



# THE Celebration OF Worship

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

## WE GATHER TOGETHER

**Prelude** Chorale Prelude on *Christ Our Lord Came to the Jordan* J.S. Bach

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Share the Peace of Christ**

**\*Introit (11:00)** A Love Round *Cherub Choir* arr. Nancy Gifford

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Come to the waters:

**People:** and hear God quietly whispering.

Leader: Come to the waters:

**People:** and see the reflection of grace.

Leader: Come to the waters:

**People:** and find the name “Beloved” inscribed upon your heart.

Leader: Come and remember who you are.

**\*Opening Hymn No. 475** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing NETTLETON

**A Word for All Ages (11:00)**

*Children 4yrs through 4th grade are dismissed to Sunday School.*

**Sending Song Hymn No. 748 (11:00)**      Go with Us, Lord

Go with us Lord and guide the way, through this and every coming day,  
that in your spirit strong and true our lives may be a gift to you.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Holy God,  
you call us to beloved community with you and with each other.  
But we exclude and reject those we deem different.  
You claim us as beloved, but we turn against each other in anger and hate.  
You liberate us and lead us in Christ's path of peace,  
but we build walls and dismiss peace as impractical and unrealistic.  
Redeeming God, forgive our worldly ways.  
Call us and claim us once again  
for the work of building your beloved community.

*(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 No. 84 - Verse 1**

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call. Amen.

**Anthem (11:00)**

Siyahamba  
*Junior Choir*

arr. Victor C. Johnson

**Prayers of the People**

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

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**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD**

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**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Lesson**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

New Testament, page 60

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

**Sermon**

Where Heaven Meets Earth

Laura Bentley

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## WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

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### Offertory Anthem

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost, to heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.

~Howard Thurman

### \*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

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## WE GO OUT TO SERVE

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### \*Closing Hymn No. 688

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart  
*Verses 1, 4, and 5*

MORECAMBE

### \*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

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Handel/Licharz  
Atta Hornpipe

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**Leading in worship:** Laura Bentley, Jo Forrest, Jim Burns, Christine Hestwood, Beth Ketterman, Lana Kipp, Cherub, Junior and Chancel Choirs.

**ABOUT THE PRELUDE:** The hymn *Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam* (Christ Our Lord to Jordan Came) was written by Martin Luther in 1541. Based on passages from the gospels of Matthew and Mark, it describes the Lutheran doctrine of baptism. In this setting by Bach, the melody is heard in the pedals while the constant swirl of notes in the left hand suggests the flowing waters of the Jordan River.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastor Nominating Committee

On January 6, the Session voted to proceed with the process to call our next senior pastor to succeed Jo Forrest when she retires in the spring of 2026. The Nominating Committee will now begin the work to assemble a slate for the Pastor Nominating Committee. Please, prayerfully consider who you would like on this vital PNC, which may be yourself. Submit names to Melanie Hallums, chair of the Nominating Committee [mhallums@yahoo.com](mailto:mhallums@yahoo.com) or to Emily Shubilla, Volunteer Coordinator, [shubilla@westminster-church.org](mailto:shubilla@westminster-church.org). More information about the transition process and PNC will be available on the website in the coming weeks.



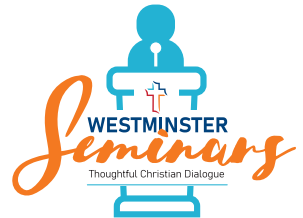
To view the letter from Rev. Dr. Jo Forrest, scan the QR to the right.

### Westminster Seminars

**Jonathan Edwards: What You Don't Know About This Puritan Will Surprise You**

TODAY, January 19, 26 - Note time change to 8:45 a.m. on the 26th  
9:45 a.m. | Galbreath Chapel

Presented by Lou Mitchell



For more info and the Zoom link, go to <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/westminster-seminars>.



### Gentle Yoga

Fridays, January 10 - February 21 | 9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Try Your First Class Free!** New participants are welcome to try their first class free. Just drop in, no registration necessary. This gentler, slower-paced yoga program will improve your flexibility, reduce tension, and enhance inner calmness. Students can use a chair for balance, and should be able to get up and down off the floor. For a list of all our fitness classes and to register, go to [wroc.westminster-church.org](http://wroc.westminster-church.org).



### Bible Read Along - Gospel of Luke

Starts Wednesday, January 15 | 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Room 238

Join the Bible Read Along as we turn to the Gospel of Luke. We follow Jesus' early ministry as he calls the disciples, performs miracles, and ruffles the feathers of those who think they know better. Jesus' words will heal our lives today. Contact Jo Forrest for info and a zoom link.

**Church Building Closed** The church building will be closed Monday, January 20 (MLK) and on Tuesday, January 21 for the planned power outage. WROC classes will be held on January 21 as usual. Please read more on our church website at [westminster-church.org](http://westminster-church.org).

PEACE

# A Guiding Star (Word)

This is the time of year when the world begins dreaming up New Year's Resolutions. How can we lean further into trusting the guidance of the Holy Spirit in 2025? Inspired by the magi who followed the star, a new tradition has begun in church communities:

Star Words. Star Words are guiding words, gifted to us to inspire our spiritual journey into the new year.



Make sure to receive your **GUIDING STAR** word, just scan the QR code!  
(<https://bit.ly/wpcstarwords>)



Read the Tuesday email for more information.

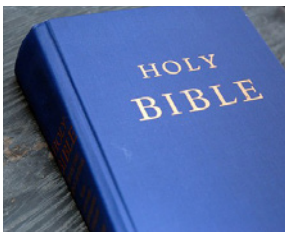
WONDER

## ONE SERVICE SUNDAY

### One Service Sunday and Congregational Meeting

January 26 | 10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

In this blended worship service and meeting, we will worship God and celebrate the work of this congregation by receiving the annual report, the 2025 budget, and vote on the Rev. Dr. Jo Forrest's terms of call. We will also ordain and install our new officers. Following worship, all will gather in Fellowship Hall to enjoy lunch. Sunday school will also be in session. (The seminar will meet at 8:45 a.m. in Galbreath Chapel.) Read more at <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/one-service-sunday>.



### Confirmation Class 2025

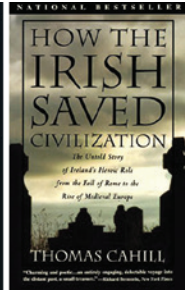
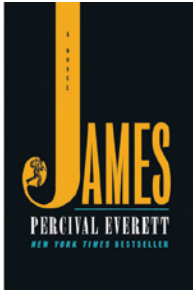
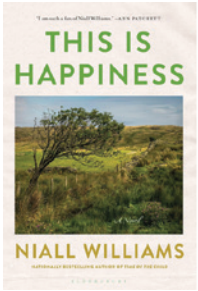
Sundays, February 2-April 27 | 11:00-11:45 a.m. | Room 283

This class, open to 9th-12th graders, is an opportunity to dive more deeply into the Christian faith and what it means to be a member of the church. In addition to Confirmation classes, students will have the opportunity to get involved in worship, fellowship, and service. **Registration will close on Wednesday, January 29th.** For more info and to register, go to <https://www.westminster-church.org/children-&-youth/youth-ministry#confirm>. Contact Harrison Burgess at [burgess@westminster-church.org](mailto:burgess@westminster-church.org) with questions.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Tuesday Reading Group

Tuesdays, January 28, February 25, and March 25 | 7:00 p.m. | Yahweh Cafe, Room 273



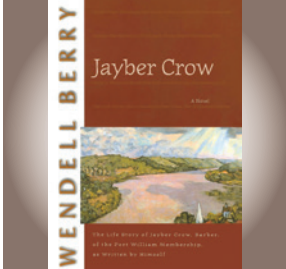
Join the Reading Group in 2025. We kick off January 28 with *This Is Happiness* by Niall Williams, a longer book with beautiful language. On February 25 we dive into one of 2024 highly acclaimed novels: *James* by Percival Everett. To commemorate St. Patrick's Day, the group will debate and discuss *How the Irish Saved Civilization* by Thomas Cahill. Questions contact Jo Forrest at [forrest@westminster-church.org](mailto:forrest@westminster-church.org).

### Westminster Book Group

Adult Spiritual Development

Wednesday, January 29 | Noon - 1:15 p.m. | Church Library

The next meeting of the WPC Book Group will be on January 29, 2025, at noon in the church library. We will be discussing *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry. All are welcome!



### Dreams & Visions: Women's Retreat

February 7-9, 2025 | 7:00 p.m. Friday-11:00 a.m. Sunday  
Crestfield Camp and Conference Center

All women of Westminster are invited to a weekend of rest, reconnection, and renewal led by Laura Bentley and Laura Ecklin. Our theme this year is "Dreams and Visions," and we'll use this time away from the distractions and worries of ordinary life to listen more deeply to the hopes and dreams that God has placed on our hearts. More than just a relaxing break, this retreat will deepen our friendships and sharpen our vision to see how God is working in our lives. And, of course, we'll have a lot of fun, too! Register by January 31.



## STAY CONNECTED!

Fall into fall and join us for many exciting events and opportunities. Visit our website at [www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org) and complete the Join Our Email List or contact Anna Hiner. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh/>.

# THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

JAN 12-18, 2025



Scan here for complete church calendar



Scan here for a full WROC schedule & information

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

8:30	<b>Traditional Worship</b> Wiggle Room**	Sanctuary Rm. 239
9:00	Welcome Center	North Main Entry
9:45	<b>Bridge Contemporary Worship</b> Bridge Sunday School (4yrs-4th Grd) Wiggle Room - The Bridge** Westminster Seminars	<b>WROC/Lvstrm.</b> Rm. 176 WROC Fitness Galbreath Chapel
11:00	<b>Traditional Worship</b> Wiggle Room** Sunday School (4 yrs-4th Grade)	<b>Sanctuary/Lvstrm.</b> Rm. 239 Rm. 233

\***Sunday School** - Dismissed from worship after the children's message. Pickup after worship 9:45 in Room 176; 11:00 in Room 233. A time for children 4 years 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 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.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 13

12:00	AA	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Scout Pack 366 Meeting Scout Pack 366 Adult Committee Meeting	Fellowship Hall FH Kitchen Area

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

7:00	Tuesday Morning Men's Group	Rm. 238
10:00	Staff Meeting	Rm. 238
7:30	Scout Troop 366	Rm. 107

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

9:00a	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Rm. 231
4:30	Bible Read Along	Rm. 238
4:45	Little Ones & Loved Ones Cherub Choir (K-2nd Grade) Junior Choir (3rd-6th Grade)	Rm. 194 Rm. 176 Rm. 268
5:30	Wednesday Food & Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Kids' Connection (5yrs-2nd Grd) Kids' Connection (3rd-4th Grd) JAM - Youth Group (5th-6th Grd) Veritas Youth Group (7th-12th Grd)	Rm. 233 Rm. 176 North Main Entry Youth Dept.
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.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

12:00	Dementia Caregiver Support Group	Memorial Parlor
6:00	Girl Scout Troop 26635	Yahweh Café
7:00	Chancel Choir LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) Sip & Paint	Rm. 268 Off Site
7:30	NA Nar Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 131

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

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

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 18



Children's &  
Family Ministry



Food &  
Fellowship Menu



Music &  
Choirs

## STAFF PROGRAM/MINISTRY CONTACTS

**Jo Forrest**, Senior Pastor, Head of Staff, [forrest@westminster-church.org](mailto:forrest@westminster-church.org)

**Laura Bentley**, Associate Pastor, [bentley@westminster-church.org](mailto:bentley@westminster-church.org)

**Richard F. Norris III**, Seminary Intern, [norris@westminster-church.org](mailto:norris@westminster-church.org)

**Harrison Burgess**, Associate Director of Youth Ministry, [burgess@westminster-church.org](mailto:burgess@westminster-church.org)

**Laura Ecklin**, Youth Ministry and Administrative Manager, [ecklin@westminster-church.org](mailto:ecklin@westminster-church.org)

**Debb Egli**, Associate Director of Children's & Family Ministry, [egli@westminster-church.org](mailto:egli@westminster-church.org)

**Walt Geroda**, Property Manager/Head Custodian/Maintenance, [geroda@westminster-church.org](mailto:geroda@westminster-church.org)

**Christine Hestwood**, Director of Music and Communications, [hestwood@westminster-church.org](mailto:hestwood@westminster-church.org)

**Anna Hiner**, Membership & Communications Coordinator, [hiner@westminster-church.org](mailto:hiner@westminster-church.org)

**Jack Kelly**, Director of Finance and Operations, [kelly@westminster-church.org](mailto:kelly@westminster-church.org)

**Faith Kemmler**, Director of Children's & Family Ministry, [kemmler@westminster-church.org](mailto:kemmler@westminster-church.org)

**Kathy Long**, Director, Westminster Recreation & Outreach Center, [long@westminster-church.org](mailto:long@westminster-church.org)

**Emily Shubilla**, Volunteer Coordinator, [shubilla@westminster-church.org](mailto:shubilla@westminster-church.org)



## 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.

## GET CONNECTED!



Westminster.Pittsburgh



wpc\_pgh



WestminsterUSC

## Westminster on Social Media

Watch worship videos, share Westminster events, find prayers, scripture, and more to like and share!

*Photos/Videos at Westminster: We would like to make you aware that by participating in Westminster Presbyterian Church worship and activities, you may be photographed and/or videotaped and therefore assign and authorize the producer, Westminster Presbyterian Church, all rights to reproduce, copy, exhibit/publish, and distribute any such videotape and photography. If you have any concerns, please contact Anna Hiner, Membership & Communications Coordinator, at [hiner@westminster-church.org](mailto:hiner@westminster-church.org) or 412-835-6630x207.*

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A PC(USA) Congregation