



THE Celebration OF Worship

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Now the Green Blade Riseth
Christmas Bells Overture
Westminster Ringers

arr. Kevin McChesney
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

*Share the Peace of Christ

*Candle Lighting (8:30 – Heather and Dennis Loos; 11:00 – Betsy Klasnick and Virginia Bruce)

Leader: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

People: **We start small. We begin with what is right in front of us.
Let us do the good that is ours to do and let us do it with joy.**

Leader: Yes, we begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

People: **May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action.
May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.**

Leader: May it be so.

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**

Dear God,
there are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling.
There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference.
I ask myself, what could these two hands do?
What could this one voice say? Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt.
Remind me that I am not called to fix everything.
I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do.
With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray.

(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. 92**

While We Are Waiting, Come

While we are waiting, come (repeat);
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
With power and glory, come (repeat);
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
Come, Savior, quickly come (repeat);
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 58:9b-12

Old Testament, page 688

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Words for the Beginning: Do the Good That Is Yours to Do

Jo Forrest

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

Offertory Anthem

Angels from the Realms of Glory

arr. Dan Forrest

*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. 348

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Postlude

Postlude on *Sleepers, Awake!*

Robert Powell

Leading in worship: Jo Forrest, Laura Bentley, Richard Norris III, Jim Burns, Christine Hestwood, Jim Marshall, Lorraine Milovac, Westminster Ringers, the Quartet, and Chancel Choir.

Prayers of Concern and Thanksgiving

We celebrate with joy the birth of Ellen Grace, daughter of Janie Feldmann-Schott and Philipp Schott, granddaughter of Lori and Paul Feldmann.

The congregation extends condolences to Cathy and Bill Kramer on the death of Cathy's mother, Marilyn Johnson.

The congregation extends condolences to Mary Anne Cummins on the death of her husband, Richard 'Dick' Cummins, on November 27.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

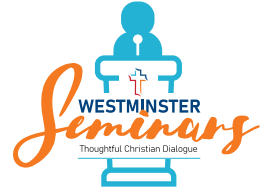
Westminster Seminars

God in Unexpected Places: Preparing Ourselves to Celebrate Christmas

Advent Series – TODAY and December 22 | 9:45 a.m. Galbreath Chapel

John Burgess, *Professor of Theology, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*

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



The Writers of Westminster Book Sale

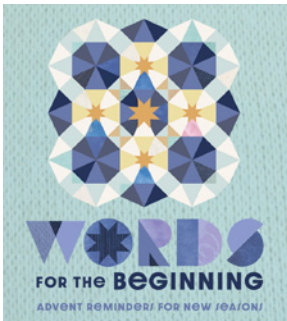
TODAY - Extended to Sunday, December 22 | Welcome Center and Bridge

The Writers of Westminster have a new book called *Let There Be Words* that is filled with memorable stories and pictures. These books make beautiful gifts! Stop by to meet the writers and pick up your copy for \$10.



SIGNUPS: All are welcome: singles, couples, families, young adults, and retirees!

Sign up for the next round of Forks & Fellowship by Sunday, December 15, at <https://www.westminster-church.org/forms/form-forks-fellowship>.



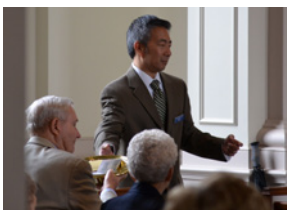
LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) Book Group

Advent Devotional Series: Words for the Beginning

Thursday, December 19 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. | Rm. 283

Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world spins madly on. Sanctified Art's Advent Devotional reminds us that you are a blessing; we can't go alone; do the good that is yours; hope is worth the risk; love knows your name; don't forget to laugh; and the road isn't straight. Contact Kristy Berrott with questions kristy@berrott.com.

Read A Sanctified Art's Advent devotional, *Words for the Beginning*, online at [westminster-church.org](https://www.westminster-church.org) or get a printed copy in the church office.



Ushers Needed for Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24 | 3:00 & 8:00 p.m. Services | Sanctuary

There will be two Christmas Eve services in the Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Ushers are needed for both of these services. If you are willing to serve, please contact Roberta Sarraf, Worship Commission Chair, at 412- 855-9073 (cell) or rjsplans@comcast.net before December 20.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Year-End Giving Reminder

For your contribution to be tax deductible in 2024, it should be received in the church by Friday, December 27, 2024, to allow for sufficient processing time. Earlier mailing is encouraged to ensure timely posting to giving statements.

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2024 tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be 100% tax deductible.

The 2024 contribution statements are anticipated to be mailed to you around the third week of January 2025.

If you have any questions regarding year-end contributions, please contact Jane Zacchero, Accounting Assistant, at 412-835-6630x202, or Jack Kelly, Director of Finance/Operations, at x201.



THE HEART OF
GENEROSITY

PLEDGE & GIVE 2025

The *Heart of Generosity* Pledge & Give campaign has received 236 pledges totaling \$1,130,725. Thank you for your pledges! Please return completed pledge cards to Anna Hiner in the church office or place them in the offering plates at any Sunday service. You may also [submit your pledge online](#).



Breakfast at
the Manger

Breakfast at the Manger

Saturday, December 21 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Ages 10+: \$10 Ages 3 - 9: \$7 Ages 2 & under: free. **Registration required by Monday, December 16; tickets will not be sold at the door.** Children and their families are invited to enjoy breakfast, hear and interact with the Christmas story, make Christmas crafts, and celebrate the Christmas season together! Please contact Faith Kemmler with questions.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Lessons & Carols 3:00 p.m. | Sanctuary
Contemporary..... 5:00 p.m. | WROC
Lessons & Carols 8:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

One Service Sunday

Sunday, December 29
One worship service
10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Christmas Flower Delivery

Flowers for delivery can be picked up at the church on December 26, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and December 27, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Put a smile on someone's face with a poinsettia. Deliver a plant to someone who can't come to church at Christmas. Deliver one or two poinsettias to folks who were recently hospitalized, are elderly and at home, or live in a senior community. **RSVP to Laura Bentley by December 18.**

WROC
WESTMINSTER
RECREATION &
OUTREACH CENTER

Register Now for Winter Fitness Classes at the WROC!

Classes begin the week of January 5.

Visit our website at wroc.westminster-church.org for a list of all fitness classes or call Kathy Long at 412-835-6630x200.

- Barre Sculpt
- Cardio Drumming
- Cardio Strength Fusion
- Gentle and Flow Yoga
- Pilates
- Stronger Bones/Better Balance
- T'ai Chi
- Zumba

Severe Winter Weather Policy

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

Please read more on our church website at westminster-church.org.

1 ONE SERVICE SUNDAY

Sunday, Decemeber 29 | 10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

The service will blend both traditional and contemporary styles. It will also be livestreamed.

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 for the new year has begun in church communities: Star Words. Star Words are guiding words, gifted to us to inspire our spiritual journey into the new year. In early January, we'll be sharing more information on how to receive and use your star word in the year ahead.

WONDER

THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

DEC 15-21, 2024



Scan here for complete church calendar



Scan here for a full WROC schedule & information

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:30	Traditional Worship Wiggle Room**	Sanctuary Rm. 239
9:00	Welcome Center	North Main Entry
9:45	Bridge Contemporary Worship Bridge Sunday School (4yrs-4th Grd) Wiggle Room - The Bridge** Westminster Seminars	WROC/Lvstrm. Rm. 176 WROC Fitness Galbreath Chapel
11:00	Traditional Worship Wiggle Room** Sunday School (4 yrs-4th Grade)	Sanctuary/Lvstrm. 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, DECEMBER 16

12:00	AA	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Cub Scout Den Meeting	Rm. 107
7:00	Deacon Meeting Grace-Westminster Book Club Scout Pack 366 Adult Committee Meeting	Memorial Parlor Zoom Rm. 107

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00a	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Rm. 231
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, DECEMBER 19

12:00	Dementia Caregiver Support Group	Memorial Parlor
6:00	Girl Scout Troop 26635	Rm. 176
7:00	Chancel Choir	Rm. 268
7:30	NA Nar Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 131

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

All Day	WNS Closed - Christmas Break	
6:30	Fishers of Men	Rm. 231
7:00	AA Al Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 231

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21



Children's &
Family Ministry



Food &
Fellowship Menu



Music &
Choirs

STAFF PROGRAM/MINISTRY CONTACTS

Jo Forrest, Senior Pastor, Head of Staff, forrest@westminster-church.org

Laura Bentley, Associate Pastor, bentley@westminster-church.org

Richard F. Norris III, Seminary Intern, norris@westminster-church.org

Harrison Burgess, Associate Director of Youth Ministry, burgess@westminster-church.org

Laura Ecklin, Youth Ministry and Administrative Manager, ecklin@westminster-church.org

Debb Egli, Associate Director of Children's & Family Ministry, egli@westminster-church.org

Christine Hestwood, Director of Music and Communications, hestwood@westminster-church.org

Anna Hiner, Membership & Communications Coordinator, hiner@westminster-church.org

Jack Kelly, Director of Finance and Operations, kelly@westminster-church.org

Faith Kemmler, Director of Children's & Family Ministry, kemmler@westminster-church.org

Kathy Long, Director, Westminster Recreation & Outreach Center, long@westminster-church.org

Emily Shubilla, Volunteer Coordinator, 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](https://www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh)



[wpc_pgh](https://www.instagram.com/wpc_pgh)



[WestminsterUSC](https://www.youtube.com/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 or 412-835-6630x207.

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

A PC(USA) Congregation