WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

We gather in the name of Jesus Christ to worship God and by the power of the Holy Spirit do God's work in the world.

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

It says in the Bible, O God, that you created the world through your Word. Your Word is powerful! And so are our words. They can heal, create a smile, be a declaration of love; but they can also hurt and destroy a sense of self-worth. Give us your wisdom, God of the Word, so that as a church and as individuals, we use our words to build up and not to destroy. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Stephen Ministry

Pam Hrncir

Prelude I Love to Tell the Story arr. Ore

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Look at the heavens!

People: They are shouting the glory of God.

Leader: The days and the nights declare the magnificence of God's creative works. People: Their voice goes through all the earth and their words reach the ends of

the world.

Leader: Let our words of praise be acceptable to you.

People: Our Lord, our rock, our redeemer!

^{*}To all who are able, please stand as we offer God thanks and praise. **Bold type face** indicates that the congregation participates in word or song.



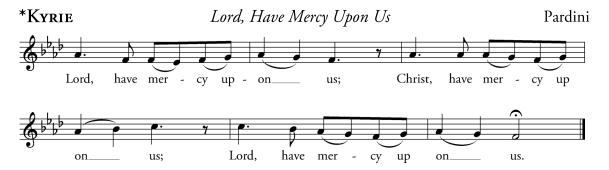
*Call to Confession

Leader: Let us use our voices to declare those things we have said and done that have separated us from God, and from each other, that we may experience God's mercy and receive God's forgiveness.

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)

You have called us, O God, and we have refused to listen; you have stretched out your hand and we have not taken it. We have taken what you have given us and used those gifts to hurt others and defy you. We have refused to be tamed by your wisdom. Forgive our inability to recognize you and live out the reality of your gospel. Give us the insight we need to understand your place in our lives so that our words and actions reflect the glory of God in the lives of others. In the name of the Messiah we pray. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER



*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, and it revives the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure and make wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, and it enlightens the eyes. Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ, the living Word, we are forgiven. Live in peace!



SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Pam Hrncir

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord. Be our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

First Lesson: Mark 8:34-38

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 19:1-4, 7-10 (Responsive)

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God;

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

People: Day to day pours forth speech,

and night to night declares knowledge.

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words;

their voice is not heard;

People: yet their voice goes out through all the earth,

and their words to the end of the world.

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect,

reviving the soul;

the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

People: the precepts of the LORD are right,

rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear,

enlightening the eyes;

Leader: the fear of the LORD is pure,

enduring forever;

the ordinances of the LORD are true

and righteous altogether.

People: More to be desired are they than gold,

even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey,

and drippings of the honeycomb.

Second Lesson: James 3:1-12 (CEB)

3 My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. ²We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. ³When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

⁴Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. ⁵In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. ⁶The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

⁷ People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. ⁸ No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

¹¹Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? ¹²My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"The Power of Words"

Rachel Hébert

RESPONDING TO THE WORD



*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11 (Unison)

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

(Affirmation of Faith continues on the next page)

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

- 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on a cross.
- ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
- ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer (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.

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ all over the world. Offering envelopes can now be found inside the friendship register book.

We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:

- You may place your offering in the plates as you exit the sanctuary.
- Click the "Make Online Offering" button below the video window on the watch worship services page (www.mywpc.org/streaming/).
- Scan the QR code at the right to access the online offering form.
- Mail your offering to the church office.

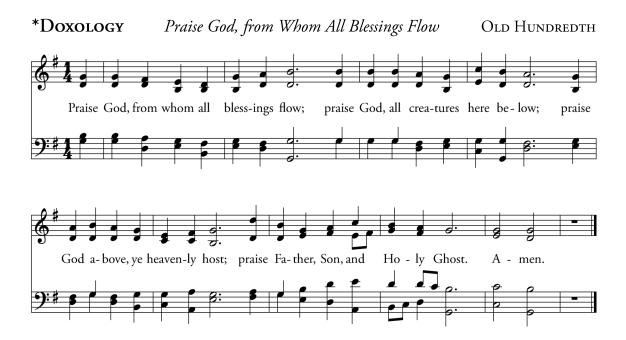


I am thine, O Lord—I have heard thy voice And it told thy love to me; But I long to rise in the arms of faith And be closer drawn to thee.

Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord,
By the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope
And my will be lost in thine.

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer
To thy precious, bleeding side.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart,
Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.



^{*}Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

*Invitation and Lord's Day Greeting

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. If you are joining us online, please remember to 'sign' our online friendship register:

- Click the "Sign Friendship Register" button below the video window on the watch worship services page (www.mywpc.org/streaming/).
- Scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



*Hymn 625 O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art) How Great Thou Art Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion and take me all the *worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, sing sweet - ly the trees, when I look down from birds in Ι scarce can take it that on the cross, in, my home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then *I shall bow in hear the *roll - ing thun - der, thy power through - out the loft - y moun-tain gran - deur and hear the brook and bur - den glad - ly bear - ing, he bled and died to hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion, and there pro - claim, "Mv

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude Sunburst Cooman

The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer. You may remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly and without disturbing those who choose to stay.

> NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC ◆

"Devotion," today's offertory anthem, is a setting of two familiar hymns, "Draw Me Nearer" and "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian," both of which express the desire to be closer to God. The first hymn, written by Fanny Crosby, begins with a surrender to Christ—"I am thine, O Lord"—and the desire to be "closer drawn to thee." The second song, originally a spiritual, expresses the same desire in different, even more direct terms. The medley concludes with a merging of the two songs, ending finally with "I want to be like Jesus in my heart."

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ≪

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of her loved ones by Mary Zimmerman.

> Those Serving in Worship Today ◆

PASTOR

John E. Morgan, Pastor

Rachel Hébert, Associate Pastor for Community Care

Pam Hrncir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

GREETERS

9:30am Gay Boles

11:00am Cheryl Roettger

Ushers

9:30am Rebecca Caprio, John VanAken, Andy Andre

11:00am Bob Bolstad, Harley Stewart, Rebecca Caprio

Music Ministry

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

Chancel Choir

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Pam Hrncir

Audio and Video Technician: Matt Slack and John Schoenberger

Deacon-On-Call Sunday, September 12 – Saturday, September 18

Emily Krogh (757-903-1984; emkrough21@gmail.com)

➢ PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES <</p>

To share a joy or concern, please visit www.mywpc.org, select GET CARE on the menu bar, then PRAYER REQUEST from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click SEND REQUEST on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office (757) 229-4235 with your request.

The Prayer Chain Coordinator is: JoAnn Youhas (handbellringer@cox.net).

Contact Pastor John Morgan (757-903-7800), Pastor Rachel Hébert (757-903-5488) or Pastor Pam Hrncir (757-508-4668) if you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request.

Please continue to pray for:

- WPC members Marsha Coe, Betty Grover and Darryl Chambers.
- Those who have recently lost loved ones, those recovering from various surgeries and our sick and shut-ins who are at home or facility bound.
- Those serving our country in the military services and their families.
- All those who continue to be affected by the COVID-19 in our local community, the United States and around the World.
- Students, parents, teachers, school staff and bus drivers as they enter a new school year.

≫ SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ≪

PEVA PRAYER WALK—SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 10:00AM

Due the new COVID guidelines from the Task Force, the WPC bus will not be transporting members to the Prayer Walk. We hope you will still plan to attend the walk.

➢ ANNOUNCEMENTS ←

• Today, you can begin to sign up as a volunteer and/or as a sponsor for our 11th RISE AGAINST HUNGER event to be held on Saturday afternoon, November 6, 2021. In our ten previous events, we have packaged a total of 394,632 meals, and this year we will add another 30,024 to that total.

To volunteer, you can sign up in the Church Office during the week, or on-line with a note to volunteer@mywpc.org and give us your name(s), the shift you want to work, and your best contact information. Everyone from 4 to 104 can come and help eradicate World Hunger. There will be two shifts: the first from 12:00pm to 2:30pm and the second from 2:30pm to 5:00pm. Be sure to designate your preferred shift when you sign up.

To help sponsor the event, you can contribute using the envelope included in today's bulletin or online at mywpc.org/give and follow the prompts. Each meal costs \$0.33, so we need to raise just under \$10,000. Also, if there is someone out there who would like to help with the planning this year and learn more about the Rise Against Hunger organization, please contact Gary Davis, cell phone 724-208-1081; or Jim Kirkpatrick, Donna Herring or Jerry Howell; their telephone numbers are in the Church Directory.

- Our congregation's safety is our primary goal. The WPC In-Person COVID Task Force has decided to require masks be worn at all times while in the church for worship, bible study, women's circles, ministry meetings as well as picking up items from the welcome center or dropping by the church office. At this time we have put the Sunday coffee hour in Stevenson Hall on hold. As always, if you are in a high-risk category or are unvaccinated the safest course is to worship or meet online via ZOOM. Thank you for your understanding and compliance with this requirement.
- Revision to the email sent last Friday from the Task Force: "2. Therefore there will be no eating or drinking in the church. The one exception to this policy is while taking communion when the mask should be removed long enough to take the elements and then put back on.

This eating **and drinking** restriction applies to memorials, bible and bacon, church school classes, or any other activities in the church. **Outdoor eating and drink is fine.**"

• Stephen Ministry at WPC: A powerful and practical ministry to provide Christ centered care and compassionate listening for those experiencing life's challenges such as divorce, grief, spiritual crisis, long term illness, and any difficulty we face in life. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, please contact Pastor Pam at phrncir@mywpc.org or 757-508.4668

- WPC Prayer Chain: The Williamsburg Presbyterian Church Prayer Chain offers our congregation the opportunity to raise the names of people in need of prayer. Requests are received by the coordinator and forwarded to the Prayer Chain members weekly. We welcome new members into this important ministry and would love to have you join us. Please contact Jo Ann Youhas at handbellringer@cox.net for more information.
- Urgent need for volunteers needed to help with worship at Williamsburg Landing. Skill needed: Open YouTube, navigate to "mywpc" and start our service. We have members at Williamsburg Landing who cannot worship in person. The Landing members greatly appreciate the opportunity to worship with us as a satellite worshipping community. Without more volunteers, we cannot sustain the Williamsburg Landing worship ministry. Training provided. Please contact Pastor Pam Hrncir to volunteer (pdhrncir@gmail.com 757-508-4668).
- Kirk Krafters Mission is starting up again and will hold their first meeting in Stevenson Hall on Tuesday, September 14th at 1:30pm. This group is open to all church members who enjoy craft projects. We meet twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday. Our projects include knitting, croqueting, needlepoint whatever craft project you're working on. We make hats, scarves, lap blankets, prayer shawls, baby blankets and twiddle muffs for members of our congregation and for others in need. We are a fun loving group and would love to have you join us. Contact Margie Ambrose at 757-220-4707 for more information.
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: As you know, recently there has been horrific destruction from the earthquake in Haiti and from Hurricane Ida in New Orleans and much of the Gulf Coast. While some of our One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering goes to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Outreach Ministry wants to remind church members that if you want to help people affected by these or other disasters, you can always donate to PDA. You can donate on their web site at: https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000148/ You can also send a check to WPC with PDA in the memo and we will get your donation to PDA. Thanks for your generosity and prayers for those impacted by these disasters. Thanks for your support of WPC Outreach!
- Christian Outreach Ministry Initiative: "Offering of Letters." Christian Outreach Ministry Initiative: "Offering of Letters." Beginning on Rally Day, September 12, WPC will participate again in the nation-wide effort to urge our elected leaders to support anti-hunger programs in the U.S. and abroad. The "Offering of Letters" is a nationwide effort sponsored by the Bread for the World (BFW) organization. BFW is a well known and established collective Christian voice urging Congress to end hunger at home and abroad and is supported by PC(USA). This initiative involves writing letters to our senators and representatives. As a PC(USA) Hunger Action Congregation WPC strives to be a public policy witness for programs such as the "Offering of Letters." We ask that you prayerfully consider participating in this effort.

As we did last year, the Offering of Letters will be conducted virtually via the church website. Everything members need to know in order to participate may be found at https://www.mywpc.org/letters. Please contact Jim Winthrop (fivewinthrops@verizon.net) if you have any immediate questions.

- USHERS AND GREETERS NEEDED FOR WORSHIP SERVICES. CAN YOU HELP? Are you planning to attend in-person worship services this Fall? If so, please visit the tables in the Elevator Lobby area between services today through September 19th to sign-up to serve as an Usher or Greeter during September, October, and November. Four ushers and one greeter are needed for each service. No previous experience is necessary. Contact Rebecca Caprio, Usher Coordinator, for more information (ushers@mywpc.org; 703-732-1830).
- Help Nominate the 2025 Class of Elders and Deacons: WPC has been blessed with successive years of capable and caring leadership by our Elders and Deacons. It is time to identify and nominate the next Class: 6 Elders and 13 Deacons to serve three-year terms. You know faithful and active members of WPC. Members who cooperate as team members and possess skill sets and experience to lead WPC forward.

Please share your discernment with the Congressional Nominating Committee. Propose candidates (you or others) for consideration by September 24, 2021. How? E-Mail your suggestions to Kerry McCarter, Moderator, at tmccarter2@cox.net. Or mail the Church Office (215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188, c/o Vanessa Gamble). Please let us know if your nomination is for Elder or Deacon. THANK YOU!!

- SAVE THE DATE: The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia's (PEVA) Racial Dialogue Team presents a Prayer Walk for Racial Justice and Healing, taking place at Fort Monroe in Hampton, VA on September 18, 2021, 10am to celebrate, and honor the history of the place with a desire for racial justice and healing in our communities. The walk will begin at the Continental Bandstand in the Fort Monroe National Monument, where there will be a welcome, prayer, and music. From there continue to the 1619 historical marker for the first stop with prayer and response. Next the walk will pass through the East Gate of the fort, towards the Chapel of the Centurion and stop again (in the shade) for prayer, music, and to recite part of the Belhar confession. The walk will then continue out of the fortress through the Main Gate, and stop after crossing the moat to hear a speaker from the Contraband Historical Society, and a benediction will end the walk. The walk is one mile (give or take a tenth). The program should be about 1 hour and fifteen minutes. This is a free, family-friendly event open to the public. For more information, visit: pcusa-peva.org.
- On Saturday, September 18, from 10-11:30am, WPC Families will present a "Musical Instrument Open House." Kind of like the "touch a truck" events, but with musical instruments! Stop by any time that morning, bring the kids and the grandkids (or just yourself!), and try out some fun musical instruments. So far, the lineup includes a ukulele, acoustic and electric guitars, chimes and handbells, MAYBE the church organ, keyboards and pianos, and possibly more. If YOU have a musical instrument that you'd like to introduce to our church children, please contact Jodie Davis (jdavis@mywpc.org), so we can plan a spot for you. Light snacks and drinks will also be provided.

- In these times of upheaval, having something to look forward to takes on a whole new meaning! Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 19th at noon (immediately following the 11:00am service) for an ice cream social on the playground. We will serve a variety of single-serve, individually wrapped frozen treats. Plan to bring the kids, or channel your inner kid and join us for some fellowship! So that we have an idea of attendance, please email Sarah Smith at dcvaandback@gmail.com by 4p.m. Thursday, September 16th.
- The Open Door Concert Series is excited to resume in-person events this fall! Our 2021-2022 season kicks off with singer, song-writer, and multi-instrumentalist John McCutcheon on Sunday, September 19. All concerts begin at 4:00pm, with a reception following. Want to know more? Visit mywpc.org/concerts and join our mailing list!

Thank you to our valued patrons and attendees who make the Open Door Concert Series possible. Additional support is made possible by grants from the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission, Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

- The next meeting of the book club will be Monday, September 27, at 2:00pm in the WPC Library (subject to change) and also on Zoom. We will discuss Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents, by Isabel Wilkerson, and choose books for the next several months. For more information, or to receive the Zoom link, please click here to contact Ellen Peters.
- Join us for a free kayak float event on Tuesday September 28, 2021. Deadline to sign up is September 21. LIMIT 10 PEOPLE IF YOU NEED A KAYAK

The James River Association will provide Kayaks and an educational tour of the Powhatan Creek to talk about the ecosystem and water quality issues that relate to the James River. Time **5:30-7:30 pm.** Location: Powhatan Creek boat access ramp on Jamestown Road. Maps will be sent after signup. Click here to sign up. Please make sure you fill out the waiver form.

If you have your own kayak and want to come, please send your RSVP to Dorothy Geyer, dorothygeyer@gmail.com, or call her at 757-564-7944 and leave a message.

- SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, November 6, 2021 for our next Rise Against Hunger event. Watch future WPC publications for more information.
- Volunteered Needed: The church's "From His Hand" Ministry is looking for a church member
 to fill the position of Motel Meals Coordinator, effective January 1, 2022. The Coordinator is
 responsible for insuring that sufficient staffing and supplies are available on the first Friday of
 every month to prepare and deliver meals and related consumable to homeless individuals
 temporarily housed in one or more motels. Question concerning this position should be
 addressed to Nancy Harwood (757-345-6452 or nancyva@cox.net).

≫ OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS ≪

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

9:30am Fellowship Bible Study Class / LL009

Alpha Bible Class / ZOOM

Thoughtful Christian Bible Class / ZOOM

9:30am and 11am In-person Worship / Sanctuary

9:30am Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access

11:00am Worship / Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740. or wmbgradio.com

4:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Youth Group

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Pastor Morgan is away for Sabbath Time

9:00am DISCIPLE: Under The Tree of Life / LL010 and ZOOM 7:00pm Outreach Hunger and Homeless sub-committee / ZOOM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Pastor Morgan is away for Sabbath Time

9:00am Bible Study / LL010 and ZOOM

11:00 pm Staff Mtg / ZOOM

1:00pm Sanctuary Ringers / Bell Room 5:30pm Resources Mtg / LL010 and ZOOM 7:00pm Nominating Committee / Rm 220

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Pastor Morgan is away for Sabbath Time

6:00pm Genesis Ringers / Bell Room

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Pastor Morgan is away for Sabbath Time

7:30pm Westminster Ringers / Bell Room

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Pastor Morgan is away for Sabbath Time

8:00am Day of Caring / Avalon Center

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

10:00am PEVA Prayer Walk / Ft. Monroe

10:00am WPC Families Musical / Stevenson Hall, Sanctuary, Library, Playground

1:00pm Piano Tuning / Sanctuary

>> NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ◆ ↑

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 - 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The sermon, "How to Be the G.O.A.T.", will be based on Mark 9:30-37.

*9:30am service is live-streamed on mywpc.org and YouTube.

**11:00am service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740.



215 Richmond Road Williamsburg, Virginia 23185