



**Service of Worship
Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2018
9:00 a.m.**

PASTORAL STAFF:

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

MUSIC STAFF

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
Merideth Hite Estevez, Director of Faith Formation through
Music and Arts, Teaching Artist in Residence
Allison Martin, Assistant Director of Children's Music
Soloist/Section Leaders: Hye Eun Choi, Sharon Babcock,
Jason Berger, Brenton Mattox

YOUTH LEADERS

Merideth Hite Estevez
Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, Emily Knepper,
Molly McPheeters, Tommy Neilson

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Colleen Falasco

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND SECURITY

Paul Crothamel

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 (USA)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

1502 West 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org

This Morning at Westminster

8:30 – 11:15 a.m. The Holy Toast Café, in Community Hall, offers free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar per item.

Deacon Team of the Month

Barry Cobb, Kyle Carrick, Diane Chandler, Teisha Fooks, Debbie Wise

8:45– 12:15 p.m. **Nursery Care**

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. **Worship**

Children are always welcome in worship. We also provide additional opportunities for children to grow in faith. Children are escorted to classes after TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN during worship.

- ❖ **Godly Care** – Children ages 2 through 4 in Preschool Suite C.
- ❖ **Godly Play 1** – Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade in the Ruth Christie Room.
- ❖ **Sing-to-Praise Choir Program** – Children in grades 3 through 6 in the Youth Music Room.

All children who leave the sanctuary after TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN must have a completed yellow security label on their backs. If you do not find a security label in the pew pocket, you can obtain one in the Preschool Suite. This policy is for your child’s protection. Children will only be released to a guardian or an adult pre-approved by the guardian. Thank you for your help.

10:10 a.m.	Education for All Ages	
	➤ Sunday School for Preschoolers	Preschool Suite D
	➤ Joyful Noise Choir Program for K – 2	Youth Music Room
	➤ Middle Schoolers for Grades 6 – 8	Classroom 8
	➤ Sr. High for Grades 9 – 12	Classroom 7
	➤ Sunday Seminars	See page 7
11:15 a.m.	Living Mosaics Worship	Rodney Chapel
12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Time after Living Mosaics	Meeting Room

Later Today

4:00 p.m.	Christmas Musical Celebration	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	180° Youth Christmas Party	Offsite Location
6:00 p.m.	Clean But Not Straight – NA	Club Room
8:00 p.m.	AA	Club Room



Westminster is certified as an “Earth Care Congregation” by the Presbyterian Church (USA). This honor means that we have exhibited exceptional leadership in protecting God’s creation and being good stewards of earth’s resources through our worship, education, outreach and advocacy. Only 2% of the 10,000 Presbyterian congregations in this country have earned this honored distinction.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in gratitude for our loving and supportive Westminster family as we celebrate the baptism of Leonardo Kristian Suarez by Josh, Rick, Alejandro and Leonardo.

Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event, while expressing praise and thanksgiving to God. Please contact Linda Watson during business hours at 302-571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com for available dates. The next available dates are December 16 and 30, and January 6, 13, 20 and 27.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** Joyce Ruston
- ❖ **Those unable to attend worship on a regular basis** by sending a card, saying a prayer, or visiting. This week we ask you to remember Margaret Lyle Stevens at Rockland Place and Ellen Clarke at Cokesbury.
- ❖ **Westminster's Prayer Team** prays for the needs of our community of faith. You may submit a prayer request by leaving a confidential message on 302-654-5848, ext. 335; or filling out a prayer request card (in the pew pocket) and placing it in the offering plate; or sending an email to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com.

Afghanistan and Iraq often seems far away, and we may neglect to realize that Americans, as well as Afghans, Iraqis and members of coalition forces continue to die. As Christians, we are called to pray for the spreading of peace and justice and an end to violence. If someone in your family is serving in the military, please let us know, so that we may include that person on our prayer list. Contact Cathy Lang: 302-654-5214 ext. 129, or cathylang@wpc.org.

This week we pray for:

- The families of those from the U.S. who have died recently:
 - Sergeant First Class Eric Michael Emond, age 39, from Brush Prairie, Washington
 - Captain Andrew Patrick Ross, age 29, from Lexington, Virginia
 - Staff Sergeant Dylan J. Elchin, age 25, from Hookstown, PA
 - Sergeant Jason Mitchell McClary, age 24, from Export, PA
- Those suffering from Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

WORSHIP NOTES

Easy-to-use assisted listening devices may be found in the back of the sanctuary and the side entrance off the main hallway.

Worship Resources – You can obtain large print hymnals and listening devices from any usher. Worship bags for children ages 3 through 6 include a children's bulletin designed for them. Children's bulletins for ages 7 through 12 are also available from the ushers.

Are you wearing a nametag? Whether you are a long-time member or new to our church family, wearing a nametag provides others the opportunity to meet you, greet you by name, and for you to become more familiar with others at church. You will find nametags and markers in baskets at all major entrances.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website www.wpc.org and click the "Donate Now" button or scan the QR code on your smart phone



ORDER OF WORSHIP

TOWER CHIME

Craig Checkel

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*In this season of longing, grant us grace to bring all that we are to you, O Christ –
all the broken places
all the lost wanderings
all the weariness from trying to live lives that are pleasing to you.*

*Hold them all in the fullness of your love. Then, be born in us, that we may find our home,
our life, our joy in You, Lord of light and love.*

From a prayer by Christine Jerrett

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*PASSING THE PEACE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Voluntary on *Winchester New*

C. S. Lang

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Nancy Colbert, Cathy Globber, and Bill Kaye

Last Sunday we lit the first candle – the candle of hope.

Today we light the candle of peace.

**We light it fully aware that peace is elusive,
and in some parts of the world it is difficult to find.**

Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us.

God is always preparing something new.

Even where there is war and discord,

whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts,

God is present, calling us to a new future.

ADVENT PRAYER

**Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,
we thank you for the hope and peace you continuously offer us.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed
and reveal your vision of peace
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

*HYMN NO. 96

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

WINCHESTER NEW

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Greg Jones

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

*The congregation is asked to refrain from taking photographs
or video recording during the worship service.*

PRESENTATION OF THE PARENTS AND CHILD

Elder Polly Pyle-Carter

OPENING WORDS

Each birth is a miracle of blessing and wonder,
and each child is cherished by God.
God blesses all children with a potential for what is right and true and good,
and shows them the beauty of a life of love.

PROMISES OF COMMITMENT

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? **We do.**

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith and to teach that faith to your children? **We do.**

CONGREGATION

Will we, the people of the church, nurture and support Leonardo and Alejandro, and will we encourage them to become faithful Christians? **We will.**

CHILDREN

Do you promise to help Leonardo and Alejandro be a part of our church family by being a friend to them?

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOLLOWING BAPTISM

*Children through Grade 6 may leave for Godly Care, Godly Play 1, and Sing-to-Praise Choir,
or they may remain in worship.*

ANTHEM

"A Spotless Rose"

Ethan McGrath

A spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might
The blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold winter's night.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

New Testament, page 52
Patti Ridout, Lay Reader

OFFERING

“Now as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in your love for us – we want you to excel also in this grace of giving.” (2 Corinthians 8:7)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth”

Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a scepter from Israel rise up. And dash in pieces princes and nations.

As bright the star of morning gleams,
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams
Of light and consolation!
Thy word, O Lord,
Radiance darting,
Truth imparting,
Gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER (page 35 in our *Glory to God* hymnal, using “debts” and “debtors”)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse’s lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

GOING FORTH

New to Westminster?

Welcome! We are so glad you are here.

Here is some information you might find helpful:

- Hymnals are located on a shelf under the pew in front of you, or at the ends of the pew. Please join us in singing!
- A red Friendship Pad at the end of the pew will be passed during the service. We hope you will sign it and let us know how we can welcome you with a follow-up contact.
- There will be an Ambassador, Marlys Kerr, at the back of the church at the end of worship, who would love to answer any questions you might have or give you more information about Westminster.
- For more information about our community of faith, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter from the home page of our website (www.wpc.org) or contact the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson at sniesenthompson@wpc.org or (302) 654-5214 ext. 103.

Please join us for coffee or tea in Community Hall after the service.

Ask someone to show you the way!



Sunday Seminars

Peace Drums Update

Classroom 6

Presenter: Harvey Price

Peace Drums is a unique, interfaith initiative promoting peace among Jewish, Muslim, and Christian Youth. It introduces peacemaking and reconciliation through the shared activity of a dynamic steel drum band. Under the guidance of Harvey Price, Westminster Presbyterian Church and Congregation Beth Shalom founded Peace Drums in 2013. The organization brings middle school youth from Haifa (Jewish) and Ibillin (Palestinian), Israel to learn to play steel drums (Caribbean music!). Through playing music together the children forge lifelong ties and understanding of their different faiths and culture with the goal of peace within the community. Come and hear about this initiative to bring peace and unique music to a troubled region.

The Challenge of Paul

Today through December 16

Classroom 3

Facilitator: Bob Cox

The Challenge of Paul is an educational video series of lectures featuring historical Jesus scholar, John Dominic Crossan, who guides participants through the three-dimensional world of the Apostle Paul's time and place. Crossan pushes past generations of doctrine and dogma to reveal the real-life character of Paul who shaped a generation of courageous Christ-followers to challenge boldly the greed and violence of the Roman Empire, the overlord of the first century Mediterranean world.

"How Beautiful are the Feet": Preparing for the Public Reading of Scripture

Sanctuary

Facilitators: Sudie Niesen Thompson and Chip Pfleegor

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:15). At Westminster we value having a diversity of voices "bring good news." That's why we invite congregants to read Scripture aloud in worship. Whether you are a seasoned Lay Reader or someone who is new to the public reading of Scripture, proclaiming the Word requires practice and preparation. This session is an opportunity to learn techniques for the oral interpretation of Scripture so that you are equipped to read aloud with confidence and clarity. Whether you would like to hone your skills as a Lay Reader or try your hand at reading Scripture in public, this session is for you!

CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER 2018

Please join us for the many ways we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Today at 4:00 p.m.

Bask in the glorious sounds of Christmas as the Westminster Choir and soloists, 14-piece orchestra, and organ usher in the season with music to lift your soul. Free admission; offering received.

CHRISTMAS BOXES DINNER AND PACKING PARTY

Friday, December 14, 6:00 p.m.

Share holiday joy with neighbors in need by packing boxes with food and gifts and enjoying a dinner with fellow members and friends. All ages welcome!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 16, 10:00 a.m.

Share the joy of Christmas by caroling to those in our faith community who can no longer attend church. Christmas Caroling is different this year! See the December *Chimes* for details. Children especially welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, December 24

Services for Families with Young Children – 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Informal, lively services combining the story of Jesus' birth with the singing of familiar carols. Child care for infants and toddlers is available in the Nursery for the 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. services.

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

Traditional candlelight services with communion, choral and instrumental offerings, and sermon by Dr. Jones.

On Sunday, December 23, we will have our usual two worship services at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

On Sunday, December 30, there will be ONE worship service at 10:00 a.m.



ECHO Giving in the World

An Outreach of Westminster Presbyterian Church – Supporting Mission



Echo Giving provides an alternative to traditional gift-giving, benefiting Westminster-supported missions across our city and around the globe. With your **tax-deductible donation**, the options for helping your neighbors are many – you can feed the hungry at Emmanuel Dining Room, fund families in transition through Family Promise, or support a neighbor's path to homeownership through a Habitat build. Similarly, you can buy clean cook-stoves for Guatemala or Congo, support disaster relief efforts, and help Westminster youth participate in myriad mission opportunities.

An *Echo Giving* table will be set up in Community Hall during the 10:TEN education hour on Advent Sundays, today, December 16 and 23. Stop by to pick up your shopping list, discuss giving options, and decide how you'd like to make a difference during the Christmas season. Make your contribution, and you'll receive an *Echo Giving in the World* card for the loved ones on your list. Shopping lists are also available on the literature tables.

Christmas Boxes Project is Wrapping Up!

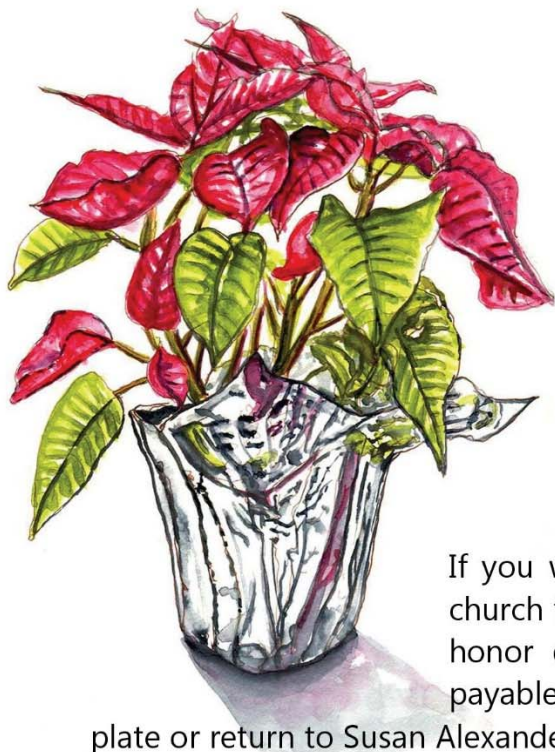
Every year, Westminster fills more than 120 boxes at Christmas with food and gifts for families in need in our community. Be a part of this joyful project!

If you purchased gifts and/or are donating food items, please place them in one of the festively wrapped collection bins **today**. Thank you!

Join the fun on **Friday, December 14 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.** in Community Hall for the **Christmas Box Packing and Potluck Dinner Party**. Don your Santa hat, bring your friends, family and your dish to share with eight, plus your scissors and tape! After enjoying the potluck supper together, packing instructions will be given and then the wrapping and packing festivities begin! With lots of hands, small and large, we'll wrap it up in no time. Come and join your WPC family for this truly joyful occasion.

Find more detailed information and additional ways to help in the December 2018 issue of *The Westminster Chimes* and the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter.





2018 Christmas POINSETTIAS

If you wish to make a contribution toward the decoration of the church for the Christmas season, you may do so in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. Please complete this form, make checks payable to *Westminster Presbyterian Church*, and place in the offering plate or return to Susan Alexander at the front desk by **Monday, December 10**. For any form received *after* that date, the names will be listed in the December 30th bulletin.

DONATION AMOUNT

☐ \$20 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$60 ☐ \$80 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

❖ In Memory Of: (FOR THE DECEASED)

Deceased Person's Name

❖ In Honor Of: (FOR THE LIVING)

Living Person's Name

❖ Given By:

Donor's Name and Telephone Number

If you wish to take a poinsettia plant home with you, you may do so following the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Plants remaining after that service will be delivered to our homebound members. If you can help with delivery, please contact Jill Getty at jgetty@wpc.org by Wednesday, December 12, 2018.

IT'S THE MOST ~~WONDERFUL~~ *hectic*

TIME OF THE YEAR!

Take a break from the hectic pace of the Christmas season and join us for a time of prayer and reflection, silence and song, inspired by the worship of the Taizé Community in France. All are welcome!



WEDNESDAY EVENING
TAIZÉ

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Wednesdays
December 12 and 19, 2018
6:30 p.m.



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1502 West 13th Street • Wilmington, DE 19806
(302) 654-5214 • www.wpc.org



Music at Westminster

presents

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION 2018

TODAY
4:00 p.m.

One can't help but get in the Christmas spirit when hearing a live performance of some of the great music of the season. And we have just the thing for you! Thrill to the sounds of our Westminster Choir and soloists, organ, and 14-piece orchestra, joining forces to present this annual festive musical celebration.

Featured on this year's program are selections from Handel's beloved *Messiah*, sparkling arrangements of traditional Christmas tunes by Neil Harmon, and a beautiful work by Randol Bass, *A Savior Is Born*. Of course, we'll also lead you, the audience, in singing majestic arrangements of some of your favorite carols. Bring your friends, and share the joy that is Christmas at Westminster.

FREE ADMISSION • OFFERING RECEIVED