

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: Lord Jesus Christ.....17th c. German

† 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.)

The Sacrament of Baptism

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Liturgist: *Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child 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 this child with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Commendation and Welcome

† Liturgist: *Members of the household of God, I commend Isla Wren Kathleen to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.*

† People: **We give thanks for all that God has already given you, Isla Wren Kathleen, 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 ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

† Musical Response.....No. 611, st. 1
**Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign:
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*).....Robb Bigelow
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.**

† Gloria Patri.....No. 71
The children are invited to come forward during the singing of the Gloria Patri to join Brandon at the chancel.

**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.**

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

† 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.**

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: I Will Not Leave You Comfortless.....Anthony Joule
I will not leave you, will not leave you comfortless. Alleluia.
I go and come again to you. Alleluia.
And your heart shall rejoice. Alleluia.
I will not leave you comfortless. Alleluia.

† Doxology.....No. 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!**

SENDING FORTH

- † Recessional Hymn No. 368: My Hope is Built.....The Solid Rock
- † Benediction
- † Benediction Response: Grant Us, O God.....Thomas Tallis
- Voluntary: Toccata on How Firm a Foundation.....Craig Phillips
*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,
is presented for baptism.

The Rite of Confirmation will be held this morning at the eleven o'clock service.

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**



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 Ushers: Byron Burrus and John Nance

Music Participants: The Sanctuary Choir. Associate Minister of Music, Andrew Risinger is conducting. Minister of Music, Matt Phelps and Music Associate, Allison Williams are assisting at the organ.

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



ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
May 13, 2018 at Eight Forty-five
Confirmation Sunday

2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org