

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Large Print Bulletin

Knowing Christ.....Making Christ Known

December 22, 2024

11:00 A.M. Contemporary

4th Sunday of Advent

LOVE



A  
Surprising  
GOD

#### GATHERING THOUGHT

"Few of our spiritual ancestors could grasp how pivotal their lives were in upending a distorted world. Our call is to trust this still, small voice that assures us we, too, are caught up in the Spirit's hidden and glorious work."

Donyelle C. McCray, *A Surprising God*

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad in your pew)*

## CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING WEEK

**FOUR: LOVE**

**Eric, Maddie, Andrew, Nora, and Benjamin Dorville**

*Reader One: Because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, because too many people are sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, because too many of our conversations are laced with conflict and bitterness, we light candles...*

*Reader Two: Because people all over the world are suffering, and we're often too distracted to notice, we light candles...*

*Reader One: One for hope, one for peace, one for joy, and one for love.*

*Reader Two: May the light from these candles overwhelm the world.*

*Reader One: May the light from these candles illuminate the valley of the shadow of death.*

*Reader Two: And may the fire from these candles burn away whatever would prevent God's love from being born among us.*

**People: Friends, be not afraid, even now God's love is overwhelming the world, on earth as it already is in heaven!**

## Advent Candle Lighting

**Advent Response #82**    *Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)*  
Ed Cash and Chris Tomlin

*Emmanuel Emmanuel, God incarnate here to dwell  
Emmanuel Emmanuel, Praise his name Emmanuel  
Praise his name Emmanuel*

## UNISON PRAYER

**Holy God, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us strength to grow in love. May the dawn of Christ's coming find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE**    *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

***Refrain:*** O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!    *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!    *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!    *Refrain*

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## SONG

### *King of Kings*

Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, and Scott Ligertwood

In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light  
Till from Heaven you came running there was mercy in your eyes  
To fulfil the law and prophets to a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

*Refrain: Praise the Father, Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of Glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation, you did not despise the cross  
For even in your suffering you saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation; Jesus for our sake you died.  
(*Refrain*)

And the morning that you rose, all of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good,  
for the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs,  
and the angels stood in awe,  
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the spirit lit the flame  
Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint  
By His blood and in his name, in his freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me. (*Refrain*)

Praise forever to the King of Kings.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**THOUGHT FOR CHILDREN**

**CONGREGATIONAL GREETING – “*The Peace of Christ*”**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**

*Mary’s Song (Our King of Peace)*

arr. Wendell Kimbrough

My soul magnifies the Lord  
My spirit rejoices in God  
My Savior has seen his servant in need  
And behold the great things He has done

He scatters the proud and rich  
He lifts up the humble and weak  
The kings of the earth He casts from their thrones  
And the hungry He welcomes to feast

*Refrain: Oh, behold my Savior has come  
And my soul will tell of His praise  
For He Who is strong has come to the weak  
And at last He will reign as our King of Peace*

From now to the end of time  
The nations will know me as blest  
For God has made new His promise of love  
And mercy through Abraham’s seed

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:39-56 (Pew Bible pg. 831)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** Micah 5:2-5a (Pew Bible pg. 756)

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.  
If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil,  
we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

*Pastor: The Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Love Our Endless Story*

Ann Hatfield

**\*SONG OF RESPONSE**

*You Are With Me*

Leslie Jordan & Sandra McCracken

My heart is heavy and tired in this valley  
Mountains grow higher and higher  
But I can't find you, I'll keep lifting my eyes  
I know you're with me.

I hear your voice when you cry, "comfort, comfort"  
Sorrow may last for a night; but in the morning  
Your joy breaks in with the light  
I know you're with me.

**Refrain:** *I know you're with me and you are for me  
You've been behind me, you go before  
You walk beside me through darkest valleys  
I know you are with me.*

You led me here where it's dry out in the desert  
You bring these bones back to life, you put together  
You sing a song of delight  
I know you're with me. (*Refrain*)  
You will be praised; I will oh I will wait  
You will be praised; I will oh I will wait (2x) (*Refrain*)

I know you are with me.

## **BENEDICTION**

### **SONG OF SENDING**

*You Are With Me*

Leslie Jordan & Sandra McCracken

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### **Copyright Information**

#### **Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)**

Ed Cash and Chris Tomlin, © 2009 worshiptogether.com songs, sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing, and Alletrop Music, CCLI License #2254621

#### **O Come All Ye Faithful**

John Francis Wade, Public Domain

#### **King of Kings**

Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, and Scott Ligertwood, ©2018 Hillsong Music Publishing, CCLI#2254621

#### **Mary's Song**

Wendell Kimbrough, © 2014 Kimbrough, Wendell, CCLI License # 2254621

#### **You Are With Me**

Leslie Jordan and Sandra McCracken, © Integrity Worship Music, Integrity's Praise! Music, Little Way Creative, and Paper NewsPublishing, CCLI#2254621





Worship Times:  
9:30 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We are glad you are here today. To help us welcome you personally, please sign the *Friendship Pad* with your name, address, email and/or phone number.

If you are interested in knowing more about being a follower of Jesus, have any questions, or desire follow-up information, please speak to one of the pastors. Following worship, they can be found greeting at the doors of the sanctuary.

The next new members class will be held on **Sunday, February 2, from 12:00-3:30 p.m.** Childcare is available during the class if requested by January 24. Register on the website or call the church office.

**LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR TODAY** are: Micah 5:2-5a and *Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7*; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55).

**WORSHIP BAND:** Jon Frost, acoustic guitar; Melanie Flynn, bass guitar; Chris Clark, drums; Tom Russell piano; Brianna Emrich and Lauren Coffey, vocals

**KIDSCONNECT MORNING SCHEDULE:**

- 11:00am – **Young Children & Worship** will start out in worship with their parents and after the Thought for Children will be dismissed to the Chapel.

**USHERS:** Chuck Lambing

# WORSHIP INFORMATION

## WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### *Sanctuary*

9:30am – Traditional worship

11:00am – Contemporary worship with band

### *Wednesday Morning in the Chapel*

9:10-9:30am – Prayer and Communion worship

**PHONE MINISTRY - Calling in for Worship** is offered for those who want to listen to the 9:30 am service by phone. Contact Nancy Christy at 610-696-3284 for dialing instructions.

**A REMOTE TV MONITOR** is in the Quiet Room (just outside the sanctuary in the west hallway) to view and hear worship in progress for those with restless children or who need to leave the sanctuary.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES** are available for worship at the Information Center in the Narthex. Additionally, the sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop system that transmits to hearing aids and cochlear implants with telecoils. **PEW CUSHIONS** also available at the Information Center.

**PRAY GROUNDS ARE LOCATED** along the sides of our Sanctuary and are geared towards young children to engage in items from the cart during worship. This allows a space more suitable for them to be a part of the worship service.

**TEXT GIVING** is available. Text keyword “egivewpc” and then your donation amount to 73256 on your mobile device. Click the response link, make selections, hit continue, and add payment information. Contact Sandy Kurek at [skurek@westminsterpc.org](mailto:skurek@westminsterpc.org) for more information.

**PRAYER MINISTRY** members receive a weekly list of prayer requests via email and members include them in their conversations with God. To have a prayer request included in the Prayer Ministry or to become a member, contact Janet Gauger at [gauger.janet@gmail.com](mailto:gauger.janet@gmail.com) or the church office.

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION** is celebrated the first Sunday of every month in all services. If you desire or know of someone desiring **HOME COMMUNION**, please contact Ann Hatfield, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at 610-399-3377 ext. 114.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ministers of Jesus Christ  
Pastors  
Pastor Emeritus

All the Members of the Congregation  
Leah Hrachovec, Jon Frost, Eric Dorville, Ann Hatfield  
Bob Young



**Westminster**  
Presbyterian Church  
10 W. Pleasant Grove Rd. West Chester, PA 19382  
610.399.3377 • westminsterpc.org

# NEWS AND EVENTS

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December 22, 2024



**Knowing Christ,  
Making Christ Known**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
10 W. Pleasant Grove Rd. West Chester, PA 19382  
610-399-3377 [www.westminsterpc.org](http://www.westminsterpc.org)

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024 CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE



We look forward to welcoming you, your household, and friends for this holiest day!

### **10 am Children & Family Christmas Eve Worship**

*In Person & Live Stream • Children's Choir*

### **3 pm\* Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship**

*In Person & Live Stream • Worship Collective*

*Candle lighting • Leah Hrachovec preaching • Childcare*

### **5 pm\* Traditional Christmas Eve Worship**

*In Person & Live Stream • Youth Choir*

*Candle lighting • Leah Hrachovec preaching • Childcare*

### **7 pm\* Traditional Christmas Eve Worship**

*In Person & Live Stream • Chancel Choir & Brass*

*Candle lighting • Leah Hrachovec preaching • Childcare*

### **9 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Worship**

*In Person & Live Stream • Chancel Choir & Brass*

*Candle lighting • Leah Hrachovec preaching*

### **11 pm Lessons & Carols Worship**

*In Person Only • Communion • Candle lighting*

\*Childcare is available for children 6 months through 4 years during these services only. Please email Mary Maina at [childcare@westminsterpc.org](mailto:childcare@westminsterpc.org) if you will be using childcare.

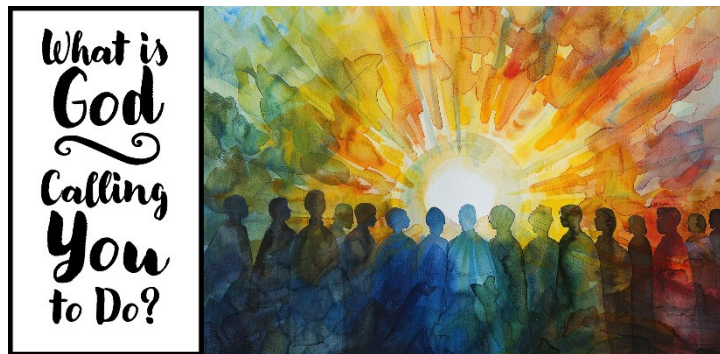
## ONE WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

*10 am Sunday, December 29 • Sanctuary & Live Stream*

Continue to celebrate the Christmas season at 10 am on Sunday, December 29 which includes scripture readings and singing favorite Christmas carols. No nursery, KidsConnect, Young Children and Worship, Café 10 West, Journey Class, Youth Choir or Youth Group on December 29. All the above resume on Sunday, January 5.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the Pews for your convenience.



**EVERY 2025 COMMITMENT IS IMPORTANT, HAS YOURS BEEN COUNTED?**

A big thank you to the 415 households who committed \$1,767,587 as a promise for Westminster's future in 2025. If you have not already done so, you can still [fill out an Estimate of Giving card](#) to support our mission and ministry in 2025.



## WESTMINSTER PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year opens on Monday, January 6. All registrations will be done online, through our website. The registration link will be live by 9:30 am on January 6. Here is the direct link to that section of our website: [westminsterpc.org/grow/preschool](https://westminsterpc.org/grow/preschool)



## JOURNEY CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 12 – "REBUILDING WITH PURPOSE: A NEW YEAR, A RENEWED FAITH"

As we step into the new year, let's not only make plans for our future, but also lay a strong foundation for our faith. Join us for our new Journey classes starting January 12, where we will explore the book of Nehemiah and discover how God can rebuild and renew us for the year ahead. Together, we'll learn how to rebuild with purpose, strengthen our resolve, and deepen our walk with Christ. Don't miss out on this opportunity to start the year with a renewed heart and strengthened faith!



We Practice Radical Hospitality

### VOLUNTEER AT BROAD STREET

Looking for a place to volunteer? Broad Street Love (formerly Broad Street Ministry) located at 315 South Broad Street in Philadelphia offers radical hospitality to all people in their community. Westminster sends up to 3 volunteers to help serve, bus, and clean up lunch at the 10:30 am – 2 pm Sanctuary Lunch Service on the third Thursday of each month. The next opportunity would be on Thursday, January 16. Questions?

Contact Joseph Kefauver at [jjkeauver@verizon.net](mailto:jjkeauver@verizon.net)





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Luminarias for Christmas eve.** If you have taken paper bags home to decorate for Christmas eve, please bring them to the church by today, Sunday, December 22.

**2025 Giving Envelopes are now available.** If you have asked to receive envelopes, pick them up in the church office.

**Thrift Shop:** The Westminster Thrift Shop Board of Directors, manager, and volunteers wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and blessings of this beautiful season. The thrift shop will close on Monday, December 23 to January 5, reopening Monday, January 6, 2025 at 9 a.m.(workday), Tuesday, January 7 10 a.m.-3 p.m.(regular business hours), etc.

**Christmas Lights Recycling.** Bring all your old, broken Christmas lights and deposit them in one of the collection bins, located near Café 10 West. We will deliver the lights to a recycling location. This recycling program will run through Sunday, January 12. Thank you!

**Westminster's Library**-Please visit the library to see our "Christmas" display. While there, feel free to check out any books or DVDs of interest.

### **Volunteer at Outley House**

*9:00 am-1:00 pm Saturday, December 28 • 6901 Woodland Ave, Philadelphia*

Help prepare and serve lunches at the Outley House Men's Shelter. Children ages 12 - 17 are welcome who have adult supervision. [Click here](#) for more info. Interested in volunteering? Call Carmela Curatola at 484-416-0708 before Friday, December 27. Celebrate the 30th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr Day by volunteering with Outley House on Saturday, January 18.

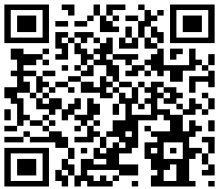
**FINANCIAL**

**Attention:** Westminster has received several donations (QCD checks and a stock donation) recently that lacked donor identification. Please review your Giving statement closely and contact Sandy Kurek in the Finance office if your donation is not listed.

**November 2024**

**General Fund – Mission and Church Operations**

Year To Date	Actual	Budget	% vs Budget Better/(Worse)
Pledge Giving	\$1,566,157	\$1,428,723	9.6%
Total Revenue	\$2,061,202	\$1,815,654	4.6%
Total Expense	\$2,857,815	\$1,969,995	3.5%
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (1,073)	\$(137,221)	-



**Donate from your smart phone.** Scan this image using your phone's QR code reader.

**Offering Figures for 12/15/24 (includes online giving)**

General Fund-Sunday Svc/Mailed/Online	\$40,764.19
Music Offering - Concerts	14,015.46
Music Fund	4,750.00
Christmas Joy	2,025.00
Per Capita	38.00
Mission Trip Fund	1,100.00
Initial Offering	25.00
Memorial Fund	100.00
Sound System	6,000.00
Children's Spiritual Growth	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total	\$71,817.65

**Attendance: 12/15/24**

In Person	409
Phone	5
Live Stream	<u>676</u>
Total	1090

**FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS**  
**DECEMBER – HOT CEREALS, GRITS**  
**JANUARY – SOUP, ESPECIALLY CHUNKY**

**For questions about any of our activities or events, please visit the  
website at [westminsterpc.org](http://westminsterpc.org)  
or call the church office.**

## Calendar for the Week of December 22

### Sunday, December 22

- 8:30 A.M. Nursery care (109)  
9:30 A.M. Traditional Worship/ WeeConnect 3-4 yrs  
KidsConnect (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
10:30 A.M. Chancel Choir Practice for Christmas Eve (Sanct)  
10:45 A.M. Journey Class (Spellman Jr.)  
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)/  
Young Children & Worship (Chapel)  
12:00 P.M. Practice for 10 am Christmas Eve Service (Sanct)  
5:30 P.M. Youth Christmas Party (Spellman Hall)  
7:00 P.M. Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Monday, December 23

Thrift Shop closed.

- 3:30 P.M. Racial Justice Study Group (Spellman Jr.)  
7:00 P.M. Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Tuesday, December 24

Thrift Shop closed

- 10:00 A.M. Children and Family Christmas Eve Service  
3:00 P.M. Contemporary Christmas Eve Service  
5:00 P.M. Traditional Christmas Eve Service (Youth Choir)  
7:00 P.M. Traditional Christmas Eve Service (Choir and Brass)  
9:00 P.M. Traditional Christmas Eve Service (Choir and Brass)  
11:00 P.M. Lessons and Carols Worship Service (Communion)

### Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day - Church Closed

Thrift Shop Closed

### Thursday, December 26 – Church Closed

Thrift Shop Closed

### Friday, December 27

Thrift Shop Closed

- 11:00 A.M. Blood Drive – Spellman Hall

### Saturday, December 28

Thrift Shop Closed

### Sunday, December 29

- 10:00 A.M. Worship Service (No Classes or Nursery Care)