



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2024



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

9:15 – 10:45 a.m. **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Preschool Suite D

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Worship** in the Sanctuary

Time with Our Children (approximately 9:45 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 fifth grade may be escorted to Children's Programming or they are welcome to remain in worship.

Children's Programming (9:45 – 10:30 a.m.)

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

10:30 – 11:15 a.m. **Holy Toast Café!** Join us for complimentary coffee, tea, treats and time with new and old friends in Rodney Chapel.

10:40 – 11:30 a.m. **Adult Education (see page 6)**

Children and Youth Programming

- Nursery Care: Age 4 and under in Preschool Suite D
- Kids Zone Sunday School: Kindergarten-Grade 5 snack time in Classroom 2 and Tri-State Bird Rescue Program in Grace Hall
- Middle School Faith Zone: Grades 6-8 in Classroom 7
- High School Connect: Grades 9-12 in the Library

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Sanctuary Concert Series – The Birk & Hoke Duo**

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Concert Reception** in Rodney Chapel and the Meeting Room

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. **180° Youth Ministry:** Grades 6-12 in Classroom 7, Kitchen and Walton Community Hall

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

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FAITH!

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The Music: We are honored to have Eric Birk and Bernadette Hoke sharing their gifts in worship today. Both are graduates of the Manhattan School of Music. The Birk & Hoke Duo, New York City's award-winning ensemble and musical power couple will perform four-hand piano and organ and piano duets by Dvořák, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Schubert, Sowerby, and Nancy Wertsch this afternoon at 3 p.m. in our Sanctuary. As winners of the Artist International Competition, they were presented in a debut recital at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York City.

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her father, John R. Bowman, by Beth Anderson. 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. Please 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

(Please sign and pass the friendship pads.)

Gregory Knox Jones

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

Aria Cantabile

Samuel Wesley
arr. Howard Helvey

Eric Birk and Bernadette Hoke, four-hand piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

From the rising of the sun till its setting in the west,

In the visions of the old and the dreaming of the young,

In the forgotten corners of our hearts and the banquet hall of heaven,

God's Holy name be praised.

Let all that has life and breath give praise to God.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

*HYMN NO. 17

Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!

(Hymnals are located beneath the pew in front of you.)

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

Randall T. Clayton

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we are perplexed by the extravagance of your mercy,
surpassing every human standard of fairness.**

**We confess we are resentful and angered by your goodness
to those who always need to be bailed out of trouble.**

**We confess not deeds of mischief or violence,
but the dangerous feelings of resentment, jealousy, and the refusal to forgive.
God, forgive us and free us to love generously. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

(See "Today at Westminster" on page 2.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 20:1-16

New Testament, page 19
Meredith Sobus, lay reader

SERMON

“The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard”

*HYMN NO. 683

Lord of All Hopefulness

COURTNEY

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A Song of Thanksgiving

John Ferguson

Lord! You have been our refuge from one generation to another.
Your love never ceases. Your mercies never end.
For you are good, O Lord. Your steadfast love endures forever and ever.
Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still ours today. Amen.
—Psalm 90:1, Lamentations 3:22, Psalm 100:5

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. 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Albert L. Travis

NEW TO WESTMINSTER? Welcome. We are glad you are here. We hope that you will join us following worship in Rodney Chapel for refreshments (located on the 13th Street side of the building near the elevator). There will be a member standing near the blue “Welcome Visitors” sign at the entrance of Rodney Chapel who can answer any questions you might have about Westminster. The Friendship Pad will be passed during the service. We hope you sign it and give us your email or home address that we might welcome you with a follow-up contact. Gender-neutral, handicap restrooms are located between the pulpit transept and the tower entrance.

Please see the “I’m New” page of our website at wpc.org for more information about us.

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God gave us two hands – one
to receive with and the other to
give with. Giving opens the
way for receiving.

2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

ADULT EDUCATION

TODAY, NOVEMBER 17



Criminal Justice Reform

Presented by Kathleen Jennings, Delaware Attorney General

10:40–11:30 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom

Attorney General Kathy Jennings will update Westminster on the progress of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) criminal justice reform efforts, the success and growth of the DOJ's community engagement work, and progress on public safety and social justice in Delaware.

Jennings was sworn in on January 1, 2019, and serves as Delaware's 46th Attorney General. Born and raised in Wilmington, she graduated from Mount Pleasant High School, University of Delaware, and Villanova University Law School, before joining the Delaware Department of Justice. As a prosecutor for the Delaware Department of Justice, Kathy prosecuted scores of domestic violence, sexual assault, and homicide cases.

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Earth Care Crises

Presented by Dave McBride and Roger Reinicker

10:40–11:30 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom



This is the final class of a series co-led on the climate crisis; there is no greater existential threat. There will be presentations interspersed with short video clips and time for questions.

The Climate Crisis: From Causes to Remedies and the Economics and Politics In Between

- **October 13** – The Science of Climate Change: Causes and Effects
- **October 27** – Proposed Remedies, Mitigation and Adaptation
- **November 10** – Economics, Politics and Ethics of the Climate Crisis and Remediation
- **November 24** – Taking the Climate Crisis Personally: Individual and Collective Action

ONGOING/WEEKLY

Online Bible Studies

Midweek Manna Bible Study

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom

Contact: Robin Rosser (rrosser@aol.com)

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Thursdays | 6–7 p.m. | Zoom

Facilitators: Randy Williamson

(randywilliamson1@comcast.net)

and Mary Anne Peters

Peace and Justice Thursday Evening Education Event

WRK Group – Transforming a Community!

With Logan Herring, WRK Group CEO, and Dan Selekman, Reach Riverside

Learn about the progress being made and new ways we can offer our support.

November 21 | 7 p.m. | Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/peace-justice-zoom

Hosted by our Peace & Justice Work Group.
zoom.us/join | Meeting ID: 860 2752 1655

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](#).

PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
The Rev. Dr. Randall T. Clayton, Bridge 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
Marjorie Eldreth, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Madelyn Testa, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Deanna Sparling (lead videographer), Rich Albert, 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 Gerdts, Manager of Accounting and Reporting
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
John Jordan, Robert King, Joan Truitt, John Young, Sextons
Craig Checkel, Office Support and Security

SESSION

Taryn Albert, Adam Blackford, Michelle Butler, Sally Buttner, John Carpenter, Clark Collins,
Bob Cox, Sara Dubberly, Rob Gooderham, Laura Holmes, Carla Krupanski, Daniel Malzhan,
KC Morrison, Dave McBride, Susan McPheeters, Carol Neff, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor,
Todd Piercy, Roger Reinicker, Laura Scanlan, Karissa Thacker, Dan Weintraub

BOARD OF DEACONS

Susan Baddorf, Liz Bacon, Lisa Bianchi, Jennifer Blackford, Heather Brooks, Russ Butler
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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, Conserv Congo: Adams Cassinga
Middle East (Syria, Lebanon, Palestine) - Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches (Syria, Lebanon)
PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker Elmarie Parker (Syria, Lebanon);
Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center in Bethlehem (Palestine)
Guatemala - CEDEPCA, AJPU, the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development,
and PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Betsey and Eric Moe

CONCERT: The Birk & Hoke Duo

TODAY | 3 p.m. | Sanctuary



Our Sanctuary Concert Series continues with the Birk & Hoke Duo. New York City's award-winning ensemble and musical power couple Eric Birk and Bernadette Hoke will perform four-hand piano plus organ and piano duets by Dvořák, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Schubert, Sowerby, and Nancy Wertsch. As winners of the Artist International Competition, they were presented in a debut recital at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York City.

Please join us in person or livestream at wpc.org/watch.

A free-will offering is requested. Suggested contribution to Westminster's Music Fund: \$20

UNHOUSED IN DELAWARE

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

Saturday, November 23 • 4 p.m. • Walton Community Hall

Panel discussion moderated by Kim Eppehimer, Executive Director, Friendship House



How can we better help our unhoused population in Wilmington, rather than effectively kicking them out of the city? What barriers do our unhoused neighbors face and how might we help address them? How are our actions limited or improved by the recent Grants Pass Supreme Court ruling and the settlement of a Delaware case that ends enforcement of loitering and soliciting laws until they can be amended to address their constitutional issues? As we look at issues across Delaware, what role should be played by faith communities, police, non-profits, advocacy groups and government agencies? This event is a key element of the Faith & Housing Justice Week.