



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship First Sunday of Advent November 27, 2016 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL STAFF:

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

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

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

Carol Neff, Teisha Fooks, Sue Frost, Laura Holmes, Cathy Lang, Judy Stoffer

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 A**.
- ❖ **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. **“Love Gives” Advent Celebration** Community Hall

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



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 honor of Jerry and Barbara Fedeler in celebration of their 50th Wedding anniversary given by Rick and Nancy Marsh.

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:** Natalie Freeman, Frederick Iobst and Devon Riggs.
- ❖ **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 Hans Krahmer and Helen Mahaffy, both at Stonegates, and Dottie Heldt at Cokesbury.

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 often seems far away, and we may neglect to realize that Americans, as well as Afghans 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
 - Jeremy Lushnat, nephew of Arch and Melody Layman
 - Sam Pittman, nephew of Roland and Mary Lu Pamm
- 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 ww.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

*Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming.
We wait filled with hope,
knowing your light will shine in the darkness.
We wait anticipating your peace,
believing that one day it will fill our world.
We wait embracing your love;
may we reach out to share it with our neighbors.
We wait with joy,
bubbling up in expectation of your birth.
Lord we wait.
Come soon and fill us with your life.
~ Christine Sine*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL PRELUDE

“Salvation Is Created”
Westminster Choir

Pavel Tschesnokoff

Salvation is created in midst of the earth, O our God. Alleluia.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Rick, Laura, Lily and Drew Holmes

The church announces the coming of Christ because it speaks to a deep truth –

Christ is coming.

Christ is always coming;

Christ is always entering a wounded heart and a troubled world.

We light the first candle, the candle of hope,

as we express our longing for healing, for justice, and for the well-being of all creation.

*RESPONSE NO. 91 *Come, Come Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel.*

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

ADVENT PRAYER

**Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,
we open ourselves to the healing light of Christ.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed,
and reveal your creative power of hope,
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

*HYMN NO. 104

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

Even when our lips are silent, the Spirit prays for us with sighs too deep for words.
The Lord searches us and knows our hearts.
In hope, we offer ourselves to the one who makes all things new.
Spirit, open our hearts.

CHORAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

“Turn Thy Face from My Sins”

Arthur Sullivan

Turn Thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds. Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God restores to us the joy of our salvation.
For the Lord is gracious and full of love.
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel –
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Children through Grade 2 may leave for Godly Care or Godly Play 1, or they may remain in worship.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

Old Testament, page 591
Rick Suarez, Lay Reader

SERMON

“Walk in the Light”

Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN NO. 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
VERSES 1, 6 & 7

VENI EMMANUEL

OFFERING

With a freewill-offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.” (Psalm 54:6)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Advent Message

Martin How

Come Lord Jesus, O come quickly. The voice of Him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, Make straight in the dessert a highway for our God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER (page 35 in our *Glory to God* hymnal)

*HYMN NO. 373

“O Day of Peace”

JERUSALEM

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

African-American Spiritual

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, Ellie Furry, following the service. She is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.

“LOVE GIVES” ADVENT CELEBRATION

TODAY

10:10 a.m. in Community Hall

Join Westminster members and friends as we gather in Community hall this morning to welcome the Advent season. You are invited to create cards that will accompany our Christmas Boxes, to share special food and fellowship, to prepare emotionally and spiritually for the mystery of Christmas, and to celebrate the many ways that our love gives renewal and hope – to one another and to the thousands of people whose lives are transformed by our faithful generosity. See you there!



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 11.**
- Donate any of the following food items: boxed cereal and stuffing mix, and canned sweet potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, and fruit. Bring the food donations to church **by Sunday, December 11** and place them in one of the collection bins.

More detailed information and additional ways to help can be found in the December 2016 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.



IT'S THE MOST ~~WONDERFUL~~ *hectic*

TIME OF THE YEAR!

Take a break from the hectic pace of the Christmas season and join us for a time of prayer and reflection, silence and song, inspired by the worship of the Taizé Community in France. All are welcome!



WEDNESDAY EVENING /
TAIZÉ

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Wednesdays
November 30, December 7, 14 and 21
6:30 p.m.



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