Sunday, November 29, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude For Advent Dom Paul Benoit

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle - The Candle of Hope

8:30 - *McKenzie Bourquin and Tom Smith*
11:00 - *Shannon, Cat, and Ken Radinick, and Charlie Perrine*

Leader: When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
People: we turn our eyes to the stars.
Leader: When the work is demanding and injustice unending,
People: we stand together, arm in arm.
Leader: When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy,
People: we cry out to God without holding back.
Leader: And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away,
People: we gather together to light the candle of hope.
Leader: Like the stars above, may this light shine bright.
People: May it guide our path. May it inspire deeper hope.
Leader: Until God's promised day, may it be so.
People: Amen.

***Share the Peace of Christ**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: In God's house,
People: we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.
Leader: In God's house,
People: we may come exactly as we are.
Leader: In God's house,
People: we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.
Leader: In God's house,
People: all are welcome and all are heard.
Leader: So come and worship.
People: God is here. God is listening.
Leader: Let us worship our with-us God.

***Opening Hymn No. 348** Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending HELMSLEY

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we have been known to bite our tongues, to work through a broken heart, to don our favorite rose-colored glasses. We have been known to look for the bright side, to sweep the pain under the rug, to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss. We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves. Forgive us for filtering our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Forgive us for not turning to you first. Remind us that you are a God who listens and you are a God who restores. With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

(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. 88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
verse 7

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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 Isaiah 64:1-9 Old Testament, page 694

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

Sermon Until the Dawn … Cry Out Rev. Jason Freyer

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

Offertory Anthem Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence arr. Keith Christopher

***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. 106** Prepare the Way, O Zion BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates
Verse 3

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

***Postlude** Sleepers, Awake! Ludwig Krebs

Leading in worship: Jason Freyer, Laura Bentley, Jim Burns, Christine Hestwood, the Quartet, and Chancel Choir

A Note About Todays Music

Today's prelude, *For Advent*, combines two advent melodies: the Gregorian chant *Rotate caeli desuper ("Drop down, ye heavens, from above")* and the French carol *Venez, divin Messie (Come, Divine Messiah")*. The contrast between these two melodies captures the spirit of Advent from the longing for the promised Messiah to the joyful anticipation of his coming.

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, or 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, or 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 *Rick Scott and family* on the death of his mother, *Judith Scott*; and to *Karen Liebendorfer and family* on the death of her husband, *Judd Liebendorfer.*

We pray for *Jerry Malarkey* who was hospitalized.

THE JOY OF GIVING STEWARDSHIP 2027

Thank you to the 205 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. If you haven't pledged yet, scan the QR code to the right to do so.

THANK YOU! Thank you to our church and community for making the 20th Annual Veritas Food Drive a phenomenal success! Together, you donated 3,000 pounds of food and over $1,400 in cash for SHIM. What a wonderful legacy of generosity, compassion, and students learning to care for others!

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

WESTMINSTER Seminars Thoughtful Christian Dialogue

TODAY: ***The Search for God: Vision and Abstraction*** Presenter: Elaine Wertheim

Artists of the 19th and 20th centuries search for spiritual equivalents that are quite different from the religious imagery of previous centuries.

Coming Up: Sunday, December 6

The Search for God: An Examination of Marc Chagall's PEACE Window

Presenter: Sandy Conley

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!

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.

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.

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 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.