



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023



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 (U.S.A.)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Matthew 25 Church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

TODAY AT WESTMINSTER

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

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

Time with Our Children (approximately 9:15 a.m.)

The young and young-at-heart are invited to join the worship leader at the front of the sanctuary. Following the TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN, young ones through grade 5 may be escorted to Children's Programming or they are welcome to remain in worship.

Children's Programming (9:20 – 10:00 a.m.)

- Preschool Sunday School: Ages 3 and 4 in the Preschool Suite Room C
- Joyful Noise Choir: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in the Youth Music Room

10:00 – 10:45 a.m. **Holy Toast Café** in Walton Community Hall
Enjoy free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar.

10:10 – 11:00 a.m. **Children and Youth Programming**

- Nursery Care: Age 4 and under in Preschool Suite D
- Kids Zone Sunday School: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in Classroom 1
- Middle School Zone: Grades 6–8 in Classroom 3
- High School: Grades 9–12
 - Confirmation Class in Ruth Christie Room
 - Small Groups in the Library (for already confirmed youth)

Adult Education:

- Preparing for the End of Life:
Legal and Financial Aspects in Classroom 6 (see page 6)
- Feeling Good Again: The Benefits of a Gratitude Practice
in Classroom 5 (see page 6)

11:15 – 12:00 p.m. **Living Mosaics worship** in Rodney Chapel

11:15 – 12:15 p.m. **Flying Solo brunch** at Catherine Rooney's (1616 Delaware Ave.)

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. **180° Youth Group** in Walton Community Hall and Classroom 6 and 7

For descriptions of our programs for children and youth, visit wpc.org/children-youth.

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The Music: The Joyful Noise Children's Choir joins us in worship today. These young voices rehearse each Sunday from 9:20–10 a.m. and will sing again at the 4 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. The Westminster Choir is preparing for a Christmas concert on Sunday, December 10, at 3 p.m., and will support Christmas caroling at four retirement communities on December 17 from 12–2. For more information or to participate, email TonyThurman@wpc.org or speak with him after the service.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of her loved ones by Barbara Gravely Welch. Year after year, Linda Watson creates a beautiful cornucopia to remind us of our abundance at Thanksgiving. Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event. Please contact Linda Watson at (302) 571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com.

Westminster's Prayer Team prays for the needs of our community. Submit your prayer request to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com or online at wpc.org/care-support.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website at wpc.org and clicking the "Donate" button or scan this QR code on your smart phone. → We accept donations by bank withdrawal, credit card, and debit card.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

~ Passages in **bold** print may be spoken by all. At the asterisk (*) please stand in body or rise in spirit. ~

TOWER CHIME

Susan Spilecki

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

Thanksgiving Fanfare

Albert L. Travis

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord gathers us from east and west,
from north and south.

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good!

Come, O people—
draw near and hear the words of the Lord.

We come, with gratitude and praise!

*HYMN NO. 643

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, you have made us stewards of your creation
and commissioned us to carry out your work
to the best of our ability.**

**But we have not served you
with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.**

We withhold our gifts and live in fear.

Have mercy upon us, we pray.

**Make us bold to use all we have been given
for the sake of your kingdom,
until you come in glory. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

ANTHEM

Praise, O Praise, Our God and King

Raymond H. Haan

Praise, O praise our God and king!
Hymns of adoration sing;
For his mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise him that he gave the rain
To mature the swelling grain;
He has caused the fruitful field
Crops of golden corn to yield:
For his mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise him that he made the sun
Day by day his course to run;
And the silver moon by night,
Shining with her gentle light:
For his mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise him for our harvest-store,
He hath filled the garner floor;
And for richer food than this,
Pledge of everlasting bliss:
For his mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Charlotte Lynn Olsen
Daughter of Kelly and Eric Olsen

PRESENTATION OF THE PARENTS AND CHILD

Elder Taryn Albert

OPENING WORDS

There is one body and one Spirit,
just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.

PROMISES OF COMMITMENT

Kelly and Eric, do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith and to teach that faith to your daughter?

CONGREGATION

Will we, the people of the church nurture and support Charlotte and her parents, and will we encourage her to become a faithful Christian?

CHILDREN

Do you promise to help Charlotte be a part of our church family by being a friend to her?

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOLLOWING BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:14-30

New Testament, page 24
Jon McPheeters

SERMON

Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN NO. 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

With Grateful Heart I Thank You, Lord

Mary Kay Beall
arr. John Carter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Laura Scanlan

THE 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. 719

Come, Labor On

ORA LABORA

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Travis

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ADULT EDUCATION

TODAY, NOVEMBER 19



Preparing for the End of Life: Legal and Financial Aspects

Presented by Attorney Daniel P. McCollom

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom
Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom

In the third session of our End of Life series, Dan McCollom, a local estate planning attorney, will address the legal and financial aspects of planning for the disposition of your estate following death through wills, trusts, and other planning devices.

Feeling Good Again: The Benefits of a Gratitude Practice

Facilitated by Janet Steinwedel, Ph.D.

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 5

Developing resources and tools for when the going gets tough is critical to our overall wellbeing. Prayer, meditation, and breath work are all useful modalities in our efforts to feel good. Join us for a healthy conversation about developing a robust gratitude practice!

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Advent **WORKSHOP**

10:10 a.m.

Walton Community Hall

We'll prepare for the Season of Advent by decorating cards for the Christmas Box Project and each family will receive an Advent kit to take home.

We hope you can join us for a time of fun, fellowship, and preparation for Advent at this intergenerational event.

ONGOING/WEEKLY

Online Bible Studies

Midweek Manna Bible Study

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom

Not meeting on 11/22

Facilitator: The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

Contact: sniesenthompson@wpc.org

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Thursdays | 6–7 p.m. | Zoom

Not meeting on 11/22

Facilitators: Randy Williamson

and Mary Anne Peters

Contact: randywilliamson1@comcast.net

Peace and Justice Thursday

Evening Education Event

No program on November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!

Our education event on November 30 will be the presentation by [Bryan Stevenson](#) at the Chase Fieldhouse. Our Zoom education series resumes on December 7. We look forward to seeing you!

– Peace & Justice Work Group

For full descriptions of our programs and more adult education and small group opportunities, visit WPC.ORG/ADULTS or check our events calendar at WPC.ORG/EVENTS. Select adult education programs are available as a livestream/recording on our [YouTube channel](#).

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Pledge by November 19!



- Stephen Ministers provided more than 1,000 hours of valuable caregiving to members in need in a single year.
- Installation of our solar panel system provides about 35% of the church's electricity.
- More than 150 Zoom classes with more than 75 outside speakers (and counting!) have been hosted by the Peace and Justice Work Group.

These "God inspired" facts are but several examples of how vital we see our mission to our Westminster family and our local and global friends. And it takes YOUR pledge to support each of them. We are so grateful to those who have already pledged! If you haven't, please make today the day you do!

Pledge online using our secure system at wpc.org/donate (scroll down and click the "Pledge Online" button) or return the pledge card that you received in the mail. Extra pledge cards and a drop-off box are located on the small table in the main hallway at church. If you would like weekly offering envelopes, please contact Colleen Falasco at cfalasco@wpc.org or (302) 654-5214 ext. 131.

New Life Furnishings

OUR CURRENT WISHLIST AND A THANK YOU



New Life Furnishings (NLF) is a Westminster program that provides household goods and furniture to help those moving from homelessness to independent living. NLF currently needs new or gently used bed pillows (for sleeping), small dressers, and twin or full mattresses, box springs, and metal frames. Please leave a message on NLF phone **(302) 654-5214 ext. 313** and we will contact you. Thanks to all our past donors for your generous contributions of furniture and housewares. Our clients are extremely grateful, and you can feel good that you are helping people get a fresh start in life.

***Many thanks to Marsha and Dennie Mah who have retired from NLF after two years of tireless work!
If you are interested in volunteering at NLF, please leave a message at (302) 654-5214 ext. 313.***

PASTORAL STAFF

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

MUSIC STAFF

Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Music/Organist
Rebecca Hughes; Margaret Mezzacappa; Teddy Austin; Jerry Polman, Section Leaders
Emily Haas, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Cole Walker, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Tanner Freeman (lead videographer), Rich Albert, Drew Holmes, Chip Pfleegor,
Roger Reinicker, Aaron Wemhoff and Sophia Wolff

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Dan Weintraub and Jenn Barrington

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES STAFF

Kathleen Kennan, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry
Sydney Walker, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries and Beatrice Taylor, Nursery

SUPPORT STAFF

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Mary Clark, Administrative Assistant
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Doug Gerdt, Manager of Accounting and Reporting
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Robert King; Daniel Steele; Joan Truitt; John Young, Sextons

SESSION

Taryn Albert, Adam Blackford, Michelle Butler, Clark Collins, Bob Cox, Sara Dubberly, Rob Gooderham,
Laura Holmes, Dick Jolly, Carla Krupanski, KC Morrison, Dave McBride,
Susan McPheeters, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor, Todd Piercy, Carrie Saathoff, Laura Scanlan,
Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Karissa Thacker, Gill Timon, Dan Weintraub

BOARD OF DEACONS

Liz Bacon, Lisa Bianchi, Jennifer Blackford, Heather Brooks, Russ Butler, Kyle Carrick,
Beatty Chadwick, Diane Chandler, Jack Coleman, Joe Daley, Tammy Daley, Kendra Gallagher,
Sara Gavenonis, Jamie Hickey, Drew Holmes, Barbara Jobe, Sheran Kegerise, Elaine Lunardi, Blair McConnel,
Sarah Mentzer, Robert Moore, Gathoni Murugi-Jenkins, Dan McAllister, Debbie McCullough, Lynne Perkins,
Emily Pfaff, Paula Piercy, Rachel Psaros, Patti Ridout, Robin Rosser, Evie Saathoff, Carol Tatnall,
Lois Underhill, Ginger Ward, Sandie Reinicker, Sue Weissinger, Sandra Wermus, Kathy Wissner

TRUSTEES

Rich Albert, Tom Brooks, Nancy Fleming, John Gavenonis, Lou Hering,
Bobbe Hoy, Brock Jobe, Sue Linderman, Robert Love, Tom Preston, Kris Qualls, Stan Stevenson

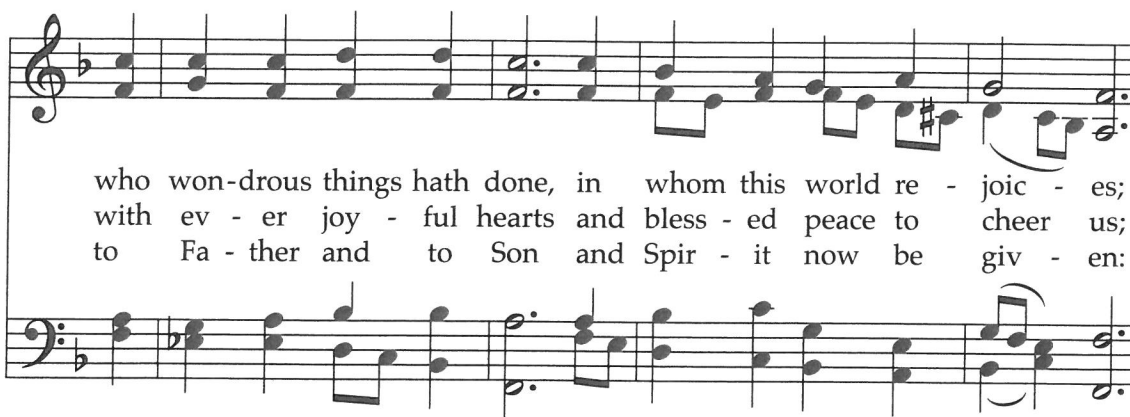
PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

DR Congo – PC(USA) Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inge Sthreshley;
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon – PC(USA) Mission Co-worker the Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker
Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches,
Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band
Guatemala - CEDEPCA, AJPU, the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development,
PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Betsey and Eric Moe

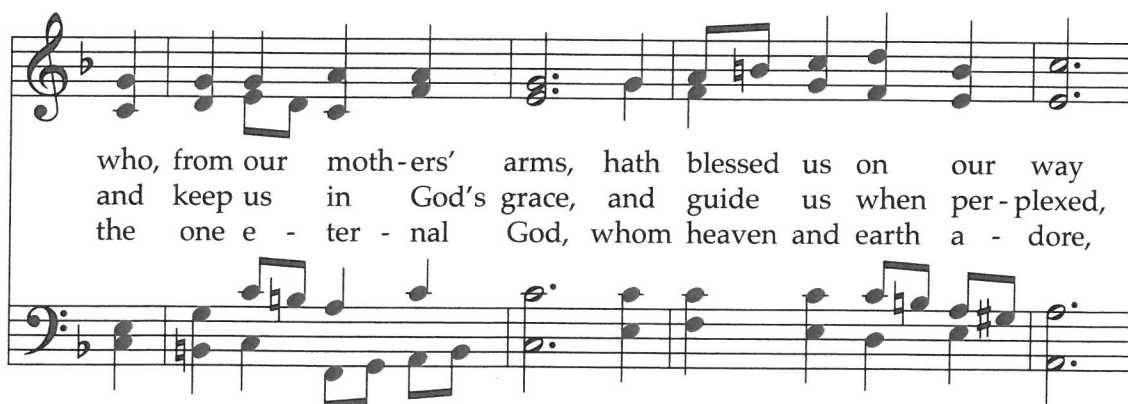
643 Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice - es,
 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,



who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:



who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) F (Bm) Dm



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) B \flat (D) F (A) C



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) Dm (F \sharp m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (A) C (D) F



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (D) F



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

719

Come, Labor On

Capo 1: (G) (C) (G) (Em) (C) (G) (C) (D) (G)
 A^b D^b A^b Fm D^b A^b D^b E^b A^b

1 Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain
 2 Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;
 3 Come, la-bor on. Cast off all gloom-y doubt and faith-less fear!
 4 Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west-ern sky,

(Em) (B7) (Em) (B) (Em) (C) (D)
 Fm C7 Fm C Fm D^b E^b

while all a - round us waves the gold - en grain? And to each
 to young and old the gos - pel glad-ness bear. Re - deem the
 No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here. Though fee - ble
 till the long shad - ows o'er our path-way lie, and a glad

(G) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)
 A^b Fm D^b A^b B^bm E^b7 A^b

ser - vant does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."
 time; its hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.
 a - gents, may we all ful - fill God's righ - teous will.
 sound comes with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Using Jesus' harvest imagery in John 4:35–38 and Matthew 9:37–38/Luke 10:2, this urgent text sounds a compelling call to Christian service. The words gain energy from the strong unison tune in the English cathedral style, whose name echoes the Benedictine motto "Prayer is work."