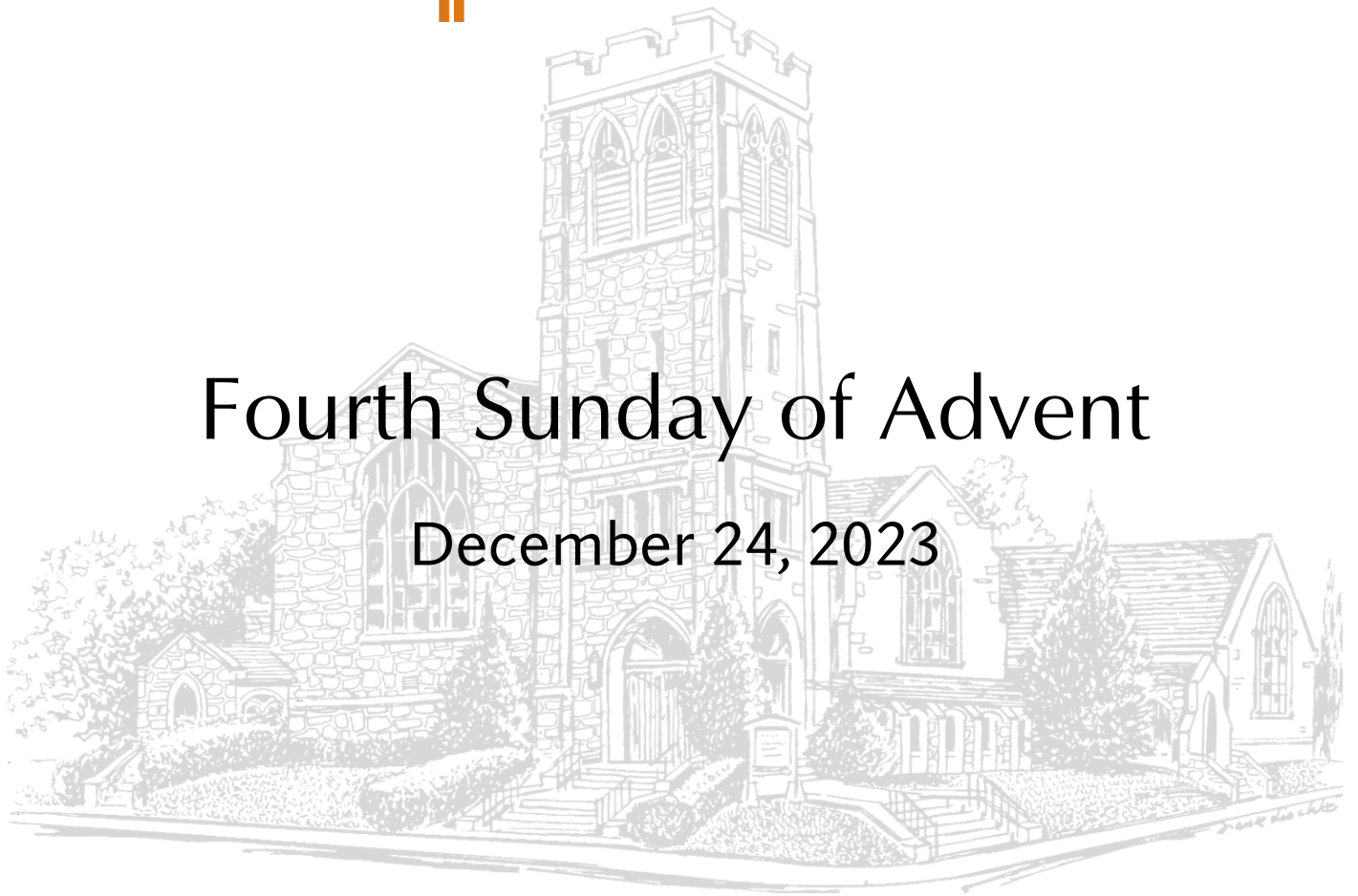




WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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

**10:00 – 10:55 a.m.**      **Worship** in the Sanctuary

**Time with Our Children (approximately 10:15 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.*

**10:10 – 11:00 a.m.**      **Childrens Programming**

- Nursery Care for birth through age 2 in Preschool Suite D
- Ages 2 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Preschool Suite

**Christmas Eve Services**

**3:00 – 3:30 p.m.**      **Children's Choir Rehearsal** in the youth music room

**3:30 – 4:00 p.m.**      **Children's Pageant Costuming** in the Preschool Suite

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**      **Children's Pageant** in the Sanctuary

**5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**      **Service of Story and Song** in the Sanctuary

**8:00 – 9:00 p.m.**      **Candlelight Communion Service** in the Sanctuary

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For descriptions of our programs for children and youth, visit [wpc.org/children-youth](http://wpc.org/children-youth).

**The Music:** Traditional French and German carols are represented in our service music and choral anthem today. Ted Barr and Tony Thurman team up with four hands on our Steinway & Sons concert grand piano. The Westminster Choir brings an old German carol in a fresh, new arrangement by Craig Courtney. The Indiana native is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and has more than 160 choral works in publication today.

**The sanctuary flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Charles M. Krick, Jr. and Ann E. Linderman by Sue and Bob Linderman. 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](mailto:lwatson@ycst.com).

**Westminster's Prayer Team** prays for the needs of our community. Please submit your prayer request to [wpcprayerlist@gmail.com](mailto:wpcprayerlist@gmail.com) or online at [wpc.org/care-support](http://wpc.org/care-support).

**You can make a contribution** to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website at [wpc.org](http://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

Craig Checkel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

*Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*  
Ted Barr and Tony Thurman, four-hand piano

French Carol  
arr. Joel Raney

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Kali Kniel-Tolbert, Kristian and Keira Tolbert

Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth,  
to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.  
Mary went to a place called Bethlehem,  
to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love.

As we light our fourth Advent candle,  
**we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.**  
Come now, O Child of Mary.  
**Come now, O Prince of Love.**

\*HYMN NO. 110

*Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

ADVENT PRAYER

**Loving God, we open our lives to you this season.  
As we light these candles, light our lives with your vision for the world.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Fill us with a joy that cannot be contained but must be shared.  
Magnify your love within us,  
and prepare our lives to be transformed by you,  
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN (See "Today at Westminster" on page 2 for more information.)

Gregory Knox Jones

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

New Testament, page 49

\*RESPONSE NO. 100

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* (v. 1)

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

SERMON

Sudie Niesen Thompson

\*Hymn No. 129

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
vv. 1 and 3: All  
v. 2: Choir

ES IST EIN' ROS'

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*How Great Our Joy*

German Carol  
arr. Craig Courtney

While by the sheep we watched at night,  
glad tidings brought an angel bright.  
How great our joy.  
There shall be born, so did he say,  
in Bethlehem a child today.  
How great our joy.

There shall the child lie in a stall,  
this child who shall redeem us all.  
This gift of God we'll cherish well,  
that ever joy our hearts shall fill.  
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!  
How great our joy.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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. 132

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*In dulci jubilo*

J.S. Bach

**New to Westminster?** Welcome! We're so glad you're here. If you are joining us for the first time, please introduce yourself via our contact form on the [I'm New](#) page of our website or scan this QR code to get there from your mobile device. We look forward to getting to know you.



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### 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  
Section Leaders: Rebecca Hughes, Margaret Mezzacappa, Teddy Austin, Jerry Polman  
Emily Haas, Director of Music for Children and Youth  
Cole Walker, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

### VIDEOGRAPHERS

Tanner Freeman, Rich Albert, Drew Holmes, George McAllister, Chip Pfleegor,  
Roger Reinicker, Aaron Wemhoff, Sophia Wolff, and Deanna Sparling

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION STAFF

Kathleen Kennan, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry  
Sydney Walker, Associate Director of Youth Ministry  
Grace Anderson, Youth Leader  
Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries  
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 Gerdts, Manager of Accounting and Reporting  
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications  
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant  
Sextons: Robert King, Daniel Steele, Joan Truitt, John Young

# ADULT EDUCATION

TODAY, DECEMBER 24, AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

NO ADULT EDUCATION

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

### Congregational Health Network

*Presented by the Rev. Patti V. Weikart, M.A., M. Div.*

**10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom**

Zoom link: [bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom](https://bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom)

The Congregational Health Network (CHN) is a group of faith communities and service organizations in Delaware that are collaborating with Nemours to meet the needs of patients with Sickle Cell Disease and their families. They are offered confidential conversations with Pastor Pat, mentors, life skills training, and a food coach to name a few. No religious or church affiliation is required to take advantage of any of these offerings.



Rev. Weikart is a Minister of Word and Sacrament of the PC(USA), Chaplain/Research Associate at Nemours Children's Health since 2016, former Client Executive with IBM Corporation.

### Let's Talk About It

**10:10 a.m. | Ruth Christie Room**

We are happy to bring back this beloved series. Join us for a lively discussion of a timely topic that is current that week/month.



## ONGOING/WEEKLY

### Online Bible Studies

**Midweek Manna Bible Study**  
**Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom**  
**(No meeting on December 27.)**

*Facilitator: The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson*

Contact: [sniesenthompson@wpc.org](mailto:sniesenthompson@wpc.org)

**Thursday Evening Bible Study**  
**Thursdays | 6–7 p.m. | Zoom**

*Facilitators: Randy Williamson  
and Mary Anne Peters*

Contact: [randywilliamson1@comcast.net](mailto:randywilliamson1@comcast.net)

### Peace and Justice Thursday Evening Education Event

**No event on December 28.**

Westminster's Peace & Justice Work Group wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas, graced by joy at the birth of our Savior and gratitude for the many blessings God provides. On Thursday, January 4, 2024, we encourage you to participate in a Zoom program – *The Healing Path* – presented by contemplative practitioner and clinical psychologist James Finley, sponsored by the Community for Integrative Learning. You may register at [cil-de.org/events](https://cil-de.org/events).

Our Peace & Justice Work Group Zoom education series resumes on January 11, 2024, at 7 p.m. We look forward to seeing you!

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

# CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2023

**Thank you for your generous support of Christ's work!**



Our Christmas Offering bolsters the work of Christ as we empower our brothers and sisters worldwide, shelter and support individuals and families experiencing homelessness, 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. See the [letter](#) we mailed for more information on how your gifts will be distributed.

Please mail your check to the church or place it in the offering plate on a Sunday in December. Or, use our online giving option on the Westminster website – visit [wpc.org/donate](http://wpc.org/donate) and click the DONATE NOW button. Please choose “Sign In” if you have a login with our *Realm* system or “Give Online” to continue as a guest; then select Christmas Offering from the fund drop-down list.

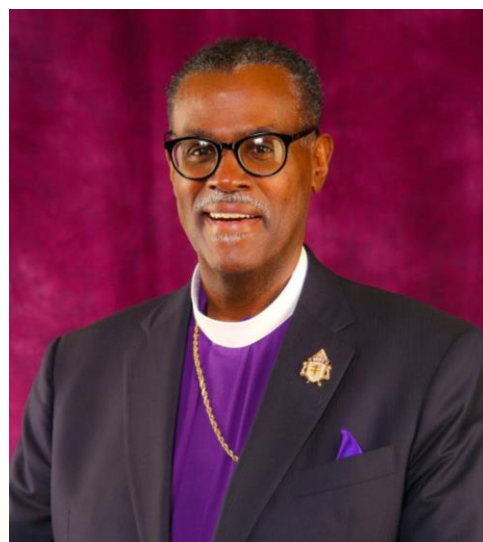
If you have questions, please contact Colleen Falasco at [cfalasco@wpc.org](mailto:cfalasco@wpc.org) or (302) 654-5214 ext. 131.

## GUEST PREACHER ON JANUARY 7

### **The Rev. Dr. Silvester Beaman**

The Reverend Dr. Silvester Beaman was the pastor of Bethel AME Church in Wilmington for 28 years. He delivered the Benediction at the inauguration of President Joe Biden in 2021, and later that year was consecrated as a Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church serving a district that includes South Africa, Namibia, and Angola.

In September, 2023, he was appointed chair of the President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement. **We are honored to have him preach at Westminster on Sunday, January 7.**





# Experience Christmas Eve

• AT WESTMINSTER •

*Please join us in the Sanctuary to celebrate  
the birth of our Lord and Savior!*

## **CHILDREN'S PAGEANT – 4 P.M.**

O come, little children, O come, one and all. This lively service featuring a living crèche and our children's choir will be no silent night! All young children are invited to participate in the pageant. Gather for costumes in the Preschool Suite at 3:30 p.m.

## **SERVICE OF STORY AND SONG – 5:30 P.M.**

O come, all ye faithful. The Westminster-by-Heart Storytellers will bring new life to ancient scriptures. Westminster's professional soloists, brass, and percussion will trumpet the joy of Jesus' birth! We will celebrate communion (offered to all) and sing by candlelight.

## **CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE – 8 P.M.**

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring: news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful Savior's birth. Our traditional candlelight communion (offered to all) service will include a stirring sermon by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones and anthems by the Westminster Choir accompanied by organ, piano, and percussion.

**Join us in person or online!**

**All Christmas Eve worship services will be livestreamed at  
[WPC.ORG/WATCH](https://wpc.org/watch) and on Westminster's [YouTube channel](#).**

**If you missed our two Christmas concerts, check  
out the recordings on [YouTube](#)!**