



THE Celebration OF Worship

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Johann Pachelbel

Welcome and Announcements

***Share the Peace of Christ**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God shines stars to light our journey
and guide us into new beginnings.

People: God is beside us in the mountains and valleys,
holding our hand through every bump and turn.

Leader: Tell me, how did you get here?

People: I am here by God's grace and love's pull.

Leader: Welcome home. This is God's house.
There is room for you here.

***Opening Hymn No. 151**

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

A Word for All Ages

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, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path,
simply because others have been there before.
Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when we long for a new path.
On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star.
Give us the courage to go home by another way.
Give us the courage walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor.
For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow.
With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel.

(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.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament, page 2

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Words for the Beginning: The Road Isn't Straight

Richard Norris III

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

Offertory Anthem

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

T. Vangeloff

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

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 Sending

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*Closing Hymn No. 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

*Benediction

*Benediction Response Away in a Manger, *final verse* arr. Wilberg

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever,
 and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
 and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Postlude Joy to the World arr. David Lasky

Leading in worship: Richard Norris III, Jo Forrest, Faith Kemmler, Jim Burns, and the Quartet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Westminster Seminars

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

January 5, 12, 19, 26 – Note time change to 8:45 a.m. on the 26th | 9:45 a.m. | Galbreath Chapel

Presented by Lou Mitchell

You might know the name Jonathan Edwards as one those “terrible” Puritans, who preached the infamous sermon “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” This series will dispel the misleading stereotype of Edwards as we learn how he saw God through the idea of beauty and why he is considered the most important philosopher/theologian that American has ever produced.



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



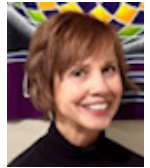
Register Now for Winter Fitness Classes CLASS SPOTLIGHT: Flow (Vinyasa) Yoga

January 7–February 27 | Tuesdays and Thursday | 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Join guest instructors Darcy Lyle and Susan Volker who have over 20 years of teaching and training experience. These guest instructors will be with us for the Winter I session only. Register today!



Darcy Lyle



Susan Volker

For a list of all our fitness classes and to register, go to 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.



Offering Envelopes

If you indicated on your pledge card that you would like to receive offering envelopes for 2025, they are now available for you to pick up in the narthex.

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.

Look for an email this Tuesday with more information about Star Words.

WONDER

Make sure to receive your **GUIDING STAR** word as you leave today!



LIFT Sip & Paint @ Art by Becca Ward

Thursday, January 16 | 7:00-9:00 p.m. | 724 Donati Road

Join Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT) at ART by Becca Ward for a fun and creative night of painting! Becca will guide us through a step-by-step painting meant to inspire you. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist, it's sure to be a great time of female fellowship!

Register by scanning the QR code by January 9.



ONE SERVICE SUNDAY

One Service Sunday and Congregational Meeting

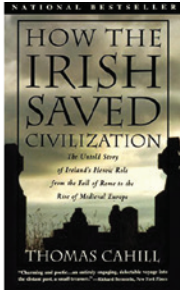
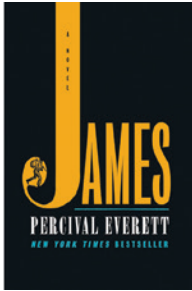
January 26 | 10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

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>.

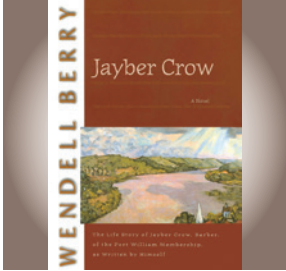
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



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.



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.

THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

JAN 5-11, 2025



Scan here for complete church calendar



Scan here for a full WROC schedule & information

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

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** Wesminster 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, JANUARY 6

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

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 9

10:00	Women2Women	Rm. 238
6:00	Girl Scout Troop 26635	Rm. 176
7:00	Chancel Choir	Rm. 268
7:30	NA Nar Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 131

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

6:30	Fishers of Men	Rm. 231
9:00	Priority2Work	Rm. 176
7:00	Officer Retreat AA Al Anon	Sanctuary Rm. 107 Rm. 231

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

9:00	Officer Retreat	Fellowship Hall
1:00	Deacon Meeting	Memorial Parlor



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



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 or 412-835-6630x207.

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A PC(USA) Congregation