

GATHERING

Voluntary: Adagio in E Major.....Frank Bridge

Welcome.....Brandon Baxter

Please take a moment to record your attendance in the registration pad found near the center aisle, pass it to your neighbor, and then pass the pad back to the center.

First-time guests are encouraged to list your address and telephone number or e-mail address so we may share additional information about our church with you.

Introit: Sing for Joy.....Hal Hopson

Sing for joy O heavens; sing for joy, O earth, for the Lord has risen,
the Lord has triumphed. Sing for joy! Alleluia

† Processional Hymn No. 157: Jesus Shall Reign.....Duke Street

† Greeting.....Nancy Parker

Liturgist: *Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God.*

People: **We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!**

Liturgist: *But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.*

People: **Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.**

Liturgist: *Let's get to work!*

People: **Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead
with prayer and praise!**

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Creator God, in you we see awesome power:

You triumph over death and bring forth new life,

yet we often fail to acknowledge this power in our lives.

We see violence in the world;

we see injustice in our communities;

we see hunger and need among our neighbors;

we see failures and faults in our lives.

In all these things, we feel powerless.

Forgive our hesitance to call upon you;

forgive our propensity to rely upon ourselves;

forgive our reluctance to acknowledge your power.

Open wide our hearts and minds

to the power and presence of our risen Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

† Passing of the Peace

Liturgist: *As a forgiven and reconciled people,
let us exchange signs of reconciliation and love.
The peace of Christ be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

(You are invited to pass the peace of Christ to those around you.)

† Gloria Patri.....No. 71

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.

(Please be seated.)

Anthem: God is Gone Up.....Gerald Finzi

God is gone up with a triumphant shout. The Lord with sounding trumpets' melodies: sing praises out, unto our king sing praise seraphic-wise! Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing, and let the king of glory enter in. Me thinks I see heaven's sparkling courtiers fly, in flakes of glory down him to attend, and hear heart-cramping notes of melody surround his chariot as it did ascend; mixing their music, making every string more to enravish as they this tune sing.
(Edward Taylor)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*).....Lynda Jones

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read and the Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Lesson from the New Testament: Acts 1:1-11.....pew Bible, page 884)

Response to the Lesson

Liturgist: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

† Hymn No. 173: Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies.....Ratisbon

The children are invited to come forward to join Brandon at the chancel during the last stanza of the hymn.

Sermon: The End is the Beginning to the Ends.....Brandon Baxter

Joys & Concerns of the Church.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

Salutation

Liturgist: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Liturgist: *Let us pray.*

Prayers of the People

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Offertory.....Edvard Grieg

In Heaven Above (from The Fire Psalms, op. 74 no. 4)

In heaven above where God, our Father, dwells;

How boundless there the blessedness! No tongue its greatness tells;

There face to face, and full and free, forever more we see our God,

O God the Lord of hosts!

In heaven above, what glory deep and bright!

The splendor of the noonday sun grows pale before its light:

The heavenly light that never goes down,

around whose radiance clouds never frown,

Is God, the Lord of hosts!

In heaven above, God hath a joy prepared,

Which mortal ear had never heard, nor mortal vision shared,

Which never to mortal breast, by mortal lips was never expressed,

O God the Lord of hosts!

(Laurentii, trans. Maccall)

† DoxologyNo. 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Baptismal Covenant and Confirmation

Presentation of Candidates.....Becky Peeler

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Liturgist: *And now to the members of the congregation,
I ask: do you, as Christ's body, the church,
reaffirm both your rejection of sin and
your commitment to Christ?*

People: **We do.**

Liturgist: *Will you nurture one another in the Christian
faith and life and include these persons now before
you in your care?*

People: **With God's help we will proclaim the good
news and live according to the example of
Christ. We will surround these persons with
a community of love and forgiveness, that they
may grow in their trust of God, and be found
faithful in their service to others. We will pray
for them, that they may be true disciples who
walk in the way that leads to life.**

† Affirmation of Faith.....2018 Confirmation Class Creed

We believe in an all-powerful, merciful God

who is an everlasting bundle of love that is always with us.

We believe Jesus is the Son of God who protects us

and gives everyone a chance for redemption.

**We believe the Holy Spirit connects us to the love of God
through Jesus.**

The Holy Spirit listens to us wherever we go.

We believe the Church is a place to worship

and to grow closer to God and the community of faith.

We believe a disciple of Jesus Christ gives comfort and care to others.

**We believe Jesus' disciples are called to stand up for others
and welcome everyone into the Church community.**

We believe the Bible, the Word of God,

teaches us different aspects about our lives as people of God.

Confirmation

Commendation and Welcome

Liturgist: *Members of the household of God,
I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.*

People: **We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to participate faithfully in the life and ministries of Christ’s holy church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

Liturgist: *The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.*

Youth Welcome.....Richard Ferrara

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 368: My Hope is Built The Solid Rock

† Benediction

† Response: Together Met, Together Bound.....Land of Rest
**Together met, together bound we go our different ways,
And as his people in the world, we live and speak his praise.**

Voluntary: Fugue in C majorEdvard Grieg
*The postlude is the final Alleluia of our worship.
All are invited to remain for a time of joyful prayer.*

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

*Livestream and video recording happen during our church services
and worship events.*

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The altar flowers today are given by Ellen and Buddy Koonce
in honor of their mothers, Mrs. Nancy Stracener and Mrs. Bettye Koonce.

Isla Wren Kathleen Darling,
daughter of Scott Darling and Ashley Darling,
was presented for baptism in the early service.



Everyone is welcome at West End! We seek to be the loving light of Christ in Nashville and beyond. We gather as the people of God with a wide range of religious backgrounds, education levels, political and theological perspectives, and we value that diversity. We welcome and celebrate the gifts God has given to all without regard to gender, race, sexual orientation, economic or family status, ethnicity, or mental or physical ability. We believe God loves everyone unconditionally!

Sunday Activities

- Service Times.....8:45 and 11 a.m.
- Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
- Youth Choir Rehearsal*.....12:15 - 1 p.m.
- Adult Handbells.....1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
- Youth Small Groups*.....5 - 7 p.m.

Weekly Activities

- Meal.....Wednesdays, 5 - 6:30 p.m.
- Class Offerings.....Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
- Children’s Choir and Youth Handbell Rehearsals**...Wednesdays, 6 - 7 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal.....Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal.....Thursdays, 7:15pm - 9:15 p.m.

Building Tours are offered on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30 AM, or immediately following the early service. Meet at the Welcome Center in Reed Hall, through the side doors of the Sanctuary.

For a complete listing and additional information on Sunday and Weekly Activities, please visit our website at www.westendumc.org or see the insert.

*Meal provided.
**August-April

Head Usher: Barbara Cragg

Music Participants: The Chancel Choir. Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps, director and assisting at the organ. Associate Minister of Music, Andrew Risinger, is organist/accompanist. Patrick Dunnevant, baritone.

Hymnic Notes: As Edward Mote was walking to work one day in 1834, the thought popped into his head to write a hymn on the “Gracious Experience of a Christian.” As he walked up the road, he had the chorus, “On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.” By the end of the day, he had the first four verses written out and safely tucked away in his pocket. Later that week, he visited his friend whose wife was very ill, and as they couldn’t find a hymnal to sing from, he dug up his newly written verses and sang those with the couple. The wife enjoyed them so much she asked for a copy, and then Mote went home to finish the last two verses. Later he sent it off to a publisher, saying, “As these verses so met the dying woman’s case, my attention to them was the more arrested, and I had a thousand printed for distribution” (*Lutheran Hymnal Handbook*).

WEST END
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2018

Confirmation Class Members

- Lillian Clark Cook**
- Jacob Coleman Creekmore**
- David Oliver Gunter**
- Anna Li Carol Hornsby**
- Mary Elizabeth Peacock**
- Brazier Elizabeth Pierce**
- Ava Suzanne Troxler**
- Aiden Clark Watson**

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
May 13, 2018 at Eleven o’clock
Confirmation Sunday