I'd been spiritually hurt by church leaders in the past. I watched a few worship services online, and when the pastor mentioned how he wants to make sure Sunday morning is a safe space for all people, I knew this could be a church worth giving a try.

Upon hearing positive reviews about the uplifting messages delivered during services, I felt compelled to experience it for myself. Attending a service at the church, I was moved by the sense of unity and the meaningful connections I formed with others.

Feeling disconnected from my faith, I felt a longing to reconnect and deepen my spiritual journey. Seeking guidance and support, I decided to explore different religious options, ultimately finding a sense of belonging within the welcoming community of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Drawn by the beauty of the church's architecture and the peaceful atmosphere within its walls, I felt a sense of reverence and awe. Stepping inside, I was welcomed by the warm embrace of the community, prompting me to explore further and deepen my connection.

I was in a bad place, and WPC was the first church I found while I was driving. I'm so thankful the door was open for me.

A friend invited me. I trusted her, so I came. I'm glad she did!

Reflecting on your journey since then, what is it about this church community, its teachings, its people, or its atmosphere, that keeps you returning and nourishing your spirit here?

I know the people of this church hold various opinions about all aspects of life, but this church also seems to value welcoming people for who they are. We don't diminish our differences, but we don't dwell on them, either. Instead, we spend our time worshipping Jesus, the one who holds us together.

All of the above!!

I stayed to make a difference and be of service to others here.

When our church closed, my spouse and I came to Westminster to die, but we've been so loved and cared for by the people of this church that we've decided to keep living!

Very friendly, caring people, very good sermons. Pastor Adam and church is very full of the Holy Spirit. Lots of activities and special groups to help others.

This church is truly a church family. The connections we have made to the people here feel like a real family. We really care about each other. Since we joined Westminster, we have gotten to know three wonderful ministers who were and are very connected to their church family. There are so many opportunities to take part in here at Westminster to serve our community, study God's work, to live our faith, and to get to know each other better.

Our children enjoyed an active and friendly youth group. We all especially liked the music program. We went on some mission trips that were real eye-openers for each of us. There have always been programs for all ages and inter-generational as well. There's beauty in our surroundings inside the church and out. There's warmth and sincerity among members and visitors. We are part of a big church family.

I feel so much love and get so much support from my church family/friends. There is so much going on in the world to distract us from the love of our Heavenly Father. The messages in the sermons mean a lot to me, they inspire, motivate and refresh me so that I'm ready for the coming week. I am truly BLESSED!

I came to the church with a lot of questions and doubts about religion and the Christian faith. I've stayed because the pastor doesn't believe doubts are the opposite of faith; the pastor believes doubt can be part of the journey to a deeper faith.

During a personal crisis, I found refuge and guidance within the supportive community of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Their compassionate outreach and unwavering support provided me with the strength and encouragement I needed to navigate through difficult times.

I love my small group! Being able to meet with a few people every week who care about me and let me be my self, it's the best part of my week.

I appreciate the pastor's sermon series. It's a helpful way to stay connected week-to-week and to think more deeply about a certain topic or book of the Bible. In a way, it helps me look forward to coming back to church the next week.

I keep coming back to WPC, because it's one of the only places I can go that doesn't expect anything of me. (In a good way!) I can take a moment during worship and catch my breath for one hour.

Every time I walk through those church doors, I'm greeted with warm smiles and genuine hellos—it feels like coming home. There's a sense of belonging here that I haven't found anywhere else, and it's what keeps drawing me back, nourishing my spirit with each visit.

The teachings at this church aren't just words on a page—they're like a roadmap guiding me through life's twists and turns. Whether it's a sermon that speaks directly to my heart or a small group discussion that challenges me to grow, I always leave feeling more equipped to face whatever comes my way.

I keep coming back to church, because it's cheaper than therapy!

*Although I'm an adult, I love hearing Pastor Adam's message to the children and how he interacts with them.
Double thumbs up for me!*

The welcoming nature of this church is more than just talk—it's a lived reality. No matter who you are or where you come from, there's a place for you here, and that sense of belonging is what keeps me coming back, week after week.

I genuinely like serving on my church committee! The people I work with are the best!

In a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain, this church community is like a sanctuary—a place of refuge and peace. Here, I can lay down my burdens, find rest for my weary soul, and recharge my spirit for the journey ahead.

The small groups and Bible studies are awesome for building deeper connections and friendships with people who share similar interests and beliefs.

For the Holy Humor Sunday, I remember someone saying, “Today, we’re going to take worship seriously but not ourselves.” Ideas like that keep me coming back to WPC.

When we were welcoming a new church member, the pastor said something to them like, “We will fail you.” WPC isn’t perfect, and we probably don’t do everything right. But hearing those honest words was like a breath of fresh air. I felt like he was saying to all of us, “We’re all going to make mistakes, but they don’t need to be the end of the world.” I’ll be part of a church that lives like that.

I’ve been part of the church for a long time. In some of my darkest moments of my life, the people of this church helped hold me together when it felt like my life was crumbling to pieces. This is a special place, and I thank God for it every day.

We believe the church is for people. People who think church isn’t for them. People who’ve been hurt by the church and stayed away. People who’ve gone to church all their lives. People who feel like they’re both a sinner and a saint.

At WPC, we seek God, care for people, we talk about Jesus Christ, and we try to make a difference in the world.

We invite you to join us in our mission and ministry!