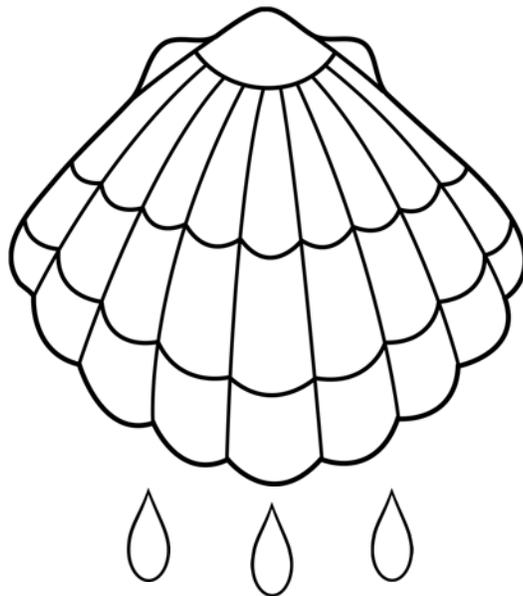




**Service of Worship
Baptism of the Lord
January 8, 2017
9:00 a.m.**



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.

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

Barry Cobb, Nancy Diver, Sue Frost, Hillary King, Sandy White, Lisa Stoddard

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 C**.
- ❖ **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 7 |

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

5:00 p.m.	180° Youth Dinner and Fellowship	Classroom 6/ Community Hall
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 celebration of Helen Kelley's 70 years of active membership at Westminster given by her daughter Susan Kelley Timpson.

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: Audrey Hatfield 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 Betty Kelley living at her daughter's home in Connecticut; and Bob Churchill, Lucille and Gerry Greth who are at home.

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:
Sergeant First Class Ryan A. Gloyer, age 34, of Greenville, Pennsylvania
Staff Sergeant James F. Moriarty, age 27, of Kerrville, Texas
Staff Sergeant Kevin J. McEnroe, age 30, of Tucson, Arizona
- 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.

You may 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

Sue Spilecki

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God of new beginnings, who brings light out of night's darkness and fresh green out of the hard winter earth, there is barren land between us as people and as nations this day, there are empty stretches of soul within us. Give us eyes to see new dawns of promise. Give us ears to hear fresh soundings of birth. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Praeludium in D minor

Vincent Lübeck

CALL TO WORSHIP

As Jesus stood in Jordan's muddy waters,
we stand in the muddy waters of our lives.
As Jesus submitted to John's baptism,
we submit our lives to God's transforming touch.
As Jesus trusted God's Spirit to fill him with wisdom,
we trust God's Spirit to illumine our minds.
As Jesus emerged from the Jordan to give his life to God,
we will leave worship with a renewed sense of God's presence in our lives.

*HYMN No. 96

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

WINCHESTER NEW

CALL TO CONFESSION

The image of God is at the core of our being, but we often forget our true nature.
Let us confess the ways we have surrendered to shallow ways of living.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we confess that we do not always live for you.
You have invited us into new life,
yet we have closed our eyes and ears to your invitation.
You have challenged us to step out of well-worn ruts,
yet we hesitate to venture onto a new path.
Enter our lives and renew our spirits,
so that we will muster the courage to make overdue changes in our lives.
We ask this in the name of Christ,
who brings us hope for new life. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

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.

ANTHEM

“Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come”
Westminster Choir

Allen Pote

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Arise, and shine like the sun; and all nations shall come, and all kings will be drawn to the brightness of your rising. The sun shall no longer be your light, nor the brightness of the moon by night. But the Lord shall be your everlasting light, your God will be your everlasting light.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:13-17

New Testament, page 3
Jerry Spilecki, Lay Liturgist

SERMON

“Jesus’ Baptism and Ours”

Greg Jones

*HYMN No. 484

“Out of Deep, Unordered Water”

RUSTINGTON

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

OPENING SENTENCES

REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO CHRIST

Do you accept Jesus Christ as your authority in life, and the one who leads us to abundant life?
I do.

Will you strive to be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? **I will.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that in baptism
the Spirit demonstrates and confirms God’s promise
to include us, and our children, in the divine covenant,
cleansing us from sin, and giving us newness of life,
as participants in Christ’s death and resurrection.
Baptism sets us in the invisible community of Christ’s people
and joins us to all other believers by a powerful bond.
In baptism, we give ourselves up in faith and repentance to become the Lord’s.
Baptism is a reminder that God loves us long before we can love God.
For both God’s grace and our response to it
are not tied to the moment of baptism,
but continue and deepen throughout life. *A Declaration of Faith***

REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

PRAYER

**Holy God,
we give you thanks for gathering us into the body of Christ.
Together, may we live in your Spirit,
and so love one another,
that we may have the mind of Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom we give honor and glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

“The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”

Donald Busarow

Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among your seed, your chosen host.
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,
I have your Spirit now within.

My loving Father, here you take me
Henceforth to be your child and heir;
My faithful Savior, here you make me
The fruit of all your sorrows share;
O Holy Spirit, you comfort me
Though threat’ning clouds around I see.

O faithful God, you never fail me;
Your cov’nant surely will abide.
Let not eternal death assail me
Should I transgress it on my side!
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.

All that I am and love most dearly,
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Oh, let me make my vows sincerely,
And help me your own child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
Serve any will but yours alone.

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: *REGENT SQUARE*

**Laud and honor to the Father,
laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory
while unending ages run!**

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

*HYMN No. 485

“We Know That Christ is Raised”

ENGELBERG

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Flute Tune

Thomas Arne

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.*



Adult Education Classes This Morning

Write to Heal: A Spiritual Practice

Today, January 15th and 22nd

Classroom 5

Facilitator: Joan Leof

Joan Leof is the creator of the weekly journaling group, Write to Heal, that meets at Westminster on Thursday afternoons. For three Sundays, Joan is offering free introductions to both the practice of journaling and to the value of a journaling group. So if you are curious and want to know more, please join Joan this Sunday at 10:TEN, in classroom 5. Each participant will receive a packet of very helpful handouts along with all the information you need to help you decide if a journaling group is right for you.

America's Four Gods: What We Say about God –and What That Says about Us.

Today

Classroom 6

Facilitator: Chip Pfleegor

The book, America's Four Gods, draws on a comprehensive survey of America's religious beliefs and identifies four distinct views of God. The authors argue that many of America's most intractable social and political divisions emerge from convictions that are deeply held but rarely talked about. That is...how we view God determines how we view everything else. WPC member, Chip Pfleegor, will summarize the findings detailed in the book and facilitate an interesting discussion about the link between our God image and our worldview.

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.

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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

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Susan Moseley, Josh Cox, Merideth Hite Estevez, Mike Gnade

SUPPORT STAFF

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Nicole Hughes, Director of Communication and Database Management
Jerry Hunter, Financial Assistant
Suzie Hurlock, Administrative Assistant
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Sextons: Roger W. Atkins, Terrence Clarke, Robert King, Joan Truitt

SESSION

Jen Barrington, Sally Buttner, Chad Chandler, Jeanne Checkel, Art Colbourn, Joe Daley, Rich Diver, Mike Enderle, Mary Field, Mike Gnade, Cathy Higgins, Carol Hogue, Barbara Jobe, Dick Jolly, Kali Kniel-Tolbert, Jon McPheeters, Mark Mosher, Roland Pamm, Roger Reinicker, Craig Stabler, Barbara Stratton, Mary Vane, Susan Williamson, and Helen Zumsteg

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PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

Guatemala – Leslie Vogel (CEDEPCA), Sandi and Brian Thompson-Royer, Rosario Diaz
Congo – PCUSA Mission Co-workers Bob and Kristi Rice, John and Gwenda Fletcher, Jeff and Kristi Boyd, Larry and Inga Sthreshley, Ruth Brown, Cecilé de Sweemer, MD, and Members of the Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – Mission Co-workers the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker
Peace Drums Steel Band – Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine