

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Large Print Bulletin

Knowing Christ.....Making Christ Known

December 22, 2024

9:30 A.M. Traditional

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

9:30 A.M.

PRELUDE

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Don Freudenburg
Angels From the Realms of Glory Robert J. Powell

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

CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

WEEK FOUR: LOVE Ted, Becky, William, and Meredith Dinucci

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*Emmanuel*

Bob McGee

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el,
his name is called Em-man - u - el.
— God with us, re-vealed in us,
his name is called Em-man - u - el.

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.

***HYMN #107**

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess our willingness to be loved, but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love, but also our refusal to forgive others. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love, but also our resistance to follow you without question. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us for our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew in this Advent season, and by your grace, teach us to receive you with obedience and joy. May we all rejoice in the miracle of your love. Come, Lord Jesus, come...
(time for silent prayers of confession).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE #132 *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the Book of Common Worship, Colossians 1:15-20)

Jesus is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
Christ is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
Christ is the head of the body, the church;

he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR CHILDREN

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

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

OFFERTORY

Greensleeves

Richard Purvis

***ADVENT RESPONSE #143** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn king!

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, with Mary we seek to magnify you in our worship and in our deeds. Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ’s ministry. May they lift those who struggle and fill those who hunger. May they reveal your glory present with us today and still yet to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

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.

HYMN #100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* (please remain seated)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

Em C D Em



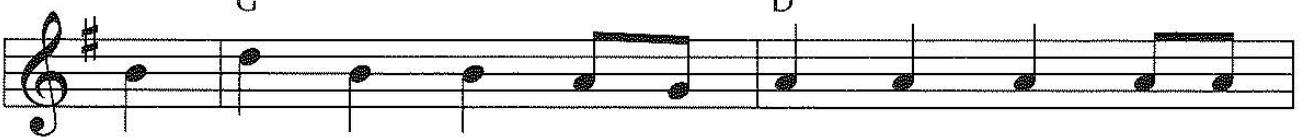
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

G D Em C Em



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

G D

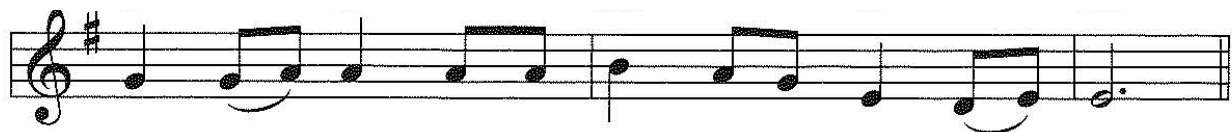


You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

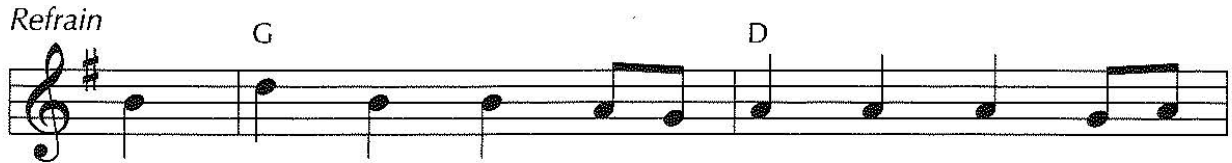
Em C D Em



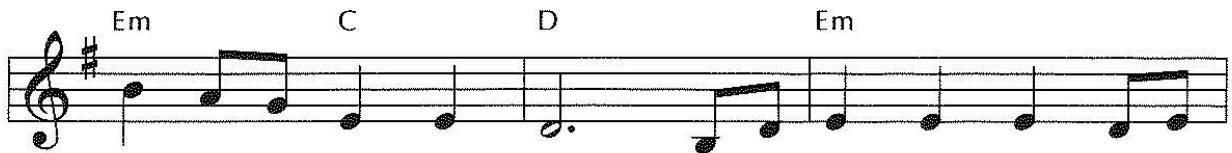
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



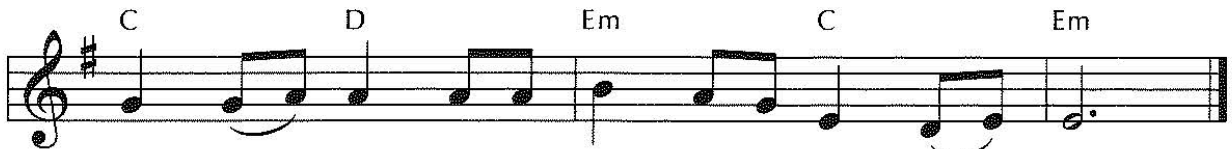
name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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.

***HYMN #110**

Love Has Come



1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C B^b F



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Keith Chapman

** please rise in body or in spirit*

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Emmanuel

Bob McGee, © 1976 C. A. Music, CCLI License #2254621

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

Marty Haugen, 1983, alt., © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., One License #712543-A

Greensleeves

Richard Purvis © 2004 Gentry Publications, Fred Bock Publishing Group, One License #712543-A

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Public Domain

My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout/Canticle of the Turning

Irish Melody; arr. Rory Cooney, © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., One License #712543-A

Love Has Come

Ken Bible, 1996; Music: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012 © Text 1996 LNWhymns.com,

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Keith Chapman, © 1976 (1996) McAfee Music Corp.



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).

JOURNEY CLASS, 10:45am, Spellman Jr. A Surprising God: Do you find yourself in a state of concern? In a world where we are surrounded by old and new crises, we often find ourselves looking for hope. Where are the signs of God's peace? Where is the joy when this world is filled with conflict and division? Join the pastors as they conclude their reflections on the Advent devotional *A Surprising God*.

KIDSCONNECT MORNING SCHEDULE:

- 8:45am – **Childcare (6 months thru 4 years old)** available **until 12:15pm** in Room 109. If you plan to use the nursery for childcare and/or if you are willing to serve as a nursery volunteer, please contact Mary Maina at childcare@westminsterpc.org.
- 9:30am - **Children Pre-K through 5th grade** will start out in worship with their parents and after the Thought for Children will be dismissed to their classes. Dismissal time is 10:40am.

WeeConnect 3-4 year olds in the Chapel this Sunday

KidsConnect K-1st grade in room in Room 102

 2nd-3rd grades in Room 105

 4th-5th grades in Room 406

USHERS: Larry Graves (lead usher), Lisa Antonucci, Dave Carpenter, Rick Dietrich, Ron Evans, Geoff Smith, Steve Vicker, John Villella

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 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 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM is celebrated the **third Sunday of every month**. Our **BAPTISM CLASS** is offered the last Sunday of each month, except December, at 10:30 a.m. Contact the office to register for the baptism class.

* * * * *

Ministers of Jesus Christ	All the Members of the Congregation
Pastors	Leah Hrachovec, Jon Frost, Eric Dorville, Ann Hatfield
Pastor Emeritus	Bob Young
Director of Music Ministries	Tim Evers
Associate Director of Music Ministries	Kirsten Santos Rutschman



NEWS AND EVENTS

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

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 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



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



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.

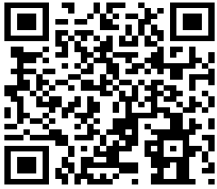
FINANCIAL

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
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-5th 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)