



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 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 invited to help prep Wish Star Gifts. Find Sandie Reinicker downstairs after the service.
- 7th – 12th grade: **Agora** is invited to help prep Wish Star gifts. Find Sandie Reinicker downstairs after the service. Agora, Classroom 7, meets the first Sunday of the month. In January, Agora is invited to Chesna’s Adult Ed class, “Challenging Passages on Women in the Bible,” in Classroom 5.
- **Educational Offerings for Adults** see page 7

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

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

Later Today

5:00 p.m.	180° Youth Christmas Party	McPheeters’ home
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 with gratitude for our Westminster Family. Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas Season. Josh, Rick, Alejandro and Leonardo.

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:** Janice Nolen.
- ❖ **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 Kay Johnson at Millcroft, and Donna and Tom Shaw and Paul Thompson 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 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 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.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

TOWER CHIME

Sue Spilecki

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Loving God, just when it seems that all is lost, You call a new day to dawn. Just when it feels like hope is foolish, that darkness and despair are the only true realities, You call the sun to rise. Just when we think we are alone and abandoned, You arrive among us again. We give you thanks for every rising sun that calls the night to end and for every messenger of hope that baptizes us with your love. Amen. John van de Laar

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

On Jordan's Bank
(Tune: Hymn #96)

arr. Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come — all who seek truth — let us go up to the Lord's house,
that we might learn holy ways and follow right paths.
Come — all nations, all peoples — stream through open gates,
that we might gather in the hallways of justice, the courts of peace.
Come — children of God — let us walk in the light of the Lord!
With hope in our hearts, let us worship God.

(Inspired by Isaiah 2:1-5)

*HYMN No. 96

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

WINCHESTER NEW

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Chris and Lynne Perkins and their children: Kyra, Corinne, and Allison

In days to come, says the Lord,
people will beat swords into plowshares,
and spears into pruning hooks.
**Nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.**

We hunger and thirst for that world —
a world in which guns do not shatter the stillness of classrooms,
and families have no need to flee their homes.
**In that world, God lifts the shroud of despair,
and everyone walks in the light of the Lord.**

God calls us to hope for this world ...
Not to stand by as others break out their hammers and anvils,
not to wait as neighbors twist blades into pruning shears,
but to bring hearts and hands to help birth God's promised future.

Today we light the second candle
as we wait in wonder for the Child of Hope.

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

ADVENT PRAYER

**Emmanuel —
The Light of the World comes
to dispel the darkness of despair
and disperse the gloomy clouds of night.
As we watch for the dawn of your new day,
help us proclaim your peace and declare our hope
that we might bear your light
to a world shrouded in darkness. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Expectans Expectavi

Charles Wood

This sanctuary of my soul,
Unwitting I keep pure and whole,
Unlatch'd and lit, if Thou should'st care
To enter or to tarry there.
With parted lips and outstretch'd hands
And list'ning ears Thy servant stands.
Call Thou early, call Thou late,
To Thy great service dedicate.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Chesna Hinkley

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-4

Old Testament, page 591

SERMON

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 87

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

GENEVAN 42

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come”

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.

*DOXOLOGY (HYMN NO. 607)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Vom Himmel hoch
(Tune: Hymn #111)

Johann Pachelbel

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

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!**



Today's Educational Offerings for Adults

The Art of the Christmas Carol

Today through December 22
Classroom 5
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 both spoken and sung performances of *A Christmas Carol*.

The Mothers of Jesus

Today and December 22
Classroom 6
Presenter: Sudie Niesen Thompson

Matthew's Gospel does not begin with a prophetic announcement or a surprising visit from a divine messenger or a picture-perfect manger scene. No, it begins with a list of names – the Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah (Matthew 1:1-17). Sounds boring, right? Well, buried in this list of names are references to four Old Testament women who were grafted into Jesus' family tree. Why does Matthew include these four in his list of male forebears? What makes these women significant? What do their stories teach us about Jesus the Messiah? On two Sundays in the season of Advent, join the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson in delving into the (somewhat scandalous) stories of these four matriarchs.

Christmas Box Project

Grace Hall

Please join us in Grace Hall to help wrap and sort extra Christmas gifts for kids that will be included in our Christmas box project. These will be added to the Wish Star Gifts and food that are packed on Friday.

ECHO Giving in the World

An Outreach of Westminster Presbyterian Church – Supporting Mission



Echo Giving provides an alternative to traditional gift-giving, benefiting Westminster-supported missions across our city and around the globe. With your **tax-deductible donation**, the options for helping your neighbors are many – you can feed the hungry at Emmanuel Dining Room, fund families in transition through Family Promise, or support a neighbor's path to homeownership through a Habitat build. Similarly, you can buy clean cook-stoves for Guatemala or Congo, support disaster relief efforts, and help Westminster youth participate in myriad mission opportunities.

An Echo Giving table will be set up in Community Hall during the 10:TEN education hour on Advent Sundays, today, December 15 and 22. Stop by to pick up your shopping list, discuss giving options, and decide how you'd like to make a difference during the Christmas season. Make your contribution, and you'll receive an *Echo Giving in the World* card for the loved ones on your list. Shopping lists are also available on the literature tables.

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.



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

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. Be a part of this joyful project!

If you purchased gifts and/or are donating food items, please place them in one of the festively wrapped collection bins **this morning**. Thank you!

Join the fun on **Friday, December 13 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.** in Community Hall for the **Christmas Box Packing and Potluck Dinner Party**. Don your Santa hat, bring your friends, family and your dish to share with eight, plus your scissors and tape! After enjoying the potluck supper together, packing instructions will be given and then the wrapping and packing festivities begin! With lots of hands, small and large, we'll wrap it up in no time. Come and join your WPC family for this truly joyful occasion.

Find more detailed information and additional ways to help in the December 2019 issue of *The Westminster Chimes* and the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter.



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.**

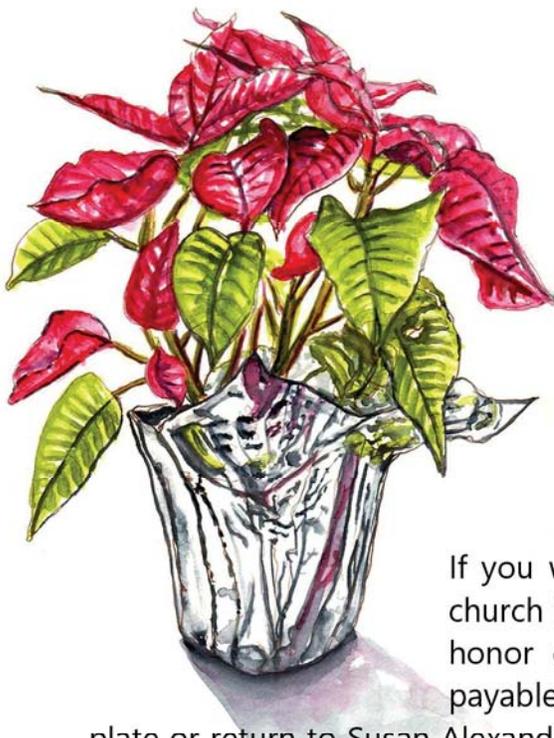
The Westminster Choir
with
Organ, Brass, and Percussion
Paul Fleckenstein, organist and conductor

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.