

THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

The Word Made Flesh

Christmas, of course, is about the coming of Christ, first to the world as a whole and then to each of us who hear and respond to his call. But who is this Christ?

Jesus himself wants to know what folks think, so he asks his followers, "Who do people say that I am?" They report on the rumors flying around, and then he asks more directly, "But who do you say that I am?" That's been the question ever since.

All sorts of answers have been offered through the ages, but from the perspective of orthodox Christianity, they fall into two broad categories: those who believe that Jesus was the eternal Word of God made flesh, and those who don't.

The latter group offers an array of opinions, ranging from great admiration to fanciful speculation to scornful dismissal. On the admiring side, they say Jesus was a good man, a great teacher, a prophet, a sage, or a revolutionary. On the dismissive side, they claim he was a misguided messianic wannabe, delusional, or just plain crazy. It's worth noting that all these ideas were circulating during Jesus' lifetime or shortly thereafter.

The church, on the other hand, came to believe that Jesus was in fact the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Word of God made flesh. While a full-blown doctrine of the Trinity took



The Census at Bethlehem by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1566. photo: Musee des Beaux-Arts, Lille. Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd.

many years to develop, elements of it are contained in the New Testament itself.

The letter to the Colossians is ascribed to Paul, and if it came from Paul or a close disciple then within a couple decades of Jesus' death and resurrection the church was already saying "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created...." The letter to the Hebrews claimed, within a generation or so of Jesus' life, that God "has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds." And the prologue to John's gospel, by the end of the first century, famously declared "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through him...."

Almost from the outset, Jesus was seen by the church as not just a great man (though he was indeed a great man), but more profoundly as the very Word God speaks in the act of creation. The Greek word is *Logos*, which is to say that in Christ, something like the logic behind creation has become a man and walked among us.

And insofar as the Word of God shapes who we are, in some quite literal sense the Word becomes flesh in us too. That's an astonishing thing to contemplate as we go about our everyday lives. It's the fundamental reason why we celebrate Christmas after all.

Jim Gilbert

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for Congregational Care
 REV. JASON FREYER, *Associate Pastor*
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 DEBB EGLI, *Assistant Director of Children's and*
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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.

Read the *Spire* online at:

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. 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

📅	Sundays
🕒	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
📍	Sanctuary

The Bridge Contemporary Worship

📅	Sundays
🕒	9:45 a.m.
📍	WROC

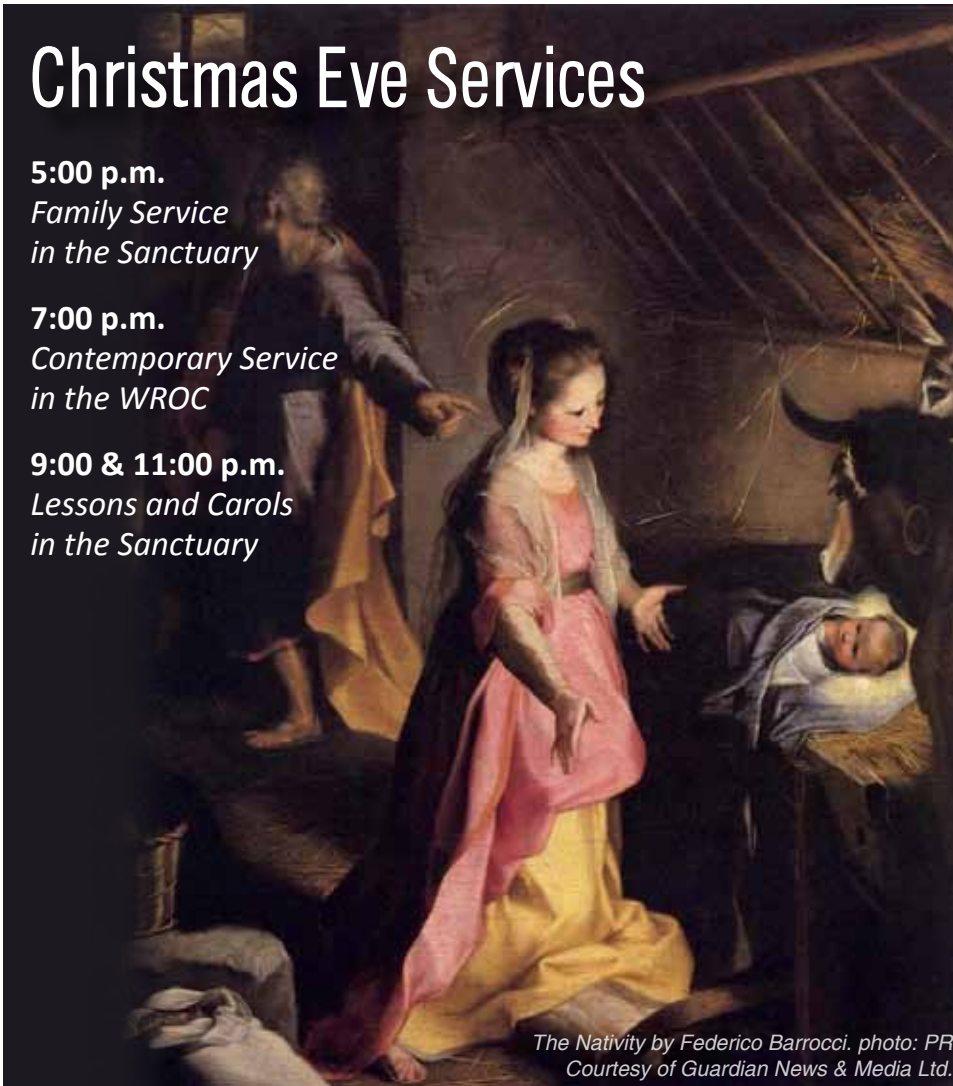
*The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.
Gluten-free wafers are available at all services.*

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*



*The Nativity by Federico Barrocci. photo: PR
Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd.*

New Year's Eve

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

Upcoming Events

**01
DEC** Breakfast at the Manger

**07
DEC** Gingerbread House Factory
Resonance Works: A Joyous Sound
8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

**09
DEC** Westminster Christmas Concert
7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

**19
DEC** Christmas Remembrance Service
7:30 p.m. in Galbreath Chapel

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel

Advent Series

Beginnings: What Genesis Says (And Doesn't Say)

Steven Tuell, Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

When critics and defenders of faith argue about beginnings, both sides generally assume that Genesis presents a straightforward account of how the world was made. One side defends this account, while the other attacks it. But close reading of Genesis 1–2 reveals a serious flaw in this assumption. Genesis presents not one creation account, but two, which differ markedly from one another. This forces us to ask new questions. If Genesis 1–2 is not a factual description of the origin of the world, then what is it? What are these two stories about? What is the effect of their combination? What are the implications of Genesis 1–2 for the relationship between science and faith? We will engage these questions through a close, careful reading of the biblical text.

- December 2** – Which Creation?
- December 9** – An Ordered World:
Genesis 1:1–2:4a
- December 16** – The Drama of Relationship:
Genesis 2:4b–25
- December 23** – Putting It Back Together:
What Does Genesis 1–2 Mean?



1st day: Creation of the Light . Gen. 1: 3. Woodcut for "Die Bibel in Bildern", 1860, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld.

Dr. Steven Tuell is the James A. Kelso Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, he has served churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Virginia. He and his wife Wendy live in the North Hills and have three grown sons.

Steve has written numerous articles and several books on the Hebrew Bible, most recently a new commentary on Nahum through Malachi. He is now working on a book on Creation in Scripture. The Advent seminars at Westminster will connect to this book in progress.

The seminar will not meet on December 30. Plan to join us on January 6 when former Westminster associate pastor Jim Davison will begin a series on the Book of Revelation.

Keep Christmas in December!

Every now and again, when driving this time of year, we might come across a vehicle with a bumper sticker attached encouraging us to “Keep Christ in Christmas!” Of course as a Christian pastor, I am all about this! Of course this season should be about our Lord and Savior, coming down to us in human form, becoming like us so that we could become more like him. Yes yes yes! But, in addition, I have been humbly advocating a secondary bumper sticker. I would like to suggest that we drive around with stickers that say “Keep Christmas in December!”

Indeed, I started to see Christmas stuff on the shelves in early October. You could buy eggnog so early that it would expire before you ever saw snow on the ground. If you are in the market for a fake Christmas tree, the local Target has had you covered for quite a while now. I think we need to keep Christmas in its season. At the very earliest, we may begin celebrating as a nation when Santa Claus makes his appearance at the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. Not a second sooner.

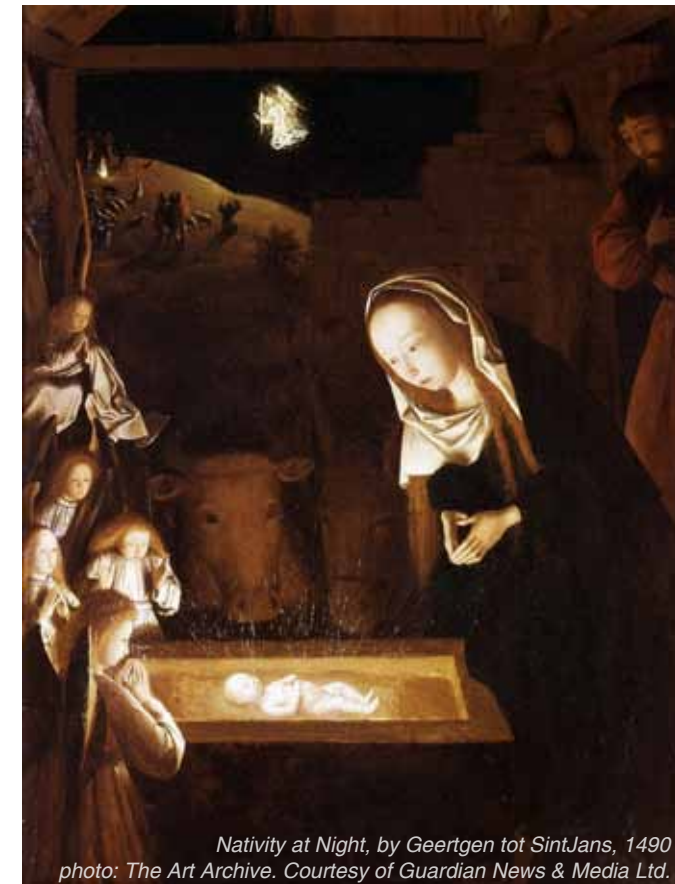
Now, I can already feel some of your anger as you read this column. Some of you are already accusing me of being a Scrooge, bah humbugging me this way and that. Let me explain. Christmas is indeed my favorite holiday, both culturally and theologically. Culturally speaking, Christmas just has a certain magic to it, doesn’t it? The snow on the ground. The twinkling lights everywhere you go. The gifts, which for me used to be about receiving and have in recent years turned to watching with joy as a pair of toddlers open presents. The time with family increases, and parties with friends are always on the rise. To be sure, there are ways to pervert all of this, to turn the joy of giving into a consumerist nightmare, to feel the pain of loss at this time of year, to live in an area where snow plows are all but forgotten. But at its purest form, I think our culture does Christmas well. So why would I want to delay that? Because I’m terrified of Christmas burnout, that’s why! I think the worst thing that could possibly happen

is if I got to December 25 and longed to throw my radio through a window if it played even one more Bing Crosby song. If we celebrate Christmas for half the year, Christmas itself won’t be special.

Now by the time you all are reading this, it will be beside the point. You will be in the throes of December, and to you I say Deck the Halls freely and liberally! But suppose you can’t stop yourself, and next year you find that you need to celebrate Christmas early. Here’s where I think Christmas *can* in fact be extended. For as much as Christmas is about celebration and gifts, it is more about the gift of grace that comes to us in the manger. For as much as Christmas is about snow covered landscapes, it is about the God who desires to wash our sins whiter than any Norman Rockwell painting could possibly imagine. For as much as Christmas brings us together as families, it reminds us of the depths that God was willing to plumb to bring us back into God’s own family, to claim us as God’s own, to adopt us into the family of God. These reasons are why Christmas remains one of my favorite holidays in the Christian tradition, and these reasons are worthy of celebration all year long.

Just maybe don’t buy a tree in October to celebrate.

To all of you, my friends, may you have a blessed and joyous Christmas. And may you remember that God loves you enough to come here in the flesh. You matter that much to God!



Nativity at Night, by Geertgen tot Sint Jans, 1490
photo: The Art Archive. Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd.

**For as much as
Christmas is
about celebration
and gifts,
it is more about
the gift of grace
that comes to us
in the manger.**

– Jason Freyer

GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

Then Jesus said to the crowd, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed” (Luke 12:15).

“All kinds of greed?” I wondered out loud to a roomful of fifth and sixth graders. “How many kinds of greed are there?”

The kids suggested many of the answers I might have expected: food, candy, soda, video games, having fun, toys (and stuff in general), friendship (as in “You can’t be my friend if you’re going to be friends with her”), attention, love. Even if a little of any of these things might be all right – and some we absolutely need to survive and thrive – the group quickly agreed that too much of any of them would not be good for you, and might even be really, really bad.

And then, as so often happens with this bunch, someone asked a completely unexpected question, turning the conversation in a completely unforeseen direction. “Can you be greedy for reading the Bible?” she mused. Someone else added, “Can you be greedy for God?”

The room was absolutely quiet for a few minutes, something that really doesn’t happen all that often, I assure you. Everyone was thinking hard. And that included the adults. Is there such a thing as “too much” scripture? “Too much” God?

At first, the group seemed to think that the answer was “no.” Isn’t reading scripture and praying, learning about and spending time with God a good thing? Isn’t it true that we can easily slip into a life pattern where we don’t do those things enough? Aren’t we often being reminded, by parents, pastors, Sunday school teachers, or friends, and maybe even reminding ourselves, to make *more* time to spend with God? Aren’t we commanded to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind?”

It almost seemed as if this might be what the kids would call a “well, duh!” A question that has an answer that is so simple that it’s immediately obvious to everyone. Of course, the correct answer to all of the questions in the last paragraph is a simple, unequivocal “yes.” Certainly we can’t want, or have, too much God. Right?

“But wait,” someone interrupted the group’s sense of satisfaction with their agreed-upon solution. “What if the *only* thing you ever wanted to do was to read the Bible and to pray? What if you stopped doing everything else? What if you stopped paying attention to anything or anyone else?”

The others were quick to catch on to this line of reasoning. Yes, they said, thinking out loud; it probably wouldn’t be so good if we stopped doing homework or chores, if we stopped paying attention to those around us. “If we stopped eating or drinking, we could even die!” added one of the students.

And God tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves, too, doesn’t he? How can we love our neighbor if we never even see him, because we never look up from our Bible reading?

So maybe, loving God isn’t enough, all by itself. Maybe one of the ways other people can see our love for God is by looking at what we do for and with the people around us. Maybe it *is* possible to be greedy for God.

What do you think? Can we be greedy for God? Please stop by, or send an email. The kids and I would love to hear your thoughts.

– Robin Pyles



Stained glass: by Alfred Handel, d. 1946.
photo: Toby Hudson, from Wikimedia Commons.

Giving Gala 2018

On Saturday, November 3, the Westminster Deacons hosted their third annual Giving Gala at St. Clair Country Club. This year, we raised \$36,025 to benefit the Open Door, a faith-based organization in Crafton Heights which helps children by providing them with afterschool and weekend programs and summer camp.

The fun-filled evening was a time to enjoy fellowship and a delicious gourmet meal while supporting this worthy cause. After dinner, ten-year-old DeJa explained how her life was changed by becoming a part of the Open Door.

We then held our live auction, where we became acquainted with the use of paddles for bidding on amazing prizes. Some folks were fortunate enough to win Penguin tickets, an autographed Steeler football, and a Penn State Jersey signed by JoPA himself. Others went home with beautiful designer purses, and two lucky people won dream vacations to Hilton Head Island and Orlando. Magnificent baskets were raffled off and happily received. Our generous corporate and individual sponsors well exceeded our expectations. The best gift, however, is the knowledge that we positively affected the lives of others in need. 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.

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand, to the poor and the needy neighbor in your land."

Deuteronomy 15:11



Caring Notes

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38)



The Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1858. photo: courtesy of the Philadelphia Museum of Art

During Advent, we hear the story once again of how the angel announced the long awaited Messiah to Mary in dramatic fashion. The people of Israel had waited for over 400 years trusting that their faithful God would send the anointed one. Some thought the Messiah would be a great military leader, others thought the Messiah would be a political figure, and many thought he would be a ruler for the people. No one was looking for the Messiah to come as a baby to be born to a young woman. God's ways are not our ways, the Scriptures remind us. When the angel appeared, Mary received the holy word with a trusting and willing spirit.

The annunciation has been one of the most frequently painted subjects of Christian art. This painting, *The Annunciation*, painted by Henry Tanner – a Pittsburgh artist – hangs in the Philadelphia Museum of Art and dates back to 1898. The divine messenger appears in brilliant light seeming to melt even the garments surrounding Mary. Yet, Mary remains serene as she intently listens to the mystical angel.

Today, God's guidance frequently comes to us through others. Christian friends can be invaluable when they share an encouraging word, support us when we are down, or guide us when the way forward seems unclear. Although we are entering a busy time of year, taking time for prayer and reading the Bible allows us to stay connected to God's Spirit in our lives.

You never know when a special message will come to you!

With joy,

Louise

Today, God's
guidance
frequently
comes to us
through
others.

Christmas Remembrance



Snow Scene at Argenteuil by Claude Monet, 1875. photo: The National Gallery, London. Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd.

A Service of Comfort and Hope

Wednesday, December 19

7:30 p.m.

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, rogers@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630.

Welcome

New Members

Matt & Savannah Bucey



Randy & Carolyn Krakoff



Claudia Wagner



Margorie Woodworth



Chuck Zuzak



A Christmas CONCERT

Sunday, December 9
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

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

A festive evening to celebrate music of the season in Westminster's beautifully decorated sanctuary.

*Winter Landscape by Caspar David Friedrich, 1811. photo: Corbis
Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd.*

Resonance Works at Westminster: *A Joyous Sound!*

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

Resonance Chamber Orchestra & Festival Chorus
Soprano Lara Lynn McGill
Baritone Daniel Teadt
Conductor Maria Sensi Sellner

A Joyous Sound! is inspired by and in tribute to the beloved holiday concerts of Robert Page (1927-2016), a Grammy award-winning conductor, arranger, and composer. Page's career included tenures with the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras before he came to Pittsburgh to revitalize the Mendelssohn Choir and lead the music department at Carnegie Mellon University. His holiday concerts were known for a brilliant mélange of classical music of substance and elegant and nostalgic arrangements of beloved holiday classics.

The family-friendly concert will be under 90 minutes with goodies from Sweet Bites Cookies for all to enjoy. For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.resonanceworks.org.

Resonance Works, founded in 2013, connects the arts to today's audience by featuring music championed by its artists and themes that resonate with the current climate.



Year-End Contributions: Recording and Reporting

In order for your charitable contributions to be tax-deductible in 2018, they must be received in the church or postmarked by December 31, 2018. Any contributions received in the church during January 2019 (other than those that are mailed, dated, and postmarked by December 31, 2018) will be deductible only on your 2019 tax return.

Also, to ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2018 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 2018 contribution statements are anticipated to be mailed to you on or around January 11, 2019.

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

Donations of Appreciated Assets

Contributors to Westminster Presbyterian Church may give appreciated assets to the church (such as stocks or mutual funds) without being required to pay tax on the capital gains. This can be easily accomplished by electronic transfer of these assets to Westminster Presbyterian Church as payment on your pledge. Please note that these gifts must be long-term investments. Short-term capital gains do not qualify for the tax benefits.

The procedure is quite simple.

ELECTRONIC TRANSFER

- Notify your broker that you wish to donate shares to Westminster Presbyterian Church through ***Morgan Stanley Smith Barney***.
- The transfer should go to:
DTC 0015
Account no. 827-105717-515
- It is important that you or your broker contact Dave Reiter at the church office, 412-835-6630x201, informing us that a transfer is being made. This will ensure that proper credit is given to you on your church giving statement.
- A letter of confirmation of the sale will be sent to the donor(s). This letter will state the date of sale, per share average price for the date of the gift, and total value of the donation.

If you have further questions, please call Dave Reiter at 412-835-6630x201.

IRA Charitable Giving Now Permanent

At the close of 2015, lawmakers approved the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act. A provision of this Act made permanent Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from individual retirement accounts. This is superb news for those looking to support their favorite missions and congregations in a tax-advantaged way.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Donor must be 70½ or older at the time the distribution is made
2. QCDs are made from IRAs or Roth IRAs
3. Distributions must be made directly to an organization eligible to receive tax deductible contributions (certain exclusions apply)
4. \$100,000 annual limit
5. Charity receiving gift must provide donor proper substantiation of the gift

BENEFITS

- Can satisfy required minimum distribution (RMD) requirements in year QCD is made
- QCD amount is not included in the donor's adjusted gross income, helping to potentially avoid increased taxes on SSI, higher Medicare premiums, and the loss of deductions/exemptions
- Provides donors that use the standard deduction a tax efficient way to make a charitable gift

Financial Report *As of October 31, 2018*

General Fund Contributions	
Year-to-Date Actual 2018	\$1,636,696.72
Annual Budget	\$1,995,579.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$358,882.28

Year-to-Date Income Statement	
Income	\$1,888,364.13
Expenses	\$1,886,981.49
Net Position	\$1,382.64

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 18% of our 2018 budget yet to be fulfilled.

If you are current or ahead on your 2018 pledge, thank you for your continuing support. If you are behind on your 2018 pledge, please consider catching up and fulfilling your pledge, so that we can continue to meet our commitments. Thank you.

2019 Stewardship Campaign Update *As of November 20, 2018*

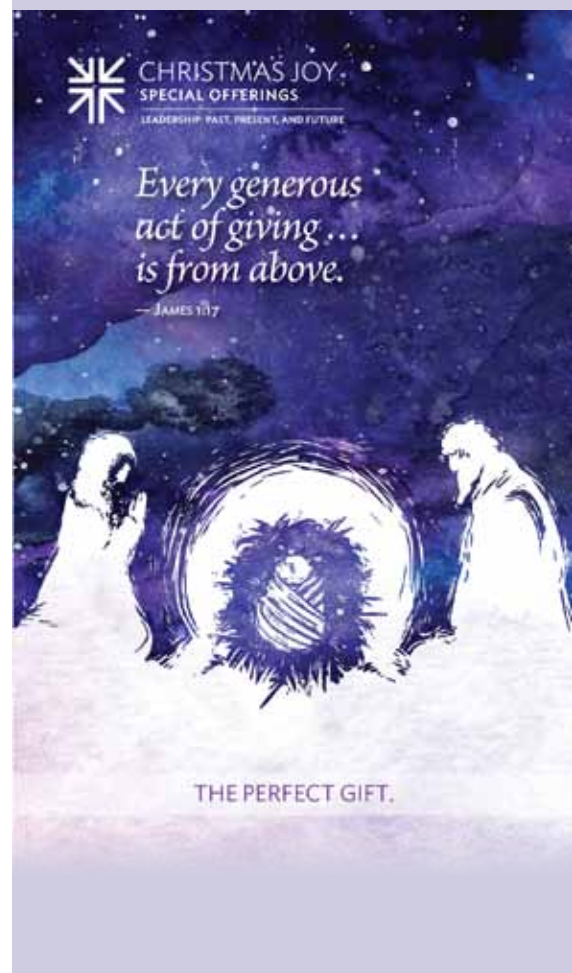
	2019	2018
Number of pledges received	293	472
Amount pledged	\$1,123,311	\$1,695,515

The 2019 Stewardship campaign is underway, and we thank you for your pledge for 2019. We have received pledges for 2019 from about 58% of those who pledged for 2018. If you have yet to make your 2019 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. The 2019 Stewardship campaign pledge cards are available in the pew racks and in the brochure racks around the church. Thank you.

Christmas Joy Offering

Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to a Christmas season offering. The 2018 Christmas Joy Offering at Westminster supports two programs. Your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and retired church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

Envelopes for the 2018 Christmas Joy Offering will be located in the pews beginning December 16, and are also contained within your 2018 Offering Envelope boxes.



Deaths

Nancy Kunkle

October 22

Karen Ralston

October 25

Phyllis Majesky

November 3

Al Thompson

November 9



Church Closing Policy

When the Upper St. Clair School District is closed due to weather conditions, the church offices will be closed and all activities and meetings scheduled for that day are canceled. When the school district is on a two-hour delay, the church offices will be open during normal business hours and all activities and meetings scheduled for the day will take place at their scheduled times. Church closing information is broadcast on television (KDKA, WTAE, and WPXI), radio (KDKA-AM 1020), and the church's website.

Session Update

On November 19, Session received an interim report on pledges for ministry and mission in 2019. They're running slightly ahead of the current year, though the church still needs to hear from members who have not yet responded. Meanwhile, contributions from pledges to the Forward in Faith campaign continue to be received, and projects are starting to be funded.

An Emergency Operations Plan was approved, as prepared by Mandy Thomas on behalf of the Emergency Preparedness Team. The plan is intended to describe procedures for responding to a variety of potential situations, from medical emergencies to natural disasters to aggressive intruders. Policies and procedures around security are being considered, and further recommendations will be brought to Session in the coming months.

Wartime Christmas



Christmas Card by Carl Kreneck, 1912.
Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Led by a star, a golden star,
The youngest star, an olden star,
Here the kings and the shepherds are,
Akneeling on the ground.
What did they come to the inn to see?
God in the Highest, and this is He,
A baby asleep on His mother's knee
And with her kisses crowned.

Now is the earth a dreary place,
A troubled place, a weary place.
Peace has hidden her lovely face
And turned in Tears away.
Yet the Sun, through the war-cloud, sees
Babies asleep on their mother's knees.
While there are love and home—and these—
There shall be Christmas Day.

— Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918)

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 17**, 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 Wednesday, December 26, or Thursday, 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 17.



**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2040 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241
www.westminster-church.org
A PC(USA) Congregation

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*The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
True from start to finish.*

— John 1:14

The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language
Eugene Peterson (1932-2018)



Mystic Nativity by Sandro Botticelli, 1500. photo: The Art Archive. Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd.