

Christmas Eve 2017 Family Services

4:00 and 5:30 p.m.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

1502 West 13th Street * Wilmington, DE 19806 * 302-654-5214 * www.wpc.org

An Earth Care Congregation of the PC (USA)

WELCOME

ON THIS HOLY NIGHT, we engage one of the deep mysteries of our faith. In celebrating Christmas, we try to push away the cares of the moment and the rush of things to do. As we worship, we create a wide, sweet space to listen, to pray, to sing, and to receive the gift of God's presence. No one will ever make sense of how God, the Infinite, was revealed in the finite. So we tell a story and simply wonder at it all. Welcome to a house of wonder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome everyone to Westminster Church for these Christmas Eve Services. We extend a special welcome to visitors and those who return for the holiday. If you live in the Wilmington area and do not have a church home, we hope you will consider uniting with our church family. To learn more about our community of faith, please contact the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson at sniesenthompson@wpc.org, or 302-654-5214 ext. 103

You are invited to continue your Christmas Eve celebration by attending one of our Candlelight Communion Services tonight at 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Our Christmas decorations are labors of love by: Linda and Skip Watson; Clark and Donna Collins, Kevin and Chelsea Collins and their children; Jill Getty; Roger Atkins, Kendal Colvard, Mary Field, Linda and Paul McGregor, Lola Miller, Carol Mosher, Sue Weissinger and Lois Underhill. Our deep thanks to all who helped decorate our church for Christmas.

The trees in the Sanctuary, Rodney Chapel, and Pavilion have been decorated with 160 beautifully handmade ornaments called Chrismons (Christ + Monogram). We hope these Christian symbols will prompt you to contemplate Christ and the meaning of Christmas. Handouts with a description of the Christian ornaments are located on the literature table, near the reception desk.

The Chancel flowers this evening are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles M. Krick, Jr. and Ann E. Linderman by Sue and Bob Linderman.

Church Office Holiday Hours: The church office will be closed all day on Monday, December 25. The church office will be OPEN December 26, 27, 28 and 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. if you wish to drop off a year-end donation. Also, all donations postmarked by December 31, 2017 will be considered received and credited on your 2017 contribution statement. If you have questions concerning the status of your 2017 pledge, please contact Colleen Falasco (cfalasco@wpc.org or 302-654-5214 ext. 131).

Image credit: <https://www.susanwindsor.com/products/angel-and-star-watercolor-christmas-card-set>

**Next Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve), there will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m.
Nursery care provided.**

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: Sharon Babcock, Elizabeth
Holmes, Christian Sanders, Travis Lucas

YOUTH LEADERS

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

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Colleen Falasco

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND SECURITY

Paul Crothamel

WHAT DO I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

What do I want for Christmas?
I want to kneel in Bethlehem,
the air thick with alleluias,
the angels singing
that God is born among us.
In the light of the Star,
I want to see them come,
the wise ones and the humble.
I want to see them come
bearing whatever they treasure
to lay at the feet
of him who gives his life.

What do I want for Christmas?
to see in that stable
the whole world kneeling in thanks
for a promise kept:
new life.
For in his nativity
we find ours.

-Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP - 4:00 P.M.

The 5:30 service begins on page 8

TOWER CHIME

Craig Checkel

PRELUDE

Christmas Medley
Luminary Youth Orchestra

arr. Senft/Estevez

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy God, you came to Mary and Joseph,
to the shepherds and angels, to the little village of Bethlehem.
Come now to us:
be born in us this night.

*CAROL

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jacob, Teisha, Wyatt, and Oliver Fooks

Tonight we light the Christ candle to remember and celebrate that Jesus is the Light of the World.
The light still shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.

The Christ Candle is lit.

PRAYER

**God of love, Creator of all,
the darkness that covered the earth
has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh.
Make us a people of this light.
Make us faithful to your Word
that we may bring your life to the waiting world.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Passages in bold print may be said by all. At the asterisk () please stand (as you are able).*

LESSONS AND CAROLS

JOSEPH'S DREAM

Matthew 1:18-24

CAROL

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us;
our Lord Emmanuel!

THE JOURNEY AND THE BIRTH

Luke 2:1-7

Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus: Jennifer, Adam, and Samuel Blackford

CAROL

“What Child Is This”

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

ANGELS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

Luke 2:8-14

CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SHEPHERDS GO TO BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:15-20

CAROL

“The First Nowell”

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

KINGS FOLLOW THE STAR

Matthew 2:1-12

CAROL

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

GIFTS IN CELEBRATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

As the Kings brought their gifts to the Christ child, tonight we offer ours. The entire Christmas Offering is given to those in need beyond our walls. Please see the back cover for details.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.

May Christmas morning make us happy to be your children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts.
Join us all together in your love and heavenly peace. **Amen.**

*CAROL

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!”

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

*SENDING

May the good news of this night inspire us
to tell the world of our great joy:
for to us is born a Savior,
the Messiah, the Lord.
Glory and praise to you forever! **Amen.**

*CAROL

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP – 5:30 P.M.

TOWER CHIME

Craig Checkel

PRELUDE

Christmas Medley
Luminary Youth Orchestra

arr. Senft/Estevez

CALL TO WORSHIP

With the angels, whose chorus announced Christ's birth,
we come to proclaim the good news.

With the shepherds, who stood in awe before his manger bed,
we come in wonder to worship him.

With the Wise Ones, who welcomed the newborn king with precious gifts,
we come with gifts of love and praise.

Come, let us adore him!

Let us worship the Lord!

*CAROL

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; Christ, the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jason, Susanne, Alexis, and Sophia Wolff

We have lit candles for peace, hope, joy and love,
**As we have waited in winter's gathering darkness,
for the babe who brings these promises to fulfillment.**

Tonight, our waiting is over!

To us is born a Savior – Christ the Lord!

The Christ Candle is lit.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness will never overcome it!

*Passages in **bold** print may be said by all. At the asterisk (*) please stand (as you are able).*

PRAYER

God of Goodness and Grace,
tonight, you break forth into a world hushed with wonder.
So long we have waited;
so long we have watched;
so long we have wondered what tonight would bring.

As we kneel before your manger bed,
we rejoice that you come
to overwhelm indifference and overcome grief,
to dispel despair and weave peace in lives torn by strife.

As you dwell in our world, dwell also in our hearts,
that your peace, hope, joy, and love,
may overflow from us,
in words and deeds of resounding praise.

Glory to you in the highest! Alleluia! Amen.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE BIRTH FORETOLD

Isaiah 9:2-7

Jill Getty

CAROL

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us;
our Lord Emmanuel!

THE ANGEL VISITS MARY

Luke 1:26-38

Jan Harrison, Suzie Hurlock, Bob Moore

MUSICAL OFFERING

Gabriel's Oboe
Merideth Hite Estevez, oboe

Ennio Morricone

THE SONG OF MARY

Luke 1:46-55

Sue Linderman

RESPONSE

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE JOURNEY AND THE BIRTH

Luke 2:1-7

Teresa Wemhoff

CAROL

“Away in a Manger”
Joyful Noise and Sing-to-Praise Choirs

ANGELS SHARE THE NEWS

Luke 2:8-14

Sophia Malatesta

CAROL

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!”

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

SHEPHERDS GO TO BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:15-20

Chris Hickey

CAROL

“The First Nowell”

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

KINGS FOLLOW THE STAR

Matthew 2:1-12

Kyle Carrick, Shelley Gnade, Mary-beth Howard

CAROL

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

GIFTS IN CELEBRATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

As the Kings brought their gifts to the Christ child, tonight we offer ours. The entire Christmas Offering is given to those in need beyond our walls. Please see the back cover for details.

Were you there, were you there,
 on that Christmas night?
 When the world was filled with a holy light?
 Were you there to behold as the wonder foretold
 came to Earth?

Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang
 at the glory of the sight?
 Did you hear
 how the bells of Heaven rang
 all through the night?

Did you see, did you see,
 how they hailed him king?
 With their gifts so rare that they chose to bring?
 Did you see how they bowed as they praised him aloud
 at his birth?

Did you know, did you know,
 it was God's own son?
 The salvation of the world begun?
 Did you know it was love that was sent from above
 to the Earth?

A CHRISTMAS LITANY

Miraculous God,
 We know this story so well –
 the words are familiar;
 the characters are dear friends;
 the songs are known by heart.
 We love this story and its comfortable, comforting familiarity.
We praise you for the miracles which come to us in the familiar.

At the center of this story is the eternal God stepping into human history.
 The All-Powerful One choosing to live in fragile flesh.
 The Creator becoming a creature.
We praise you for the miracle of God becoming human.

At the center of this story is the God, revealed to women and men.
 A God who works miracles through ordinary people.
 A God who enters every willing heart to birth new life.
We praise you for the miracle of your life within us.

Miraculous God,
 May we see you, know you, and be united with you again this Christmas.
**May your miraculous love transform our lives,
 and may we become part of your miraculous plan of salvation –
 now and always. Amen.**

*CAROL

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her king;
 let every heart prepare him room,
 and heaven and nature sing,
 and heaven and nature sing,
 and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders, wonders of his love.

*SENDING

May the good news of this night inspire us
to tell the world of our great joy:
for to us is born a Savior,
the Messiah, the Lord.
Glory and praise to you forever! **Amen.**

*CAROL

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

Participants in Worship

Westminster by Heart Storytellers

Westminster by Heart is a lay group from our congregation committed to telling stories from Scripture. We have embraced the discipline and spiritual commitment of learning these passages by heart so that our congregation may experience the Bible the same way it was first heard, traveling to the hearts of believers on the breath of the teller. Our group is open to any and all who share a passion for the story. For more information, contact Shelley Gnade (shelley.gnade@gmail.com) or Mary-beth Howard (mbhcc73@gmail.com).

Luminary Youth Orchestra

4:00 Service

Sophia Malatesta, viola
Greer Marvel, clarinet
Annika Pfaff, cello
Ava Pfaff, horn
Kristian Tolbert, violin

5:30 Service

Reuben Busick-White, piano
Drew Holmes, cello
Lily Holmes, violin
Sophia Malatesta, viola
Tucker Poff, trumpet
Baden Saathoff, cello
Evelyn Saathoff, cello
Kristian Tolbert, violin

Choirs

Joyful Noise Choir, Kindergarten – 2nd grade
Sing-to-Praise Choir, 3rd- 6th grade

CHRISTMAS 2017 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:

Carol and Gene Hopkins
Bill Albert
Bernie Alexander
William C. Deans
Teddy Bedrossian
E. Howard Bedrossian, MD
Rosetta Bedrossian
Mr. and Mrs. David Bernhard, Grandparents
Mr. Victor Lawryniuk, Grandparent
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Becker, Grandparents
Mrs. Marianne Wизgall, Dear Friend
John R. Becker, Uncle
Lewis and Pauline Black
Our Parents and other Loved Ones
Our Parents
Rev. John Cartmell
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Checkel
Bob Churchill
Inez M. Cobb
Willard H. Cobb
Brendan M. Cobb
Maury Colbert
Mary Colbourn
Jo and Phil Collins
My Husband, Art Connolly, Jr.
My Parents, Florence and Harris McDowell
Doris Corner
Jim Corner
Raymond Daley
Our Parents, Ramiz and Rose Hourani
Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Lowe
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Diver
Art Diver
Floyd, Emma and Esther Fedeler
Cerd and Jessie Marsh
L. Martin Gravely
Nick Marcopulos
Elizabeth and Rodney Higgins
Our parents
John and Dot Hunter
Fred Hurlock, Jr.; Frances and Fred Hurlock, Sr.

Given By:

Rich and Taryn Albert
Rich and Taryn Albert
The Alexander Family
Fay Deans Barnaby
Iryna and Ned Bedrossian
Iryna and Ned Bedrossian
Iryna and Ned Bedrossian
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Kay and Lew Black
Nancy and Herb Boden
Polly and Jim Carter
James and Peggy Cartmell
Jeanne and Bob Checkel
Jeanne and Bob Checkel
His Family
Rosemary and Barry Cobb
Rosemary and Barry Cobb
Rosemary and Barry Cobb
Nancy Colbert
Art, Deb, David and Jack
Donna and Clark Collins
Joan M. Connolly
Joan M. Connolly
Roger and Paula Corner
Roger and Paula Corner
Joe and Tammy Daley
Joe and Tammy Daley
Nancy L. Diver
Nancy L. Diver
Nancy L. Diver
Barbara and Jerry Fedeler
Barbara and Jerry Fedeler
His Family
Cathy Higgins
Cathy Higgins
Tom and Carol Hogue
Beth, John and Amy
Suzie Hurlock

CHRISTMAS 2017 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:

*Sarah and Dave Frie and son David
Loved Ones
Mary Colbourn
Our Parents
Ellie Kaye
Husband Bob Kelley and daughter Gail Kelley Veith
For Grammy, Ann and Jay
Stokes Walesby
Karl Kniel
Our parents and grandparents
Clementine Elwell
David B. Elwell
Jacqueline Layman
Jerry Lee
Grandparents
Amy Michener Lengel
My Parents Ralph L. Lewis and Mildred G. Ellison
Grandparents: Wm. Herbert and Lela G. Thompson
Ralph T. and Leola M. Lewis
Aunts and Uncles
Our Parents
Charles M Krick, Jr. and Ann E. Linderman
John, Lillian and Mildred Michener
Arnold, Alice and Charles Sharpley
Amy Michener Lengel
Mark William Palmer
Ingrid and Georges Pamm
Robert Currin
George R. Patrick
George H. Patrick
Martha Patrick
Raymond H. Peters
Carrie Peters
Edward Reese
Amy Lengel*

Given By:

*Suzie Hurlock
Charlie Ingersoll and Dick Jolly
Jane Iobst
John and Dede Johnston
Bill Kaye
Helen Kelley
The Kline Family
Kniel-Tolbert Family
Kniel-Tolbert Family
Gary and Kitty Knox
Arch and Melody Layman
Arch and Melody Layman
Arch and Melody Layman
Virginia Lee and Family
Virginia Lee and Family
Eric, Katie, Jason and Justin
Ralph L. Lewis
Ralph L. Lewis
Ralph L. Lewis
Ralph L. Lewis
Sue and Bob Linderman
Sue and Bob Linderman
Jack and Bunny Michener
Jack and Bunny Michener
Jack and Bunny Michener
Jane Palmer and Bill Moore
The Pamm Family
The Pamm Family
The Patrick Family
The Patrick Family
The Patrick Family
The Patrick Family
The Patrick Family
The Patrick Family
The Pfaff Family
The Pfaff Family*

CHRISTMAS 2017 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:

Janet and Jack Foster
Sally Evans and Charles Pfleegor
Catherine Myers Moore
Rachel Davis Myers
Our Parents
Elizabeth and Hepner VanHorn
Elizabeth and Fred Bartholomew
Ray and Fran Scofield
Bill and Allison Bennett
Alexandra Scofield
Robert K. Shadduck, father of my children
Minna and Russ Vollmer and Marion and Albert
Shadduck, grandparents of my children
Jay, Ann, Grammy and Grandpap
Our Parents
Janet and Bob Eissner
Dorothy and Paul Steen
Wayne Suiter
Our Parents
Lea and Helen Warner
My Parents
Sally and Stephen Wemmers
Barbara Wheatley

In Honor of:

My sister, Paula Szczuka
Peggy Cartmell
Margie Lounsbury
Presby, the Westminster Church mouse
Sylvia B. Kniel
Arch Layman, Sr.
Daisy Jane Ostien
Judy Stoddard
Gavin, Payton, Gates, Valerie
Our Family

Given By:

Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor
Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor
Cassandra Lloyd Piovoso
Cassandra Lloyd Piovoso
Charles and Linda Reinhardt
The Ruoss Family
The Ruoss Family
Bob and Sue Scofield
Bob and Sue Scofield
Bob and Sue Scofield
Ann Shadduck

Ann Shadduck
The Spilecki Family
Jane and Dave Stabler
The Stabler and Eissner Families
Barbara Steen
Jane Suiter
Lois and Lowell Underhill
Wayne Warner
Linda Watson
Craig Wemmers
Her Family

Given By:

Dianne Browne
Roger and Paula Corner
Roger and Paula Corner
A Friend
Kniel-Tolbert Family
Arch and Melody Layman
Tres Ostien
Robin Rosser
Stark and Sandy Thompson
Lois and Lowell Underhill



Dear Members and Friends of Westminster,

As we near the celebration of Christ's birth, we long for a world in line with God's vision – a world where everyone has a place at the table and plenty to eat, a safe place to call home, meaningful work, opportunities for education, and a less violent world. Each year, our Christmas Offering is dedicated to furthering the mission of Christ and gives us the chance to share a portion of our abundant blessings with people in dire circumstances. Every dollar you give goes beyond our walls to ministries that share the love of God with those in need. Will you help those in our community and in other troubled spots around the globe find hope?

Our Christmas Offering supports the dignity and empowerment of people all over the world by providing food, shelter, clean water, education, support services and peacemaking initiatives; 70% will enhance our local ministries and 30% will further our global ministries. Your gift will be distributed to the following:

- ✧ **UrbanPromise (25%)** – As Wilmington struggles to deal with violence on our streets, UrbanPromise is a beacon of hope to children and youth in our city. Through programs such as its elementary school, after-school programs and summer camps (both meet here at Westminster), specialized high school, and scholarship program to help students remain in college, children are taught Christian values, disciplined study habits, and conflict resolution skills.
- ✧ **Friendship House (25%)** – Westminster's partnership with Friendship House, begun more than 30 years ago, has offered thousands of homeless people in our community the hope for a brighter future. Friendship House provides shelter, food, counseling, clothing, and job assistance.
- ✧ **Church in the World Projects (25%)** – These global programs promote peace in areas of conflict and education for girls and women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, and Syrian refugee camps. Westminster also supports the Guatemala VIP Latrine project.
- ✧ **Neighborhood Food Pantries (20%)** – Westminster contributes to Hanover Food Closet and LCS/St. Stephen's Food Pantry, recognizing that some in our community face increasing need of emergency food assistance.
- ✧ **Peace Drums (5%)** – A unique interfaith initiative promoting peace among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim youth living in the Galilee region of Israel and Palestine. They have spread their musical message of peace to the U.S. and Austria.



25%

UrbanPromise



25%

Church in the World



5%

Peace Drums



25%

Friendship House



20%

Neighborhood Food Pantries