



Westminster Presbyterian Church

"Mr. Palmer maintained the common, but unfatherly opinion among his sex, of all infants being alike . . . there was no convincing, no persuading him to believe that it was not exactly like every other baby of the same age; nor could he even be brought to acknowledge the simple proposition of its being the finest child in the world."

— *Sense and Sensibility*, Jane Austen

"With beauty before me I walk; with beauty behind me I walk; with beauty above me I walk; with beauty around me I walk. It has become beauty again."

— Prayer of the Navajo/Diné People

"Beauty will save the world"

— Fyodor Dostoevsky.

November 30, 2025
First Sunday in Advent
The Sacrament of Communion

Service for the Lord's Day

CARILLON PEAL

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

Excerpts from “Magnificat”

Jean-Francois Dandrieu

(Mary's Song: "My soul doth magnify the Lord")

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Johann Sebastian Bach

(During the Call to Worship in Music you are requested to enter into a time of silence, actively opening your spirit to God's presence in your midst.)

INTROIT - "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

German Chorale

From heaven above to earth I come

To bring news to everyone!

Glad tidings of great joy I bring

To all the world and gladly sing.

This is the Christ, God's Son most high,

Who bears your sad and bitter cry;

He will himself your Savior be

And from all sin will set you free.

-Martin Luther

***WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE** Becky Bower and Donna Shaw

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor with a verbal greeting or enthusiastic wave.)

***HYMN 10 - "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**

Winchester New

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

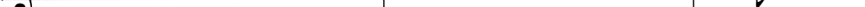
The Reverend Dr. Caitlin T. Deyerle

Eternal God, who are we that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.

As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to see your wonderful works.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

All Sing:



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, here this Good News: anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All: Amen.

***RESPONSE** (All Sing - Standing) - "Glory to God" (Taizé liturgy)
(This response will first be sung by the choir)

Jacques Berthier

Glory to God

Gloria, gloria



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON - Luke 2:25-36

Pew Bible, pp.58-59 OT

(Children in Pre-K—Grade 2 will leave the service at this time.
An adult leader will be in the Narthex to escort them to their classrooms.)

COMMUNION MEDITATION

The Reverend Dr. Richard L. Baker

Communion Meditation: Beauty and Hope: Beauty Can Save the World

"For my eyes have seen your salvation" — Luke 2:30

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

The Reverend Nancy S. Hodgkins

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM - "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing Holy, Holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon! For Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!
-adapted from Revelation 22

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Leader: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People: People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

Leader: This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

***HYMN 515 - "Now to Your Table Spread"**

Love Unknown

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you,

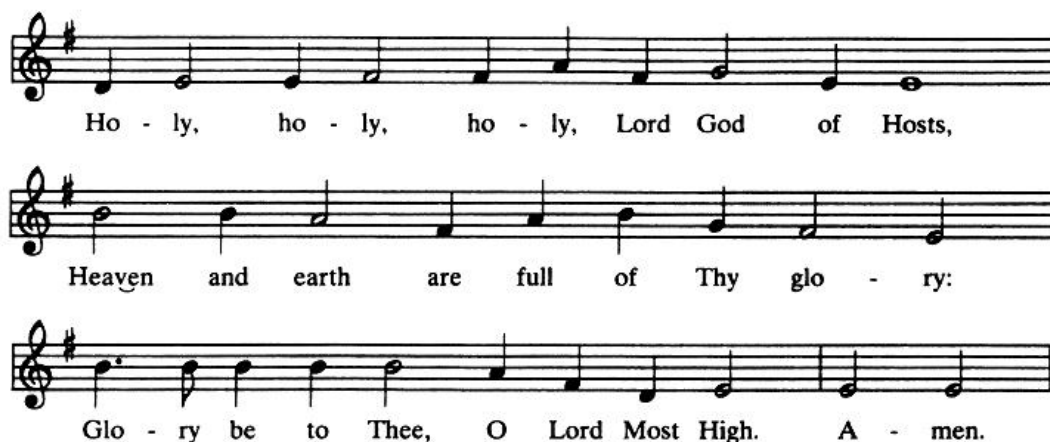
People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

(Elders and Deacons will serve the elements at the front of the Chancel. You are invited to come forward, as directed by the ushers. When you come forward, you will be served a piece of gluten-free bread, and you may take a cup: wine is red; grape juice is white. After you partake, leave your empty cup, and return to your seat using the side aisles.

If you prefer, a Deacon or Elder will serve you in your pew. Grades 3-8 meet in the Narthex after taking Communion.)

COMMUNION CHORAL MEDITATION - "Lead Me, Lord"

Samuel Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

CLOSING PRAYER 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.

***HYMN 14** - "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE** (all Sing)

Veni Emmanuel

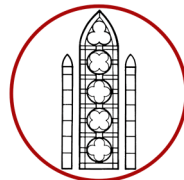
Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - Toccata and Fantasy on "Savior of the Nations, Come" *Paul Manz*

(The Concluding Voluntary is the final Alleluia of our worship.
You are invited to remain in silence.)

*Please rise in body or spirit.



Westminster
Presbyterian Church

MINISTERS

All members of the Church

STAFF

Richard L. Baker, Jr. Pastor/Head of Staff
John W. Neely Assoc. Pastor for Music
Nancy S. Hodgkins Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Mission
Caitlin T. Deyerle Assoc. Pastor for Congregational Care
Jenne Gross Mission Associate
Kylie Hettinger Director of Discipleship
Brent Manley Music Associate
Curtis T. Baxter Pastoral Affiliate

Mattie Pennington Congregational Care Coordinator
Tim Francis Business Manager
Brittany Campbell Director of Communications
Donna Schoonmaker Office Manager
Wayne King Facilities and Technology Coordinator
Keith Spencer Sexton
Roger Galloway Sexton
George H. McConnel Pastor Emeritus

What is Advent? The season of Advent begins the Christian Year. The four Sundays preceding Christmas mark a time of preparation. Advent comes from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival." The color is blue. The main preparation Christians make to welcome Christ anew into their lives is through self-examination and repentance. Advent is a season of penitence. It is similar in purpose to Lent and was modeled after it. Christians remember their own need for God to come again in their lives, confessing their sin and separation from God, and expressing deep longing for what God alone can give, the gift of new life and salvation. Advent is a time to remember that we also wait for Christ to come again. We are still sinners in need of redemption. The whole world longs for peace and justice. We continue to look for Jesus Christ to come to save us.

Music Participants: Westminster Choir - Tara Bodey, Soprano - The Reverend John Neely is Organist-Director.

Today's Music: On October 31, 1517, Dr. Martin Luther wrote to Albert of Mainz and presented his "Ninety-Five theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences." Thus began the Protestant Reformation. The tune for "Savior of the Nations, Come" (Hymn 14) was adapted by Luther from an early plainsong melody and was first published in 1524. Luther also made a German paraphrase of the Latin text by Ambrose of Milan (c.340-397).

"Glory to God," music by Jacques Berthier, © 1979, 1981, Les Presses de Taizé (admin, GIA Publications, Inc.) is reprinted under CCLI License #2287801.

Choir schedules, 2025-2026, for children, youth, and adults may be found on the church website.

Choirs for children and youth today. New members are welcome.

Children's Choirs and Youth Handbells (Sundays)

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Genesis Singers (4 and 5 year olds, Pre-Kindergarten) - Rm. 104 - Hilary Toerner, Director

Cherub Choir (grades K-2) - Theater - Rachael Boezi, Director

Calvin Choir (grades 3-6) - Rm. 100 (Choir Room) - John Neely, Director

Knox Ringers (grades 7-12) - Rm. 203 - Brent Manley, Director

Youth Choir

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Knox Choir (grades 7-12) - Choir Room - John Neely, Director

Youth Fellowship Groups follow.

All are welcome!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Please stop by our Children's Ministry check-in desk anytime between 9:40-10:05 a.m. to record your child's attendance and receive their name tag.

Infants and Toddlers, Room 108 (Infant - 3 years old), are cared for from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. in Room 108. Parents of infants will be contacted via text by the nursery staff in case immediate communication is needed while they worship in the Sanctuary. During the worship hour, children take part in an activity and enjoy a snack.

Classes for children and youth today. New members are welcome.

Pre-K - 2nd Grades:

10:00-10:20 - Worship with family in the Sanctuary

10:25-11:30 - Sunday School

Pre-K & K, Room 101

1st & 2nd grades, Room 103/105

3rd-8th Grades:

10:00-10:40 - Worship with family in the Sanctuary

10:45-11:30 - Sunday School

3rd & 4th grades, Room 109
5th-8th grades, Theater

Junior High and Senior High Youth Fellowships will meet this evening from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. for our annual Gifts from the Heart Shopping Spree. All youth in grades 7 through 12 are welcome. Please bring a donation toward the purchase of gifts (\$8-10 recommended) and money for dinner out. Parents may pick-up their youth at the Wilkinson Street door at 9:00 p.m. Please speak to Nancy Hodgkins if you have questions.

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Welcome Visitors: We are so glad to welcome you to worship with us today! Whether you are just passing through or looking for a new church community, we hope you feel right at home. At Westminster we believe that Jesus welcomes all people, just as they are, and so do we. We understand the life of faith to be a journey that is better walked together than alone. Following worship please join us for Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall, or join one of our Sunday School classes. We hope you will explore the bulletin as well as our website www.westminsterdayton.org to learn more about us. Please leave us your name and contact information in the Friendship Pad so we can get to know you as well! Grace and peace to you. -Westminster Pastoral Staff and Congregation

Celebrate Advent, this holy season of waiting, with an Advent devotional book from our library. *Please check out books by signing the folder on the small table.*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The flowers in the Chancel are given by small group Filia in loving memory of our sister, Ann Blanford Herr. Ann coordinated the Chancel flowers for many years and she loved Christmas!

If you are interested in donating Chancel flowers, please contact Kay Berg (bergkay07@gmail.com or 937-367-9297). Please note that there is a one month lead time for flower donation announcements.

Emergency Response Team: Sean Hearrell, Linda Kohl

During the service, **if you notice someone who appears to require medical attention**, please raise your hand or contact the head usher. Emergency Response Team members will care for the person.

If you have a security concern please notify the head usher who can connect you to our security personnel.

Each week the churches of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley keep one particular congregation or group in their prayers. This week the churches are praying for **Honey Creek Presbyterian Church, New Carlisle.**

Westminster is a praying church and we would love to pray for you. You are welcome to **add your prayer to our Prayer Wall**, located in the Sanctuary near the front on the east wall. You will find paper and pencil to write your private prayer to God and place it between the bricks of the wall.

If you have a prayer request you would like to share with our **Westminster Prays weekly email**, please use the Prayer Request Card in the pew rack and place it in the offering box following worship. You can sign up to receive the Westminster Prays email and share prayer requests or other pastoral needs directly with our pastoral staff by emailing caitlin@westminsterdayton.org or calling 937-907-6078.

Members currently known to be in the hospital at this time: Peggy Conner (Hospice Care)



Thank you for coming to Westminster today! We hope to see you again soon. If you enjoyed the service, and want to help us continue to share the love of God with our neighbors and transform their lives, please consider donating to our ministries. Donation boxes are located in the Narthex and by the elevator. You can also donate online at www.westminsterdayton.org/give or by scanning the QR code to the left with the camera of any smart device. You can also text "give" to 937-468-4003.



**Next Sunday,
December 7, 5:00 p.m.
Suggested Donation \$5.00**

Our annual Advent/Christmas Potluck dinner will be held Next Sunday, December 7, at 5:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to feed 10-12 people. The main dish, beverages, and table service will be provided. A \$5.00 donation per adult is requested to help us continue this tradition.

The choral program of Advent and Christmas music begins at 5:45 p.m. Participants include Knox, Calvin, and Cherub Choirs, and Genesis Singers.

This event is for everyone, not just parents and grandparents of program participants. Bring your friends and neighbors! Reservations are not required for this event.



**Choose a heart in the Narthex
Before and After Worship**

Gifts from the Heart is a mission outreach providing Christmas gifts for students and families at DECA Middle and Eastmont Elementary Schools. Today, before and after worship, choose a heart in the Narthex. Monetary donations will also be accepted for an Emergency Fund for families at both schools and for staff appreciation. Questions? Contact Jenne Gross. (jenne@westminsterdayton.org)

Christmas Poinsettias

Your donation can help lift the spirits of another!



As part of our Advent/Christmas preparation, we purchase dozens of poinsettias that will be delivered by the deacons and care teams to members who could use extra cheer. You are invited to share in the funding of this special Christmas ministry by donating money in memory, honor, or celebration of someone you care about.

The poinsettias purchased with your donations will be delivered well before Christmas, bringing joy and comfort wherever they go. ***Please note: no other flowers will be ordered except those being delivered by deacons and care ministries.***

It is suggested that your gift be \$12 or more, but may be any amount you wish. Checks must be received in the Church Office by **December 14** and made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and marked "Church Decorating." Donations may also be made online on our website (www.westminsterdayton.org). The worship service bulletin on December 21 will include names of the donors and names of those being recognized by your generous gift.

Your donation must be accompanied by a paper form, or online form, for your message to be included in the bulletin.



Christmas Poinsettias

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ to decorate our church.

Please print NAME(S) ONLY of those you wish to appear in the bulletin.

(circle one) In memory of - In honor of - Celebrating

Given by





EARTH STEWARDSHIP

ADVENT CALENDAR

1 Start a reverse Advent Calendar - in a box or basket, collect one item everyday to donate to a shelter, food bank, charitable thrift store, etc. Deliver on Dec 24. Could be nonperishable food, clothing no longer needed, excessive decor, books, unused toys. This activity is rooted in generosity and sustainability	2 Read labels and choose natural fibers like cotton, linen and wool when buying clothes or household goods.	3 Choose LED Christmas lights, which use 80% less energy. Or look for solar-powered outdoor lights. Recycle non-working light strings at the Second St Market through January.	4 Start a new eco-friendly tradition. Spend time in nature considering the returning light. Volunteer as a group/family. Have an unplugged evening - no lights, TV, cell-phones, instead use candles and play board games or tell stories. Enjoy the Nutcracker or Messiah. Watch a Christmas movie together.
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Earth Stewardship Ministry Team shares Earth friendly suggestions for the Advent season. Each Sunday, the bulletin will post the tips for the coming week. The entire calendar is available on the website or through the QR code. Wishing all a blessed, season that cares for God's creation.





Draw Near: An Advent Devotional by Teri McDowell Ott

Each Advent, we are invited to slow down and pay attention — not just to Christmas on the horizon, but to Christ's presence with us here and now. *Draw Near*, written by *Outlook* Editor/Publisher Teri McDowell Ott, is a devotional that helps you do just that.

Following the traditional Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, each week offers Scripture, reflection, prayer and a simple practice to guide your days. **Every week in Advent we will have new reflections available in the Westminster Notes and some paper copies will be available in the Church Office.**

Do you want to sign up for the Westminster Notes, our bi-weekly e-newsletter? Contact Brittany Campbell (Brittany@westminsterdayton.org)





Advent Calendar of Events

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
Sunday, December 14, 10:00 a.m.

NOONDAY CAROL SING
Friday, December 19

12:00 Noon - Handbell Music-Westminster Ringers
12:10 - 12:40 p.m. - Carol singing by all and choral music by the Vocal Ensemble of Xenia High School
Lunch follows

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Wednesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. - Christmas in the Stable
(Family Service) Genesis Singers, Cherub, and Calvin Choirs

9:20 p.m. - Christmas in the Cathedral, Prelude

10:00 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service

Westminster Choir, Knox Ringers

Betsey Hofeldt, Violin

Mark Hofeldt, Cello



Join us to as we explore the Bible. How did it come to be? Who wrote it? And how on earth are you supposed to understand it? This class is open to all Parents Fellowship regulars as well as others of any age or stage who have questions about the bible. We will use Rachel Held Evans' book Inspired as a starting point if you want to read along. We will meet in the Mission Room from 11:30-12:15.

Church Calendar November 30-December 6

Sunday, Nov. 30

8:30am-12:30pm Nursery Birth-Age 3, Nursery
9:00am-10:00am Gifts from the Heart, Narthex
9:00am-9:45am Confirmation Class, 209
9:00am-9:45am Westminster Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

10:00am-11:00am Worship, Sanctuary
10:20am-11:30am 1st & 2nd Grade, 103, 105
10:20am-11:30am Pre-K & K, 101
10:45am-11:30am 3rd & 4th Grade, 107, 109
10:45am-11:30am 5th-8th Grade, Theater
11:00am-12:30pm Gifts from the Heart, Narthex
11:00am-12:30pm Coffee & Conversation, Fellowship Hall

11:15am-12:15pm Knox Ringers Rehearsal, Rooms 207, 203, 205
11:30am-12:15pm Calvin Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
11:30am-12:15pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Theater
11:30am-12:15pm Genesis Singers Rehearsal, 104

11:30am-12:15pm Parent Fellowship, 102
5:00pm-6:00pm Knox Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

6:00pm-9:00pm Youth Shopping Spree, Offsite

Monday, Dec. 1

6:30pm-8:30pm Young Adult Bible Study, Offsite

7:00pm-9:00pm DGMC Rehearsal, Choir Room

Tuesday, Dec. 2

9:30am-11:30am Church Partners Ministry, Library

6:00pm-7:00pm Session Meeting, Fellowship Hall, West Parlor

7:00pm-9:00pm DGMC Tech Week, Sanctuary, Choir Room

7:00pm-10:00pm Session Meeting, West Parlor

Wednesday, Dec. 3

8:30am-11:00am CTF Aesthetics Committee, West Parlor

9:00am-12:00pm Staff Meeting, Library
10:00am-12:30pm ID Ministry, Chapel, Chapel Reception

12:15pm-1:30pm Women's Therapeutic Court, Fellowship Hall

3:00pm-5:00pm CTF Steering Committee, West Parlor

7:00pm-9:00pm DGMC Tech Week, Sanctuary, Choir Room

Thursday, Dec. 4

8:30am-4:30pm DGMC/LFI Prep Work, Sanctuary

6:00pm-7:15pm Carillon Bells Rehearsal, 301

6:00pm-7:15pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal, 207, 203, 205

7:30pm-9:30pm Westminster Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday, Dec. 5

7:00pm-9:00pm DGMC Dress Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 100 (Choir)

7:15pm-9:15pm Bach Society Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, Dec. 6

2:00pm-3:00pm DGMC Concert, Sanctuary, Narthex

6:00pm-7:00pm DGMC Concert, Sanctuary, Narthex

* Please note these dates and times are subject to change. This calendar does not include all private meetings and events in the church. Please contact church staff to reserve meeting space.

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (10)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
O let your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

Now to Your Table Spread 515)

Now to your table spread
We come, each one in faith
That you alone provide the words of life and death:
In wine and bread,
In promised food
We find your loving heart, O God.
Hands of the world stretch out
Your mystery to touch
In longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,
To sing in joy,
To cry in grief,
To know your meaning for our life.
Here is our common wealth
In sharing what is good,
As though all humankind around one table stood,
This bread to break,
This wine to taste:
One people in the name of Christ.

"Savior of the Nations, Come" (14)

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

From the Godhead forth you came,
And return unto the same,
Captive leading death and hell.
High the song of triumph swell!

You, the chosen Holy One,
Have o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?

Brightly does your manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'er cloud this light;
Ever be our faith thus bright.
plains