



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship **24th Sunday after Pentecost** **November 19, 2017** **9:00 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, Faith Formation through Music
and Arts, Teaching Artist in Residence,
Kevin Flaherty, Assistant Director, Children's Music
Soloist/Section Leaders: Sharon Babcock, Elizabeth Holmes
Christian Sanders, 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.

This Morning at Westminster

8:30 – 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

Liz Bacon, Beatty Chadwick, Tammy Daley, Nancy Diver, Laura Holmes, Sandy White

8:45 – 11:15 a.m. **Nursery for babies and toddlers**

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. **Worship in the Sanctuary**

Children are always welcome in worship. We also provide additional opportunities for children to grow in faith.

- ❖ **Godly Care** – Children ages 2 through 4 begin in worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they walk with a parent to the **Preschool Suite** where they are greeted by the morning coordinator and escorted into **Classroom A**. The children experience simple worship rituals and learn key stories in the Bible. They respond through crafts, songs and prayers.
- ❖ **Godly Play 1** – Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade begin worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they 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 begin worship with their families. Following the Time with Our Children, they meet their leaders in the pavilion and walk together to the Youth Music Room

10:10 a.m.

Education for All Ages

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| ➤ Sunday School for Preschoolers | Preschool Suite D |
| ➤ Joyful Noise Choir Program for K – 2 | Youth Music Room |
| ➤ Godly Play 2 for Grades 3 – 5 | Classroom 4 |
| ➤ Middle Schoolers for Grades 6 – 8 | Classroom 8 |
| ➤ Senior High for Grades 9 – 12 | Classroom 7 |
| ➤ Sunday Seminars | See page 7 |

10:10 a.m.

Storyteller’s Rehearsal

Sanctuary

11:15 a.m.

Living Mosaics worship in Rodney Chapel. Children are always welcome.

12:00 p.m.

Fellowship Time

Meeting Room

Also Today

11:15 a.m.

Flying Solo brunch and Festival of Trees

Catherine Rooney’s, Cokesbury

5:00 p.m.

180° Dinner and Fellowship

Classroom 6, Community Hall

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 Charma Welch and Martin Gravely by Barbara Gravely Welch and Chuck Welch.

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 date is December 31.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Cassandra Piovoso
- ❖ **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 Cornelia Cates and Cappy Hanke both at Stonegates, and Jim Coker at Cokesbury.
- ❖ **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:
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Lee M. Smith, age 35, from Arlington, Texas
Sergeant 1st Class Hughton Brown, age 43, from Brooklyn, New York
- Those suffering from Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.
- Thank you for your prayers for Brian Gorman, grandson of Art and Barbara Gorman, who has returned to the United States.

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

Sue Spilecki

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*God of all blessings and source of all life, we thank you for setting us in communities:
for families who nurture our becoming,
for friends who love us by choice,
for companions at work who share our burdens and daily tasks,
for strangers who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding,
for children who lighten our moments with delight.
For these, and all blessings, we give you thanks, loving God, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

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

Prelude-Improvisation

Sumner Salter

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are those who trust in God
and hunger to find meaning in their lives.

**We yearn to deepen our faith in God
and to discover God's guidance.**

Blessed are those who serve God with joy,
touching the lives of others with a spirit of hope.

**We intend to give our best to God,
bearing fruit in all we say and do.**

*HYMN NO. 4

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Gracious God, we give thanks for our community of faith
where you assure us of your immeasurable love for us
and provide opportunities to share your love with others.
Through words of Scripture and your Spirit whispering in our souls,
may we discover the work that is ours to do,
and summon the courage to carry it out.
Embolden us to resist evil, injustice, and violence;
inspire us to speak the truth, to show respect, and to live generously;
and energize us to spread joy, create beauty and foster hope.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

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

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Children through Grade 6 may leave for Godly Care, Godly Play 1, and Sing-to-Praise Choir, or they may remain in worship.

ANTHEM

“How Firm a Foundation”
(Text: Hymn #463)

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 21:15-19

New Testament, page 101
John Gavenonis, Lay Reader

SERMON

“Serving the World, Finding Our Soul”

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 644

“Give Thanks, O Christian People” *ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN*

OFFERING

“Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.” – Albert Camus

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Hear My Prayer”

Moses Hogan

O Lord, please hear my prayer, In the morning; when I rise. It's Your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. Keep me safe within Your arms. When my work on earth is done, And You come to take me home. Just to know I'm bound for glory. And to hear You say well done. Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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. 643

“Now Thank We All Our God”

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

Paul Sjolund

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with us, and He will dwell in us, and we shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with us, and be our God!

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, Marlys Kerr, at the back of the center aisle following the service. She is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.

SERMON SERIES: WHY CHURCH?

The Golden Age of the church has passed. Or has it? The church will never regain its place of importance. Or will it? The Christian Church in the West has been on a downward slide for decades. Belief in God remains high among Americans, but church membership is on the decline. Is this the long, slow death of Christianity, or is it the long, slow death of the church as we know it today? Are we living in the final days of the church or could this be the beginning of the reformation of the church?

On seven Sundays this fall, Dr. Jones will lay out the reasons that the church is absolutely crucial to the state of the world.

October 8 The Church Plays a Critical
 Role in Society

October 15 Where Community is Built

November 5 Can the Church Revive Our Sense
 of Enchantment with the World?

November 12 Shaping Character

November 19 Serving the World, Finding
 Our Soul

December 3 A Prophetic Voice

December 10 Where We Find Hope

Previous sermons are available on the literature table and on the church website.

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 Community Hall after the service.

Ask someone to show you the way!



Sunday Seminars

Making Space for the Holy

Classroom 3

Facilitator: Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

How do you help your little ones prepare to welcome the Christ child? How do you help children learn the story at the heart of Christmas? With Advent and Christmas just around the corner, join Sudie to discuss ways families with young or elementary-aged children can observe these special seasons at home.

Reflections on A Christmas Carol

Today, November 26 and December 10 and 17

Classroom 6

Presenter: Bob Cox

Advent is a time to celebrate the coming of Christ into our lives. Join Bob Cox and explore Charles Dickens' "little ghost story" of Ebenezer Scrooge's salvation. Bob will weave his extensive collection of adaptations of *A Christmas Carol* together to highlight our journey from sin to redemption.

Christmas Boxes Project Is Under Way!

Every year, Westminster fills over 125 boxes at Christmas with food and gifts for those in need in our community. Here's how you can help:

- Take one or more "Wish Stars" from a Christmas tree in the Pavilion or near Rodney Chapel. **Sign the log book by the tree for each star you take!**
- Buy and wrap the gifts with the Wish Stars taped to the outside of the package. Place them in one of the festively wrapped collection bins **by Sunday, December 10.**
- Donate any of the following food items: boxed cereal and stuffing mix, and canned sweet potatoes, corn, green beans, and cranberry sauce. Bring the food donations to church **by Sunday, December 10** and place them in one of the collection bins.

More detailed information and additional ways to help can be found in the October/November 2017 issue of *The Westminster Chimes* and the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter. There will also be an "Answer Elf" at each tree on Sunday mornings to answer questions.



"Love Gives" Event

**Next Sunday, November 26
10:10 a.m. in Community Hall**

Join everyone in Community Hall next Sunday as we celebrate the spirit of love and generosity that resounds throughout our congregation! We will share fun and fellowship, filled with gratitude for our amazing community of faith. Celebrating with music, images, special refreshments and more, we will rejoice that our faithful generosity – in spirit and in action – transforms so many lives. See you there!