



Service of Worship
1st Sunday after Christmas
January 1, 2017
10:00 a.m.

PASTORAL STAFF:

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

CHURCH EDUCATOR:

Susan Moseley

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

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Colleen Falasco

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND SECURITY

Paul Crothamel

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

9:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Nursery for babies and toddlers	
10:00 – 10:55 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary	
11:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Coffee and Tea in Rodney Chapel	
11:15 a.m.	Flying Solo at Catherine Rooney's	1616 Delaware Avenue

Later Today

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

We welcome everyone to Westminster Church for our New Year's Day Service. 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.

Our Christmas decorations are labors of love by: Linda Watson, Jill Getty, Sue Weissinger, Carol Mosher, Lois Underhill, Mary Field, Nancy McFadden, Lola Miller, Clark and Donna Collins, Kevin and Chelsea Collins and their children. 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 125 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.



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

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:** Pauline Mason and Frank Pickering.
- ❖ **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 Dottie Gkonos at Brandywine Senior Living, Brandall Estates in Linwood, NJ.

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
Sam Pittman, nephew of Roland and Mary Lu Pamm
- The families of those from the U.S. who have died recently:
Civilian Michael G. Sauro, age 40 of McAlester, Oklahoma
Chief Petty Officer Jason C. Finan, age 34, of Anaheim, California
Captain Andrew D. Byers, age 30, of Rolesville, North Carolina
- 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

Worship Resources – You may obtain large print hymnals and hearing devices from any usher. Worship bags are available for children.

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.

Image on back cover: “Born Refugee” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity of A Sanctified Art.; www.sanctifiedart.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

Craig Checkel

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

On this edge of years, the crossroads between past and future, we come as who we have been and offer you who we might yet be. Take this offering of ourselves - a new promise to be your people here, holding a renewed vision of your reign here. Take this, take us, that we might be light and follow you anew as we journey across borders of time and find new years and new places to be your renewed people. Amen.

- Adapted from a prayer by Roddy Hamilton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Allegro Vivace

Giovanni Sammartini

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hope has come –

awakening us to new possibilities.

Peace has come –

inviting us to be agents of reconciliation.

Joy has come –

turning our hearts from fear to wonder.

Love has come –

transforming our lives, transforming our world.

We have come –

**amazed and humbled by God's grace,
to worship the newborn king!**

*HYMN No. #140

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you have come as the Light of the World. Yet, too often, we shroud your light with our indifference. There is much we must confess:

When we turn a blind eye to suffering, forgive us.

When we are complicit in systems that abuse or diminish, forgive us.

When we choose comfort over compassion, forgive us.

When we are silent in the face of injustice, forgive us.

When we neglect to offer grace and love, forgive us.

Gracious God, you entered into our broken world that we might learn to love you with heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Illumine the shadowed depths of our lives with your light – which the most persistent darkness cannot overcome – and open our hearts to receive your grace.

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

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Bob Stoddard

SCRIPTURE LESSON
Alex Sprague, Lay Reader

Matthew 2:13-23

New Testament, page 2

SERMON

"Flight"

Sudie Niesen Thompson

OFFERING

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?" (1 John 3:17)

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist

J. S. Bach

The old year now hath passed away,
We thank thee, O our God, today,
That Thou hast kept us through the year
When danger and distress were near.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*HYMN No. 508

"Come to the Table"

COME TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Eternal God...

LORD'S PRAYER (page 35 in our *Glory to God* hymnal, using "debts" and "debtors")

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*The Lord's Supper is open to **all** who trust in Christ.
When you approach a communion server, please take a piece of bread,
the symbol of Christ's love for you, and dip it in the cup, representing the new life in Christ.
If you are unable to come forward, please tell an usher so that you may be served.
Those sitting in the balcony will be served in their pews.
For those who have wheat allergies, we provide gluten-free rice crackers with the communion bread.*

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

**God of manger mild and shepherd's stall –
You have made the ordinary sacred and lifted up the lowly. We give thanks that you
meet us in simple gifts of bread and wine – common vessels of uncommon grace.
May this meal sustain us as we rise from this table and follow Christ into a
broken world. Give us courage to dwell with you among the flawed and forgotten,
the desperate and the despised, until all creation knows the fullness of your grace.
Amen.**

*HYMN NO. 154

“Jesus Entered Egypt”

KING'S WESTON

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Festival Voluntary

Flor Peeters

GOING FORTH

Following the service, please join in a time of fellowship and refreshments in Rodney Chapel.

*If you are visiting with us for the first time, we invite you to meet today's ambassador,
Robin Rosser at the back of the sanctuary. She will have a gift for you, and can share
information regarding our many ministries for children, youth and adults.*

CAN YOU COME OUT TO PLAY?

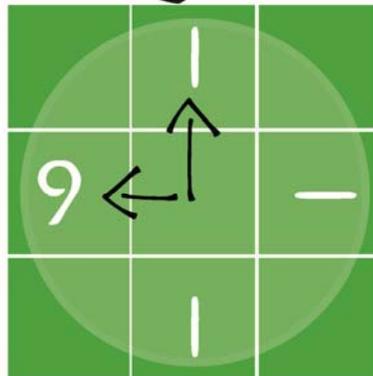
4th Annual 9-Square-A-Thon
Sunday, January 15, 2017
1:00 – 7:00 p.m. in Community Hall

Raising money for the Chad Miller Youth Mission Fund!

Want to play? For a minimum donation of \$5.00, you can join the fun anytime Sunday afternoon. Here's the schedule of 9-square fun:

- 1-2 p.m. Beginner intro/new player tutorial
- 2-4 p.m. Open play
- 4-5 p.m. Rule changes / football
- 5-6 p.m. Showdown and pizza dinner
- 6-7 p.m. 9-square in the dark

9-SQUARE



A-THON

Can't play but would like to support the cause? Here's how: Stop by the event on Sunday afternoon, or donate online by visiting www.wpc.org – click the "Donate Now" button and select the Chad Miller Youth Mission Fund to make your donation. Or, drop your donation in the offering plate on Sunday (be sure "Chad Miller Mission Fund" is in the memo line!).

The Chad Miller Youth Mission Fund helps support our mission and ministry with youth.



Ligle