



**Service of Worship
First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2019
10:00 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.

**A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

This Morning at Westminster

Deacon Team of the Month

Jeff Argus, Roger Atkins, Jenn Blackford, Kyle Carrick, Ron Carrick, Barry Cobb,
Teisha Fooks, Marsha Mah, Hugh Underhill

9:45 – 11:15 a.m. **Childcare available up to age 5** in the Preschool Suite.

10:00 – 10:55 a.m. **Worship**

11:00 a.m. **Reception for Paul Fleckenstein** Community Hall

Later Today

6:00 p.m. Clean But Not Straight – NA Club Room

8:00 p.m. AA Club Room

The mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace by working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.



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.

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 a reception in Community Hall after the service.
Ask someone to show you the way!**

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given by Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Tatnall, Jr. to the glory of God and in honor of Paul Fleckenstein, with love and thanks for 27 years of musical excellence and devotion to The Westminster Choir.

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 dates are January 5, 12, 19 and 26; February 2, 9, 16 and 23.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** William Francis, Cathy Higgins, Janice Nolen, Frank Waldburger.
- ❖ **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 Hans Krahrmer, Gordon Lewis and Caroline Sparks at Stonegates.
- ❖ **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:**

- The family of this soldier from the U.S. who died recently:
Sergeant 1st Class Michael Goble, age 33, from Washington Township, New Jersey.
- Those suffering from Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

WORSHIP NOTES

Easy-to-use assisted listening devices may be found in the back of the sanctuary and the side entrance off the main hallway.

Worship Resources – You can obtain large print hymnals. 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

TOWER CHIME

Craig Checkel

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

As we gather this joyful morning, let our Alleluias rise from willing lips, from lives opened to your gift, and from hearts filled with your love. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, and Amen!

From a prayer by Ann Siddall

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

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella

arr. Keith Chapman

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

The God of Heaven has become flesh and made a home among us!

From the dawn of time, the Word was with God.
Through Christ creation had its birth;
Without Christ the depths would lie in darkness.

The voice that awakened all creation has called to us with a newborn's cry.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it!

The Light shines among us. Alleluia!

(Inspired by John 1:1-5, 14)

*HYMN NO. 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**The heavenly host fills the skies;
the shepherds rush to behold the babe.
But we stand still, for these glad tidings have lost all sense of urgency.
The angel chorus rejoices with alleluias;
the shepherds tell of wonders revealed;
but we merely ponder these time-worn words as nothing new.**

**This story is so familiar,
we forget it has the power to transform the world.
We forget it heralds a reign of justice.
We forget that this story requires something of us.**

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

**You have given us your Son.
Now give us the gift of faith,
so that we might receive the Christ child
into our hearts, our lives, our homes, our world,
and live as those who walk in His light.
Embolden us to tell your story
and send us out, glorifying and praising God —
for to us is born a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord!**

SILENCE

RESPONSE (HYMN NO. 121, VS. 4)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

**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!**

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE (HYMN NO. 147, VS. 6)

“The First Nowell”

**Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Greg Jones

Children up to age 5 may leave for childcare in the Preschool Suite.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

New Testament, page 50

CAROL (HYMN NO. 118, VS. 1 & 6)

“While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks”

CHRISTMAS

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around,
and glory shone around.**

**“All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heaven
begin and never cease,
begin and never cease!”**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

New Testament, page 51

MESSAGE

Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN No. 136

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

OFFERING

“On entering the house, the Wise Ones saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” – Matthew 2:11

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Carillon de Westminster

Louis Vierne

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER (page 35 in our *Glory to God* hymnal, using “debts” and “debtors”)

*HYMN No. 112

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

SUSSEX CAROL

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Berceuse

Charles Callahan

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, Bill Nace, following the service. He is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.

TODAY

Reception for Paul Fleckenstein

Celebrate with Paul Fleckenstein on this, his last Sunday as Organist/Director of Music at Westminster, and gather in Community Hall following the service to offer him our farewell blessings.

Church Office Holiday Hours: The church office will be OPEN on December 30 and 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All donations POSTMARKED on or before December 31, 2019 will be credited to your contribution record as received in 2019, so there is no need to physically drop off donations to receive credit.

HELPING HANDS GLOVE COLLECTION – YEAR 5!

Sundays, January 12 and 19, 2020



Our Helping Hands glove/mitten collection will take place on Sundays, January 12 and 19, 2020 between services in Community Hall. As you check out some after-Christmas sales, please remember to pick up some extra pairs of gloves/mittens for men, women and children. These will be distributed to those in need through Friendship House's Empowerment Centers. These gloves/mittens need to be new, but they do not need to be expensive. Big box stores, grocery stores, Harbor Freight, drug stores and dollar stores all have inexpensive, practical gloves and mittens. Thank you!



Dinner, David and the DSO WPC DUTCH TREAT NIGHT OUT

Westminster members and friends are invited to join us for a private, Dutch-treat dinner at Chelsea Tavern, 821 N. Market Street, Wilmington, at 5:00 PM and a 7:30 PM Delaware Symphony Orchestra concert at The Grand on **Friday, January 17**. The orchestra will be playing Borodin's *Prince Igor Overture*, Elgar's *Cello Concerto* with Camille Thomas, and Rachmaninoff's *Symphony No. 1*. Music Director David Amado and Ms. Thomas will give a pre-concert talk at 6:30. Tickets are \$49 and checks made out to the "DSO" can be given to Charlie Babcock or Bob Stoddard or mailed to Bob at 20 Centerville Terrace, Wilmington, DE 19808 by Wednesday, January 15. Limited dinner seating will be reserved on a first come/first served basis. Please join us for great food, music **Beyond Words**, and good fun with friends!

– Charlie and Sharon Babcock

– Bob and Judy Stoddard

PASTORAL STAFF

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

MUSIC STAFF

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
Alexis Droke, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Soloist/Section Leaders: Hye Eun Choi, Sharon Babcock, Jason Berger, Brenton Mattox

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chesna Hinkley

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES STAFF

Teisha Fooks, Director of Preschool Ministries
Nursery: Beatrice Taylor, Kristen Wolanski

YOUTH LEADERS

Chesna Hinkley, Tommy Neilson
Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, Emily Knepper, Molly McPheeters

SUPPORT STAFF

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Mary Clark, Office Assistant for Data and Archives
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
Jerry Hunter, Financial Assistant
Suzie Hurlock, Administrative Assistant
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Sextons: Thomas Carter, Robert King, Joan Truitt, John Young

SESSION

Karen Beer, Ty Burns, Sally Buttner, Chad Chandler, Karen Dietz,
Rich Diver, Michael Enderle, Peter Gildner, Cathy Higgins, Carol Hogue, Barbara Jobe, Kelly McCulloch,
Mark Mosher, Jan Patrick, Todd Piercy, Margo Reign, Roger Reinicker, Carrie Saathoff, Kent Smith,
Janet Steinwedel, Barb Stratton, Mary Vane, Susan Williamson, Helen Zumsteg

BOARD OF DEACONS

Jeff Argus, Roger Atkins, Liz Bacon, Amy Bickhart, Jennifer Blackford, Kyle Carrick, Ron Carrick,
Beatty Chadwick, Barry Cobb, Nancy Diver, Teisha Fooks, Nicole Fox, Laura Holmes, Louis Horton, Tara Lee,
Marsha Mah, Kris Marvel, Luke Máthé, Dan McAllister, Sally McBride, Blair McConnel, Debbie McCullough,
Mary Lou McDowell, Bob Moore, Emily Pfaff, Sandie Reinicker, Martha Spaethling, Ann Shadduck,
Lisa Stoddard, Josh Thomas, Jennifer Trickey, Hugh Underhill, Lois Underhill, Lowell Underhill,
Gen Wallace-Roe, Pam White, Sandy White, Debbie Wise

TRUSTEES

Charley Babcock, Gary Bryde, Denison Hatch, Bobbe Hoy, Fred Iobst, Brock Jobe, Mary Lu Pamm,
Tom Preston, Bob Ridout, Barbara Steen, Bruce Weber, Dan Weintraub

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

Congo – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inga Sthreshley;
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker, Dr. Mary Mikhael
Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band
Guatemala – CEDEPCA, AJPU, Rosario Diaz and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development