



**Service of Worship
Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2016
9:00 a.m.**

PASTORAL STAFF:

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

CHURCH EDUCATOR:

Susan Moseley

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Colleen Falasco

MUSIC STAFF

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
Merideth Hite Estevez, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Section Leaders/Soloists: Diana Milburn, Sharon Babcock,
David Price, Travis Lucas

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 a.m. – 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

Liz Bacon, Diane Chandler, Nicole Fox, Keith Pierce, Jennifer Trickey, Pamela White

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

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

After TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN, if you wish, your children may leave the Sanctuary and go to:

- ❖ **Godly Care** – Children ages 2 – 4 experience simple worship rituals and learn key stories in the Bible. They respond through crafts, songs and prayers. Class meets in the **Preschool Suite Classroom A**.
- ❖ **Godly Play 1** – Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade gather in the **main hallway and 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 A**.
- ❖ **Sing-to-Praise Choir Program** – Children in grades 3 through 6. Parents, please escort your child to the Youth Music Room for sign-in, just prior to the start of worship, and pick up your child from the Youth Music Room immediately following worship. Children will only be released to a parent or an adult pre-approved by the parent.

10:10 a.m.

Education for All Ages

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| ➤ Sunday School for Preschoolers | Preschool Suite |
| ➤ Joyful Noise Choir Program for K – 2 | Youth Music Room |
| ➤ Godly Play 2 for Grades 3 – 5 | Classroom 4 (Art Room) |
| ➤ Middle Schoolers for Grades 6 – 8 | Classroom 8 |
| ➤ Confirmation Class for Grades 9 and 10 | Classroom 7 |
| ➤ Adult Education Classes | See page 6 |

11:15 a.m.

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

12:00 p.m.

Fellowship Time after Living Mosaics

Meeting Room

Later Today

4:00 p.m.

Christmas Musical Celebration

Sanctuary

5:30 p.m.

180° Youth Christmas Party

Offsite Location

6:00 p.m.

Clean But Not Straight – NA

Club Room

7:00 p.m.

Parent Support Group for Families with Addiction

Daughtry House Conf. Room

8:00 p.m.

AA

Club Room

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane, Ann and Jay by the Kline and Spilecki families.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Those recently hospitalized:** Carol Harris, Pauline Mason, Devon Riggs, Debbie Wat and Craig Wemmers.
- ❖ **Westminster's homebound** who can no longer attend worship with us, by sending a card, saying a prayer, or visiting. This week we ask you to remember Kay Johnson at Millcroft and Margaret Lyle Stevens – Rockland Place.

Westminster's Covenant Prayer Group prays weekly for specific needs of the faith community. **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.

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 known to the WPC Community presently serving in various locations:
Brian Gorman, grandson of Art and Barbara Gorman
Jeremy Lushnat, nephew of Arch and Melody Layman
Sam Pittman, nephew of Roland and Mary Lu Pamm
- The families of those from the U.S. who have died recently:
Staff Sergeant Christopher Wilbur, age 36, of Granite City, Illinois
Staff Sergeant Matthew Thompson, age 28, of Irvine, California
1st Lieutenant Jeffrey Cooper, age 25, of Mill Creek, Washington
- Those who have returned from service, possibly suffering from wounds or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

WORSHIP NOTES

All children who leave the sanctuary after Children's Time must have a completed yellow security label on their back. If you do not find a security label in the pew pocket, you may obtain one in the Preschool Suite. This policy is for your child's protection. Thank you for your help.

Worship Resources – You may 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

Craig Checkel

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Eternal God, in times of darkness, you send your light. When I am weary and discouraged, you lift me up.
Open my eyes to the joy of discovery that I may catch a glimpse of the possibilities you put before me.
Amen.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign and pass the friendship folder to the person next to you.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

An Advent Prelude
Kimberly Reighley, flute

Charles Callahan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Alex, Stephanie, and Megan Breuer

We lit the candles for hope and peace.
Today we light the candle of joy.
Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us,
but joy is also an attitude we choose.

Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised.

So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it within us.

We will nurture our joy and share it with others.

RESPONSE (HYMN NO. 91)

**Come, come Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel.**

ADVENT PRAYER

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you,
trusting that you create us for joy-filled hearts and lives.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Prepare our lives to be transformed
and fill us with a joy that cannot be contained
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

*HYMN NO. 107

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

REJOICE, REJOICE

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

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Children through Grade 2 may leave for Godly Care or Godly Play 1, or they may remain in worship.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

Old Testament, page 622
Nancy Fleming Weintraub, Lay Reader

ANTHEM

“Come, Jesus, Come”
Westminster Choir

Alfred V. Fedak

Come, Jesus, come, Morning Star:
come with rays of joy and peace.
Word of hope, whom fears would bar,
from our darkness bring release.

Come, Jesus, come, living Lord:
come in prayer and sacraments.
Word of blessing still outpoured,
work in ways transcending sense.

Come, Jesus, come, Holy Child:
come enfleshed in humble birth.
Word of love, though scorned, reviled,
give our human life new worth.

Come, Jesus, come, King of kings:
come to rule on earth again.
Word for whom creation sings,
“O come, Prince of Peace, and reign.”

Text by Carl P. Daw, Jr.

SERMON

“The Desert Shall Rejoice and Blossom”

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 79

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”
Verses: Choir
Refrain: All

TEMPLE OF PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Aria

Ernst von Dohnányi

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER (page 35 in our *Glory to God* hymnal)

*HYMN NO. 93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Eleanor Daley

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, Maryls Kerr, following the service.
She is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.*



Adult Education Classes This Morning

Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas (DVD and Book Study)

Today and December 18

Ruth Christie Room

Facilitator: Sue Linderman

In this 5-week, small group program, we will embark on an Advent journey to discover how, where, and why we are sent. Dynamic pastor, Jorge Acevedo and four young clergy will challenge us through story, art, and Bible study. Each session begins with a story about Advent or Christmas and is followed by a lively discussion among the presenters. *Jesus' birth was not a one-time occurrence. Every Christmas has the possibility of Jesus being born again in our lives and in our world.*—Jorge Acevedo.

Experiencing Advent in Congo

Today

Classroom 6

Facilitator – Bill Moore

The stories of Advent – Hope, Peace, Joy, Love – help us prepare for Christmas. But in Congo, people today live with a history of government oppression, enslavement and war, and under poor economic, health and living conditions. How do they reconcile all this with Advent? Using stories and pictures from Congo, we will examine this, including: mining of minerals for electronics; coffee plantations; healing for trauma victims; medical care; girls' education; street kids; full and fair elections; savings groups; civil rights activism; and church initiatives. In the spirit of Advent, learn what we can do to help.

History of the Bible

Today through May 14, 2017

Classroom 3

Facilitator: Bob Cox

Have you ever wondered where the Bible came from? Who wrote it? Why do some Christian Bibles have different books in them? Who decided which books would be included and how were they chosen? Join Bob Cox to explore these and other questions as we use video lectures, archeological discoveries, samples of key texts, and various classroom aids to follow the path of our sacred scriptures from pre-history to the digital age.

IT'S THE MOST ~~WONDERFUL~~ *hectic*

TIME OF THE YEAR!

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!



WEDNESDAY EVENING
TAIZÉ

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Wednesdays
December 14 and 21
6:30 p.m.



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Christmas Boxes Project Is Under Way!

Every year, Westminster fills boxes at Christmas with food and gifts for 125 families. You can be part of this.

- Take "Wish Stars" from a Christmas tree in the Pavilion or near Rodney Chapel. **Sign the log book by the tree for each star you take!**
- Buy and wrap the gifts with the Wish Stars taped to the outside of the package. Place them in one of the festively wrapped collection bins today.
- Donate any of the following food items: boxed cereal and stuffing mix, and canned sweet potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, and fruit. Place them in a collection bin today.
- Join us for the Christmas Boxes Dinner and Packing Party on **Friday, December 16, at 6:00 p.m.** Bring holiday joy to neighbors in need by packing boxes with food and gifts and enjoying a dinner with fellow members and friends. All ages welcome!

More information and additional ways to help can be found in the December 2016 issue of *The Westminster Chimes* and the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter. There will also be someone at each tree on Sunday mornings to answer questions.



Christmas Caroling and

Pizza Luncheon

Sunday, December 18

12:00 noon – 2:30 p.m.



Come share the joy of Christmas by caroling in some of the retirement communities and healthcare centers in our area. Meet in Community Hall at 12:00 noon for a quick, hearty pizza lunch hosted by our deacons. At 12:30, we will divide into groups and go Christmas caroling. All voices of all ages are welcome! If you would like to join us for the pizza lunch, please RSVP to Kris Marvel at ksmarv@msn.com or (302) 764-0401.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24

Services for Families with Young Children

4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Informal, lively 45-minute 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 and 10:00 p.m.

Traditional candlelight services with communion, choral offerings, and sermon by Dr. Jones.



Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

One worship service at 10:00 a.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



2016 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 12**. For any form received *after* that date, the names will be listed in the January 1st 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 14, 2016.



Music at Westminster

presents...

THE 2016 CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 11
4:00 p.m.

featuring

The Westminster Choir
(Paul Fleckenstein, Organist and Director)
with Brass, Percussion, and Organ

Paul D. Head, Guest Conductor

Energetic major works by Daniel Pinkham
and Stephen Chatman, festive arrangements
of traditional carols, and opportunities for the
audience to join in singing

FREE ADMISSION; OFFERING RECEIVED



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