



THE Celebration OF Worship

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Two settings of *Savior of the Nations, Come*

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Share the Peace of Christ**

***Candle Lighting**

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

People: **We begin with the good news. We begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. We begin with music and singing.**

Leader: This beginning gives us hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

People: **May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.**

Leader: May hope flow forth from here.

A Word for All Ages (11:00)

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

Sending Song Hymn 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,
Your first words to creation were words of love.
You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."
You spoke affirmations through the prophets.
You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ.
At every turn, you reiterate that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love.
Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth
by society's measuring stick instead of yours.
We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

(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.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-7

Old Testament, page 672

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Words for the Beginning: You Are a Blessing

Jo Forrest

WE OFFER OUR GRATITUDE

Offertory Anthem

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. Anna Laura Page

***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

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 106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

***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

Magnificat on the Eighth Tone

Heinrich Scheidemann

Leading in worship: Jo Forrest, Richard Norris III, Laura Bentley, Sara Kyle, Christine Hestwood, the Quartet, and Chancel Choir.

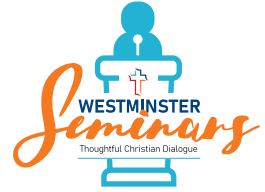
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Westminster Seminars

God in Unexpected Places: Preparing Ourselves to Celebrate Christmas

Advent Series – TODAY, December 8, 15 & 22 | 9:45 a.m. Galbreath Chapel

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



The shepherds found Jesus where they least expected: in a manger in a stable.

This series will explore the unexpected ways in which God still comes to us

today. Using art, music, and prayer, we will ask how we might quietly prepare ourselves to recognize Immanuel, “God with us,” in our busy, distracted world.

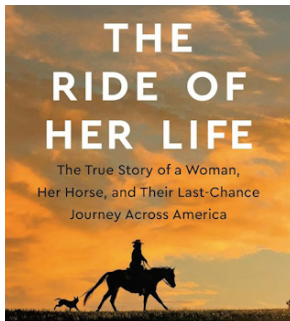
For more info and the Zoom link, go to <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/westminster-seminars>.



Grace Book Club

Mondays, December 2 & 16 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. | Zoom

We are starting a new book, *Nice White Ladies*, by Jessie Daniels, discussing the first 3 chapters on December 2, and the remaining 3 chapters December 16. We invite you to join us! Contact Carol Galbreath (jaycarolhickory@gmail.com or 412-915-3635) for details.



Tuesday Book Group

Tuesday, December 3 | 7:00 p.m. | Yahweh Café

The Tuesday Book Group will discuss Elizabeth Lett's *The Ride of Her Life: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last-Chance Journey Across America*. This inspiring story received high praise from critics.

No reservations necessary. Contact Jo Forrest at forrest@westminster-church.org for more information.



Family Gingerbread House Night

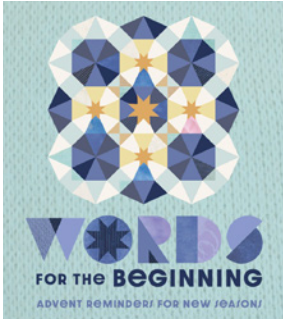
Wednesday, December 4 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

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! RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/wpcgingerbread24>.

Christmas Poinsettias @ Westminster

See form on back cover.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) Book Group

Advent Devotional Series: Words for the Beginning

Thursdays, December 5 - 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 or get a printed copy in the church office.



Bair Foundation Christmas Gift Drive

Unwrapped gifts due Friday, December 6

Westminster partners once again with the Bair Foundation for our annual Christmas Gift Project which provides gifts for foster children in western Pennsylvania. Take a tag and buy a gift or visit our Amazon list at www.westminstergiftingtree.com to ship your gift to us.

Read more here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/bair-foundation-christmas-gift-drive>



Street Moms Food and Gift Bag Packing

Saturday, December 7 | 10:00 a.m. - Noon | Fellowship Hall Kitchen

Please join us for a volunteer opportunity of packaging food and gift bags for the homeless community in Wheeling in conjunction with the Street MOMs organization. If you are interested in participating, please sign up by contacting Meghan Widmar via text at 724-549-4109 or email at meghan.widmar@andritz.com.

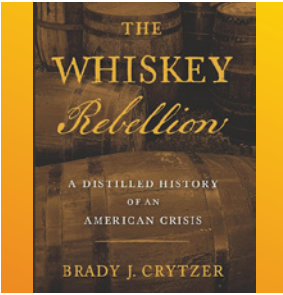


Annual Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8 | 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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 Tour of the Nationality and Heritage Rooms, University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning

Friday, December 13 | 10:30 a.m.

Cathedral of Learning, 4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

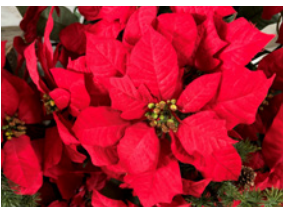
Join the Adult Spiritual Development Commission for a tour of the Nationality and Heritage Rooms, University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning. Cost is \$10. Lunch (pay on your own) afterwards at The Porch at Schenley. Contact Deborah Waller 412-760-7523 for registration details.



The Writers of Westminster Book Sale

Sundays, TODAY, December 8 and 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.



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. RSVP to Laura Bentley by December 18.

THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

DEC 1-7, 2024



Scan here for complete church calendar



Scan here for a full WROC schedule & information

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

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, DECEMBER 2

9:30	WECEP Christmas	Sanctuary
12:00	AA	Fellowship Hall
12:45	WECEP Christmas	Sanctuary
6:00	Scout Pack 366 Adult Committee Meeting	Rm. 107
7:00	Session Meeting	Galbreath Chapel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:00	Tuesday Morning Men's Group	Rm. 238
9:30	WECEP Christmas	Sanctuary
10:00	Staff Meeting	Rm. 238
7:00	Tuesday Reading Group	Yahweh Café
7:30	Scout Troop 366	Rm. 107

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

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	Veritas Youth Group (7th-12th Grd)	Youth Dept.
6:30	Family Gingerbread House Night	Fellowship Hall
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 5

6:00	Dismantling Antisemitism	Rm. 238
7:00	Chancel Choir	Rm. 268
7:30	NA Nar Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 131

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

6:30	Fishers of Men	Rm. 231
5:00	Veritas Fall Retreat	Off Site
7:00	AA Al Anon	Rm. 107 Rm. 231

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

All Day	Veritas Fall Retreat	Off Site
10:00	Street MOMS - Food & Gift Bag Packaging	Fellowship Hall Kitchen



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, and December 26, 30, and 31, 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.



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 on December 24 following the 5:00 or 8:00 p.m. services, or December 26, 30, or 31, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

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