



**Service of Worship
2nd Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2017
9:00 a.m.**

Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community and the world beyond.

1502 West 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org
An Earth Care Congregation of the PC (USA)

This Morning at Westminster

8:30 – 11:15 a.m. The Holy Toast Café, in Community Hall, offers free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar per item.

Deacon Team of the Month

Nancy Diver, Nicole Fox, Lisa Stoddard, Jennifer Trickey, Jennie Wagner, Gen Wallace-Roe

8:45 – 11:15 a.m. Nursery for babies and toddlers

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Children are always welcome in worship. We also provide additional opportunities for children to grow in faith.

- ❖ **Godly Care** – Children ages 2 through 4 begin in worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they walk with a parent to the **Preschool Suite** where they are greeted by the morning coordinator and escorted into **Classroom A**. The children experience simple worship rituals and learn key stories in the Bible. They respond through crafts, songs and prayers.
- ❖ **Godly Play 1** – Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade begin worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they walk with their teachers to the Ruth Christie Room. The children learn the language of God’s people through sacred space, stories, parables and liturgical actions. You may pick up your children in the **Preschool Suite Classroom C**.
- ❖ **Sing-to-Praise Choir Program** – Children in grades 3 through 6 begin worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they meet their leaders in the pavilion and walk together to the Youth Music Room

10:10 a.m.

Education for All Ages

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| ➤ Sunday School for Preschoolers | Preschool Suite D |
| ➤ Joyful Noise Choir Program for K – 2 | Youth Music Room |
| ➤ Godly Play 2 for Grades 3 – 5 | Classroom 4 |
| ➤ Middle Schoolers for Grades 6 – 8 | Grace Hall |
| ➤ Sr. High for Grades 9 – 12 | Grace Hall |
| ➤ Sunday Seminars | See page 7 |

11:00 a.m.

Christmas Box wrapping and sorting

Classrooms 2-5, Grace Hall

11:15 a.m.

Living Mosaics worship in Rodney Chapel. Children are always welcome.

12:00 p.m.

Fellowship Time

Meeting Room

Also Today

4:00 p.m.

Christmas Musical Celebration

Sanctuary

5:00 p.m.

180° Youth Christmas Party

Off Site Location

6:00 p.m.

Clean But Not Straight – NA

Club Room

8:00 p.m.

AA

Club Room



Westminster is certified as an “Earth Care Congregation” by the Presbyterian Church (USA). This honor means that we have exhibited exceptional leadership in protecting God’s creation and being good stewards of earth’s resources through our worship, education, outreach and advocacy. Only 2% of the 10,000 Presbyterian congregations in this country have earned this honored distinction.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The rosebud on the chancel this morning is in celebration of the birth of Leonardo Kristian Suarez, born December 5th, son of Josh Thomas and Rick Suarez, and brother to Alejandro.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Betty Coker by her family.

Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event, while expressing praise and thanksgiving to God. Please contact Linda Watson during business hours at 302-571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com for available dates. The next available date is December 31.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Ed Wat.
- ❖ **Those unable to attend worship on a regular basis** by sending a card, saying a prayer, or visiting. This week we ask you to remember Jim Coker, Laura Stevens and Reade Tompson, all at Cokesbury.
- ❖ **Westminster's Prayer Team** prays for the needs of our community of faith. You may submit a prayer request by leaving a confidential message on 302-654-5848, ext. 335; or filling out a prayer request card (in the pew pocket) and placing it in the offering plate; or sending an email to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com.

Afghanistan and Iraq often seems far away, and we may neglect to realize that Americans, as well as Afghans, Iraqis and members of coalition forces continue to die. As Christians, we are called to pray for the spreading of peace and justice and an end to violence. If someone in your family is serving in the military, please let us know, so that we may include that person on our prayer list. Contact Cathy Lang: 302-654-5214 ext. 129, or cathylang@wpc.org.

This week we pray for those suffering from Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

WORSHIP NOTES

All children who leave the sanctuary after Time with Our Children must have a completed yellow security label on their backs. If you do not find a security label in the pew pocket, you can obtain one in the Preschool Suite. This policy is for your child's protection. Children will only be released to a parent or an adult pre-approved by the parent. Thank you for your help.

Worship Resources – You can obtain large print hymnals and hearing devices from any usher. Worship bags for children ages 3-6 include a children's bulletin designed for them. Children's bulletins for ages 7-12 are also available from the ushers.

Are you wearing a nametag? Whether you are a long-time member or new to our church family, wearing a nametag provides others the opportunity to meet you, greet you by name, and for you to become more familiar with others at church. You will find nametags and markers in baskets at all major entrances.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website www.wpc.org and click the "Donate Now" button or scan the QR code on your smart phone.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

Craig Checkel

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Loving God, just when it seems that all is lost, that our brokenness has gone too far, You call a new day to dawn. Just when it feels like hope is foolish, that darkness and despair are the only true realities, You call the sun to rise. Just when we think we are alone and abandoned, You arrive among us again. God of Advent and of Restoration, we praise you for every new day that absorbs the darkness; for every rising sun that calls the night to end; for every messenger of hope and forgiveness that baptizes us with your love. Amen. John van de Laar

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign and pass the friendship folder, at the end of the pew, to the person next to you.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
(Based on Hymn #87)

Raymond H. Haan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pam White, Kristina Busick, Reuben Busick-White, and Sandy White

Last Sunday we lit the first candle – the candle of peace.

Today we light the candle of hope.

**We light it fully aware that hope is elusive,
and in some parts of the world it is difficult to find.**

Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that Christ is coming;

Christ is always entering a wounded heart and a troubled world.

*HYMN NO. 87

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

GENEVAN 42

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leave your cynicism and despair behind
because God seeks to inspire in us a spirit of hope.

Let us confess our reluctance to be bold.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, O God, for the narrowness with which we approach our faith.

**Through Christ, joy burst into our world,
yet we do not know how to be joyful.**

**Christ initiated your kingdom of peace,
yet we continue to spread war.**

**Hope was born in Christ,
yet we allow cynicism and despair to consume us.**

We yearn for the rich and abundant life you offer us.

**Inspire us to become passionate disciples
who are eager to spread your love throughout the world. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

At the asterisk (), please stand as you are able*

*The congregation is asked to please refrain from taking photographs
or video recording during the worship service.*

PRESENTATION OF THE PARENTS AND CHILD

Elder Carol Hogue

OPENING WORDS

As this child is helpless without adults,
may we learn how helpless we are without God.
As this child is curious to explore the world,
may we be curious to explore the ways of faith.
As this child will learn to trust and be open to others,
may we learn to trust God’s ways for us.

PROMISES OF COMMITMENT

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? **We do.**
Relying on God’s grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith and to teach that faith to your daughter? **We do.**

CONGREGATION

Will we, the people of the church, nurture and support Kaylea and her parents, and will we encourage her to become a faithful Christian? **We will.**

CHILDREN

Do you promise to help Kaylea be a part of our church family by being a friend to her?

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOLLOWING BAPTISM

*Children through Grade 6 may leave for Godly Care, Godly Play 1, and Sing-to-Praise Choir,
or they may remain in worship.*

ANTHEM

“When Jordan Hush’d His Waters Still”

George Oldroyd

When Jordan hush’d his waters still,
And silence slept on Syon’s hill,
When Bethlem’s shepherds through the night,
Watch’d o’er their flocks by starry light,

Lo! swift to every startled eye,
New streams of glory fire the sky,
Heav’n’s azure gates are oped to pour
Its armies on the midnight hour.

On wheels of light, on wings of flame,
The gratulating myriads came;
High heav’n with songs of triumph rung,
While loud they struck their harps and sung.

To God the Lord of power and might,
Be glory in the highest height,
For peace on earth proclaimed agen,
And tidings of good will to men.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Old Testament, page 600
Dick Jolly, Lay Reader

SERMON

“Where We Find Hope”

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Verses 1,2,6 & 7

VENI EMMANUEL

OFFERING

“No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” (Luke 16:13)

OFFERTORY

“Thus Saith the Lord; But Who May Abide”
(from *Messiah*)
Travis Lucas, baritone

G. F. Handel

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once, a little while, and I will shake the heav'ns and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations; I'll shake, and the desire of all nations shall come. The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple, ev'n the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; Behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire,

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*HYMN NO. 104

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Jacques Berthier

GOING FORTH

If you are visiting with us and wish to learn more about our church family, we invite you to meet today's ambassador, Marlys Kerr, at the back of the center aisle following the service. She is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.



A Tale of Two Gospels: An Advent Bible Study

Today and December 17

Classroom 5

Presenter: Sudie Niesen Thompson

Angels. Shepherds. Wise Men. They were all together at the manger, right?

Did you ever notice that our nativity sets and Christmas Pageants conflate two different narratives? The Gospels of Matthew and Luke tell the story of Christ's birth differently...and have reasons for doing so! Join Sudie for a two-Sunday study on the birth narratives of Jesus, and discover what these texts reveal about Matthew and Luke's understandings of the Messiah.

Reflections on A Christmas Carol

Today and December 17

Classroom 6

Presenter: Bob Cox

Advent is a time to celebrate the coming of Christ into our lives. Join Bob Cox and explore Charles Dickens' "little ghost story" of Ebenezer Scrooge's salvation. Bob will weave his extensive collection of adaptations of *A Christmas Carol* together to highlight our journey from sin to redemption.

SERMON SERIES: WHY CHURCH?

The Golden Age of the church has passed. Or has it? The church will never regain its place of importance. Or will it? The Christian Church in the West has been on a downward slide for decades. Belief in God remains high among Americans, but church membership is on the decline. Is this the long, slow death of Christianity, or is it the long, slow death of the church as we know it today? Are we living in the final days of the church or could this be the beginning of the reformation of the church?

October 8 The Church Plays a Critical Role in Society

November 19 Serving the World, Finding Our Soul

October 15 Where Community is Built

December 3 A Prophetic Voice

November 5 Can the Church Revive Our Sense of Enchantment with the World?

December 10 Where We Find Hope

November 12 Shaping Character

Previous sermons are available on the literature table and on the church website.

New to Westminster?

Welcome! We are so glad you are here.

Here is some information you might find helpful:

- Hymnals are located on a shelf under the pew in front of you, or at the ends of the pew. Please join us in singing!
- A red Friendship Pad at the end of the pew will be passed during the service. We hope you will sign it and let us know how we can welcome you with a follow-up contact.
- There will be an Ambassador at the back of the church at the end of worship, who would love to answer any questions you might have or give you more information about Westminster.
- For more information about our community of faith, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter from the home page of our website (www.wpc.org) or contact the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson at sniesenthompson@wpc.org or (302) 654-5214 ext. 103.



**Please join us for coffee or tea in Community Hall and after the service.
Ask someone to show you the way!**

Christmas Caroling and Pizza Luncheon

Sunday, December 17

12:00 p.m. Pizza Lunch | 12:30 p.m. Caroling



Come spread the joy of Christmas by caroling to our church family at several retirement communities and healthcare centers in our area. Meet in Community Hall at 12:00 p.m. for a quick but hearty pizza lunch hosted by our deacons. At 12:30, we will divide into groups and go out Christmas caroling. All voices of all ages are welcome! If you can join us for the pizza lunch, please RSVP to Kris Marvel at ksmarv@msn.com or call/text (302) 540-9983.

Sunday, December 24

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

One Morning Service – 10:00 a.m.

Continue your Advent journey with us as we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath and prepare to welcome the Christ child.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Services for Families with Young Children – 4:00 & 5:30 p.m.

Informal, lively services combining the story of Jesus' birth with the singing of familiar carols. *Child care for infants and toddlers is available in the Nursery for the 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. services.*

Candlelight Communion Services – 8:00 & 10:00 p.m.

Traditional candlelight services with communion, choral offerings, and sermon by Dr. Jones. Westminster Choir at 8:00 p.m. | Alumni Choir at 10:00 p.m.

**On Sunday, December 31, there will be one
worship service at 10:00 a.m.**

Christmas Boxes Project is Wrapping Up!

Every year, Westminster fills more than 125 boxes at Christmas with food and gifts for families in need in our community. Be a part of this joyful project!

If you purchased gifts and/or are donating food items, please place them in one of the festively wrapped collection bins **today**. Thank you!

Today at 10:10 a.m. in Grace Hall, help wrap the kid's Santa gifts and sort the Wish Star gifts in preparation for box packing night.

Join the fun on **Friday, December 15 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.** in Community Hall for the **Christmas Box Packing and Potluck Dinner Party**. Don your Santa hat, bring your friends, family and your dish to share with eight, plus your scissors and tape! After enjoying the potluck supper together, packing instructions will be given and then the wrapping and packing festivities begin! With lots of hands, small and large, we'll wrap it up in no time. Come and join your WPC family for this truly joyful occasion.

Find more detailed information and additional ways to help in the December 2017 issue of *The Westminster Chimes* and the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter.





WEDNESDAY EVENING
TAIZÉ

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Wednesdays
December 13 and 20
6:30 p.m.

Take a break from the hectic pace of the Christmas season and join us for a time of prayer and reflection, silence and song, inspired by the worship of the Taizé Community in France. All are welcome!

Music at Westminster

presents

**THE 2017
CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION**

Today, 4:00 p.m.

This year's concert to usher in the Christmas season will be a special one indeed, as it will feature music primarily by French composers. Be prepared for a "High Romantic" musical experience!

Our major work is the beloved *Christmas Oratorio* by Camille Saint Saëns, which will be presented by our Westminster Choir, soloists, string orchestra, harp, and organ. Also on the program will be gorgeous instrumental works with a spotlight on solo strings and harp. Of course, there will also be the opportunity for you to raise your voices in festive arrangements of traditional carols.

As always, the concert is free of charge, and open to the entire community, with an offering received. We look forward to seeing you (and all your friends) there!



2017
Christmas
POINSETTIAS

If you wish to make a contribution toward the decoration of the church for the Christmas season, you may do so in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. Please complete this form, make checks payable to *Westminster Presbyterian Church*, and place in the offering plate or return to Susan Alexander at the front desk by **Monday, December 11**. For any form received *after* that date, the names will be listed in the December 31st bulletin.

DONATION AMOUNT

\$20 \$40 \$60 \$80 \$100 Other \$ _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

❖ In Memory Of: (FOR THE DECEASED)

Deceased Person's Name

❖ In Honor Of: (FOR THE LIVING)

Living Person's Name

❖ Given By:

Donor's Name and Telephone Number

If you wish to take a poinsettia plant home with you, you may do so following the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Plants remaining after that service will be delivered to our homebound members. If you can help with delivery, please contact Jill Getty at jgetty@wpc.org by Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

PASTORAL STAFF

Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor
Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

CHURCH EDUCATOR: Susan Moseley

MUSIC STAFF

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
Merideth Hite Estevez, Director of Faith Formation through Music and Arts, Teaching Artist in Residence
Kevin Flaherty, Assistant Director of Children's Music
Soloist/Section Leaders: Elizabeth Holmes, Sharon Babcock, Christian Sanders, Travis Lucas,

YOUTH LEADERS

Merideth Hite Estevez, Susan Moseley
Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, Tommy Neilson

SUPPORT STAFF

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Nicole Hughes, Director of Communication and Database Management
Jerry Hunter, Financial Assistant
Suzie Hurlock, Administrative Assistant
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Sextons: Thomas Carter, Robert King, Joan Truitt, John Young

SESSION

Jen Barrington, Ty Burns, Sally Buttner, Chad Chandler, Jeanne Checkel, Art Colbourn, Joe Daley,
Rich Diver, Michael Enderle, Mike Gnade, Cathy Higgins, Carol Hogue, Barbara Jobe, Kali Kniel,
Kelly McCulloch, Jon McPheeters, Mark Mosher, Margo Reign, Roger Reinicker, Craig Stabler, Barb Stratton,
Mary Vane, Susan Williamson, Helen Zumsteg

BOARD OF DEACONS

Liz Bacon, Don Beddie, Amy Bickhart, Beatty Chadwick, Barry Cobb, Tammy Daley, Nancy Diver, Teisha Fooks,
Nicole Fox, Laura Holmes, Hillary King, Cathy Lang, Kris Marvel, Sally McBride, Blair McConnel,
Mary Lou McDowell, Susan McPheeters, Lola Miller, Bob Moore, Carol Neff, Cassandra Piovoso, Ann Shadduck,
Jerry Spilecki, Lisa Stoddard, Judy Stoffer, Josh Thomas, Sharlym Torres, Jennifer Trickey, Lois Underhill,
Lowell Underhill, Jennie Wagner, Gen Wallace-Roe, Sue Weissinger, Pam White, Sandy White, Debbie Wise

TRUSTEES

Charley Babcock, Gary Bryde, Jim Carter, Denison Hatch, Bobbe Hoy, Fred Iobst, Bill Nace, Mary Lu Pamm,
Kris Qualls, Bob Ridout, Bruce Weber, Dan Weintraub

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

South Sudan – Bob and Kristi Rice
Congo – PCUSA Mission Co-workers John and Gwenda Fletcher, Jeff and Cristi Boyd,
Larry and Inga Sthresley, Cecilé de Sweemer, MD, Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – Mission Co-workers the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker, Dr. Mary Mikhael
Peace Drums Steel Band – Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine
Guatemala - Rosario Diaz and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development, CEDEPCA, Leslie Vogel, and
Sandi and Brian Thompson-Royer