

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE²⁰¹⁷

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



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 or 302-654-5214 ext. 103.

Our Christmas decorations are labors of love by: Linda and Skip Watson; Clark and Donna Collins, Kevin and Chelsea Collins and their children; Jill Getty; Roger Atkins, Kendal Colvard, Mary Field, Linda and Paul McGregor, Lola Miller, Carol Mosher, Sue Weissinger and Lois Underhill. 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 160 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 all day on Monday, December 25. The church office will be OPEN December 26, 27, 28 and 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. if you wish to drop off a year-end donation. Also, all donations postmarked by December 31, 2017 will be considered received and credited on your 2017 contribution statement. If you have questions concerning the status of your 2017 pledge, please contact Colleen Falasco (cfalasco@wpc.org or 302-654-5214 ext. 131).

Cover image credit: www.reflectionsintheword.org.

**Next Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve), there
will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m.
Nursery care provided.**

WHAT DO I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

What do I want for Christmas?
I want to kneel in Bethlehem,
the air thick with alleluias,
the angels singing
that God is born among us.
In the light of the Star,
I want to see them come,
the wise ones and the humble.
I want to see them come
bearing whatever they treasure
to lay at the feet
of him who gives his life.

What do I want for Christmas?
to see in that stable
the whole world kneeling in thanks
for a promise kept:
new life.
For in his nativity
we find ours.

-Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

8:00 P.M.

The 10:00 service begins on page 8.

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

Sue Spilecki

PRELUDE MUSIC

Three Carols

arr. Michael Burkhardt

1. Oh, Come, Little Children
2. Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
3. Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

The Westminster Choir
Merideth Hite Estevez, oboe
Paul Fleckenstein, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Despite the darkness and divisiveness that surround us,
we choose to live in joy.

**In a world where wealth is power,
it may seem foolish to sing a different tune.**

But a child has been born for us,
a son given to us.

**He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

CHORAL INTROIT

Carol of the Bells

Mykola Leontovich

*HYMN NO. 133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Ty, Cathy, Alexis and Zi Burns

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.*

ANTHEM

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

Jon McPheeters

ANTHEM

"Gloria in Excelsis"

W. A. Mozart

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus, benedicimus,
adoramus, glorificamus.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris.

*Glory to God in the highest
And on earth peace
to all those of good will.
We praise thee. We bless thee.
We worship thee. We glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee
according to thy great glory.
Lord God, Heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

Jon McPheeters

*HYMN NO. 113

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Greg Jones

*HYMN NO. 141

"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

PERSONENT HODIE

CHRISTMAS 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.*

Please sign and pass the friendship folder, at the end of the pew, to the person next to you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"We Have Seen His Star"

Mary E. Caldwell

From distant lands afar we've come across the trackless waste, Feeling the bite of wind and the sting of sand.
Kings with golden homage for a King! We follow a star brighter than any sun, making a pathway through the
endless desert night. Open wide the gateway to this place. We seek a King! Only a tiny child is in this place,
With hair the color of new-spun gold, and eyes as blue as skies eternal. A manger is his resting place. But in his
hands he holds the hope of the worlds to come! The hearts of the lonely and the poor are his. His smile shall
comfort the weary ones, His tears shall flow for the oppressed. He brings the keys to the gate which he shall open
for his beloved ones! This is the King we seek! We've found the Holy One! Come, behold his kingdom of love,
O may we enter in! But soft! See how sweetly he sleeps. Tread gently, lest we waken Him as we kneel to adore.

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. 145

“What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

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

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*When you approach a communion server, 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 will be served in their pews.

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

COMMUNION ANTHEM

“Sleep, Holy Babe”

H. Alexander Matthews

Sharon Babcock, mezzo-soprano

Sleep, Holy Babe! In slumber lie.

Upon thy mother's breast;
Her gentle arms enfold thee,
Her wond'ring eyes behold Thee
In calm and peaceful rest.

The angels wing their flight,
They bow in love before Thee,
They praise Thee, and adore thee,
And watch Thee thro' the night.

The Magi prostrate fall,
And precious gifts they bear Thee,
The king supreme declare thee,
Beside a lowly stall.

The hosts of heav'n and earth
Still lay their gifts before Thee,
Still worship and adore Thee,
And Praise Thy wondrous birth.

**O God of peace,
to you we ascribe all honor and majesty, beauty and strength.
You bring forth a Child whom we call blessed,
upon whose shoulders rests the destiny of nations.
You give us the gift of life everlasting,
and a Wonderful Counselor who shall guide your people.
With shepherds and angels, we lift our voices rejoicing:
All glory to you in the highest,
and on earth peace among all. Amen.**

HYMN

“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.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 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. | 2. 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!” |
| 3. 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. | 4. 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. |

BENEDICTION

*HYMN NO. 134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.	Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
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**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

<p>CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE 10:00 P.M.</p>

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

Sue Spilecki

PRELUDE

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
Merideth Hite Estevez, oboe

arr. Michael Burkhardt

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. 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jack Coleman, Mary Jane Taylor-Coleman, and Lilly Coleman

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.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

ANTHEM

Angels' Carol
Alumni Choir

John Rutter

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

ANTHEM

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”
Alumni Choir

arr. David H. Williams

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

*HYMN NO. 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

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

Please sign and pass the friendship folder, at the end of the pew, to the person next to you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Wandering Kings”
Alumni Choir

Andrew Carter

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. 121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

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

**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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*When you approach a communion server, 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.*

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

“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

RESPONSE

**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 2017 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:

Carol and Gene Hopkins
Bill Albert
Bernie Alexander
William C. Deans
Teddy Bedrossian
E. Howard Bedrossian, MD
Rosetta Bedrossian
Mr. and Mrs. David Bernhard, Grandparents
Mr. Victor Lawryniuk, Grandparent
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Becker, Grandparents
Mrs. Marianne Wizgall, Dear Friend
John R. Becker, uncle
Lewis and Pauline Black
Our Parents and other Loved Ones
Our Parents
Rev. John Cartmell
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Checkel
Bob Churchill
Inez M. Cobb
Willard H. Cobb
Brendan M. Cobb
Maury Colbert
Mary Colbourn
Jo and Phil Collins
My Husband, Art Connolly, Jr.
My Parents, Florence and Harris McDowell
Doris Corner
Jim Corner
Raymond Daley
Our Parents, Ramiz and Rose Hourani
Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Lowe
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Diver
Art Diver
Floyd, Emma and Esther Fedeler
Cerd and Jessie Marsh
Margaret McCain Ford
L. Martin Gravely
Nick Marcopulos
Elizabeth and Rodney Higgins
Our Parents
John and Dot Hunter

Given By:

Rich and Taryn Albert
Rich and Taryn Albert
The Alexander Family
Fay Deans Barnaby
Iryna and Ned Bedrossian
Iryna and Ned Bedrossian
Iryna and Ned Bedrossian
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Diane M. Bernhard
Kay and Lew Black
Nancy and Herb Boden
Polly and Jim Carter
James and Peggy Cartmell
Jeanne and Bob Checkel
Jeanne and Bob Checkel
His Family
Rosemary and Barry Cobb
Rosemary and Barry Cobb
Rosemary and Barry Cobb
Nancy Colbert
Art, Deb, David and Jack
Donna and Clark Collins
Joan M. Connolly
Joan M. Connolly
Roger and Paula Corner
Roger and Paula Corner
Joe and Tammy Daley
Joe and Tammy Daley
Nancy L. Diver
Nancy L. Diver
Nancy L. Diver
Barbara and Jerry Fedeler
Barbara and Jerry Fedeler
Tom Ford
His Family
Cathy Higgins
Cathy Higgins
Tom and Carol Hogue
Beth, John and Amy

CHRISTMAS 2017 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:

*Fred Hurlock, Jr.; Frances and Fred Hurlock, Sr.
 Sarah and Dave Frie and son David
 Loved Ones
 Mary Colbourn
 Our Parents
 Ellie Kaye
 Husband Bob Kelley and daughter Gail Kelley Veith
 For Grammy, Ann and Jay
 Stokes Walesby
 Karl Kniel
 Our Parents and Grandparents
 Clementine Elwell
 David B. Elwell
 Jacqueline Layman
 Jerry Lee
 Grandparents
 Amy Michener Lengel
 My Parents Ralph L. Lewis and Mildred G. Ellison
 Grandparents: Wm. Herbert and Lela G. Thompson
 Ralph T. and Leola M. Lewis
 Aunts and Uncles
 Our Parents
 Charles M Krick, Jr. and Ann E. Linderman
 John, Lillian and Mildred Michener
 Arnold, Alice and Charles Sharpley
 Amy Michener Lengel
 Mark William Palmer
 Ingrid and Georges Pamm
 Robert Currin
 George R. Patrick
 George H. Patrick
 Martha Patrick
 Raymond H. Peters
 Carrie Peters
 Edward Reese
 Amy Lengel
 Janet and Jack Foster
 Sally Evans and Charles Pfleegor*

Given By:

*Suzie Hurlock
 Suzie Hurlock
 Charlie Ingersoll and Dick Jolly
 Jane Iobst
 John and Dede Johnston
 Bill Kaye
 Helen Kelley
 The Kline Family
 Kniel-Tolbert Family
 Kniel-Tolbert Family
 Gary and Kitty Knox
 Arch and Melody Layman
 Arch and Melody Layman
 Arch and Melody Layman
 Virginia Lee and Family
 Virginia Lee and Family
 Eric, Katie, Jason and Justin
 Ralph L. Lewis
 Ralph L. Lewis
 Ralph L. Lewis
 Ralph L. Lewis
 Sue and Bob Linderman
 Sue and Bob Linderman
 Jack and Bunny Michener
 Jack and Bunny Michener
 Jack and Bunny Michener
 Jane Palmer and Bill Moore
 The Pamm Family
 The Pamm Family
 The Patrick Family
 The Patrick Family
 The Patrick Family
 The Patrick Family
 The Patrick Family
 The Pfaff Family
 The Pfaff Family
 Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor
 Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor*

CHRISTMAS 2017 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:

Catherine Myers Moore
Rachel Davis Myers
Our Parents
Elizabeth and Hepner VanHorn
Ray and Fran Scofield
Bill and Allison Bennett
Alexandra Scofield
Robert K. Shadduck, father of my children
Minna and Russ Vollmer and Marion and Albert
Shadduck, grandparents of my children
Jay, Ann, Grammy and Grandpap
Our Parents
Janet and Bob Eissner
Dorothy and Paul Steen
Wayne Suiter
Our Parents
Lea and Helen Warner
My Parents
Sally and Stephen Wemmers
Barbara Wheatley

Given By:

Cassandra Lloyd Piovoso
Cassandra Lloyd Piovoso
Charles and Linda Reinhardt
The Ruoss Family
Bob and Sue Scofield
Bob and Sue Scofield
Bob and Sue Scofield
Ann Shadduck

Ann Shadduck
The Spilecki Family
Jane and Dave Stabler
The Stabler and Eissner Families
Barbara Steen
Jane Suiter
Lois and Lowell Underhill
Wayne Warner
Linda Watson
Craig Wemmers
Her Family

CHRISTMAS 2017 POINSETTIAS

In Honor of:

My sister, Paula Szczuka
Peggy Cartmell
Margie Lounsbury
Presby, the Westminster Church mouse
Sylvia B. Kniel
Arch Layman, Sr.
Daisy Jane Ostien
Judy Stoddard
Gavin, Payton, Gates, Valerie
Our Family

Given By:

Dianne Browne
Roger and Paula Corner
Roger and Paula Corner
A Friend
Kniel-Tolbert Family
Arch and Melody Layman
Tres Ostien
Robin Rosser
Stark and Sandy Thompson
Lois and Lowell Underhill

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 Faith Formation through Music and Arts, Teaching Artist in Residence
Kevin Flaherty, Assistant Director of Children's Music
Soloist/Section Leaders: Elizabeth Holmes, Sharon Babcock, Christian Sanders, Travis Lucas,

YOUTH LEADERS

Merideth Hite Estevez, Susan Moseley
Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, Tommy Neilson

SUPPORT STAFF

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Nicole Hughes, Director of Communication and Database Management
Jerry Hunter, Financial Assistant
Suzie Hurlock, Administrative Assistant
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Sextons: Thomas Carter, Robert King, Joan Truitt, John Young
Nursery: Miss Bea, Susan Sprague

SESSION

Jen Barrington, Ty Burns, Sally Buttner, Chad Chandler, Jeanne Checkel, Art Colbourn, Joe Daley,
Rich Diver, Michael Enderle, Mike Gnade, Cathy Higgins, Carol Hogue, Barbara Jobe, Kali Kniel,
Kelly McCulloch, Jon McPheeters, Mark Mosher, Margo Reign, Roger Reinicker, Craig Stabler, Barb Stratton,
Mary Vane, Susan Williamson, Helen Zumsteg

BOARD OF DEACONS

Liz Bacon, Don Beddie, Amy Bickhart, Beatty Chadwick, Barry Cobb, Tammy Daley, Nancy Diver, Teisha Fooks,
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Mary Lou McDowell, Susan McPheeters, Lola Miller, Bob Moore, Carol Neff, Cassandra Piovosio, Ann Shadduck,
Jerry Spilecki, Lisa Stoddard, Judy Stoffer, Josh Thomas, Sharlym Torres, Jennifer Trickey, Lois Underhill,
Lowell Underhill, Jennie Wagner, Gen Wallace-Roe, Sue Weissinger, Pam White, Sandy White, Debbie Wise

TRUSTEES

Charley Babcock, Gary Bryde, Jim Carter, Denison Hatch, Bobbe Hoy, Fred Iobst, Bill Nace, Mary Lu Pamm,
Kris Qualls, Bob Ridout, Bruce Weber, Dan Weintraub

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

South Sudan – Bob and Kristi Rice
Congo – PCUSA Mission Co-workers John and Gwenda Fletcher, Jeff and Cristi Boyd,
Larry and Inga Sthresley, Cecilé de Sweemer, MD, Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – Mission Co-workers the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker, Dr. Mary Mikhael
Peace Drums Steel Band – Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine
Guatemala - Rosario Diaz and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development, CEDEPCA, Leslie Vogel, and
Sandi and Brian Thompson-Royer



Dear Members and Friends of Westminster,

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 (25%)** – As Wilmington struggles to deal with violence on our streets, UrbanPromise is a beacon of hope to children and youth in our city. Through programs such as its elementary school, after-school programs and summer camps (both meet here at Westminster), specialized high school, and scholarship program to help students remain in college, children are taught Christian values, disciplined study habits, and conflict resolution skills.
- ✧ **Friendship House (25%)** – Westminster's partnership with Friendship House, begun more than 30 years ago, has offered thousands of homeless people in our community the hope for a brighter future. Friendship House provides shelter, food, counseling, clothing, and job assistance.
- ✧ **Church in the World Projects (25%)** – These global programs promote peace in areas of conflict and education for girls and women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, and Syrian refugee camps. Westminster also supports the Guatemala VIP Latrine project.
- ✧ **Neighborhood Food Pantries (20%)** – Westminster contributes to Hanover Food Closet and LCS/St. Stephen's Food Pantry, recognizing that some in our community face increasing need of emergency food assistance.
- ✧ **Peace Drums (5%)** – A unique interfaith initiative promoting peace among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim youth living in the Galilee region of Israel and Palestine. They have spread their musical message of peace to the U.S. and Austria.



UrbanPromise



Church in the World



Peace Drums



Friendship House



Neighborhood Food Pantries