Sunday, November 22, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE JOY OF GIVING STEWARDSHIP 2027

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude — Come Ye Thankful, Gather Together — Sondra K. Tucker
The Church's One Foundation — Wesley/arr. Larson
Westminster Ringers and Jim Burns, piano

Welcome and Announcements

***Share the Peace of Christ**

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 100)

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
People: Worship the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!
Leader: Know this: The Lord is God!
People: We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.
Leader: So, enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and come into the sanctuary with praise.
People: Let us give thanks to God and bless God's holy name.

***Opening Hymn No. 367** — Come, Ye Thankful People, Come — ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

***Prayer of Confession** (adapted from the Church of Scotland)

Loving God,

Here, we confess to ourselves and to you all that we have done and all that we have not done; those we have hurt and those we have ignored; our careless stewardship of all that you have given us; and the lack of attention we have paid to you.

We come, aware of the walls we have built up that separate us from one another and from you.

And yet, we come in the knowledge that, still, you care for us; you love us; you forgive us.

You call us still to follow Christ's example.
You breathe into us the conviction that we are forgiven people of God who, in our brokenness, can be healed, and that we can share that healing with the world.
And for this, Lord, we rejoice.

(A time of silence for personal confession)

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

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

***Sung Response Hymn No. 442** Just as I Am, without One Plea
Verse 3

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

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.

Congregational Response THREEFOLD AMEN

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Ephesians 6:10-17 New Testament, page 195

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Stand Firm Rev. Laura Bentley

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

Offertory Anthem All Good Gifts David Schwoebel

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.
Then thank the Lord for all his love.
We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine and soft, refreshing rain.

He only is the maker of all things near and far.
He paints the wayside flower, he lights the evening star.
The wind and waves obey him, by him the birds are fed.
Much more to us, his children, he gives our daily bread.
We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer for all thy love imparts,
and what thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.

***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. 268** Crown Him with Many Crowns DIADEMATA

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** Go Ye Now in Peace Joyce Eilers

Go ye now in peace and know that the love of God will guide you.
Feel his presence here beside you, showing you the way.
Know that the God who sent his son to die that we might live
will never leave you lost and alone in his beloved world.

***Postlude** Marche Triomphale Siegfried Karg -Elert

Leading in worship: Rev. Laura Bentley, Jan Baumann, Nancy Nunley, Jim Burns, Christine Hestwood, Jim Marshall, the Quartet, Chancel Choir, and Westminster Ringers

Christmas Poinsettias @ Westminster



The Chancel Guild is accepting memorial or honoree contributions for poinsettias. Use the form below and make your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and write "Poinsettia" on the memo line. Mail your check and form to the church office or place it in the collection plate.

Contributions must be received no later than Sunday, December 6, so that your gift can be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please indicate if you plan to pick up your flower or whether you would like it delivered to a member in care. Poinsettias will be available on December 24 following the 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. services, after worship on December 27, and December 28-29 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

A suggested minimum donation of $25 will cover the cost of the flowers. Additional donations beyond that will be used to support the work of the Chancel Guild throughout the year. Use the form below, or scan the QR code to submit your purchase through your Realm account.

2026 Christmas Memorial and Honoree Poinsettia Order Form

My Name _____

☐ In memory of ☐ In honor of

Name of Memorial/Honoree (PLEASE PRINT)

_____ _____

_____ _____

☐ Deliver poinsettia to member in care

☐ Will pick up poinsettia on December 24 following the 5:00 or 9:00 p.m. services, or after worship on December 27, December 28-29 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Please return this form to the church office by Sunday, December 6, 2026.

2040 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

412-835-6630
www.westminster-church.org

A PC(USA) Congregation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayers of Concern and Thanksgiving

The congregation extends condolences to the family of *Ruth Black* on her death.

We pray for *Sandy Conaway* who was hospitalized.

THE JOY OF GIVING STEWARDSHIP 2027

Thank you to the 189 households that have already submitted their pledge for the 2027 Joy of Giving Stewardship Campaign. Giving is one of the most beautiful ways we express our love for God and our care for one another. It is more than a financial contribution; it is an act of faith, an expression of gratitude, and an opportunity to participate in the work God is doing through Westminster. As you prayerfully consider your participation in this year's stewardship campaign, we promise you that there is no gift too small when it is given with a willing heart. Scan the QR code to the right to make a pledge.

Westminster Seminars TODAY | 9:45 a.m. | Galbreath Chapel

TODAY: *Footsteps of the Apostle Paul* - Presented by Louise Rogers

Coming Up: Sunday, November 29; December 6, 13 & 20

The Search for God Through Visual Art

WESTMINSTER Seminars Thoughtful Christian Dialogue

SHIM Food Drive Sorting Event TODAY, after each service | Room 274

Come and help sort the donations from the Veritas Food Drive for SHIM.

Volunteers for the Bridge

We are looking for some new volunteers to help set up and clean up and usher for the Bridge service. Please consider signing up!

Serving at Living Stones Sunday, November 29 | 3:00-6:30 p.m.

Fairhaven United Methodist Church, 2415 Saw Mill Run Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15234

Join us in making a difference by assisting at a local neighborhood church by volunteering to help serve food at the buffet line. Transportation will be provided from the north parking lot of the church. Space is limited and registration is required.

WROC WESTMINSTER RECREATION & OUTREACH CENTER

Rest, Renew & Restore: Relaxing Sound Baths

Experience the gift of rest and renewal this holiday season with meditation and relaxing Sound Baths.

Mondays, November 23-December 21 | 6:30-7:15 p.m. | Room 176 | $75, or pay per class $20

A calming guided meditation to quiet the mind and center your spirit, gently transitioning into an immersive, healing soundscape crafted from crystal singing bowls, soothing chimes, and rhythmic drums. To register go to: https://wroc.westminster-church.org/fitness/.

Westminster Presbyterian Church is hiring!

We're looking for a part-time director of our Westminster Recreation and Outreach Center. Qualified candidates will have a strong passion for seeing the WROC programs grow and expand, a highly detail oriented skill set, and above all a love for the ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church and its mission. If you are interested in applying, please send a resume to Pastor Jason Freyer at freyer@westminster-church.org.

WPC Book Group Meeting

Wednesday, December 2 | Noon-1:15 p.m. | Church Library

We will discuss *Season's Greetings* by Alan Ayckbourn. All are welcome even if you haven't read the book. Any questions can be directed to Nana Wilson at callingnana@gmail.com.

Volunteering at the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank

Saturday, December 5 | 8:00 a.m.-noon | The Market: 1 N. Linden Street, Duquesne, PA

Westminster will be traveling to the Greater Pittsburgh food bank to serve in their market. We would love to have you as part of the group! Participants must be over 18 and registration is limited and required, so sign up by November 25 using the QR code to the right.

Bair Foundation Gift Drive

Gifts due: Sunday, December 6

Volunteering: Wednesday, December 2, 6:30-9:00 p.m.,
Sunday, December 6, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. & 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Westminster is once again partnering with the Bair Foundation to provide Christmas gifts for 300 foster children and children in need in the local Pittsburgh area. We need volunteers to help sort and purchase gifts. To register or volunteer and learn more, scan the QR code to the right.

Tuesday Evening Book Group

Tuesday, December 8 | 7:00-8:30 p.m. | Room 231

The Tuesday Evening Book Group will discuss *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel. All are welcome even if you haven't read the book. Any questions can be directed to Tom Drake at tom.mdrake@yahoo.com.

Family Gingerbread Night

Wednesday, December 9 | 6:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a casual evening as a family as you build a gingerbread house together. There will be no JAM or Kids' Connection this evening. Registration is not required, but greatly appreciated as it aids us in planning for a night of family fun!

Sara Botkin in Concert

Friday, December 11 | 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Join soprano Sara Botkin and friends in this joyous recital of beloved Christmas music. Admission is FREE and donations will be accepted for "Sustain the Sound," Westminster's campaign to fund the organ for the sanctuary.

Annual Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 13 | 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

The Annual Christmas Concert features the Chancel, Junior, and Cherub Choirs, and the Westminster Ringers. Come and hear inspiring music and sing along to some of your favorite Christmas carols!

Breakfast at the Manger

Saturday, December 19 | 9:00 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

Join us for Breakfast at the Manger on December 19 at 9:00 a.m.! Enjoy a delicious breakfast, an interactive Christmas story, and festive crafts and activities for the whole family. Registration required by December 16. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Scotland & England Pilgrimage: June 21-29, 2027

Step away from the rush to walk where saints have gone before us. Join us on an inn-to-inn hiking pilgrimage along the 65-mile St. Cuthbert's Way on the border of England and Scotland. Pastor J will make an appearance, too.
The pilgrimage will be June 21-29, with an optional weekend stay in Edinburgh June 18-20. Cost, excluding travel to and from the UK, is $1800. A $500 deposit secures your spot.
Registration closes December 7.

Questions? Ready to register? Contact Pastor Laura, bentley@westminster-church.org.