



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



BAPTISM
OF OUR LORD

January 12, 2025

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 – 11:45 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 through Grade 5 in the Youth Music Room and the Adult Music Room

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

Holy Toast Café – Join us for complimentary coffee, tea, treats, and time with new and old friends in Rodney Chapel.

Children and Youth Programming

- Kids Zone Sunday School: Kindergarten-Grade 5 in Classrooms 1 and 2
- Middle School Faith Zone: Grades 6-8 in Classroom 7

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

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The Music: In today's anthem we hear the words of Canadian poet and theologian, Sylvia Dunstan, set to music by Michael Burkhardt, a widely published composer of organ and choral music and Artist-Professor of Organ at Eastern Michigan University. If you are moved by choral music and would like to add your voice to the Westminster Choir, please contact TonyThurman@wpc.org or speak with him after the service. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

The chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the ushers with thanks for their support of Music at Westminster from a grateful member. Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event; the currently available dates are January 26, February 2, 9, 16 and 23. 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

Sara Gavenonis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please sign and pass the friendship pads.)

Gregory Knox Jones

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

Shall We Gather at the River

Robert Lowry
arr. John Carter

CALL TO WORSHIP

As Jesus stood in Jordan's muddy waters,

we stand in the muddy waters of our lives.

As Jesus submitted to John's baptism,

we submit our lives to God's transforming touch.

As Jesus trusted God's Spirit to fill him with wisdom,

we trust God's Spirit to illumine our minds.

As Jesus emerged from the Jordan to give his life to God,

we will leave worship with a renewed sense of God's presence in our lives.

*HYMN No. 484

Out of Deep, Unordered Water

RUSTINGTON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Randall T. Clayton

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that we do not always make the best choices.

You have invited us into new life,

yet we have closed our eyes and ears to your invitation.

You have challenged us to step out of well-worn ruts,

yet we hesitate to venture onto a new path.

Renew our spirits and strengthen our resolve,

so that we will muster the courage to make overdue changes in our lives.

We pray this in the name of Christ,

who brings us hope for new life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

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

SERMON

*HYMN NO. 375

Shall We Gather at the River

HANSON PLACE

V. 1: All

V. 2: Men; all sing Refrain

V. 3: Women; all sing Refrain

V. 4: All

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways

Michael Burkhardt

Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on
 From Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John.
 He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe, and slave,
 But there within the river the sign was birth and grave.
 Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn;
 It seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form.
 The holy dove descended amide a glorious voice:
 "You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice."
 We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place.
 We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.
 But now beside this water again a voice is heard.
 "You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord."
 —Sylvia G. Dunstan

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. 485

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG

*BENEDICTION

Postlude

Postlude on ENGELBERG

Robert A. Hobby

NEW TO WESTMINSTER? Welcome. We are glad you are here. We hope that you will join us following worship in Rodney Chapel for refreshments and fellowship. 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 so that we might welcome you with a follow-up contact. Gender-neutral, accessible 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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ADULT EDUCATION

TODAY, JANUARY 12



How Modern Death Research is Supporting the Teachings of Jesus

*Presented by Gary Soulsman,
retired Journalist at The News Journal*

10:40–11:30 a.m. | Classroom 6

Gary has been a lifelong Christian and a journalist for 30 years. He often wrote about spirituality and religion. When he retired, Gary explored scientific evidence for the survival of the soul. He taught a course at UD's Lifelong Learning Institute on death and dying.

Reading, Praying, & Singing the Psalms: Considering Theological Perspectives

Presented by the Rev. Dr. Randy Clayton

10:40–11:30 a.m. | Classroom 5

The Book of Psalms is unique among the rest of the books of the Bible. This class is designed to provide background into the structure, interpretation, and theology found in the psalms so that we are better able to sing the psalms, pray the psalms, and live as they invite us to live.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

The State of Affordable Housing

*Presented by the Rev. Kevin L. Smith, CEO,
Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County*

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

Zoom link (case-sensitive): bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom



The Rev. Smith will provide an overview of the state of affordable housing in Delaware and what Habitat for Humanity is doing about the need to create and sustain affordable housing and revitalize neighborhoods.

He will introduce new programs, a new partnership with New Castle Presbytery, and suggestions on what Westminster can do to assist with this crucial issue.

Reading, Praying, and Singing the Psalms:

Thinking About the Psalms, Jesus, and the Christian Church

Presented by the Rev. Dr. Randall T. Clayton

10:40–11:30 a.m. | Classroom 5

See January 12 above for description.

ONGOING/WEEKLY

Online Bible Studies

Midweek Manna Bible Study

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom

Contact: Robin Rosser (rlrosser@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

Video and Discussion in Honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we celebrate Dr. King's birthday, we offer this powerful retrospective on the Civil Rights Movement and landmark civil rights laws.

January 9 | 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
Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries
Ava Herring and Beatrice Taylor, Nursery Caregivers

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
John Jordan; Robert King; Joan Truitt, 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,
Beatty Chadwick, Diane Chandler, David Cole, Jack Coleman, Tammy Daley, Erin Downing,
Beth Emmons, Sara Gavenonis, Jamie Hickey, Charlie Ingersoll, Barbara Jobe, Sheran Kegerise,
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Sue Weissinger, Barbara Welch, Sandra Wermus, Linda Williams, Kathy Wissner, Sophia Wolff

TRUSTEES

Rich Albert, Tom Brooks, Gary Bryde, Nancy Fleming, John Gavenonis, Lou Hering,
Brock Jobe, Sue Linderman, 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, 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

HELPING HANDS (& FEET!) COLLECTION

Throughout the Month of January



Winter is a particularly difficult time for those who are, or are at risk of becoming, houseless or homeless. Our annual Friendship House “Helping Hands” project is back, collecting NEW gloves, mittens, and socks for all ages.

We are accepting these items each Sunday in January at the fellowship time following worship (near the Holy Toast Café). Collection boxes are also set up around the church during January if you miss our Sunday collections.

Thank you for giving the gift of warmth!
Questions? Email sandyking@verizon.net.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

9:30 a.m. – Worship Service in the Sanctuary

10:40 a.m. – Annual Meeting in Walton Community Hall

The annual congregational meeting of Westminster Presbyterian Church will be held in person for the purpose of conducting the following business:

1. To receive the report of the Church Officer Nominating Committee and to elect Elders, Deacons, and Trustees;
2. To elect congregational at-large members to the Church Officer Nominating Committee;
3. To receive the financial report of 2024;
4. To receive the budget report for 2025;
5. To consider changes to the calls of the pastors; and
6. To consider any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

By order of Session: Gregory Knox Jones, Moderator, and Jan Patrick, Clerk of Session

11:45 a.m. – Chili Luncheon follows the Annual Meeting!

The deacons will provide a variety of delicious homemade chili, salad, cornbread, and cookies.