



THE Celebration OF Worship

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Prelude: Pour Advent

Dom Paul Benoit

Welcome and Announcements

*Share the Peace of Christ

*Introit (11:00)

Light One Candle
Cherub Choir

Natalie Sleeth

*Candle Lighting (8:30 – Carol and Milt Hamil; 11:00 – Lois Franks and Dan Paul)

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

People: **We begin together. We begin arm in arm. We begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down. We begin with words of peace.**

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

People: **May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights mark a new beginning. May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.**

Leader: Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side. May we begin again.

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**

Gracious God,
We have tried to make our own way. We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our
own houses, to kindle our own faiths. We have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if
we are fine on our own.
But the days are long, and we are forgetful. We need help to remember the
everlasting truth: We are not alone.
Lord, speak through our sisters and brothers, that we might really hear:
You are not alone. Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace.
Trust in this good news.

(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.

Anthem (11:00)

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow
Junior Choir

arr. Audrey Snyder

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

Ruth 1:15-22

Old Testament, page 241

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Words for the Beginning: We Can't Go Alone

Laura Bentley

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. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*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 *People, Look East*

Kristina Langlois

Leading in worship: Laura Bentley, Richard Norris III, Maureen Ludwig, Jim Burns, Christine Hestwood, Beth Ketterman, Lana Kipp, the Quartet, Cherub, Junior, and Chancel Choirs.

Prayers of Concern and Thanksgiving

We celebrate with joy the birth of Kieran Michael, son of Kelsey and Mike O'Leary, grandson of Louise and Bill Rogers, and great-grandson of Hester Joseph.

The congregation extends condolences to family and friends of Arthus Ellis who died on November 24; family and friends of Jim Douglass who died on November 27; and Pam Thomas, whose husband, Bill, died on November 30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Westminster Seminars

God in Unexpected Places: Preparing Ourselves to Celebrate Christmas

Advent Series – TODAY, December 15 & 22 | 9:45 a.m. Galbreath Chapel

John Burgess, Professor of Theology, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary



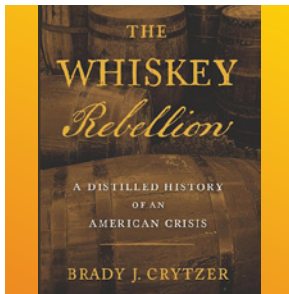
For more info and the Zoom link, go to <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/westminster-seminars>.



Annual Christmas Concert

TODAY | 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Music and Arts Series present Sounds of the Season. The Annual Christmas Concert features the Chancel Choir, Westminster Ringers, Cherub and Junior Choirs, and special guests, South Hills Brass. The concert is free and will appeal to all ages. A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted to support future programming.



WROC Talk: FREE Speaker Series

The Whiskey Rebellion: A Distilled History of an American Crisis

Tuesday, December 10 | 6:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Join award-winning author and historian Brady Crytzer as he discusses his book *The Whiskey Rebellion: A Distilled History of an American Crisis*.

Registration: wroc.westminster-church.org or contact Kathy Long at long@westminster-church.org.



A Quiet Christmas

Wednesday, December 11 | 6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

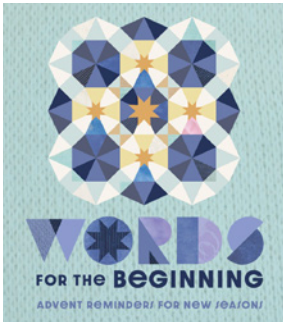
Year-End Giving Reminder

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.



LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) Book Group

Advent Devotional Series: Words for the Beginning

Thursdays, December 12 & 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.



Christmas Tour of the Nationality and Heritage Rooms

Univ. of Pgh. Cathedral of Learning

Friday, December 13 | 10:30 a.m. | 4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh

Join the Adult Spiritual Development Commission for a tour of the Nationality and Heritage Rooms, University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning. Cost is \$10. Lunch (pay on your own) afterwards at The Porch at Schenley. Contact Deborah Waller 412-760-7523 for registration details.



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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>.



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.**



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.



The Writers of Westminster Book Sale

Sundays, TODAY and December 15 | 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.



Westminster's Columbarium

South Courtyard

Our columbarium niches offer a dignified and serene final resting place for cremated remains. If you're considering a niche in our columbarium, please contact Anna Hiner at 412-835-6630x207.

THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

DEC 8-14, 2024



Scan here for complete church calendar



Scan here for a full WROC schedule & information

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

All Day	Veritas Fall Retreat	Off Site
8:30	Traditional Worship Wiggle Room**	Sanctuary
9:00	Welcome Center	Rm. 239
9:45	Bridge Contemporary Worship Bridge Sunday School (4yrs-4th Grd) Wiggle Room - The Bridge** Wesminster Seminars	North Main Entry 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
7:00	Annual Christmas Concert	Sanctuary

***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 9

12:00	AA	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Scout Pack 366 Adult Committee Meeting	Rm. 107

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:00	Tuesday Morning Men's Group	Rm. 238
10:00	Staff Meeting	Rm. 238
5:00	Outreach Commission	Rm. 176
6:30	WROC Talk: The Whiskey Rebellion with Brady J. Crytzer	Fellowship Hall
7:30	Scout Troop 366	Rm. 107

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00a	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Rm. 231
1:00	Movers and Shakers	Fellowship Hall
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.
6:30	A Quiet Christmas	Sanctuary
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 12

10:00	Women2Women	Rm. 238
7:00	Chancel Choir Community Engagement Commission	Rm. 268 Rm. 238
7:30	NA Nar Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 131

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:30	Fishers of Men	Rm. 231
9:00	Priority2Work	Rm. 176
10:30	Christmas Tour Nationality Rooms Pittsburgh University	Off Site
7:00	AA AI Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 231

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14



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 8, 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 8:00 p.m. services, December 26, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., or December 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 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.



2024 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.

Please return this form to the church office by Sunday, December 8, 2024.

2040 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



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

A PC(USA) Congregation