



Service of Worship
1st Sunday after Christmas Day
December 31, 2017
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.

This Morning at Westminster

Deacon Team of the Month

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

9:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Nursery for babies and toddlers	
10:00 – 10:55 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary	
10:10 a.m.	Sunday School for Preschoolers	Preschool Suite D
11:00 a.m.	Fellowship with coffee and tea	Rodney Chapel/Meeting Room

Also Today

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 flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my father, George Fleming from Nancy Fleming, Dan Weintraub, and Jake Prein.

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. Dates available are January 7, 14 and 28th, and February 2018.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Mary Young
- ❖ **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 Betty Drennen, Howard and Nancy Horne, Gordon Lewis and Caroline Sparks, all 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 families of those from the U.S. who have died recently:
Specialist Avadon Chaves, age 20, from Turlock, California.
- 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

*It is not over,
this birthing.
There are always newer skies
into which God can throw stars.
When we begin to think
that we can predict the Advent of God,
that we can box the Christ
in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time
that God will be born
in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.
Those who wait for God
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening
always listening
for angel words.*

– Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

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

Variations on a French Noël
(Où s'en vont ces gais bergers)

Claude-Bénigne Balbastre

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Born in humility, Christ came to rule over all.

Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of God's love.

Poor in the things of the world, he brought the wealth of God's grace.

The Light of the world has come and he shall be known as the Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among all.

*HYMN NO. 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you.
In the fullness of time, you sent Christ to be our Savior.
In him, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Born in humility, he came to rule over all.

Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love.

Poor in worldly possessions, he brought the wealth of your grace.

In his dying and rising the church was born and you made a new covenant with us.

**With thanksgiving we dedicate ourselves to your service
and forever sing to the glory of your name.**

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Children Preschool thru 2nd grade may leave for Sunday School in Preschool Suite Classroom D.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament, page 1
Suzie Hurlock, Lay Reader

*HYMN NO. 123

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-14

SERMON

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 143

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

We Three Kings

arr. Paul Manz

A CHRISTMAS LITANY

Rex Hunt

Blessings to all who find Christmas in the Christmas star.

May their lives ever reflect its light and beauty.

Blessings on those who discover Christmas in the age-old story of a child
born in a stable and laid in a manger.

To them a little child will always mean hope and promise in a troubled world.

Blessings on those who uncover Christmas in the joy of gifts sent lovingly to others.

They shall share the gladness and joy of the shepherds and magi.

Blessings on those who encounter Christmas in the message of Jesus of Nazareth.

May they ever strive to bring peace on earth and good will to others.

*HYMN NO. 146

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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. 136

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Aria pastorella

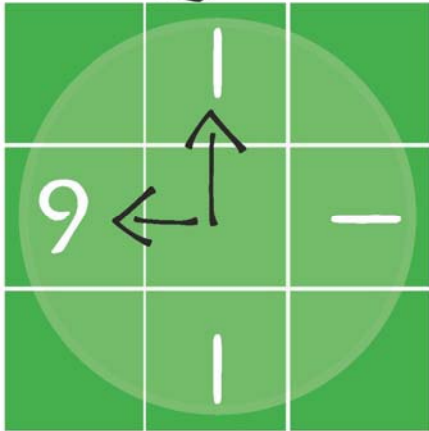
Valentin Rathgeber

GOING FORTH

If you are visiting with us and wish to learn more about our church family, we invite you to meet today's ambassadors, Nancy Fleming and Dan Weintraub, at the back of the center aisle following the service. They are happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.

Come Out and Play! 9-Square-A-Thon

9-SQUARE



A-THON

Sunday, January 14, 2018

1:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Community Hall

Our 180° youth will be playing 9-Square to raise money for the Chad Miller Youth Mission Fund, and everyone is welcome! Want to play? For a minimum donation of \$5.00, you can join the fun anytime from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. Can't play but want to support the cause? Go to www.wpc.org, click the "Donate Now" button, and select the Chad Miller Youth Mission Fund. Or, drop your donation in the offering plate on Sunday. Write Chad Miller Mission Fund in the memo line! Thank you for your support!

The Chad Miller Youth Mission Fund was created in memory of The Rev. Chad Miller after his tragic death in 2009. Chad served as our Associate Pastor for Mission and Youth. During that time, he became an integral part of our church and community. He believed in the transforming power of mission work for teenagers and their families who share in the experience with them.

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 Rodney Chapel and The Meeting Room and after the service.

Ask someone to show you the way!

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
Nursery: Miss Bea, Sue Sprague

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 Piovo, 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