



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2019 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL STAFF

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

MUSIC STAFF

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
Alexis Droke, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Soloist/Section Leaders: Hye Eun Choi, Sharon Babcock,
Jason Berger, Brenton Mattox

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chesna Hinkley

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES STAFF

Teisha Fooks, Director of Preschool Ministries
Nursery: Beatrice Taylor, Kristen Wolanski

YOUTH LEADERS

Chesna Hinkley, Tommy Neilson
Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, Emily Knepper, Molly McPheeters

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.

**A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

1502 West 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org

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

Jeff Argus, Roger Atkins, Jenn Blackford, Kyle Carrick, Ron Carrick, Barry Cobb,
Teisha Fooks, Marsha Mah, Hugh Underhill

8:45 – 12:15 p.m. **Nursery Care** in Preschool Suite D

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. **Worship**

Children are always welcome in worship. If they prefer, they can follow teachers to classes after the TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN. Please use the identification wristband or stickers in your pew.

- ❖ Ages 2 – 4: **Godly Care**, in *Preschool Suite C*, uses the *Deep Blue* curriculum.
- ❖ K – 2nd grade: **Godly Play**, in the *Ruth Christie Room*, is a place of worship where children learn Bible stories using Montessori-style methods. *Pick up in Preschool Suite*.
- ❖ 3rd – 6th grade: **Sing-to-Praise Choir**, in the *Youth Music Room*, uses the *Growing in Grace* curriculum to learn about the Bible, hymns, and music theory. Sing-to-Praise occasionally leads in worship.

10:10 a.m. **Education for All Ages**

- Ages 2 – 4: **Childcare** in *Preschool Suite C*.
- K – 2nd grade: **Joyful Noise Choir**, in the *Youth Music Room*, uses the *Growing in Grace* curriculum to learn about the Bible, hymns, and music theory. Joyful Noise occasionally leads in worship.
- 3rd – 6th grade: **Creation Station**, in *Classroom 4*, is learning about Ruth today.
- 7th – 12th grade: **Agora**, in *Classroom 7*, meets the first Sunday of every month to discuss a topic related to our walk of faith. Today we discuss “Fully God, Fully Human.”
- **Educational Offering for Adults** see page 7

11:15 a.m. **Living Mosaics Worship** Rodney Chapel

12:00 p.m. **Fellowship Time** Meeting Room

Later Today

11:30 a.m.	Flying Solo Brunch	Columbus Inn
1:00 p.m.	Homebound Communion	Members’ Homes
6:00 p.m.	Clean But Not Straight – NA	Club Room
8:00 p.m.	AA	Club Room

The mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace by working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.



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 Ross Micheals and Norman Naftzger by the Blackford family.

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:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Kathleen Lowther, Ronald Shelly and Leucia Venable.
- ❖ **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 Ann Jacobs, Elinor Ranck and Dr. Les Whitney at Maris Grove.
- ❖ **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 seem 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 these soldiers from the U.S. who died recently:
 - Chief Warrant Office 2 David Knadle, age 33, from Tarrant, Texas
 - Chief Warrant Officer Kirk Fuchigami, Jr, age 25, from Keaau, Hawaii
- those suffering from Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

WORSHIP NOTES

Easy-to-use assisted listening devices may be found in the back of the sanctuary and the side entrance off the main hallway.

Worship Resources – You can obtain large print hymnals. 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.



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!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

TOWER CHIME

Craig Checkel

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation of Christ coming into our lives. During the four weeks prior to Christmas, we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Christ – a time to remember the event that occurred 2,000 years ago changing history forever, and a time to welcome Christ anew into our lives. To mark the weeks, we light candles and honor the holy themes of the season.

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

CHORAL PRELUDE

“Salvation is Created”

Pavel Tschesnokov

CALL TO WORSHIP

Can you imagine?

The wolf lives with the lamb; the leopard rests with the goat.

Can you imagine?

Knowledge of the Lord fills the land; righteousness reigns o’er all the earth.

The Lord’s light shines on a weary world — illuminating possibility, beckoning us to hope.

With peace in our hearts, let us worship God!

(Inspired by Isaiah 11:1-10)

*HYMN No. 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

Vs. 1: Choir

Vs. 2, 6, & 7: All

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Members of the Westminster Staff: Paul Fleckenstein, Suzie Hurlock, and Cathy Lang

One day, creation will be at peace.

**Predator and prey will curl up together,
and hunter and hunted will feed side-by-side.**

Children will play

without worries about weapons that wound the body,
or fear of words that scar the soul.

**On that day, no one shall harm creatures or creation,
for all things will dwell in harmony.**

This is what God’s reign of peace looks like.

It is a peace more enveloping than a world wrapped in snow,
more tranquil than a home that has put discord to rest,
more enduring than the hard-won accord that drapes a war zone in silence.

**It is the peace of a world made right,
as justice rolls down like waters.**

This is the peace God envisions,

the peace God is bringing to birth.

Today we light the first candle

as we wait in wonder for the Child of Peace.

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

ADVENT PRAYER

**Emmanuel —
When you dwell among us,
steadfast love and faithfulness meet,
and justice and peace kiss each other.
As we wait for the Prince of Peace,
fill us with wisdom and understanding,
that we might follow paths that lead to peace
and walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sudie Niesen Thompson

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jonah, selected verses

SERMON

“Lean into God’s Dream”

Greg Jones

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“How Lovely Are the Messengers”

Felix Mendelssohn

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace! To all the nations is gone
forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

As much as we are loved by God,
so we are to love one another.
Come to this table of grace with your hearts open wide.
We seek to be nourished by the One who loves us.

*HYMN NO. 378

“We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

MERLE’S TUNE

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.
For those who have wheat allergies, we provide gluten-free rice crackers with the communion bread.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION Nun komm der Heiden Heiland J. S. Bach
(Savior of the Nations, Come)

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

*HYMN NO. 761 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” BEECHER

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Eleanor Daley

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



Today's Educational Offerings for Adults

The Art of the Christmas Carol

Today through December 22

Classroom 3

Presenter: Bob Cox

This class will be a journey through the many forms of artistic expressions used to share the story, characters, and themes of *A Christmas Carol*. Today we explore the writing and publication of *A Christmas Carol* and its many incarnations.

Prophetic Spirituality 2019 Fall Sermon Series

Do the Scriptures reveal wisdom for not merely *surviving* life in the 21st century, but for sculpting a better world? It is essential for people of faith to spend time alone with God in prayer, to reflect on Scripture, and to attempt to discern the whispers of God deep in our soul. However, our interior life is immature if it does not propel us to work for the common good. We can resist the moral deterioration of today and throw ourselves into nudging the world toward God's vision by committing ourselves to following the path of Jesus and the prophets.

As followers of Jesus, we focus the bulk of our attention on his teachings and ministry. However, we stunt our faith if we have scant knowledge of the prophets who came before him, because Jesus stands on the shoulders of the Jewish prophets.

This fall, Dr. Jones is preaching a sermon series entitled "Prophetic Spirituality." To say that our faith is prophetic is to say that we are actively engaged in resisting evil, righting wrongs, and spreading love. To say that our faith is spiritual is to say that it is grounded in worship, prayer, and reflecting on God's message. Prophetic Spirituality intertwines interior work with outward action so that we can go deeper with God and live the life God calls us to live.

September 8	Introduction to Series	"Prophetic Spirituality"
September 15	Moses	"Let My People Go"
September 22	Amos	"Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters"
October 13	Jeremiah	"This is the Temple of the Lord – If You Walk Justly with One Another"
October 20	Hosea	"Following Other Gods"
November 10	Isaiah	"Injustice Corrupts Worship"
November 17	Micah	"Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly"
December 1	Jonah	"Lean into God's Dream"

I'M DREAMING OF A
~~WHITE~~ *calm* CHRISTMAS

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

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

December 4, 11, and 18, 2019
6:30 p.m.



Christmas Boxes Project is Wrapping Up!

Every year, Westminster fills more than 120 boxes at Christmas with food and gifts for families in need in our community. You can be a part of this joyful project.

- There are still “Wish Stars” on the Christmas tree! Please take one or more, and **sign the log book 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 8.**
- Donate boxed healthy cereal and stuffing mix; and canned fruit and cranberry sauce (no more green beans, sweet potatoes or corn, please). Bring your donations to church **by Sunday, December 8** and place them in a collection bin.
- Help wrap and sort **gifts** in Grace Hall beginning at 10:10 a.m. on **Sunday, December 8.**
- Plan to attend the Packing Party and Potluck Dinner on **Friday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m.** All ages!

Find more detailed information and additional ways to help in the December 2019 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.



Christmas CAROLING

Sunday, December 15
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Gather in Community Hall

All ages and voices are welcome!

Share the joy of Christmas by caroling to those in our faith community who can no longer attend church. Children especially welcome! Come to Community Hall immediately after the first worship service concludes. We will QUICKLY divide into five Christmas Caroling teams to go to five retirement communities and healthcare centers in our area. Grab a muffin and/or a beverage and stand in the area designated with the name of the place where you would like to go caroling. For those who attend the 11:15 a.m. *Living Mosaics* service, there will be a team going to Ingleside on Franklin Street (three blocks from the church) starting at 10:30 a.m. and concluding by 11:00 a.m. in time for you to return to church for that service. All other teams finish at 12:00 noon. Comfortable shoes encouraged.



Music at Westminster

presents

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION 2019

Sunday, December 15
4:00 p.m.

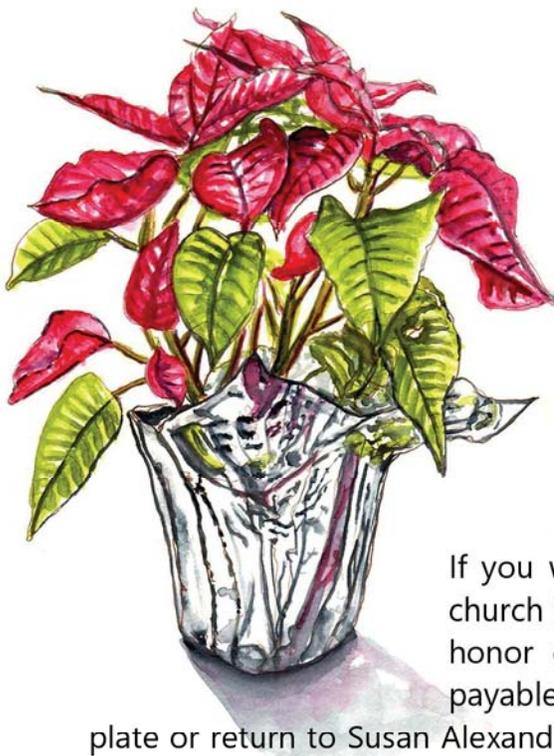
The Westminster Choir
with
Organ, Brass, and Percussion
Paul Fleckenstein, organist and conductor

and special guests:
The Wilmington Handbell Ensemble
Kerry Dietz, director

Featured work:
Holy Light, by Robert Hobby
Festive carols for the Advent and Christmas season
Readings by Susan Palo Cherwien

FREE ADMISSION | OFFERING RECEIVED





2019 Christmas POINSETTIAS

If you wish to make a contribution toward the decoration of the church for the Christmas season, you may do so in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. Please complete this form, make checks payable to *Westminster Presbyterian Church*, and place in the offering plate or return to Susan Alexander at the front desk by **Monday, December 9**. For any form received *after* that date, the names will be listed in the December 29th bulletin.

DONATION AMOUNT

\$20 \$40 \$60 \$80 \$100 Other \$ _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

❖ In Memory Of: (FOR THE DECEASED)

Deceased Person's Name

❖ In Honor Of: (FOR THE LIVING)

Living Person's Name

❖ Given By:

Donor's Name and Telephone Number

If you wish to take a poinsettia plant home with you, you may do so following the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Plants remaining after that service will be delivered to our homebound members. If you can help with delivery, please contact Jill Getty at jgetty@wpc.org by Wednesday, December 11, 2019.



CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER 2019

Please join us for the many ways we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS BOXES DINNER AND PACKING PARTY

Friday, December 13, 6:00 p.m.

Share holiday joy with neighbors in need by packing boxes with food and gifts and enjoying a dinner with fellow members and friends. All ages welcome!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 15, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Share the joy of Christmas by caroling to those in our faith community who can no longer attend church. Come to Community Hall immediately after the first worship service concludes. Quickly grab a muffin and/or a beverage and stand in the area designated with the name of the place where you would like to go caroling. Children especially welcome!

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 15, 4:00 p.m.

Experience the joy of the season through glorious music as choir, organ, brass, percussion, and handbells join together in fresh arrangements of carols for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

We will have our usual two worship services at **9:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24

Services of Story and Song – 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

These informal, lively services trumpet the joy of Jesus' birth! Both services include stories of the birth of Jesus and singing Christmas carols. 4:00 p.m. spotlights a pageant by our young children. 5:30 p.m. features Westminster Storytellers and our children's choirs. *Child care for infants and toddlers is available in the Preschool Suite for the 4:00 and 5:30 services.*

Candlelight Communion Services – 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Traditional candlelight services with communion (open to all), sermon by Dr. Jones, and music of the Westminster Choir. **Prelude concert at 7:30 p.m.** features music for violin, harp, and organ.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

There will be ONE worship service at **10:00 a.m.** (no Christian education classes). **Celebrate with Paul Fleckenstein on his last Sunday** as Organist/Director of Music at Westminster, and gather in Community Hall following the service to offer him our farewell blessings.