

Westminster Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2023 | 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

THE Celebration OF Worship

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Chorale Improvisation on *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*

J.J. Keeler

Welcome and Announcements

***Share the Peace of Christ**

***Candle Lighting (8:30: Annie, Jeff, Dottie, and Archie Mock ; 11:00: Lois Franks and Dan Paul)**

Leader: How does a weary world hope?

People: **By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.**

Leader: By praying for children as they grow and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

People: **By insisting that small acts can make a difference.**

Leader: There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

People: **With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope, forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.

(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

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.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:1-23

New Testament, page 56

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

Sermon

Joy Ride

Jo Forrest

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

Offertory Anthem

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Traditional/
arr. Keith Christopher

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing early minded, for with blessing in his hand.
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Lord most high!

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal (page 35)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

Institution of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*Closing Hymn No. 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
final phrase

Postlude

Postlude on *Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending*

Robert Powell

Leading in worship: Jo Forrest, Jerry Malarkey, Jim Burns, Christine Hestwood, the Quartet, and Chancel Choir.

Prayers of Concern and Thanksgiving



The congregation extends condolences to the family of Denise Burke, WECEP Executive Director, who passed away on November 27. Please hold the teachers, staff, board members, and all the families associated with WECEP in your prayers.

The congregation extends condolences to Knox and Lynn Brown on the death of Lynn's father, Charles Rolland Lattanner, on November 30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worthy Notes and Upcoming Events

Special Communion

Today we recognize the children who will be joining the congregation for communion following their attendance in the sacrament class. They will be sitting with their families and wearing a white carnation. Please recognize them in worship on this special day.

Lucas Carroll
Aubrey Kathryn Heitman
Caroline McCormick
Ava Lee Wynne
Julia Gail Wynne



Westminster Seminars

A Brief History of Mary, the Mother of Jesus

December 3, 10 & 17 | 9:45 a.m. | Galbreath Chapel

The series will guide us through how Mary was portrayed in the New Testament and beyond. We'll learn how Catholics came to their views on Mary, and in doing so affirm our Protestant understanding of her. More information and the Zoom link on the church website. Speaker: John E. Wilson, *Professor Emeritus of Church History Pittsburgh Theological*



Advent @ Home Workshop

TODAY | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Yahweh Café

This workshop is for parents and caregivers of children and youth of all ages who are looking for practical, simple resources to incorporate Advent practices at home with their families. Come to learn more about why we should include Advent conversations in our family Christmas preparations and walk away with practices you can use with your family even during the busiest days. This event will also be recorded and available online.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24

Advent Morning Worship Service | 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Family Service | 5:00 p.m.
Contemporary Service | 7:00 p.m.
Traditional Candlelight Service | 9:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Day

Sunday, December 31
One worship service
10:00 a.m.



Writers of Westminster

Sundays, December 3, 10 & 17 | Cost: \$10; \$13 if mailed.
Before and after all services in the Welcome Center



The Writers of Westminster are selling copies of their most recent publication. Stop by their table in the Welcome Center to meet some of the writers and get a "must have" autographed copy for yourself and to give as gifts. **Checks should be made out to Westminster Presbyterian Church.**

2023-2024 Season of the Town Hall South Speaker Series

Tuesday, December 5 | 10:00 a.m. | USC High School Theater

Join THS on Tuesday, December 5, for speaker Ruth Reichl, James Beard Award-Winning Writer and Culinary Icon. For more info and tickets, go to www.townhallsouth.org.



Family Gingerbread Night

Wednesday, December 6 | 6:00 - 7:30 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! To register, go to bit.ly/wpcgingerbread23.



Annual Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 10 | 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Music and Arts Series Presents Sounds of the Season. Features all Westminster Choirs, the Westminster Ringers, and the USC Chanteclairs. There will also be hymn sing-alongs for the congregation! The concert is free and will appeal to all ages. A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted.



A Quiet Christmas

Wednesday, December 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Sanctaury

Our Quiet Christmas service will dial back the frenzy of the holidays. We will acknowledge the physical darkness outside and that pressure for all to be perfect amidst an elusive melancholy. In this service we will listen to readings, sing our hopes, rest in the warmth of candlelight, feel the comforting presence of others, and open ourselves to receive God's gift of peace.



Breakfast at the Manger

Saturday, December 16 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

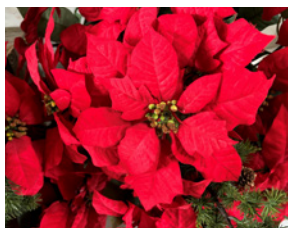
Children and their families are invited to enjoy breakfast, hear and interact with the Christmas story, make Christmas crafts, and celebrate the Christmas season together! Registration required by Monday, December 11; tickets will not be sold at the door. Please contact Faith Kemmler with questions. To register, go to bit.ly/wpcmanger23.



Pet Remembrance Service

Sunday, December 17 | 2:00 p.m. | Galbreath Chapel

It's common to have a memorial service to celebrate the life of a loved one who has died. So why wouldn't we do the same for our beloved pets? If you or a friend have recently lost a pet, please join us to share memories and pay tribute to these cherished members of our families. All are invited and welcome.



Christmas Flower Delivery

Flowers are to be delivered December 26-28 between 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 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. Deadline to volunteer is December 18.



Advent Calendars & Candles

Advent calendars for adults and children as well as candles for your advent wreaths will be available for pickup on Sundays in the Welcome Center and weekdays at the reception desk. Candles and digital copies of the calendars are available by request to Faith Kemmler at kemmler@westminster-church.org.

Advent Devotionals

Advent devotional groups begin this week. All are welcome to participate in a weekly study on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in Room 238. A women's study will be held December 14 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 238. Visit our website for additional studies.

THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

DEC 3-DEC 9, 2023



Scan here
for complete
church
calendar



Scan here for
a full WROC
schedule &
information

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:30	Traditional Worship/ Special Communion Wiggle Room**	Sanctuary Rm. 239
9:00	Welcome Center Writers of Westminster Book Signing	North Main Entry
9:45	Bridge Contemporary Worship Special Communion Bridge Sunday School (PreK-4th Grd.) Wiggle Room - The Bridge** Westminster Seminars	WROC/Lvstrm. Rm. 176 WROC Fitness Galbreath Chapel
11:00	Traditional Worship Special Communion Wiggle Room** Sunday School (PreK-4th Grade) Advent @ Home Workshop	Sanctuary/Lvstrm. Rm. 239 Rm. 233 Yahweh Café
7:00	Youth Choir (Grades 7 - 12)	Rm. 268

***Sunday School** - 9:45 a.m., dismissed from worship after children's message; 11:00 a.m., report directly to Room 233. A time for children in PreK 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 from birth through age 3* 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 4

12:00	AA	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Session Meeting	Galbreath Chapel
7:30	Scout Pack 366 Adult Committee Meeting	Rm. 107

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:00	Tuesday Morning Men's Group	Rm. 238
10:00	Town Hall South Speaker Series	USC HS Theater
7:30	Scout Troop 366	Rm. 107

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

4:30	Advent Devotions	Rm. 238
4:45	Little Ones & Loved Ones Cherub Choir (Grades K-2) Junior Choir (Grades 3 - 6)	Rm. 194 Rm. 176 Rm. 268
5:30	Wednesday Food & Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Family Gingerbread House Night JAM - Youth Group (Grds 5-6) Veritas Youth Group (Grds 7-12)	Fellowship Hall 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 7

7:00	Chancel Choir Youth Commission Meeting	Rm. 268 Rm. 238
7:30	NA Nar Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 131

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9



Children's &
Family Ministry



Food &
Fellowship Menu



Music &
Choirs

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 10, 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 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. services, and from December 26 through 28, 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.



2023 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 7:00 or 9:00 p.m. services, or from December 26 through 28, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Please return this form to the church office by Sunday, December 10, 2023.

2040 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241



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

A PC(USA) Congregation