



# THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Pittsburgh, PA

My Friends,

Getting ready for Christmas often reminds me of the horse I rode when I worked at a summer camp. It was a high spirited horse; the instant I put my foot in the stirrup, that horse was off at a gallop. We were halfway down the trail before I could swing up in the saddle, if I could hold on!

Do you sometimes feel that way about preparing for Christmas? It's run away with you before you know it... you're not sure you can hang on...shopping for friends and families, decorating the house and keeping it clean for parties, going to parties, wrapping gifts, sending cards, going here, going there...whoa, Nellie!!

The Christmas spirit in all of that is good, but goodness has nothing to do with it if you're grumbling and grinning all the way to Christmas Day, if you've fallen off the runaway Christmas horse somewhere back down the Christmas trail!

We want to enjoy the season, we want to do all the things we need to do at Christmas for family and friends, and we want it to be a spirited Christmas. For it to be a Holy Spirited Christmas, we need to be able to delight in the holy time that is Advent.

We can do this by using the season of Advent as a time to:

- **Reflect on the presence of God in your life.** Make the time to draw aside from the busyness of life and use the WPC website devotional links to ponder the reason for the season.
- **Retrace the gospel story through other stories** such as Ferrol Sams' *Christmas Gift!* or *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry; or by viewing *A Christmas Carol*, or other favorite Christmas movie that brings to life the meaning of Christmas.
- **Celebrate the gifts of God.** Generous giving and gracious receiving mark the gospel stories of God's gift of Jesus to the world. So let your own giving and receiving celebrate God's love for the world.



*Advent is the high spirited excitement  
of getting ready for a Holy Spirited Christmas!*

- **Worship.** Just as the first Christmas was a gathering around the manger, so we should come together as a family of faith. There is a uniquely joyful energy in worship during Advent. Enjoy your time with others, not only on Sunday morning, but in our special services of worship during Advent and on Christmas Eve.

Advent is a season, not an event. Advent is the journey, not the destination. Advent is the high spirited excitement of getting ready for a Holy Spirited Christmas! Let's enjoy the ride!

Know that you are in my prayers as I am blessed to serve as your interim pastor.

Bruce Lancaster

**PASTORS**

DR. BRUCE LANCASTER, *Interim Senior Pastor,  
Head of Staff*  
REV. LOUISE ROGERS, *Associate Pastor  
for Congregational Care*  
REV. JASON FREYER, *Associate Pastor  
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**WESTMINSTER RECREATION & OUTREACH  
CENTER (WROC)**

KATHY LONG, *Director*

**NURSERY SCHOOL**

412-835-2906

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

412-835-9450

Staff email addresses and phone  
extensions are available on our website,  
[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org).

Read the *Spire* online at:  
[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org)

*The Spire* is published monthly by the church  
staff from September through June. Contributions  
can be made by emailing a Word document to  
*Spire* editor Sara Kyle at [sara@ruhlekyle.org](mailto:sara@ruhlekyle.org).  
The deadline for submitting an article is the fifth  
day of every month for the following month's  
issue. Please include the author's name,  
telephone number, email address, and a title.  
All articles are subject to editing.

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### Traditional Worship

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🕒	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
📍	Sanctuary

### The Bridge Contemporary Worship

📅	Sundays
🕒	9:45 a.m.
📍	WROC

*The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.  
Gluten-free wafers are available at all services.*

## Christmas Eve Services

**5:00 p.m.**  
*Family Service  
in the Sanctuary*

**7:00 p.m.**  
*Contemporary Service  
in the WROC*

**9:00 & 11:00 p.m.**  
*Lessons and Carols  
in the Sanctuary*

## New Year's Eve

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**  
*Communion and Prayers  
in Galbreath Chapel*

### Upcoming Events

**06  
DEC** Chatham  
Baroque  
concert  
*in Galbreath  
Chapel*

**07  
DEC** Rise Against  
Hunger

**08  
DEC** Annual  
Christmas  
Concert

**14  
DEC** Breakfast at  
the Manger

**18  
DEC** Christmas  
Remembrance

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.  
Galbreath Chapel

*All are welcome!*

*Advent Series*

# Angels

Louise Rogers

During December, Louise Rogers will lead us to look at angels. They have played important roles in Christian spirituality down through the centuries, and today are featured prominently in movies, television shows, and other cultural offerings. Over four weeks, we will explore what is said about angels both in the Bible and today. And we will review how angels have been portrayed throughout the centuries.

**December 1**

Angels: God's Messengers

**December 8**

Angels: A Heavenly Go Between

**December 15**

Angels in Art History

**December 22**

Angels Among Us

This exploration will help us strengthen our walk with God, gain insight into widespread cultural assumptions about spirituality, and deepen our understanding of the work of Christ.



# With Us

Christmas!

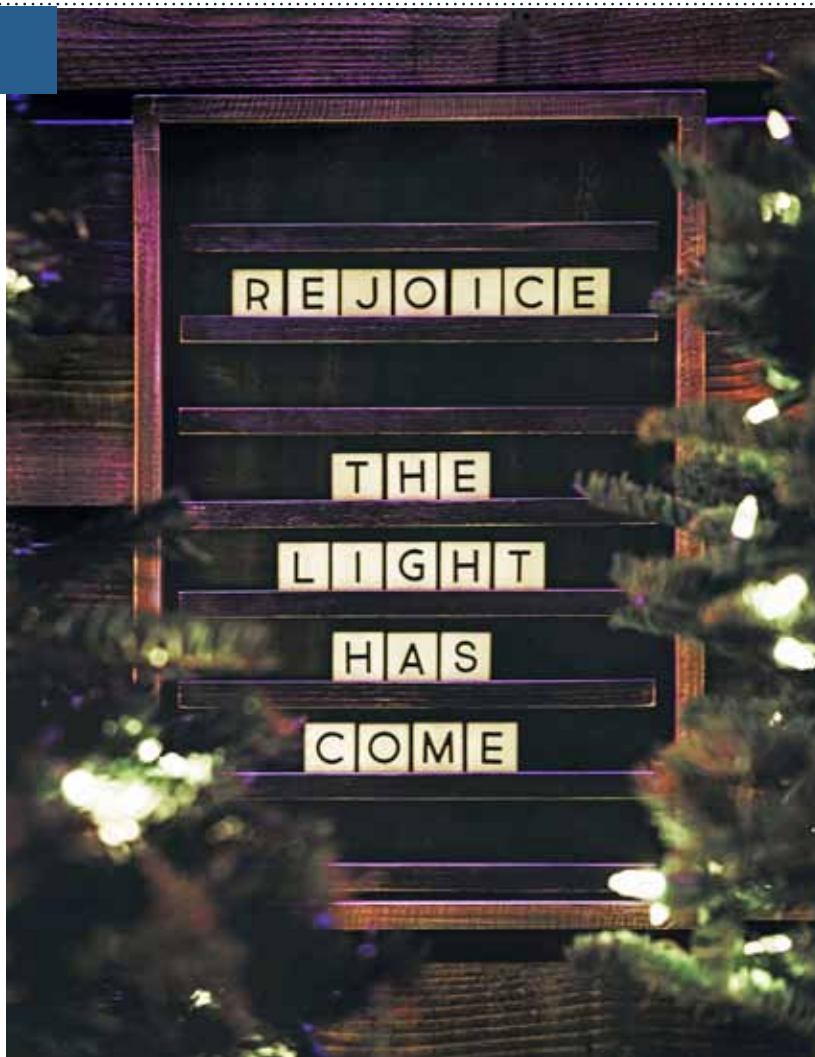
That's right, the most wonderful time of the year is upon us. For those who don't know, who perhaps are joining our lovely congregation from places like Athens, Georgia, the next four weeks is the only time that anyone in this beloved city of ours enjoys the snow. When it all comes together right, it can in fact be a quite beautiful time around here!

Add to that the fact that I have a pair of four year old twins at home, and this season is pure, unadulterated magic. They are pumped for visiting with family. They are pumped for getting and giving presents. They are pumped for sled rides. Every day I see them their faces bestow a sense of wonder and excitement that I am desperate to claim for myself!

And while a whole bunch of cultural magic goes on in the season of Christmas, I must confess that this year I am most excited for Christmas Eve at Westminster. In the past few seasons, since being one of the ordained folks around here, I have come to love our Christmas Eve lineup. At 5:00, I'm usually downstairs getting ready for the Bridge service, but I try to sneak upstairs every year to catch a glimpse of our family service, if only to see the look of wonder on all the little one's faces. At 7:00, the Bridge has our Christmas service, where we do contemporary lessons and carols. It's really not all that different from our two traditional services, other than we use guitars and drums instead of organ and choirs.

That used to be when I would go home for the night, but these days I hang around for both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. The sanctuary is remarkably peaceful at night, carrying a totally different feel for me in the dim light. The music folks always go above and beyond, bringing in incredible special guests and highlighting the wonderful talent we already have here in our congregation. For as much as I am a leader of worship in these services, I find myself caught up in the movement of the night more than a few times on Christmas Eve. It's a beautiful thing.

Part of what makes Christmas so beautiful for me from a spiritual perspective is how special it is among the world's religions. All of the religions I have studied are about how we as humanity can get closer to God. What rules can we follow? What offerings can we give? What can we do to make sure that God is happy with us? But not Christianity. In the Christian tradition, specifically on Christmas, we celebrate the God that wasn't content to sit back and wait for us to get it right. Our God shows up in the flesh, in a tiny little manger in a tiny little town called Bethlehem, to show us that we matter to God. God becomes like us so that God can know what we know. God knows what it is like to be hungry. God knows what it is like to be sad. God knows what it is like to be betrayed.



God knows what it is like to stand at the graveside of your best friend. God knows what it is like to live, love, and die. God knows us, and we can know God. In my study of world religions, itself far from exhaustive, this seems to be the only faith that makes room for a God that comes to us. To me, this is beautiful.

So my friends, wherever you find yourself this Christmas season, I hope and pray that you will feel the God of love draw near to you. Perhaps like me you find this to be a season of pure magic, pure delight, and pure joy. May the Christ child draw near to you, reminding you of where that joy comes from. Or perhaps for you, as for many, the Christmas season is a difficult one. Maybe it reminds you of the losses you've had this year, or the betrayals you've felt. Maybe time with family is kind of rough, and leaves you feeling worn out and run down. Remember that in coming to be like us, God knows all of this too. Remember that the child born in the manger is the one who lives forever. The one who draws near to us as a little baby can draw near to you in your heartache and offer a sincere and heartfelt "I know what you mean." May you feel his presence!

My friends, Merry Christmas! May we enjoy the God who has come to be like us, so that we could become more like him!

— Jason Freyer

## BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

Last year was the first year that I helped out my friends on their Christmas tree farm. My job was to drive one of the tractors pulling the wagons of people and trees into and out of the fields. First of all, it's a wonderful job: outside all day, happy families, beautiful scenery, what more could a guy want? Second of all, it made me think a lot about Christmas trees. There are several varieties, different types of needles, different heights, some are sturdier than others, some grow faster, some require more care. It's amazing how much attention people give to the tree they ultimately select for their homes! As comedian Jim Gaffigan puts it, some of our traditions just seem totally backward, "Chop down this tree and bring it in here, take all these lights and put them out there..." It really is funny the things we do as symbols of the season.

My family is no different. We've chopped down trees in the bitter cold, in the mud, and in the rain. Then of course there's the decorating. Lights, ornaments, decorative dinnerware, Christmas sweaters – they're all things that come out for just a few weeks each year. My guess is that many of us have a day marked on the calendar for an overhaul of our homes' décor in the next week or so. I have to imagine that a primary foundation of all of these traditions is joy. It really is quite a lot of work, but for a few weeks each year we get to experience magic, love, hope, and joy. Light in the darkness. It's no coincidence that we find ourselves drawn toward the family traditions and twinkling lights of Christmas in the darkest days of the year.

And how, when we look at our traditions through this lens, can we do anything but point our attention to a star that rose in the east? A family gathered as one. Light in the darkness. The joy of life together. A child born as a pointed reminder of love. Just as we weave lights across our porches and through the limbs of our trees, God has woven light into our earth through Jesus Christ. Just as our families gather (often in chaos) Mary and Joseph gathered (likely in chaos).

I sometimes wonder if we make too big a deal of the traditions of Christmas, but I'll try to shift my perspective this year. This year, as my family tromps through the snow or mud to find the perfect tree, as we drive miles upon miles to meet with family and friends, as we work for hours to decorate our home, I'll think back to a Christmas that predated our modern traditions. On that Christmas there was a family tromping through the world, traveling miles to be with one another, with no rest, well into the night. I suppose I'm in pretty good company.

What are your family's traditions? Do you run at them full speed ahead, or will you drag your feet as you stumble through the next few weeks? I'd love to hear what you're up to.

Until next time, have a wonderful season. And remember, through the work, through the confusion, through the chaos...you're in good company.

– Ed Sutter



## FROM A DAUGHTER'S HEART

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* —John 3:16

Christmas, a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior!

That's what Christmas represents for Christians all over the world, but all too often we get caught up in the hustle and bustle and other distractions of the holiday season.

As families we enjoy decorating, picking a Christmas tree, taking our children to see Santa, shopping for gifts, parties, baking cookies, and delicious food. My family certainly enjoys all this fun, good stuff! However, I have come to the realization that all this is temporary, and God's gift is eternal. The world may give us superficial happiness, but it is not ever lasting.

I know the true spiritual significance of the Christmas season, which is our Lord's birth. It is important to me to foster that love and appreciation for Jesus' birth with my own children. I want to teach and show them by example the joy of giving and the blessing of being of service and doing for others. For the last couple of years, I have had our children pick a tag off the giving trees for a child. Then they help select a present for that child. Acts of kindness, love, and service help children experience the joy of giving. One of the first decorations we put out as a family is the Nativity set. It is a memorable set that my son, Noah, received when he was a toddler. Our children are excited to hear the story of the Nativity and reenact it with the figures.

The children in JAM and Sunday school had the opportunity to write a special note of thanks and appreciation to our service men and women. The JAM children also participated in a holiday gift drive where they shopped for Christmas gifts for children who are less fortunate. The children bring in an amount of money for a child and our Children's & Family Ministry matches the amount. These experiences are not only meaningful for our children but they are meaningful to us too.

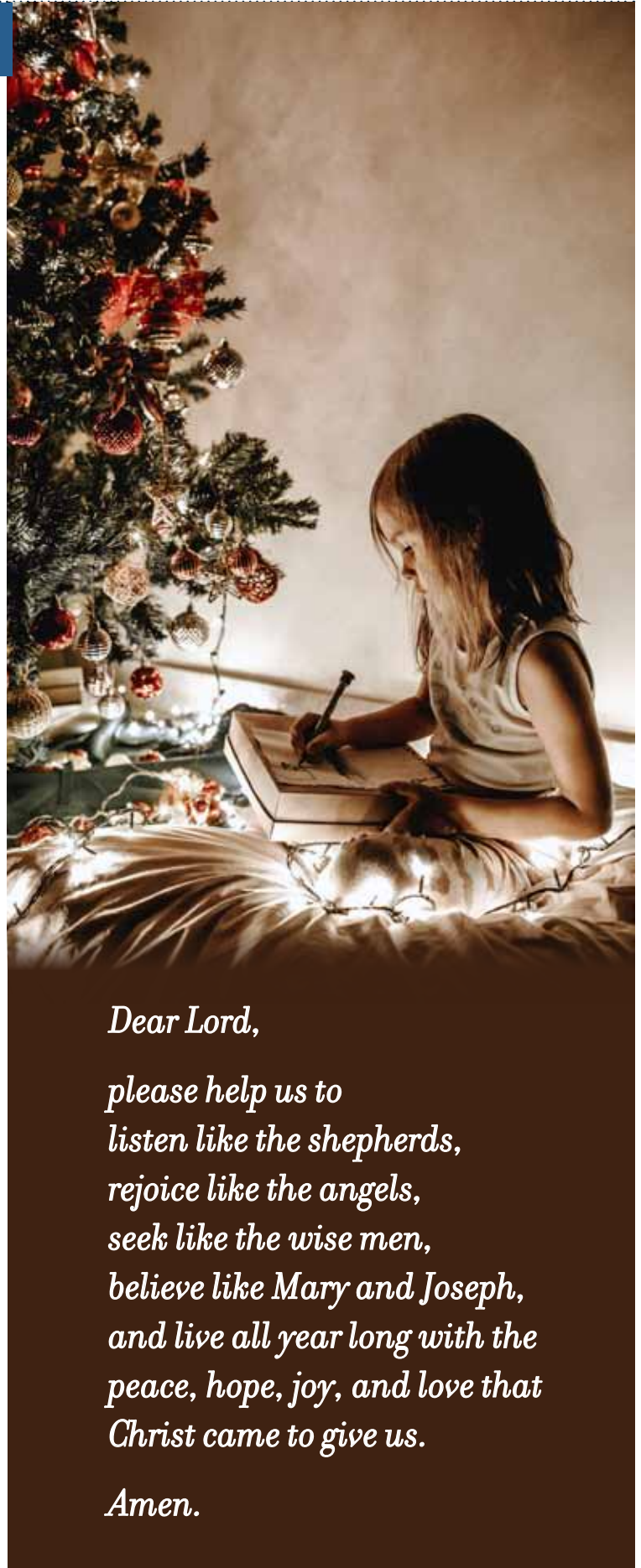
At the beginning of November, my family along with several commission members assembled Advent wreath sets. It was a significant moment because the advent wreath is a gift to you, the congregation of Westminster, and for you to share with others the gift of Christ. The candles we light, the prayers we say, and the songs we sing help us to make a conscious effort to pause from all the busyness of earthly distractions and focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the season!

A simple prayer (right) was on one of my Christmas cards. The message spoke to my heart and I wanted to share it with all of you.

My prayer for you this Christmas is that you would know and receive the greatest gift – Jesus. Merry Christmas!

With Jesus' love,

Natalie Brown



*Dear Lord,  
please help us to  
listen like the shepherds,  
rejoice like the angels,  
seek like the wise men,  
believe like Mary and Joseph,  
and live all year long with the  
peace, hope, joy, and love that  
Christ came to give us.  
Amen.*

# Seeking Advent Places

*William Boyd Grove*

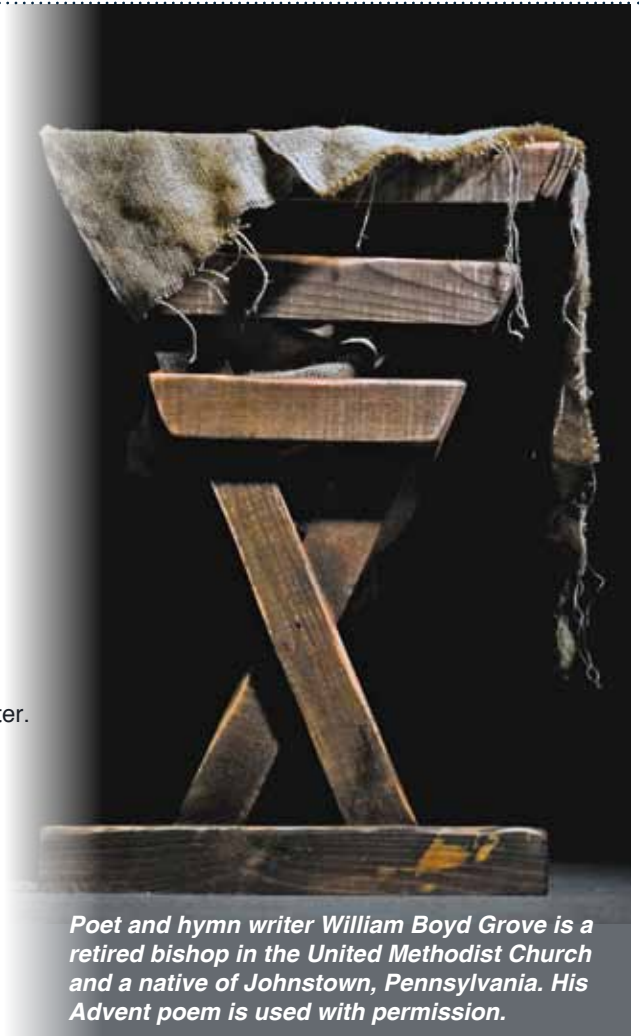
The Christmas Child, whom we adore  
and whose place we know and love,  
the manger of Bethlehem,  
was to those to whom he came  
disguised, masked, hidden,  
the incognito Christ.

The Incarnate God, in baby form?  
The Divine made human  
with a refugee mother, in a barn?  
We adore the stable; they would have ignored it,  
looking beyond it for a proper place suitable for God birthing.

So now, expecting the coming again,  
where shall we look?  
The stable and the manger are our clues  
as to where the hiding might occur.  
Christ came, and comes to the margins which in the coming, become the center.

This year, it might be well to  
wait and watch  
where pain prepares a place;  
Among the refugees wandering the world;  
In the drug stricken coal fields of Appalachia;  
In a prison cell on death row.

These are likely places.  
These are Advent places.  
Places for God-Birthing.



*Poet and hymn writer William Boyd Grove is a retired bishop in the United Methodist Church and a native of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. His Advent poem is used with permission.*

## Advent Study

**Thursdays, December 5, 12, 19**  
**10:00-11:00 a.m.**  
**Galbreath Chapel**

*What love, joy, peace, and fruitful living is ours when we learn to  
"let the word of Christ dwell in [us] richly" (Colossians 3:16).*

An Advent study will be offered Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Galbreath Chapel for a time to explore the scriptures being read in worship this season. Louise Rogers and Nana Wilson will guide the participants to a time of reading, meditation, prayer, and contemplation.

This style of study gives us the time to delve deeply into God's word for understanding as our souls are touched.

Please join us. There is no charge for the class, but you may register to let us know you are coming by going to [wroc.westminster-church.org](http://wroc.westminster-church.org).





# A Christmas CONCERT

**Sunday, December 8**  
**7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

*Westminster Chancel, Cherub, and Junior Choirs*  
*Westminster Ringers*  
*Upper St. Clair High School Chanteclairs*

## featuring Handel's *Messiah*, Part I

*Chancel Choir*  
*Academy Chamber Orchestra*  
*Jim Burns, harpsichord*

Westminster's annual Christmas Concert brings together all the Westminster choirs and the Chanteclairs, Upper St. Clair High School's chamber choir, in uplifting music of the season. This year, the Chancel Choir presents the Advent and Christmas portion of George Frideric Handel's most beloved oratorio, *Messiah*. With the Academy Chamber Orchestra and Jim Burns, harpsichord. Bring the whole family to sing favorite Christmas carols and hear beautiful music of handbells, voices, and instruments – all in the beautifully decorated sanctuary.



## Chatham Baroque at Westminster

*Capriccio Stravagante: Imaginative String Music from the 16th and 17th Centuries*

**Friday, December 6**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Galbreath Chapel**

Celebrate the season with Chatham Baroque in a rollicking, pastoral program including Corelli's famous Christmas Concerto, Carlo Farina's *Capriccio Stravagante* with musical depictions of animals, and 16th-century dance music of Anthony Holborne and Michael Praetorius. With guest artists Paul Miller, viola; Kristen Linfante, viola; and David Walker, theorbo.

Tickets, with discounts for seniors and students, are available online and at the door. For more information and ticket prices, visit [www.chathambaroque.org](http://www.chathambaroque.org) or call 412-687-1788. Ticket prices are \$5 more at the door.



# WROC Gift Certificates

Are you searching for the perfect gift for a friend or loved one? How about a gift of health and wellness? The WROC has gift certificates available for all WROC fitness classes! Not sure what classes to choose? We have a variety of classes from old favorites to our new yoga classes and pickleball!

To purchase a gift certificate, please contact Kathy Long at 412-835-6630x200.



Westminster Recreation & Outreach Center

**CHRISTMAS** 

*Gift Certificate*

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**To:** \_\_\_\_\_

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
 2040 Washington Road  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
 412-835-6630x200  
 wroc.westminster-church.org

Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized by: \_\_\_\_\_

***Not redeemable for cash.***

# Giving Gala 2019

On Saturday, November 2, the Deacons hosted their 4th annual Giving Gala at St. Clair Country Club. We're proud to announce that we raised \$35,500 to benefit SHIM, South Hills Interfaith Movement. This year's theme was empowering women. SHIM has designed several programs to help the young ladies reach their full potential.

It was a fun-filled evening where we gathered with friends and family to enjoy fellowship, while supporting this worthy cause. A gourmet meal was enjoyed by all, followed by a poignant interview with Lejla Sehic, a Bosnian refugee who came to America as an adolescent. With SHIM's help, she went on to get both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in finance. Now, as a young mother, she is a mentor in this very program, giving back to others what she has received.

We were treated to several songs by student deacon Harrison Burgess and band members: Jason Freyer, Nadina Robusto, and deacons Steve Sharps and Dave Kerr. As always, the room was awed by Harrison's performance; he received a standing ovation.

We then held our live auction, acquainting ourselves with the use of paddles for bidding on some amazing prizes! Some folks were fortunate enough to win Penguin tickets, an autographed Ben Roethlisberger football helmet, and a magnificent hand-crafted quilt. Others went home with beautiful designer purses and an original giclee painting of Westminster by Sandy Conaway. Two lucky people bid on and won dream vacations to Hilton Head Island and Deep Creek Lake. Magnificent baskets were raffled off and happily received. Our generous corporate and individual sponsors far exceeded our expectations. However, the best gift that any of us left with is the knowledge that we positively affected the lives of others. We are grateful to the Lord who gave us the tenacity to put this event together. The Deacons also thank each and every one of you for your support.

– Andrée Jeffrey



*Lejla Sehic speaks about her experience with SHIM at the Giving Gala.*



# Welcome

## New Members

*Logan Williams and  
Jeremy Kubarcik*



*Brittany Coady*



*Jackie Stoughton*



*Jerome Ecklin*



# Christmas Joy Offering

Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to a Christmas season offering. By giving to the 2019 Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Envelopes for the 2019 Christmas Joy Offering will be located in the pews beginning December 15, and are also contained within your 2019 Offering Envelope boxes.



Help us open our doors to those in need in our Church and the world with our own gifts.

*God is with us.*

— Matthew 1:23

# Help Decorate Westminster for Christmas

**Friday, December 6**  
**9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary**

Chancel Guild welcomes you to help decorate our beautiful church for the holidays on Friday, December 6. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary to decorate five trees and hang balcony roping and dozens of door wreaths. Please join us for a friendly and enjoyable morning of decorating followed by a light lunch. We complete any remaining tasks in the afternoon. Our beautiful church is a glory to God and fills our hearts with gladness. Contact Joy Mahrer at 724-941-6389 or [joymahrer@yahoo.com](mailto:joymahrer@yahoo.com).

# Breakfast at the Manger

**Saturday, December 14**  
**9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Children and their families are invited to share a delicious buffet breakfast, hear the story of the very first Christmas, and enjoy crafts, games, and Santa too! Cost: \$5/person (ages 2 and up) Children under 2 are free. Registration required by Friday, December 13; tickets will not be sold at the door.



# Remembrance Service

**Wednesday, December 18**  
**7:30 p.m. in Galbreath Chapel**

You are invited to a special communion service of Christmas Remembrance held in the lovely Galbreath Chapel. The service will be a time to remember your loved ones, to acknowledge your grief, and to be reminded again of the comfort and hope that the newborn Christ brings to us all, especially those who are hurting.

Plan to join us for this special time of remembrance, of comfort, and of hope. For more information, contact Louise Rogers at [rogers@westminster-church.org](mailto:rogers@westminster-church.org) or 412-835-6630.

# Beth Macy, Author of *Dopesick*, Speaks on Opioid Crisis

Beth Macy was a newspaper reporter in Virginia when she began to notice the devastating effects of opioids in the communities around her. The epidemic ripped through places ranging from once-idyllic farm towns to wealthy suburbs, sparing no economic group or geographic location.

The result of her awareness was her book, *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America*, published in 2018. *Dopesick* illuminates the persistent and often conflicting gaps in the treatment and criminal-justice landscapes while shining a hopeful light on the heroes battling the worst drug epidemic in U.S. history.

Macy discussed the book, as well as the long-term effects of the opioid epidemic that motivated her to write it, at Town Hall South on Tuesday, November 5, at Upper St. Clair High School. Town Hall South is an outreach of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Although the battle is still very much ongoing (killing as many as 45,000 people in one year), Macy took heart from those struggling against the epidemic, both as victims and healthcare professionals. In an email interview, Beth Macy revealed more about what she learned in her reporting and research for *Dopesick*.

*Q. What did you learn about the role of hopelessness in the growth of opioid use?*

A. So many American small towns have been decimated by the parallel loss of jobs and rampant overprescribing of opioids. A seventh grader in my book tells his teacher he wants to be a “draw-er” when he grows up. “An artist?” his teacher says. No, he meant a drawer of disability – the only thing he could envision for himself, the only thing he saw being modeled.

We know that people with family addictions (parents and grandparents) are more prone to addiction, and we know that people who lack meaningful work and passions are also more prone. So it’s a holistic problem not just involving needed changes in prescribing and criminal justice, but also education, the economy, and access to mental health and addiction treatment.

*Q. What was the most difficult part of your research for Dopesick?*

A. Getting close to the families who lost loved ones. There were people I interviewed who died, in a few instances before I had the chance to get home and type up my interview notes with them. Getting very close to Patricia and Tess, a mother and daughter, was at times a pain-filled experience as well, as I followed their story for 2 years, not just for the book, but for my Audible Original podcast, “Finding Tess: A Mother’s Search for Answers in a Dopesick America.”

There’s no guidebook for a journalist on how you should behave when your main character in a book turns up brutally murdered in a Dumpster. There were a lot of sleepless nights, to be honest. And



*My goal is that every community and every family have equal access to healthcare and addiction treatment on demand.*

a lot of ethical sticky wickets. And just a lot of pain to process. And yet the pain I felt is nothing compared to the pain these families go through.

*Q. Opioids have hit both low- and high-income groups. Which do you think has a better chance of overcoming them?*

A. Marginalized communities have a harder time recovering from any disease. They tend not to have access to good health/mental health care, or education/prevention, or family support. (Addiction is more common in families with high Adverse Child Experience scores, or higher rates of trauma.) They don’t have \$300,000 to send addicted children off to expensive rehabs, as did one doctor’s family in my book. I do think there are some really interesting programs now being piloted that are state-funded by Medicaid expansion.

My goal is that every community and every family have equal access to healthcare and addiction treatment on demand. As an interviewer in Australia told me – and, believe it or not, I had never thought about this before – “Think about it. If the United States had had universal health care (as Australia does), Walter White would have gone back to teaching.” That’s a *Breaking Bad* reference. But he’s so right. Countries with on-demand access to healthcare do so much better with addiction.

For more information about Town Hall South’s speaker lineup, go to [www.townhallsouth.org](http://www.townhallsouth.org).

– Abby Gary

# 2020 Stewardship Campaign Update

As of November 20, 2019

	2020	2019
Number of pledges received	271	293
Amount pledged	\$1,068,304.16	\$1,123,311

The 2020 Stewardship campaign is underway, and we thank you for your pledge. We have received pledges for 2020 from about 65% of those who pledged for 2019.

If you have yet to make your 2020 pledge, you may do so by placing it in the offering plate today, or by mailing it to the Finance Office at the church, or by going online at [www.westminster-church.org/give](http://www.westminster-church.org/give). The 2020 Stewardship campaign pledge cards are available in the pew racks and in the brochure racks around the church. Thank you.

# Financial Report

As of October 31, 2019

General Fund Contributions	
Year-to-Date Actual 2019	\$1,366,636.48
Annual Budget	\$1,861,034.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$494,397.52

Year-to-Date Income Statement	
Income	\$1,695,029.95
Expenses	\$1,716,142.95
Net Position	\$(21,113.00)

We thank you for your wonderful support through the first ten months, and we are pleased to report that we have not had to rely on any outside lending sources to fulfill our internal and external commitments. However, as you can see above, we still have approximately 27% of our 2019 budget yet to be fulfilled.

If you are current or ahead on your 2019 pledge, thank you for your continuing support. If you are behind on your 2019 pledge, please consider catching up and fulfilling your pledge, so that we can continue to meet our commitments. Thank you.

## Deaths

Sylvia Hollinshead

Nov. 18



## Year-End Contributions: Recording and Reporting

In order for your charitable contributions to be tax-deductible in 2019, **they MUST be received in the church or postmarked by December 31, 2019.** Any contributions received in the church during January 2020 (other than those that are mailed, dated, and postmarked by December 31, 2019) will be deductible **ONLY** on your 2020 tax return.

Also, to ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2019 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. The 2019 contribution statements are anticipated to be mailed to you on or around January 2020.

If you have any questions regarding year-end contributions, please contact Cindy Bingham, church business administrator, at 412-835-6630x201.

# Session Highlights

At its meeting on November 18, the Session heard a report from Mike Molli, chair of the Endowment & Special Gifts Committee, regarding the Endowment Funds of the church. Discussion followed on recent developments in the Reiter court case.

Dr. Bruce Lancaster highlighted his interim pastor's report for the first six months of his service at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The Session extended many thanks to the third-year elders for their service as church leaders.

# Church Closing Policy

In the event of severe weather, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Westminster Nursery School and Kindergarten (WNSK), and Westminster Recreation & Outreach Center (WROC) will follow the schedule of the Upper St. Clair School District.

- When the school district is closed, all activities, classes, and meetings scheduled for that day are canceled.
- In cases of delays, all meetings, activities, and classes will take place at their scheduled time, unless otherwise determined by the facilitator or instructor. Westminster Nursery School will operate on its modified schedule.

Westminster Child Development Center will make its own determination on closings, cancellations, and delays.

Closing information is broadcast on television (KDKA, WTAE, and WPXI), radio (KDKA-AM 1020), and the Internet ([www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org), [wroc.westminster-church.org](http://wroc.westminster-church.org), [pittsburgh.cbslocal.com](http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com), [www.wtae.com](http://www.wtae.com), and [www.wpxi.com](http://www.wpxi.com).)

# Christmas Poinsettias

The Chancel Guild is accepting memorial or honoree contributions for poinsettias. The beautiful poinsettias throughout Westminster during the Christmas season are the result of generous contributions by our members and friends. Use the form below and make your check payable to the Chancel Guild. Mail the form and your check to Peg Kinsey at the church office or place it in the collection plate. Contributions must be received no later than **Monday, December 16**, so your gift can be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Please indicate below if you plan to pick up your flower or whether you would like it delivered to a shut-in.



## Christmas Memorial and Honoree Poinsettia Order Form

Memorial     Honoree

Name of Memorial/Honoree (PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Deliver poinsettia to shut-in     Will pick up poinsettia on Thursday, December 26, or Friday, December 27 (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to Peg Kinsey in the church office by Monday, December 16.**



**WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2040 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org)  
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[www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC](http://www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC)

**Behold, the grace appears!  
The promise is fulfilled;  
Mary, the wondrous virgin, bears,  
And Jesus is the child.**

**To bring the glorious news  
A heav'nly form appears;  
He tells the shepherd of their joys,  
And banishes their fears.**

**Glory to God on high!  
And heav'nly peace on earth;  
Goodwill to men, to angels joy,  
At the Redeemer's birth.**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)  
*Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1707*

