



Westminster Presbyterian Church



December 11, 2022 | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude Introduction and Variations on a Polish Carol Alexandre Guilmant

Welcome and Announcements

*Share the Peace of Christ

*Introit (8:30) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 6 VENI EMMANUEL
*Introit (11:00) Waiting Toni Sullivan
Cherub Choir

*Candle Lighting (*Isaiah 35*) 8:30: Janelle, Tim, and Julian Cox 11:00: Kara, Aaron, Claudia, Blaire, and Henry Bowser

Leader: We are preparing ourselves for the days
People: **when God strengthens weak hands and feeble knees,**
Leader: the eyes of the blind are opened and the lame leap like deer.
People: **A highway shall open, called the Holy Way**
Leader: and everlasting joy will be on our heads.
People: **We will walk in the way of the Lord.**

*Opening Hymn No. 105 People, Look East BESANÇON

1 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

- 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.
- 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving God,
Who always offers us forgiveness when we repent, we give you thanks.
When we have not touched you in the world, but trampled your creation:
when we have not met you, but missed you in the other person:
when we have not received you, but rejected you in the poor:
Forgive us. Have mercy on us.

***Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

***Sung Response No. 92**

While We Are Waiting, Come Cason
While we are waiting, come (*repeat*);
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
Come, Savior, quickly come (*repeat*);
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.

Anthem (11:00)

Will You Be Ready for the Light? Mark Patterson
Junior Choir

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.

Choral Response

Sevenfold Amen Lutkin

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson Matthew 11:2-11
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Hope Blooms In Doubt Jo Forrest

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

Offertory Our Lord Emmanuel arr. Tom Fettke
Emmanuel / O Come, O Come, Emmanuel / Hark! The Herald Angels Sing / O Little Town of Bethlehem

***Doxology** OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

***Closing Hymn No. 140** Once in Royal David's City IRBY

- 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** Away in a Manger, *verse 3* arr. Wilberg
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Postlude Variations on a Polish Carol, Var. III Guilmant

***Please rise in body or in spirit.**

Leading in worship: Jo Forrest, Louise Rogers, Jim Burns, Christine Hestwood, Holly Jones, Beth Ketterman, the Quartet, Cherub and Junior Choirs, and the Chancel Choir.

Prayers of Concern and Thanksgiving

Dick Egli and John Walker were hospitalized this week.

On this Sunday of Joy, we give thanks for the family who were refugees but have now come to our country and are getting settled in our area.

We give thanks for the gift of music as found in all the choirs and musicians at Westminster Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Isaiah 'Twas Foretold It with Steven S. Tuell

Sunday, December 11 & 18
9:45 a.m. in Galbreath Chapel/Zoom

The Advent seminar series guides the waiting and preparation that will end with our joyful celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas. Details here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/westminster-seminars>



Westminster Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec. 11
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

The Annual Christmas Concert features the Chancel Choir, Westminster Ringers, Cherub and Junior Choirs, and special guests, the USC Chanteclairs. The concert is free and will appeal to all ages. A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted to support the Music and Art programs.

This Week



Online Advent Devotions

Available now on the church website at www.westminster-church.org/advent-2022-westminster

Advent is a time of spiritual preparation as we anticipate the birth of our Lord. Online daily Advent devotions are available on the Westminster website on the Advent page here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/advent-2022-westminster>. Find links to Advent devotions from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, *Presbyterians Today*, and d365.



Christmas Remembrance Service

Wednesday, Dec. 14
7:00 p.m.
Galbreath Chapel

You are invited to a special communion service of Christmas Remembrance. The service will be a time of quiet reflection to remember loved ones. Join us for this special time of comfort and of hope. For more information, contact Louise Rogers at rogers@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)



Family Gingerbread House Night

Wednesday, Dec. 14
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a casual evening as a family as you build a gingerbread house together. Please bring a donation of women's hats and gloves and hand warmers to benefit Street Moms. Registration is not required, but greatly appreciated as it aids us in planning for a night of family fun! Register: <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/family-gingerbread-house-night>

Coming Soon



Christmas Joy Offering

Purple envelopes will be in the pews Dec. 18-Jan. 1 to collect for this special offering.

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church - past, present and future. 50% of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Sunday School Unplugged

Second Sunday of the month starting January 8 at 9:45 a.m. in Room 283

Remember MTV Unplugged? If so, this gathering might be for you—both your generation and desire to listen to the melody of faith in a fresh way. Over a cuppa we will talk about faith, scripture, and life, and let the spirit move within us. No homework or lecture! Contact Jo Forrest for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities



Street Moms Meals & More

Saturday, Dec. 17
8:00-10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall Kitchen
Sunday, Dec. 18
Following 8:30 worship
Rm. 276 (Youth Lounge)

We are going to be supporting Street Moms, a community outreach non-profit, designed to meet the needs of women experiencing homelessness in Wheeling, West Virginia.

On December 17, join us in cooking warm meals for these women. On December 18, help us pack personal care items. Details here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/serving/opportunities-to-serve#community>

Visit the church's website at www.westminster-church.org for additional details on any event or activity listing and to view a complete church calendar, located under the "Events" menu item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)



Christmas Eve Ushers

Saturday, Dec. 24
Ushers are needed for the 5:00, 9:00 & 11:00 services

When people walk in the door looking for God, especially this time of year, it might be a one-time opportunity to help them feel welcome and at home. I figure God got them here; we better be at our best in the handoff. *Just come a little early to the service you were planning to attend!*



Christmas Flower Delivery

Flowers are to be delivered Dec. 27 & 28

Put a smile on someone's face with a poinsettia. Deliver a plant to someone who can't come to church at Christmas. Deliver one or two poinsettias to folks who were recently hospitalized, are elderly and at home, or live in a senior community. Deadline to volunteer is Dec 14.

We Need Your Help!

The Stewardship Campaign for 2023 remains far short of its goals with only 33% of our families having submitted a pledge. For those who have pledged we thank you for your generosity! For those who have yet to pledge we ask you to prayerfully consider returning a portion of the abundance given to you by God for the work of his church in our community. We need your pledges to plan for programming that support our families.

Pledged to Date	Goal	% of Goal	Pledges to Date	Goal	% of Goal
\$1,184,767	\$1,700,000	70%	253	400	63%

Year-End Giving Reminder

For your contributions to be tax deductible in 2022, it must be received in the church or postmarked by **December 31, 2022**.

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2022 tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be 100% tax deductible.

The 2022 contribution statements are anticipated to be mailed to you around the third week of January 2023.

If you have any questions regarding year-end contributions, please contact Jane Zacchero, Accounting Assistant, at 412-835-6630 x202 or Carol Webber, Director of Finance/Operations, at x201.

THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

DEC 12 - 18, 2022



Scan here for complete church calendar



Scan here for a full WROC schedule & information

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

12:00 AA Rm. 176
1:00 Baby Bundles Rm. 231
6:00 Scout Pack 366 Meeting Rm. 190
Cub Scout Den Merting Rm. 107

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:00 Tuesday Morning Men's Group Rm. 238
8:45 Town Hall South Board Mtg. Rm. 273
10:00 Staff Meeting Rm. 238
6:30 Centering Prayer Zoom
Al Anon Rm. 131
7:00 Outreach Commission Rm. 176
7:30 Scout Troop 366 Rm. 107

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

1:00 Movers and Shakers Rm. 190
4:45 Cherub Choir (Gds. K-2) Rm. 176
Junior Choir (Gds. 3-6) Rm. 268
Little Ones & Loved Ones Rm. 194
5:30 Wednesday Food & Fellowship Fellowship Hall
6:00 Couples' Group Rm. 231
Family Gingerbread House Night Rm. 190
Veritas Youth Group (Grds. 7-12) Youth Dept.
Wednesday Night Nursery Rm. 239
7:00 Christmas Remembrance Srv. Rm. 214
7:30 Westminster Ringers Rm. 268

Wednesdays @ Westminster have something for everyone! From children's choirs to Children's & Family Ministry programs, Food & Fellowship, Veritas Youth Group, Bible studies, and more, make plans to be here. Visit our website or scan the QR codes below for details.



Children's & Family Ministry



Food & Fellowship fall menu



Music & Choirs

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

10:00 W2W Emerald Group Rm. 231
6:00 Cub Scout Den Meeting Rm. 176
7:00 Chancel Choir Rm. 268
Nar Anon Rm. 131
7:30 NA Rm. 107

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

6:30a Fishers of Men Rm. 231
7:00 AA Rm. 107
Al Anon Rm. 231

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:00 Street Moms - Volunteer Opp. Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:30 Traditional Worship Sanctuary
Wiggle Room** Rm. 239
9:00 Welcome Center/Writers of North Entry
Westminster Book Signing
9:15 Street Moms - Volunteer Opp. Fellowship Hall
9:45 Bridge Contemporary Worship WROC/Lvstrm.
Bridge Sunday School PreK-4th Grade Rm. 176
Wiggle Room - The Bridge** WROC Fitness
Westminster Seminar Galbreath Chapel
11:00 Traditional Worship Sanctuary/Lvstrm.
Wiggle Room** Rm. 239
Sunday School* PreK-4th Gd. Rm. 233
Confirmation Class - Fall 2022 Rm. 283
12:00 Confirmation Lunch Rm. 190
7:00 Youth Choir Rm. 268

*Sunday School - 9:45 a.m., dismissed from worship after children's message; 11:00 a.m., report directly to Room 233. A time for children in PreK through 4th grade to explore the Bible, enjoy fellowship together, and grow in their faith.

**Wiggle Room - 9:45 - Upstairs WROC Fitness Room; 8:30/11:00 - Room 239. Available to families with children from birth through age 3 who would prefer a separate space to step away while listening to the worship service. Please see an usher if you need help finding the Wiggle Room.

Christmas Eve AT WESTMINSTER

5:00 p.m.*

*Family Service
Sanctuary*

7:00 p.m.*

*Contemporary Service
WROC &
YouTube livestream*

9:00* & 11:00 p.m.**

*Lessons and Carols
Sanctuary & YouTube
livestream @ 9:00 p.m.*

Children of all ages are welcome to attend any of the Christmas Eve worship services along with their families.



Giving to Westminster

ONLINE: <https://www.westminster-church.org/give>

TEXT-TO-GIVE: Text WPCUSC to 73256. Standard text messaging rates may apply.



Westminster Staff Contact Information

We would love to hear from you. Give us a call, drop us an email, or stop by the church office.



Westminster.Pittsburgh



wpc_pgh



WestminsterUSC



veritalk.podbean.com

Westminster on Social Media

Watch worship videos, listen to the Veritas podcast, share Westminster events, find prayers, scripture, and more to like and share!

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WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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