



# Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

**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.



Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Matthew 25 Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

1502 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org)

We hope you will stay connected with our community of faith during this season of social distancing by subscribing to the *Westminster Weekly Word* e-newsletter through the homepage of our website ([www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org)), liking us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware](https://www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware)), or following us on Instagram ([www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware](https://www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware)).

## Today at Westminster

**8:45 – 10:00 a.m**      **Collecting food** for Hanover Food Pantry and Emmanuel Dining Room – parking lot

**9:00 – 9:45 a.m.**      **Worship**  
Anyone over the age of five is required to wear a mask and children must remain with their parents.

**6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**      **180 Youth** on Zoom

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**      **Single, Covid and the Holidays...**How to Survive and Thrive on Zoom (please see p. 6)

- **Bible Box** for children ages 2 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade is available today on YouTube (please see p. 6)
- **More Educational Offerings for Adults** – please see page 6 for information.

**The rosebuds on the chancel this morning are in celebration of the birth** of Miles Tabor McPheeters and Lucille James McPheeters, born November 28, children of Drew and Katherine McPheeters, and grandchildren of Jon and Susan McPheeters.

**The sanctuary flowers** are given in loving memory of members of the Miersch and Lunardi families from Elaine Lunardi.

**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](mailto:lwatson@ycst.com). Dates available are January 3, 17 and 31.

**Westminster's Prayer Team** prays for the needs of our community of faith. You may submit a prayer request by sending an email to [wpcprayerlist@gmail.com](mailto:wpcprayerlist@gmail.com).

**You can make a contribution** to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org) and click the "Donate Now" button or scan the QR code on your smart phone.



**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.



**Westminster is a Matthew 25 Congregation** that strives to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle structural racism, and build congregational vitality. The gospel calls us to actively engage in the world so that our faith comes alive.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020

TOWER CHIME

Susan Spilecki

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

J.S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

David Robertson

Light one candle for peace,  
because the world is broken and the wait is long, but we refuse to be frozen by fear.

Peace comes in fits and starts –  
a deep breath,  
a courageous truth,  
a humble heart.

“Prepare the way,” she whispers,  
“for the Lord comes to make the broken whole.”  
So we light one candle, because it only takes one:  
Christ with us.

*The candle is lit.*

Peace is elusive, but we must never stop pursuing it.  
**With peace in our hearts, let us worship God.**

HYMN NO. 88

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
Vs. 1 & 7

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.	O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace, we marvel at your abundant love for us and for creating us in your image.  
With love at our core, you urge us to share our love with others,  
spurring healing, happiness, and hope.  
Yet we do not always put forward our finest self.  
We can be too judgmental and too self-focused.  
Thank you for forgiving us when we fall short of our intentions  
and for new opportunities to make better choices.  
May we fully embrace the life you would have us live:  
sowing compassion, striving for justice, and seeking peace.  
May it be so.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.** Psalm 103:8

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN [click here](#) to watch on Westminster's YouTube channel.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1-8

ANTHEM

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*

Michael Larkin

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a voice from the ways untrod:  
 Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!  
 Every valley shall be exalted, every mountain and hill made low;  
 Make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!  
 O Zion, that brings good tidings get thee up to the heights and sing!  
 Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.  
 Like the flow'rs of the field they perish, the work of all decay,  
 The pow'r and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away;  
 But the word of the Lord endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong;  
 He stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong.  
 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and fold the lambs to his breast;  
 In pastures of peace he'll lead them, and give the weary rest.

SERMON

“A More Promising Direction”

Greg Jones

HYMN NO. 96

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*  
 VS. 1 & 4

WINCHESTER NEW

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!	Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more. O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sudie Niesen Thompson

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN NO. 106

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*  
 Vs. 1 & 3

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.	Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace, and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Toccata on VENI EMMANUEL*

F. Anthony Thurman

*At the conclusion of the Postlude, please exit the sanctuary, row by row, beginning with the last pew to the front pew. Those sitting in the side transepts exit from the front pew to the back pew down the center aisle to the narthex. **Please wait until an usher directs you to leave.** Upon exiting the sanctuary, please leave the building. You may want to have a conversation with others you have missed during the lockdown. We ask that you meet them outside, maintaining the required six-foot social distancing, while continuing to wear your mask.*

GOING FORTH: OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES TO GOD

*With gratitude for the grace we have received, we go forth from worship to offer our energy, our hands, and part of our income in service to God. One way we respond to Christ's call is by giving our financial gifts to further God's mission in the world. You may mail a check to the church or make an online offering to support the many ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church by clicking "Donate Now" on the homepage of our website ([www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org)).*

## PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones  
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson  
Director of Music/Organist: Dr. F. Anthony Thurman  
Choristers: Hye Eun Choi, soprano; Sharon Babcock, mezzo soprano  
Jason Berger, tenor; Brenton Mattox, bass  
Videographers: Chip Pfleeger, Roger Reinicker, Baden Saathoff, Aaron Wemhoff and Sophia Wolff  
Tower Chime: Susan Spilecki

## SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Advent Candle liturgy is adapted from “One Candle: An Advent Liturgy for 2020” by the Rev. Karen Ware Jackson (used with permission). The resources for children attached at the end of the bulletin are provided by Illustrated Ministry. Please print them to participate in this service or for family devotions throughout the week.

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# EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

You can find virtual Christian education and small group opportunities on the homepage of the Westminster website ([www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org)) and check out other Education Offerings for Adults on [YouTube](#).

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## **Bible Boxes for Children (Age 2 – Grade 4)**

Westminster's virtual Sunday school programming continues with Bible Box, a [YouTube series](#) that combines Bible stories, crafts, and music. Materials for the crafts are provided for free. New content uploaded every Sunday. The program runs through December 20. If you have questions about the Bible Box program or would like to sign up to participate in the spring of 2021, please email Alexis Droke at [alexisdroke@wpc.org](mailto:alexisdroke@wpc.org).

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## **180 Youth on Zoom!**

### **TONIGHT (December 6), 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**

We'll be playing games and breaking out into small groups for discussion time. See you there! For more information about 180, please contact Tommy Neilson at [tommyjneilson@gmail.com](mailto:tommyjneilson@gmail.com).

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## **Single, COVID-19, and the Holidays...How to Survive and Thrive**

### **TONIGHT (December 6), 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Zoom** (Zoom Meeting ID: 999 4853 1730)

Join an informal discussion group as we share our plans, hopes, fears and challenges about the approaching holidays during these challenging times. If possible, let Margo Reign ([margoreign@gmail.com](mailto:margoreign@gmail.com)) know you will be attending so you can receive some of the discussion questions ahead of time. Last minute drop-ins are welcome.

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## **Online Bible Studies**

### **Wednesday afternoons, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. on Zoom** (Midweek Manna Bible Study)

<https://zoom.us/j/97700423780?pwd=b1dGL2c4NXRjMIRBOWJWWElsTTg3dz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 977 0042 3780 | Passcode: 547264

In Advent, the Midweek Manna Bible Study, facilitated by the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, will turn to the Gospels and read different accounts of Jesus' birth. We will have a full reading of the Gospel of Matthew in the new year. New faces always welcome!

### **Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88941171153?pwd=MmxuZWVrREhZSVExS3lveXQvTUhaQT09>

Facilitated by Randy Williamson and Mary Anne Peters. Our Bible study continues and new faces are always welcome.

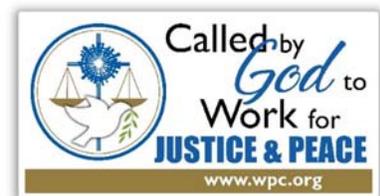
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## **WPC Peace & Justice Online Education Events**

### **Thresholds to New Beginnings: Decision-Making Skills for Successful Re-Entry**

**Thursday, December 10, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86027521655>

A program titled "Thresholds" is currently implemented by several prisons in the eastern U.S., including both Chester and Delaware Counties nearby. The program goal is to reduce recidivism by teaching prison inmates to make proactive rather than reactive decisions in their lives. The founder of the program is a PhD psychiatrist who was once incarcerated and felt those whom he'd met as fellow inmates tended to live their lives making reactive decisions. Westminster member Gary Knox, who will lead the discussion, has been an active volunteer in teaching Thresholds at Chester County Prison for over 20 years. Use the Zoom link above, or go to [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join), enter Meeting ID **860 2752 1655** and click "Join."



# Christmas Boxes Are Under Way!

Every year, Westminster fills boxes at Christmas for families in need in our community. Due to the pandemic, our Christmas Box Project has been reimagined, and we can still bring holiday cheer to 75 families. Be a part of this joyful project!

- **Check and Online Donations Can be Made Now through Sunday, December 13**

Instead of collecting non-perishable foods and taking stars from the “Star Trees,” we are accepting check and online donations so that we can purchase ShopRite food gift cards for each family, a \$20 Walmart gift card for each child 18 and under, and seasonal art supplies for the youngest children to feel the joy of having a gift to open. Please write and mail checks to *Westminster Presbyterian Church* with “Christmas Box Project” on the memo line or visit [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org), click the “Donate Now” button at the top of the page, and select “Christmas Boxes Project” from the list of options.

- **Bake Cookies for the Christmas Boxes and Drop Off on December 13**

If you would like to bake cookies in your home, please email Cookie Elves Polly and Jim Carter ([pylecarter@comcast.net](mailto:pylecarter@comcast.net)) and they'll put you on the Cookie Angels list. Pack each dozen in quart size zip-lock baggies for our recipient families and follow the drop-off instructions below.

- **Make Cards for the Christmas Boxes and Drop Off on December 13**

Instead of making cards together on Zoom as described in the October/November *Chimes*, card-making kits were handed out at WPC's Fall Festival for children to make at home for our Christmas Box recipients. Drop-off instructions below.

- **Drop Off for Cookies and Cards**

Please bring your homemade cookies and cards to the church parking lot on **Sunday, December 13, between 8:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** For COVID safety, place your homemade cards and cookies in the trunk of your car. When you see the Elf, just pull up and pop open your trunk. The Collection Elf will unload your donation from your open trunk. Please stay safe inside your car.

Check the *Westminster Weekly Word* e-newsletter each week for any unanticipated updates and additional information. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ!



# Join Us for In-person Worship in Our Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 13, 9:00 a.m.**



We have reopened our sanctuary on Sunday mornings for one worship service at 9:00 a.m. Attendance is limited and an online reservation (one per family) is required. When we reach the maximum number of reservations we can host, the reservations will close. We have established a number of guidelines for your safety, which include social distancing, wearing a facial mask/covering, and the use of no-touch sanitizing stations. [Click here](#) to read all of the guidelines. The liturgy will be emailed to you after you make your online reservation.

Congregants are encouraged to print the liturgy from home and bring it to the service or pull it up on your mobile device; a limited number of printed copies will be available. *The decision to attend in-person worship rests with each individual.* A virtual option will continue to be available on our website at [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org).

**To make your online reservation for December 13 worship in the sanctuary, [click here!](#)**

# Christmas Giving Opportunities

## Christmas Poinsettias

**Deadline: Thursday, December 10**

You are welcome to make a contribution toward the decoration of the church for the Christmas season in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. See the last page for the poinsettia form. For any form received after December 10, the names will be listed in the December 27th bulletin.

## Christmas Box Project

**Deadline for check and online donations: Sunday, December 13**

**Drop off cookies and cards: Sunday, December 13, 8:45 – 10:00 a.m. in the WPC parking lot**

Our Christmas Box Project has been reimagined this year! We'll continue to share holiday joy with families in need, but in a safe way. See page 7 or the [December Chimes](#) for more information.

## ECHO Giving in the World

*ECHO Giving in the World* supports nine local and four global missions of our church, from Wilmington food pantries to [egg-laying chickens in Guatemala](#). In this year of insecurity and scarcity, think of those who are homeless or struggle to get a meal. [Click here](#) for the *Echo Giving* form. Simply make your selection from the “shopping list” and you have given a meaningful gift, in your loved one’s name, to one of God’s children in need. The third page of the form is a printable card; simply print, fold and send.

## Christmas Offering

Our Christmas Offering bolsters the work of Christ as we empower our brothers and sisters worldwide, shelter homeless families, support children and young adults, assist those living with mental illness, and work for justice and peace. Every dollar you give goes beyond our walls to ministries that share the love of God with those in need. [Click here](#) for more information on how your gifts will be distributed this year. We have added the 2020 Christmas Offering to the online giving options. From December 1 to December 23, at 4:00 p.m., you can set up a one-time transaction to be deducted from a checking or savings account. Visit our website at [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org) and click “Donate Now” to login or create a new user profile. You will need to select a transaction date of December 15 or December 28. A letter and offering envelope were mailed in early December for those who prefer to give to the Christmas Offering by check.



# Christmas at Westminster

*Although Christmas at Westminster is very different this year, we hope you will join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in as many ways as you can!*

## **Christmas Concert: Wilmington Handbell Ensemble**

**Saturday, December 12, 4:00 p.m.**

The Wilmington Handbell Ensemble, under the direction of Mr. Kerry Dietz, will present a Christmas concert in our sanctuary. Check the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter for the reservation link to attend the concert in person, or tune in to our [YouTube channel](#) on December 12 at 4:00 p.m. to watch it livestreamed.

## **Virtual Christmas Caroling**

**Sunday, December 20, 4:00 p.m.**

With support from the Westminster Choir and our children and youth music program, our annual Christmas caroling will be done virtually this year. A video recording of Christmas carols will be released on Westminster's [YouTube channel](#) on December 20 at 4:00 p.m.

## **Christmas Eve**

**Thursday, December 24**

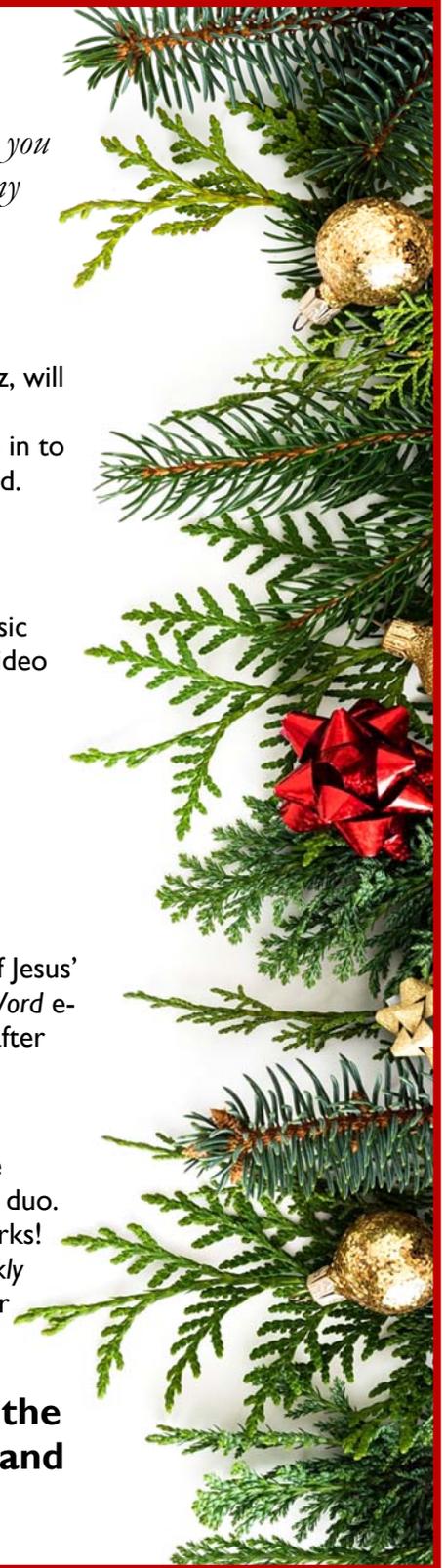
Service of Story and Song – 4:00 p.m. (Virtual Only)

Featuring Westminster's storytellers, youth instrumentalists, and music for handbells, this pre-recorded, informal, and lively service trumpets the joy of Jesus' birth! Join the virtual service and a Zoom watch party. Check the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter for more information, or go to our [YouTube channel](#) any time after 4:00 p.m. on December 24 to watch online.

Traditional "Sharing the Light" Service – 8:00 p.m.

This service will be no silent night! An inspiring sermon by Dr. Jones will be framed with Christmas carols sung by our choristers and a four-hand piano duo. For COVID safety reasons, a creative alternative to candlelight is in the works! Join the service in person (reservation required) or online. Check the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter for the reservation link to attend in person, or go to our [YouTube channel](#) on December 24 at 8:00 p.m. to watch it livestreamed.

**More information on these events can be found in the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter, the *December Chimes*, and on our website at [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org).**



#### **PASTORAL STAFF**

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

#### **MUSIC STAFF**

Director of Music/Organist: Dr. F. Anthony Thurman  
Director of Music for Children and Youth: Alexis Droke  
Choristers: Hye Eun Choi, Sharon Babcock, Jason Berger, Brenton Mattox

#### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES STAFF**

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

#### **YOUTH LEADERS**

Tommy Neilson: Interim 180 Leader  
Josh Cox, Emily Knepper, Molly McPheeters

#### **SUPPORT STAFF**

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor  
Mary Clark, Office Assistant for Data and Archives  
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security  
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations  
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications  
Jerry Hunter, Financial Assistant  
Suzie Hurlock, Administrative Assistant  
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant  
Sextons: Robert King, Daniel Steele, Joan Truitt, John Young

#### **SESSION**

Karen Beer, Sally Buttner, Chad Chandler, Bob Cox, Rich Diver, Michael Enderle,  
Jessica Fischer, Peter Gildner, Carol Hogue, Carla Krupanski, Faith Kuehn, David Máthé,  
Kelly McCulloch, David Michener, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor, Todd Piercy, Roger Reinicker,  
Carrie Saathoff, Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Barb Stratton, Mary Vane, Susan Williamson

#### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

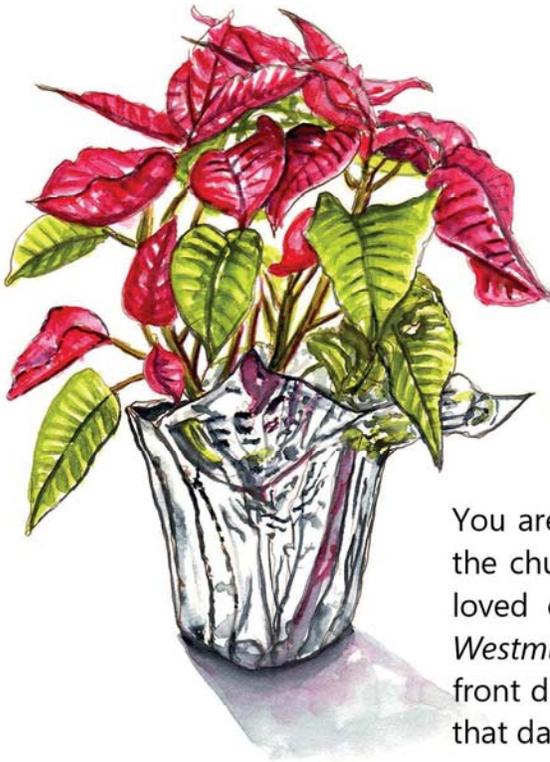
Jeff Argus, Roger Atkins, Liz Bacon, Amy Bickhart, Jennifer Blackford, Russ Butler, Kyle Carrick,  
Ron Carrick, Beatty Chadwick, Diane Chandler, Eadie Churchill, Barry Cobb, Lili Gerstenschlager, Cathy Glober,  
Laura Holmes, Lily Holmes, Paul Kelly, Tara Lee, Arun Loptes, Marsha Mah, Kris Marvel, Dan McAllister, Blair  
McConnel, Debbie McCullough, Bob Moore, Roland Pamm, Emily Pfaff, Sandie Reinicker, Patti Ridout,  
Robin Rosser, Martha Spaethling, Lisa Stoddard, Jennifer Trickey,  
Sandra Wermus, Pam White, Debbie Wise

#### **TRUSTEES**

Charley Babcock, Gary Bryde, Mark Gerstenschlager, Denison Hatch, Fred Iobst, Brock Jobe,  
Sue Linderman, Tom Preston, Bob Ridout, Barbara Steen, Bruce Weber, Dan Weintraub

#### **PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY**

DR Congo – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inge Sthreshley;  
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish  
Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker, Dr. Mary Mikhael  
Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band  
Guatemala – CEDEPCA, AJPU, Rosario Diaz and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development



# 2020 Christmas POINSETTIAS

You are welcome to make a contribution toward the decoration of the church for the Christmas season in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. Please complete this form, make check payable to *Westminster Presbyterian Church*, and mail to Susan Alexander at the front desk by **Thursday, December 10**. For any form received *after* that date, the names will be listed in the December 27th 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:

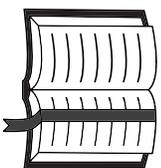
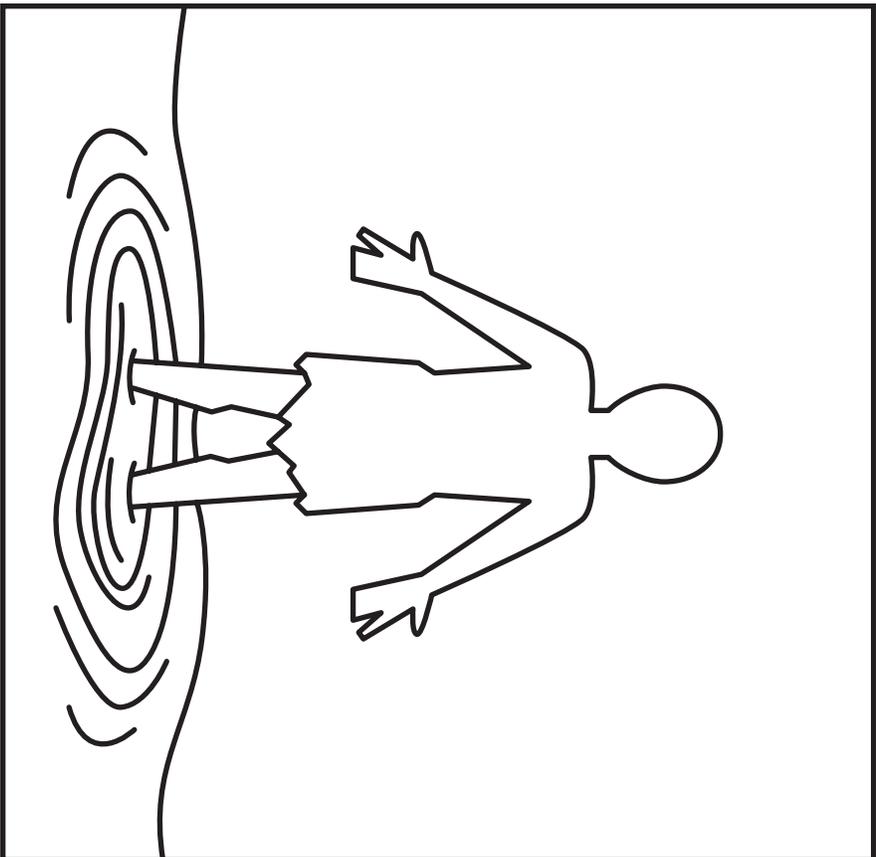
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*Donor's Name and Telephone Number*

**You may take a poinsettia home following the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. We are delivering poinsettias to local retirement communities to share the joy of the season.**

# FINISH the DRAWING

In Mark 1, we meet John the Baptist who prepares the way for Jesus' coming. He lived in the wilderness, wore camel's hair, and ate bugs and honey! Finish the drawing of John and how you picture him.

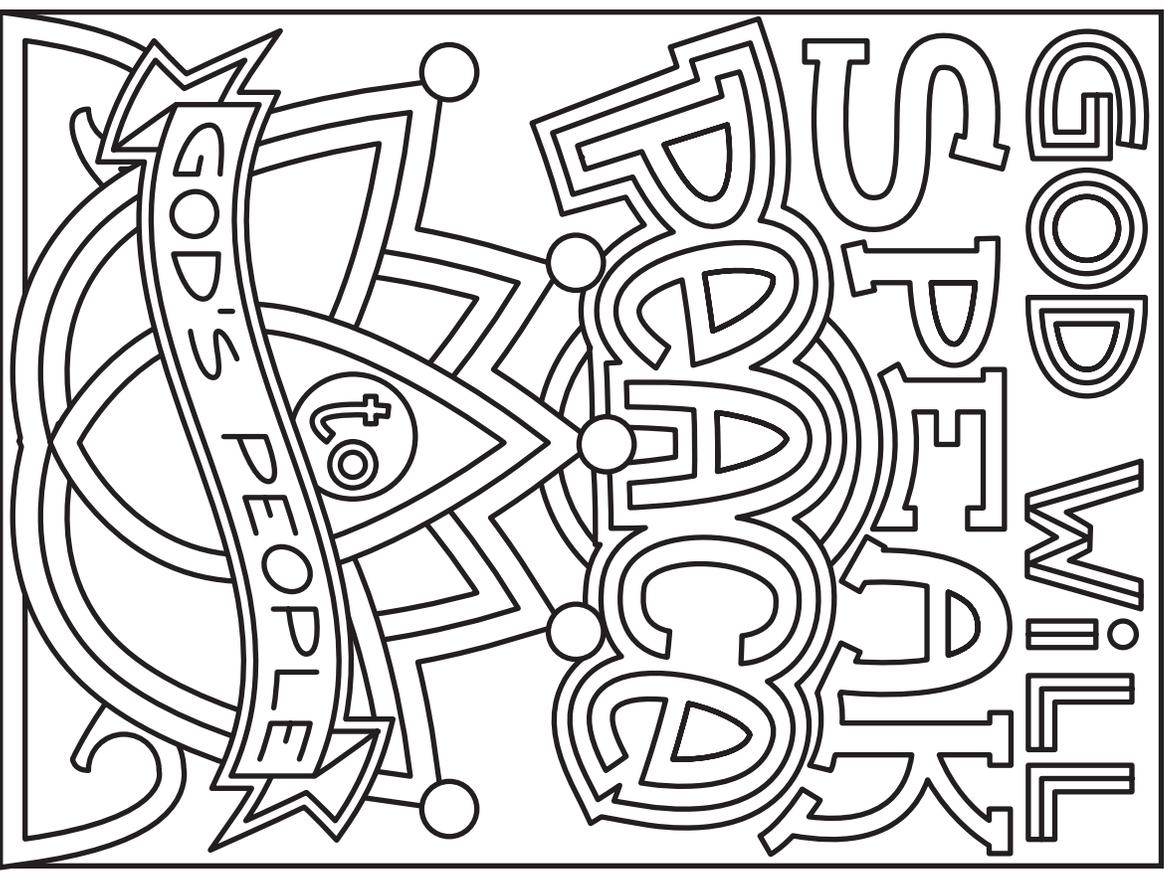


ILLUSTRATED  
MINISTRY

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# CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, Mark 1:18.





# DRAW IT

Isaiah 40 gives us a beautiful vision of the earth and all people coming together in justice and equality. "Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low..." Justice is part of Jesus' coming. Draw what you think of when you think of justice.

