



2016 Christmas Eve

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Candlelight Communion Services – 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.



Adoration of the Magi – Fra Angelico – www.wikiart.org

THE CHILD IS BORN AGAIN

Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Each year the Child is born again.

Each year some new heart

finally hears,

finally sees,

finally knows love.

And in heaven there is great rejoicing!

There is a festival of stars!

There is celebration among the angels!

For in the finding of one lost sheep,

the heart of the Shepherd is glad,

and Christmas has happened once more.

The Child is born anew and one more knee is bowed!

WELCOME

ON THIS HOLY NIGHT, we engage one of the deep mysteries of our faith. In celebrating Christmas, we try to push away the cares of the moment and the rush of things to do. As we worship, we create a wide, sweet space to listen, to pray, to sing, and to receive the gift of God's presence. No one will ever make sense of how God, the Infinite, was revealed in the finite. So we tell a story and simply wonder at it all. Welcome to a house of wonder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome everyone to Westminster Church for these Christmas Eve Services. We extend a special welcome to visitors and those who return for the holiday. If you live in the Wilmington area and do not have a church home, we hope you will consider uniting with our church family. To learn more about our community of faith, please contact the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson at sniesenthompson@wpc.org.

Our Christmas decorations are labors of love by: Linda Watson, Jill Getty, Sue Weissinger, Carol Mosher, Lois Underhill, Mary Field, Nancy McFadden, Lola Miller, Clark and Donna Collins, Kevin and Chelsea Collins and their children. Our deep thanks to all who helped decorate our church for Christmas.

The trees in the Sanctuary, Rodney Chapel, and Pavilion have been decorated with 125 beautifully handmade ornaments called Chrismons (Christ + Monogram). We hope these Christian symbols will prompt you to contemplate Christ and the meaning of Christmas. Handouts with a description of the Christian ornaments are located on the literature table, near the reception desk.

The Chancel flowers this evening 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.

Church Office Holiday Hours: The Church office will be closed Monday, December 26, and open December 27, 28, 29 and 30th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. if you wish to pick up a poinsettia and/or drop off a year end donation. All donations postmarked by December 31, 2016 will be considered received and credited on your 2016 contribution statement. If you have questions concerning the status of your 2016 pledge, please contact Colleen Falasco (cfalasco@wpc.org 302-654-5214, ext. 131) or Jerry Hunter (jerryhunter@wpc.org or 302-654-5214, ext. 128).

Sunday, December 25: One morning service at 10:00 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate the day of Jesus' birth.
Enjoy coffee and fellowship in Rodney Chapel following the service.

Sunday, January 1: One morning service at 10:00 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate the New Year with communion. Nursery care provided.
Enjoy coffee and fellowship in Rodney Chapel following the service.

PASTORAL STAFF:

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

CHURCH EDUCATOR:

Susan Moseley

MUSIC STAFF:

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
Merideth Hite Estevez, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Section Leaders/Soloists: Diana Milburn, Sharon Babcock,
David Price, Travis Lucas

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Colleen Falasco

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND SECURITY

Paul Crothamel

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE
8:00 P.M.

For the 10:00 pm service, see page 8

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

Craig Checkel

ORGAN PRELUDE

Choral-Improvisation on *In Dulci Jubilo*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

A Christmas Triptych

Charles Callahan

I. Plainsong Prelude

II. Berceuse

III. Christmas Flourish

CHORAL INTROIT

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”
Westminster Choir

arr. J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the love that breathes life into all humanity and all of creation
be born in each of us this night.

Glory to God in the highest!

May there be peace and goodwill to all!

*HYMN NO. 133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDLES

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Alyssa Atanacio and Peter Gildner

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

The Christ candle is lit

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness will never overcome it!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

**God of grace and truth, we pray that you will come into our lives
and fill us with such love and wonder,
that with shepherds and wise men,
we may come to adore the Holy Child, the promised King.
As you came in the stillness of night,
pierce through the darkness of our lives with the light of Christ among us,
that we may clearly see the path to walk,
know the truth we need to speak
and embrace the life to live as he has taught us. Amen.**

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

ANTHEM

Star Carol

John Rutter

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:
"Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!"

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

Let us all pay our homage at the manger,
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

*See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas Night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

ANTHEM

"I Saw Three Ships"

arr. Andrew Carter

I saw three ships come sailing in,
on Christmas Day in the morning.
And what was in those ships all three?
Our savior Christ and his lady.
Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?
O, they sailed into Bethlehem.
And all the bells on earth shall ring.
And all the angels in heav'n shall sing.
And all the souls on earth shall sing.
Then let us all rejoice amain!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

ANTHEM

"My Little Son"

Eric Thiman

My little son, the holy one,
Son of our God most high,
What solemn destiny is yours?
Where shall the future lie?

My little babe, whom shepherds hailed
As Saviour, Christ the Lord,
What will you know of suffering,
Your life for all outpoured?

*My little Jesus, Lamb of God,
Light of the world and King,
How could you know my heart is pierced,
For all the bliss you bring?*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

OFFERING

*The entire Christmas Eve Offering is given to those in need beyond our walls.
Please see the back cover for information on these ministries.*

In the bleak midwinter
 Frosty wind made moan,
 Earth stood hard as iron,
 Water like a stone;
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
 Snow on snow,
 In the bleak midwinter
 Long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him
 Nor earth sustain;
 Heav'n and earth shall flee away
 When he comes to reign:
 In the bleak midwinter
 A stable place sufficed
 The Lord God Almighty
 Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim
 Worship night and day,
 A breastful of milk
 And a mangerful of hay;
 Enough for him, whom angels
 Fall down before,
 The ox and ass and camel
 Which adore.

What can I give him,
 Poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd
 I would bring a lamb,
 If I were a Wise Man
 I would do my part,
 Yet what I can give him,
 Give my heart.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is open to all who trust in Christ.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Tonight old dreams are surpassed as new dreams come to life.

Hope paves the way to joy and prayer leads to proclamation.

The Light of the World has come!

This light is a light for all,

igniting a flame within our souls as we break bread together.

God is born among us and within us.

Glory to God in the highest!

May there be peace and goodwill to all.

*HYMN NO. 123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
Verses 1, 2 and 5

CAROL

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Eternal God...

LORD'S PRAYER (page 35 in our *Glory to God* hymnal, using "debts" and "debtors.")

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*When you approach communion servers, please take a piece of bread,
 the symbol of Christ's love for you, and dip it in the cup, representing the new life in Christ.*

If you are unable to come forward, please tell an usher so that you may be served.

Those sitting in the balcony may come downstairs or be served in their pews.

For those who have wheat allergies, we provide gluten-free rice crackers with the communion bread.

Shall I gather emr'alds, shall I bring him gold?
 Shall I shower diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold?
 Shall I spangle jewels like stars above?
 Give him laughter, bring peace-filled laughter,
 offer him warm laughter and love.
 Simplest of gifts, gentlest of hearts;
 kindness he'll use as he leads.
 So, give him these gifts, hand him your hearts,
 honor his birth and you'll need no
 em'ralds nor rubies, silver nor gold;
 neither bright diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold,
 spangle not rich jewels like stars above;
 you'll have laughter, sweet peace-filled laughter,
 simple warm laughter and love.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

**Christ among us, Light of the World,
 heal our brokenness and make us whole.
 Give us a new heart and a new song,
 that our prayers and deeds may be one.
 We ask it in the name of your Love-Made-Flesh,
 who lives and reigns with you now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN (NO. 122)

"Silent Night, Holy Night!"

STILLE NACHT

The ministers will light their candles from the Christ candle and then pass the light to the end of each pew.

Each person, in turn, shares the light with his/her neighbor.

Following the service, you may keep your candle or deposit it in a box near the doors.

**Silent night, holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright
 'round yon virgin mother and child!
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace,
 sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight;
 glories stream from heaven afar,
 heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
 Christ the Savior is born;
 Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 radiant beams from thy holy face,
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

BENEDICTION

HYMN

**Silent night, holy night!
 Wondrous star, lend thy light;
 with the angels let us sing
 Alleluia to our King:
 Christ the Savior is born;
 Christ the Savior is born.**

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE
10:00 P.M.

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

Craig Checkel

ORGAN PRELUDE

A Christmas Triptych
I. Plainsong Prelude
II. Berceuse
III. Christmas Flourish

Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's grace has appeared for the salvation of all!

For to us is born a savior, who is Christ the Lord.

And the government will be upon his shoulders, and his name will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest!

*HYMN NO. 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rob, Tina, Cori and Stephanie Rydgren

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

The Christ candle is lit

The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness will never overcome it!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Gracious God,

your love for your creation is wider and deeper than we can fathom.

**On this night of wonder we remember that you loved the world so passionately
that you gave your only son**

to free us from the things that destroy us,

to point the way to an abundant life,

and to fill us with hope in this life and the next.

**Open our hearts to receive this beautiful mystery our minds cannot grasp,
and fill us with your everlasting love,**

so that we may share your goodness with a hurting world.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

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

Westminster Solo Quartet and Alumni Choir

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,
 Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
 Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
 Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;
 Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
 Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,
 Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,
 Bear the news with its message of good cheer:
 "Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,
 Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!"

Let us all pay our homage at the manger,
 Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;
 Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;
 Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

*See his star shining bright
 In the sky this Christmas Night!
 Follow me joyfully;
 Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

ANTHEM

"I Saw Three Ships"
Westminster Solo Quartet

arr. Andrew Carter

I saw three ships come sailing in,
 On Christmas Day in the morning.
 And what was in those ships all three?
 Our savior Christ and his lady.
 Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?
 O, they sailed into Bethlehem.
 And all the bells on earth shall ring.
 And all the angels in heav'n shall sing.
 And all the souls on earth shall sing.
 Then let us all rejoice amain!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

*HYMN NO. 119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 134

"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

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 Please see the back cover for information on these ministries.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Welcome to Our World"
Alumni Choir

Chris Rice

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking,
 how we need to hear from God!
 You've been promised, we've been waiting.
 Welcome Holy Child!
 Welcome Holy Child!

Bring your peace into our violence.
 Bid our hungry souls be filled.
 Words now breaking Heaven's silence!
 Welcome to our world!
 Welcome to our world!

Hope that you don't mind our manger,
 how I wish we would have known!
 But long awaited holy stranger,
 make yourself at home!
 Please make yourself at home.

So wrap our injured flesh around you,
 breathe our air and walk our sod.
 Rob our sin and make us holy.
 Perfect Son of God.
 Welcome to our world!

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is open to all who trust in Christ.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.**

What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

*HYMN NO. 123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
Verses 1,2 and 5

CAROL

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Eternal God...

LORD'S PRAYER (page 35 in the hymn book, using "debts" and "debtors.")

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*When an usher invites you to approach communion servers, please take a piece of bread,
the symbol of Christ's love for you, and dip it in the cup, representing the new life in Christ.*

If you are unable to come forward, please tell an usher so that you may be served.

For those who have wheat allergies, we provide gluten-free rice crackers with the communion bread.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

"Hush Now and Lullaby"
Alumni Choir

Barbara Kinyon

Hush now and lullaby, Little Jesus child;
Angels watch over thee, Tiny Babe so mild.
Wise men with gifts of gold,
Praising now your birth;
Shepherds their story told
Over all the earth.
Hush now, sleep well, my child, Mary is near;
Nothing shall harm you, Nothing shall you fear.

Cease now your crying, Rock-a-by, my Love,
Cradled by Mary, Blest from heav'n above.
Tidings of joy we sing,
Words of love we hear;
Children this holy day
Know that God is near.
Hush now your crying, Fear not little One;
God watches over you, Blessed only Son.

Angels sing "Gloria," Blessings they bring;
Praises to Jesus All their voices sing,
Hush now, don't you cry now,
Tiny Babe so mild;
Hush now and lullaby,
Little Jesus Child.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

**God of love and light,
on this night when we ponder the nature of your presence on earth,
turn us inward to your Spirit that fills us with peace and joy,
and turn us outward to the needs of this broken, but beautiful world.
We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn (No. 122)

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

The ministers will light their candles from the Christ candle and then pass the light to the end of each pew.

Each person, in turn, shares the light with his/her neighbor.

Following the service, you may keep your candle or deposit it in a box near the doors.

**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
’round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born!”**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

The ministers will light their candles from the Christ candle and then pass the light to the end of each pew.

Each person, in turn, shares the light with his/her neighbor.

Following the service, you may keep your candle or deposit it in a box near the doors.

BENEDICTON

HYMN

**Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born.**

CHRISTMAS 2016 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:

***Bernie Alexander
Carolyn and Edsell Eady
Joan and Alfred Bacon, Jr.
Dodson and Eleanor Barineau and Libby Drake
Rose and Paul Jones, Russell O. Jones
William Deans
Mr. and Mrs. David Bernhard, Grandparents
Mr. Victor Lawryniuk, Grandarent
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Becker, Grandparents
Pauline and Lewis Black
Ross Micheals, Norman Naftzger and Jane Harper
Our Parents and Other Loved Ones
Thelma Green
Brittany Burns
My parents, Doug and Sally Buttner
Our Parents
Bill and Meg Taylor
Henry and Ida Checkel
Tom Stout
Inez M. Cobb
Willard H. Cobb Jr.
Maury Colbert
Mary Colbourn
Mary Jo and Phil Collins
Jim Corner
Doris Corner
Ramiz and Rose Hourani
Ray Daley
Janet and Bob Eissner
Jessie and Cerd Marsh
Mrs. Minnie Vici
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gavenonis, Sr.
El Graef
Nick Marcopulos
Elizabeth and Rodney Higgins
Our Parents
John and Dot Hunter
Fred Hurlock, Jr.; Frances and Fred Hurlock, Sr.
Sarah and Dave Frie and son David
Parents Ben and Mary F. Ogle
Our Parents
Bob Kelley and Gail Kelley Veith
Our Parents and Grandparents***

Given By:

***The Alexander Family
Liz and Brud Bacon
Liz and Brud Bacon
John Barineau and Family
Nancy and Bill Barlow
Fay Deans Barnaby
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Kay and Lew Black
Adam, Jenn and Amelia Blackford
Nancy and Herb Boden
The Burns Family
The Burns Family
Sally Buttner
Polly and Jim Carter
Jeanne and Bob Checkel
Jeanne and Bob Checkel
Church Staff
Rosemary and Barry Cobb
Rosemary and Barry Cobb
Nancy Colbert
Art, Deb, Dave and Jack
Donna and Clark Collins
Roger and Paula Corner
Roger and Paula Corner
Joe and Tammy Daley
Joe and Tammy Daley
The Eissner and Stabler Families
Barbara and Jerry Fedeler
The Gavenonis Family
The Gavenonis Family
Sally Graef
Cathy Higgins
Cathy Higgins
Carol and Tom Hogue
Beth, John and Amy
Suzie Hurlock
Suzie Hurlock
Melissa Jessup
John and Dede Johnston
Helen Kelley
Gary and Kitty Knox***

CHRISTMAS 2016 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:

*Jerry Lee
Loved Ones
Amy Michener Lengel
My Grandparents, Herbert and Lela Thompson,
Ralph T. and Leola Lewis
My Parents, Ralph Lewis, Sr., and Mildred Ellison
Aunts and Uncles: Lewis's and Thompson's
Our Parents
Sandy and Ronny Daut, Parents of Cindy Love
Sara and Bascomb Love, Parents of Robert Love
Bob Marsh
Amy Michener Lengel
Alice, Arnold and Charles Sharpley
Lillian, John and Mildred Michener
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Neff
Mr. and Mrs. William Looper
Robert Currin
Ingrid Pamm
Georges Pamm
Edward Reese
Amy Lengel
Janet and Jack Foster
Sara Jane Evans and Charles Pfleegor
Catherine Myers Moore
Rachel Davis Myers
William Poole and Louisa H. Poole
Estelle and Jim Sherman, my parents
Our Parents
Robert and Alma Ridout
J. Morton and Lola Gregg
Elizabeth and Fred Bartholomew
Elizabeth and Hepner VanHorn
Our Parents
Jay, Ann, Grammy and Grandpap
Our Parents
Paul and Dorothy Steen married 12/24/41
Tom Stout
David Curry
Richard Horace Emerich
Catherine E. Delario
Kenneth & Elizabeth Budd, parents of Linda Watson
Louzetta Lower Morris*

Given By:

*Virginia Lee and Family
Virginia Lee and Family
Eric, Katie, Jason and Justin Lengel
Ralph Lewis
Ralph Lewis
Ralph Lewis
Ralph Lewis
Sue and Bob Linderman
Cindy and Robert Love
Cindy and Robert Love
Anne Marsh
Jack and Bunny Michener
Jack and Bunny Michener
Jack and Bunny Michener
Carol and Wheeler Neff
Carol and Wheeler Neff
The Pamm Family
The Pamm Family
The Pamm Family
The Pfaff Family
The Pfaff Family
Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor
Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor
Cassandra Lloyd Piovoso
Cassandra Lloyd Piovoso
Stephen C. Poole
Kristine Qualls
Linda and Charlie Reinhardt
Patti and Bob Ridout
Patti and Bob Ridout
Lin and Eric Ruoss
Lin and Eric Ruoss
Donna and Tom Shaw
The Spilecki Family
David and Jane M Stabler
Barbara Steen
Westminster Choir
Paul and Judy Stoffer
Jennifer Emerich-Trickey and John Trickey
The van Amerongen family
Skip and Linda Watson
Skip and Linda Watson*

CHRISTMAS 2016 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:

*L. Martin Gravely
Sally and Stephen Wemmers
Barbara W. Wheatley
Mary Jo and Phil Collins
My Parents Eugene and Elsie Carroll Wehrle and
my brother Craig Wehrle*

In Honor Of:

*Peggy Cartmell
Benjamin and Scarlett Ferry
Gavin, Payton, Gates, Valerie Thompson
Marty & Marvin Bloomsburg
Doris and Vince Wemlinger*

Given By:

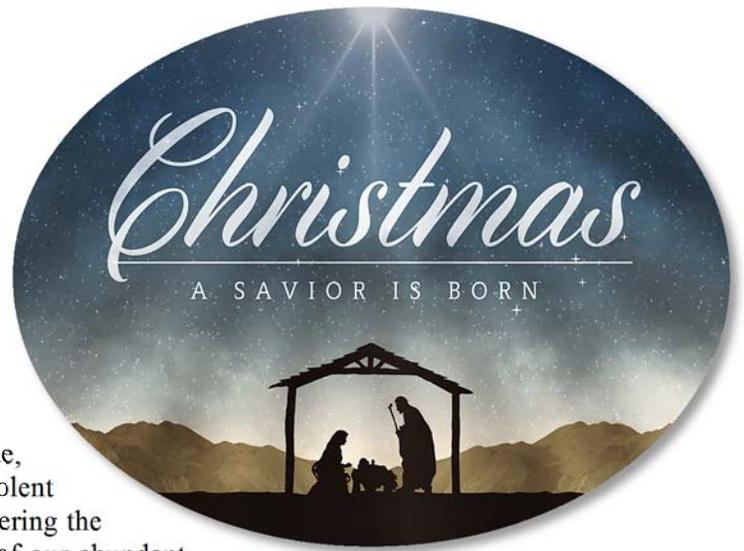
*His Family
Craig Wemmers
Her Family
Don and Dolly Windsor
Debbie Wise
Debbie Wise*

Given By:

*Roger and Paula Corner
Wesley and Beth Emmons
Stark and Sandy Thompson
Mary, Vince and Vinnie Wemlinger
Mary, Vince and Vinnie Wemlinger*



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



As we near the celebration of Christ’s birth, we long for a world in line with God’s vision – a world where everyone has a place at the table and plenty to eat, a safe place to call home, meaningful work, opportunities for education, and a less violent world. Each year, our Christmas Offering is dedicated to furthering the mission of Christ and gives us the chance to share a portion of our abundant blessings with people in dire circumstances. Every dollar you give goes beyond our walls to ministries that share the love of God with those in need. Will you help those in our community and in other troubled spots around the globe find hope?

Our Christmas Offering supports the dignity and empowerment of people all over the world by providing food, shelter, clean water, education, support services and peacemaking initiatives; 70% will enhance our local ministries and 30% will further our global ministries. Your gift will be distributed to the following:

- ✦ **UrbanPromise Academy (30%)** – equips young adults from Wilmington neighborhoods (grades 9-12) with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, personal growth and servant leadership.
- ✦ **Church in the World Projects (25%)** – programs that serve to educate girls and women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala and Syrian refugee camps and support for the Guatemala (SWIG) water filter project.
- ✦ **Emmanuel Dining Room (20%)** – provides hot, nutritious meals to those in our community who face increasing needs for emergency food assistance. Faithful and caring volunteers have been serving hundreds of meals at the North Jackson Street location each day since 1979.
- ✦ **Friendship House Empowerment Centers (20%)** – helping individuals and families get back on a path of empowerment and self-sufficiency, this offering will help support the growth of the Empowerment Centers throughout New Castle County.
- ✦ **Peace Drums (5%)** – a unique interfaith initiative promoting peace among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim youth living in the Galilee region of Israel.



UrbanPromise Academy



Emmanuel Dining Room



Peace Drums



Church in the World Projects



Empowerment Centers