



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
18 December 2022 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

2023 Steadfast Neighbor

Dr. Todd Knox

Welcome to the Capler Family

*Children in preschool – grade 5 to Sunday School class  
during the Voluntary.*

Voluntary

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Pachelbel

\*Ringing of the Bell

*The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower bell.*

\*Lighting of the Fourth Advent  
Candle and Call to Worship

One: People of God, come, for the light of life is upon us.

All: **The light shines in the darkness.**

One: People of God, come, for the love of God is with us.

All: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

One: We light this candle as a symbol of the gift of God's love,

All: **For the Lord has promised good things to us.**

**God will turn our indifference to praise,  
and all our sorrow to joy.**

One: People of God, come, worship the Lord!

*(The fourth Advent candle is lit.)*

\* Processional Hymn 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 5-7) *Veni Emmanuel*

**\*Prayer of Confession**      God of generations, your promises come to birth in surprising ways, yet we confess that we have not lived as people who fully believe. Fill our hearts with courage and hope and fill our dreams with visions of living out new life in accordance with your Word, love, and grace. Teach us faith and guide us in repentance. Hear us as we lift up our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response**      Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us      Hymnal, Back Cover

**\*Declaration of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.  
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**  
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

**\*Response of Praise**      Gloria Patri      Hymnal, Back Cover

**First Scripture Reading**      Isaiah 7:10-16      Pew Bible, OT page 636

**Second Scripture Reading**      Matthew 1:18-25      Pew Bible, NT page 1  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**      God will Honor It      Rev. Christian K. Choi  
*"All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet."*      *Matthew 1:22*

## Anthem

O Beloved Shepherds

Andreas Hammerschmidt

O beloved shepherds, be not afraid! For behold, I bring unto you joyful tidings, which to all people now shall be proclaimed. Joyful, joyful tidings! To you the Savior is born, which is the Christ and our Lord. Be not afraid! Joyful, joyful tidings!

## \*Affirmation of Faith

*The Scots Confession (3.06)*

When the fullness of time came God sent God's Son, God's eternal wisdom, the substance of God's own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person. Amen.

## The Church at Prayer

Surely the presence of our God is in this place,  
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.  
I can hear the brush of angels' wings  
I see glory on each face;  
Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

### The Presentation of our Gifts

*At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.*

**Offertory**      **Comfort Ye My People**      George Frederick Handel  
Comfort ye, my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**\*Offertory Response**      **Doxology**      Hymnal, 606

**\*Prayer of Dedication**      **Holy God, you bless us with many gifts. You visit us with surprising proclamations. You bring restoration. We thank you for the gifts you have given us, and especially for the gift of love. Let these gifts which we return to you be used to bring your love to the whole world. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

**\*Processional Hymn 134**      **Joy to the World**      *Antioch*  
*Sunday School children process and conclude on the Chancel*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Choral Response**      **Heaven and Earth are Ringing**      Giovanni Gastoldi

**\*Voluntary**      **On This Day Earth Shall Ring**      David Spicer  
*(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.*

**IN MEMORIAM**

Theresa Mae Davison 05/21/1925– 10/06/2022  
United with Westminster 03/26/1961

## **2022 CHRISTMAS MUSIC FUND**

To the Glory of God and in thanks for Dale Rogers by Anonymous

In memory of Donna Wolaver by Sandy Bellatti

In honor of Dale Rogers for wrangling the choir and St. Andrews Sisters  
by Bob and Julie Blythe

In loving memory of our nephew James Blythe, whom we miss every day,  
by Bob, Julie, Brian and Sarah Blythe.

In loving memory of Heather Huitt, whom we miss every day,  
by Julie, Bob, Brian and Sarah Blythe

In loving memory of Jennie Davis Moy, dear friend and sister, gone too soon,  
by Julie, Bob, Brian, and Sarah Blythe

In memory of Morris D. Cooper, Sr. by Virginia Cooper & family

In loving memory of Anthony J. Leone, Jr. by Cathy Cragoe

Margery Dodds

In memory of Martin Duling by Leah Duling

In memory of our parents by Mary & Robert Leffler

In memory of Haldor Lowrey by Phyllis Lowrey

In memory of Dr. Robert A. Lynn by Naomi Lynn

In memory of Dr. Glen D. Pittman with love from Julie and Jim McDonough

In loving memory of former Westminster Choir member Janice Callahan Cook  
by David and Mary Caroline Mitchell

In loving memory of Mary Anne Singleton by David and Mary Caroline Mitchell

In honor of Dale Thomas Rogers and the Westminster Choir by Bill Post

In memory of Janice Cook by Fred and Judy Prillaman

In memory of a dear friend, Thelma Tate by Sharon & Larry Reynolds

In memory of Ellis Hutcheson with love from the Robbs family

In memory of Helen and Clyde Knock by Mary Gail & Steve Romack and family

For the glory of music and in honor of Dale Rogers by Eleanor & Lyle VanDeventer

In memory of Martha Havey from her loving family

Joyful holiday wishes to our friends at Westminster by Nell & Jay VanSice

In loving memory of H. David Zervas by Sarah, Bob, Danielle, and Jack Zervas

## **2022 CHRISTMAS DECORATION FUND**

In memory of Robert Bellatti by Sandy Bellatti

In loving memory of Fred and Betty Blythe by Bob, Julie, Brian and Sarah Blythe

In loving memory of Ken and Lois Davis and Kathy Stittsworth by Julie & Bob Blythe

In loving memory of Aunt Viola by Julie Blythe

In memory of loved ones by Linda & Ed Caupert

In memory of departed family and friends by Virginia Cooper & family

In loving memory of Wally Henderson by Brynn Henderson

Melanie & Bud Green

Judy & Dale Huston

In memory of loved ones by Pat Roller

Sue & Steve Scaife

In memory of our parents by Julie and Mike Sundquist

In loving memory of Heather Huitt, Leroy, Marilyn, and Dave Tungett and Dan Manning  
by Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer

In memory of John C. Wilkey by Susan and Brinton Wilkey

### **2022 CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUND**

George Botanga

In memory of our grandparents by Meridith & James Bryans

Ellen & Rance Carpenter

In memory of Mary Lou Cochran by the Art Cochran Family

In memory of David Matthew Coontz by Deb & Dave Coontz

In memory of our parents and friends by Carol & Dick Cordier

In memory of Cho Ja Jung with love by Sophia & Christian Choi

In memory of the Rev. Dr. William & Mrs. Ruth Cross by John Cross

With appreciate and thank Dale Rogers for his expertise in music by Sue Cull

Bill Deemer

Judy and Dan Dees

In memory of family and friends by Linda & Roland Folse

In loving memory of our parents Darleen & Henry Germeraad and Mary & Bill Schnirring  
by Kathy and Randy Germeraad

Sharon and Matt Gilmour

In memory of Gerry Grigsby Hale by Harold Hale and the Pound Family

Ann and Keith Hamilton

In memory of Faye Hildebrand by Pat Hildebrand-Culler

The Hockenyos Family

Elaine Hoff

In appreciation of friends and family by Pat & Al Hymans

In memory of Bill Irvine and members of our families by Marci Irvine

In memory of Sara & Frank Jenkins and Mary, Al, and Jim Matters  
by Mary Jo & David Jenkins

With a grateful heart by Kathy Kenyon

Mary & Charlie King

In loving memory of our parents by Blythe & Peter Kieffer

In memory of Rev. Ralph & Mrs. Bernie Kluge and Dr. George & Mrs. Harriet Maher  
by Priscilla & Tim Kluge

In gratitude for the ministry of music at Westminster by Judy and Todd Knox  
Eleanor & Richard Leary

In memory of John Collin Morse by Kate, Michael, & Walter Morthland

In memory of Janet & Bob Massey and Earl Tucker by Camille and Tom Massey

In loving memory of John by Pat McNutt

In memory of Lyman & Glenna Meriwether and Charley & Nellie Bale  
by Kathy and Bill Meriwether

In memory of Megan Salisbury and Georgia & Ralph Salisbury by Maribeth Norton

In memory of Peura, Gunn, Quigby, and Dougherty families by Mary and Morley Peura

In loving memory of Glen D. Pittman by Jeanne Pittman and family

In memory of family and friends by Marilyn & Jim Rigney

Dale Rogers

In memory of loved ones by Betsy Ruklick

In memory of loved ones and friends lost this year by Linda and Bill Schlosser

Eric Schmidt

In memory of loved ones by Nancy & Lon Scott

Susan & Michael Shaw

In memory of Mary Anne Singleton by James Singleton

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Dick Maldaner and Jane Smith  
by Anne & Andy Smith

In memory of George & Rosalee Preckwinkle, Wilbur & Kevin Stafford, John & Barb McHaley.  
Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond  
measure. Love always, Lucy and John Stafford and George and Lynda Preckwinkle

In loving memory of Mary Claire Steller by Krista and Brad Steller and Family

Judy & Harvey Stephens

In memory of Lois Strom by Bruce Strom  
In memory of our parents by Marty and Alan Stutz  
In memory of our parents who filled our lives  
with the gift of music by Jeanne and Peter VanGieson  
In memory of JoAnn Wehrle and Walter & Luanna Hinesley  
by Vonnie Hinesley and Dr. Roy Wehrle  
In honor of Dr. Elvin Zook by Sharon Zook

## **CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

### **5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE**

The Confirmation Class of 2023 will read the Christmas story; Mervice Alah Abung and her daughter Dayana will be our Holy Family, and the children will participate as shepherds, angels, and magi under the direction of a designated leader. Your child can arrive at 4:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom to receive their costume.

### **6:00-7:30 P.M. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER**

#### **HOSTED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS**

Don't miss this special event which includes a delicious meal of roast turkey, baked ham, vegetable, garden salad, cheesy potatoes, rolls, and fresh fruit pies. Adults are \$21.50, children 6-12 are \$12.50 and children ages 5 and under are at no charge. **Reservations and payment must be made no later than Tuesday, December 20.**

### **7:30 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

The Westminster Choir will provide the choral music and our High School seniors will read the Christmas Story in this Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. In ancient times, the bells of churches were silenced during the season of Advent. Yet, at the singing of the angel's song, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" (Glory to God in the Highest) the bells were rung. We follow that tradition by ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol. **SO BRING YOUR BELLS AND BE PREPARED TO RING OUT IN PEALS OF JOY!**

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

### **10:00 A.M. CHRISTMAS DAY CAROL SERVICE**

The Westminster family will gather for a joyful celebration of Christmas Day. Worship will include a brief meditation, the singing of favorite Christmas carols, and special music. Childcare will be provided; however, Sunday School will not be held.

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

### **10:00 A.M. NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNION SERVICE**

On New Year's Day, we will gather for one service of worship at 10:00 a.m. and partake in the Sacrament of Communion. Childcare will be provided and a combined Sunday School class presents "A Refugee Family," Matthew 2:13-23.



## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte Affrunti and Juliet Boutelle
- **Greeters:** Randy and Bernie Wiseman
- **Advent Candle Lighters:** Ann Kelson and Dr. Vena Long
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, and Amelia Tungett, soloist, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher) Mervice Alah Abung, Rich Canady, Terry Haynor, Mary King, Julie McDonough, Bruce Strom, Brinton Wilkey
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford
- **Videographers:** Bob Fox and Krista Steller

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon** Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery) This week's Bible Story: "Rufus and the Very Special Baby." Caregivers: Leigh Milward, Linda Caupert, Caroline Haynor
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Children Kindergarten – Grade 5 will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Welcome and Announcements. The Sunday school classes will come together under the leadership of Sue Cull and Karen Sherrick to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity. The children will then join us in worship as they process through the Sanctuary during the final hymn in costume and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the benediction. Teachers: Sue Cull, Sophia Choi, and Karen Sherrick
- **11:15 a.m. Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** presents "No Room at the Inn: Homeless Ministries" as we welcome Susan Carrigan, Community Outreach Manager, Habitat for Humanity who will partner with Dr. Todd Knox in presenting the impetus, inspiration, and specifics for the 2023 Steadfast Neighbor Habitat House. We will also welcome and meet Paris and James Capler and their children, who will make 626 S. Glenwood their home. Along with the presentation, participants will enjoy festive snacks as we celebrate the beginning of our journey together.
- **11:15 a.m. Confirmands Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary)** The Confirmation Class will gather after worship for a second rehearsal, this time with the children's participation.
- **11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Seniors rehearse for the Service of Lessons and Carols (Youth Room and Sanctuary)** Our seniors will gather in the Youth Room to review readings and move to the Sanctuary to rehearse for the traditional 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols.
- **11:15 a.m. Poinsettias Delivery** - The Board of Deacons will deliver Christmas poinsettias today to members who have lost loved ones in the last year. Distribution will be made in West Narthex.

The Library Committee has prepared a cart filled with Christmas books (both adults & children's) available for checkout from both of our libraries this Sunday in the West Narthex. Please plan to stop to peruse the books and resources.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org). Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

**WI-FI HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM** is available in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with instructions to install the app for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids, lanyards and hearing amplifier packets for those with regular hearing aids, hearing amplifier packets and disposable earbuds for those without hearing aids. Please return the lanyards and hearing amplifier packets at the end of worship. For assistance, ask an usher.

**CHRISMON BOOKLETS** outline the history and meaning of the ornaments displayed on Westminster's Chrismon Tree located in the Chancel and can be found in the pew pockets.

**2023 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE** - As of Friday, December 16 we have received **221** pledges for a total of **\$813,044**. This is **96%** toward our **\$848,800** goal. Thank you to all who pledged. If you have not made a pledge, please do so soon. Pledges can also be made online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org).

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** assists current and retired church workers and their families who are in financial need, also makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please look for the offering envelopes and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church.

**K2P4 KNITTERS** who wish to knit at Westminster may do so on December 20. The group will knit at home on December 27 and January 3. Regular Tuesday sessions will resume on January 10, 2023 with a brown bag lunch. Questions - call Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE** is today at 11:00 a.m. in the chancel. The Confirmation Class Readers, participating children and group leaders will gather after worship for a brief rehearsal of reading their scripts for the Children's Christmas Eve Service.

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS** practice for the Service of Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Service today at 11:15 a.m. beginning in the Youth Room.

**POINSETTIA DELIVERIES** - The Board of Deacons will deliver Christmas poinsettias today to members who have lost loved ones in the last year.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets **Tuesday, December 20 at 12:00 Noon** for a Christmas luncheon in Parish Hall. Please RSVP to Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

**CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT** - On **Saturday, January 7** members of the Session and Board of Deacons will gather from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in Parish Hall for worship and team building.

**NEW OFFICER ORDINATION/INSTALLATION** will be **Sunday, January 8** during service.

**WESTMINSTER WELCOMES REV. JIMMIE HAWKINS** for the MLK Weekend as we host a Community Gathering on **Saturday, January 14, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon** in Parish Hall. Rev Hawkins will preach at our 10:00 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, January 15** and lead an Adult Education Forum at 11:15 a.m. Rev. Hawkins is the Director of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C. and the author of Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America.

# CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT WESTMINSTER

FOLLOWING THE 5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE  
PRIOR TO THE 7:30 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for the  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER**  
**IN PARISH HALL**  
**SEATING 5:45 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**DINNER IS SERVED AT 6:00 P.M.**



A traditional meal will be served including roast turkey, gravy, baked ham, cheese potatoes, green beans, a garden salad with choice of dressing, rolls w/butter, and fruit pies for dessert.

**PRICE:** Adults \$21.50  
Children (6-12) \$12.50  
Age 5 and under, no charge

**Christmas Eve Dinner Reservation:** This year we are limiting the gathering to 100. You may return this completed form or go to our website front page at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org) for the link to submit the online form. Payment can be made by check or online. Reservations and payment must be delivered to the church **by Tuesday, December 20**. *Sorry, no refunds if cancelled.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (ea. \$21.50) Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children ages 6-12: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (ea. \$12.50) Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children ages 5 and under \_\_\_\_\_ (free)

**Total Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Payment: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (Online convenience fees: \$1.00/adult, \$0.50/child)

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, December 19

WCP closed for Winter Break

### Tuesday, December 20

WCP closed for Winter Break

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 11:30 AM Faith Coalition Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 12:00 PM Lydia Circle Christmas Luncheon  
(Parish Hall)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (Conference Room)
- 7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Music Room)

### Wednesday, December 21

WCP closed for Winter Break

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)

### Thursday, December 22

WCP closed for Winter Break

- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

### Friday, December 23

WCP closed for Winter Break

- 12:00 PM Church Offices Close at Noon

### Saturday, December 24

- 5:00 PM Christmas Eve
- 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Dinner (Parish Hall)
- 7:30 PM Lessons & Carols Candle Lighting Service  
(Sanctuary)

### Sunday, December 25

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
533 S Walnut St.  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
Phone (217) 522-4415  
Fax (217) 522-4465  
<http://www.wpcspi.org>

## WESTMINSTER STAFF

**The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
*Pastor and Head of Staff*

**The Reverend Christian K. Choi**  
*Associate Pastor for Parish Life*

**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
*Parish Associate*

**Dale T. Rogers**  
*Director of Music and the Arts*

**Katie Moore**  
*Director for Children's Music*

**Karen Sherrick**  
*Director for Children's Ministry*

**Leigh Milward**  
*Nursery Coordinator*

**Caroline Haynor**  
*Nursery Worker*

**Ellen Carpenter**  
*Parish Nurse*

**Pat Hymans**  
*Hospitality Coordinator*

**Emily Rowley, Keri Tate**  
*Cooperative Preschool Director*

**Lisa Runkle**  
*Financial Administrator*

**Jennie Alt**  
*Church Administrative Assistant*

**Krista Steller**  
*Communications Coordinator*

**Gary Warnick**  
*Building and Property Manager*

**Terry Gietl**  
**Bill Hibbert**  
**Eddie Hubbard**  
**Steve Stapleton**  
*Part-time Custodians*