

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 2, 2018
9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

9:00 a.m. – *Darah Huffman & Elizabeth Metherell, Ella and Catherine*

11:15 a.m. – *Stuart & Kathryn Rowan, Margaret and Charlie*

PRELUDE Overture to *Messiah* Handel

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Romans 13:11-12)

Leader: You know what time it is,
how it is now the moment for us to wake from sleep.

People: **For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
the night is far gone, the day is near.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 82 HYFRYDOL

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, search our hearts and help us look honestly at our lives. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom. We accept lies as truth, we exploit our neighbors, we abuse the earth, and we refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us, and keep us from being casual Christians. Grant us the wisdom we need to wait for you, the courage we need to work for you, and the imagination we need to love as Jesus taught us to love, for it is through him that we pray. Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Children in K5 and first grade children leave for Children's Church.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 33:14-16

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 21:25-36

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Ben Dorr

“December's Lullaby”

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Nicene Creed (Hymnal, p. 34)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(The bread will be held and taken together. The cup will be taken individually.)

Prayer after Communion

OFFERING

Solo (9:00) “The King Shall Come” arr. Larson

Anthem (11:15) “Keep Your Lamps” Thomas

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

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

* HYMN No. 357 LLANGLOFFAN

“The Days Are Surely Coming”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE (11:15) “Wait for the Lord” Berthier

* POSTLUDE “And the Glory of the Lord” from *Messiah* Handel

**All who are able may stand*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEAD USHERS: 9:00 a.m. Butler Mullins
11:15 a.m. Bradley Wingate
SPONSOR: 11:15 a.m. Mike Hall
GREETERS: 9:00 a.m. Rob Warren, Gaye Sprague
Parks McLeod
11:15 a.m. Christa Likes, Freddie Williams
Catherine Pollock
LITURGIST: Mary Kathleen Duncan
LAY READERS: 9:00 a.m. Elizabeth Palmer
11:15 a.m. Wil Brasington

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

STREAMING

All worship services at Westminster are broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at www.wpc-online.org and click the link “Worship via Live Streaming.”

CHURCH NOTES

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Nancy Smith, organist

9:00 a.m.

Judy McKenney, alto

11:15 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

During the worship service, children in rising K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children's Church in Room 206.

GRAB A NAMETAG THIS SUNDAY!

We will continue to wear nametags each Sunday. Please find them near entrances and gathering areas and share your name with others. You'll be glad you did!

LET US PRAY FOR:

Mark Matlock and family

Susan Hicken and family

2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, November 27, we have received \$1,824,131 in pledges toward our 2019 budget goal of \$2,573,739.

For your convenience, pledge cards are in the pews, or you may mail in your pledge or send it by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens, at sherri@wpc-online.org.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. Specific envelopes for your contributions may be found in the Ritual of Friendship booklets. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

HEALTH MINISTRY

We are offering free blood pressure screenings this **Sunday, December 2**. The screenings will take place in the **Friendship Court** following the **9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.** services. If you have any questions or if you are a healthcare professional and would like to help, please contact *Tim Miller* (627-0725).

BIRTH

A son, *Grady Parrish Clayton*, was born to Alex & Pace Clayton on October 29, 2018, in Greenville.

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Susan Hicken* on the death of her mother, Joyce Jayne, on Monday, November 26, 2018, in Johnson City, TN.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, December 9**, immediately following the **11:15 a.m.** worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. This APNC will search for an Associate Pastor who will be responsible primarily for children's ministry and programming, and will succeed Barbara Stoop upon her retirement in 2019.

The following members are nominated for election to the APNC:

*Ben Alexander
Kelley Barnhardt
Kathryn Freedman
Cathy Grills
Lydia Kellett
Kevin Lancaster
Elizabeth Palmer
Cara Puntch
Neil Shurley*

SHUT-IN COMMUNION

For those who are homebound and would like to receive communion, please contact Amos Workman (423-0070).

CONNECTIONS

The next Connections get-together will be this **Sunday, December 2 at 12:45 p.m.** Join us for a Christmas Brunch at round tables in the **Lobby** of the **Poinsett Hotel** next to the Christmas tree. Our food will be from the delicious buffet in the Spoonbread Restaurant of the hotel. Parking is available in the garage at the rear of the hotel, with valet service available if needed. Please respond to *Edna Ruth Miller* (288-8645 or rgvduo@bellsouth.net) **by Friday, November 30.** Call if you have any questions.

**WESTMINSTER/
CAROLINA HIGH EVENT**

The first Westminister/Carolina High event will be **Tuesday, December 4.** All volunteers should meet at **Carolina High School** that morning at **9:15 a.m.**

ADULT GROUPS

• **Needle Arts Group:** Will meet **Wednesday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Sanctuary Atrium.** **Leader:** *Terry Gentry* (tmgentry@charter.net).

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a fellowship group for those in their fifties (very loosely defined), will meet at the church **Wednesday, December 5, at 6:00 p.m.** Watch your e-mail for more information, or if you don't hear from us, contact *Susan Grier* (susan@grierfamily.org). We hope to see you!

**YOUTH CHOIR CAROLING
IN ATLANTA**

Westminister's Youth Choir will head out on their **16th Annual Atlanta Caroling Trip** on **Friday, December 14 and Saturday, December 15.** This includes visits to Foothills Retirement Home in Easley and Lenox Mall in Atlanta. Sign-ups are open now at wpc-online.org. Cost for the overnight trip is \$30.

CHERUB CHOIR CHRISTMAS

On **Sunday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m.** the Cherub Choir (ages 4-5) will share an evening of Christmas songs and a reading of the Christmas story in the Sanctuary, followed by punch and cookies and pictures around the Chrismon tree in the Sanctuary Atrium. The event can also be streamed online at wpc-online.org.

IHN DECEMBER 9 – 16

It's the final IHN (formerly known as GAIHN) week of 2018! The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate and show our gratitude by helping WPC provide a safe and warm space for up to three families who are experiencing homelessness. We are looking for volunteers to act as hosts or provide dinner to our guests during the week of **December 9-16.** You can sign up at <https://bit.ly/2JXLtBr> or in person this Sunday in the Sanctuary Atrium. If you have any additional questions or want to learn more, please contact *Holly Vanderwal* at hollyv04@hotmail.com.

IHN (GAIHN) needs your help and donations. Imagine that you are a child in temporary housing and your suitcase is a garbage bag. Imagine your lunch pail is a used grocery bag. Imagine not having a backpack to carry school books. Please consider donating small suitcases, gym bags, backpacks or lunch pails so these sweet children we host may feel just a little bit better each day. We thank you!

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

Because of a scheduling conflict, Westminister's Book Club will wait until **Tuesday, February 5,** to discuss the book *Swing Time* by Zadie Smith. We meet from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the church library. New people are always welcome!

RETIREMENT GIVING

For those 70 years of age or older, you can make a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Westminister Presbyterian Church. Though you will not get a charitable deduction, the withdrawal can serve as your required minimum distribution. The money will not be taxed and will not count toward your adjusted gross income. If you have any questions, please contact Sherri Owens, the church's Financial Secretary.

**THE HARBINGER
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
2310 Augusta Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424**

www.wpc-online.org

THE HARBINGER: (USPS No. 764160)
Published weekly by the Westminister
Presbyterian Church, 2310 Augusta Street,
Greenville SC 29605. Periodical postage paid
at Greenville SC 29605.

CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Church 232-2424 | School 232-5766 |
| Pastor | Ben Dorr |
| | bdorr@wpc-online.org |
| Associate Pastor | Barbara Stoop |
| | bstoop@wpc-online.org |
| Associate Pastor | Leigh Stuckey |
| | lstuckey@wpc-online.org |
| Associate Pastor | Mary Kathleen Duncan |
| | mkduncan@wpc-online.org |
| Parish Associate for Older Adults | Amos Workman |
| | aworkman@wpc-online.org |
| Pastor Emeritus | Zane Moore |
| Director of Music | Mark Kemp |
| | mkemp@wpc-online.org |
| Children's Choir Coordinator | Kathryn Knauer |
| | kknauer@wpc-online.org |

**WestFest VI
Sunday, December 2
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Rain or Shine!**

**This event will be in the Green Lot
featuring music from
The Erica Berg Collective and food
from Thororoughfare,
The Chuck Truck,
and Kickin' Pig BBQ.**

**If there is rain, we will move to the
Fellowship Hall.*

CHURCHWIDE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 16 6:30 p.m.

\$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 3-11

Join us at our annual Christmas dinner, on **Sunday, December 16, at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall.** Menu: turkey, dressing, gravy, green beans, sweet potato casserole, salad, and dessert. To keep the check-in lines moving on December 16, we ask that you sign up online and pay online by going to <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/>. **Sign ups end on Monday, December 10.**

At **7:30 p.m.** the Sanctuary Choir, joined by the orchestra, will present **"Small, Dancing Light"** by Taylor Davis in the Sanctuary. This 45 minute choral work for Advent features contemporary poetry by Terry York set to original music, as well as traditional carols. Together we will anticipate the love, joy, peace, and hope of the incarnation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2-8, 2018

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:15 a.m. Worship Service
12:45 p.m. Connections Group Luncheon
5:30 p.m. WestFest!
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

6:15 p.m. NAMI
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

10:00 a.m. Westminister/Carolina High
Connection Event
11:30 a.m. Women of Westminister Advent
Social/Luncheon (noon)
12:00 p.m. AI-Anon Meeting
Administrative Committee
Meeting

WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
3:00 p.m. "It's Elementary!" & Tweens
3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir
4:30 p.m. Junior & Senior Choristers
5:15 p.m. Senior High Girls
tree decorating
6:00 p.m. Lightly Seasoned Group
6:30 p.m. Needle Arts Group
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. Thursday Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

FRIDAY

5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting



Our New Testament Lesson today compels us to be alert, watching, on-guard as we wait for a sign. This season of Advent finds many of us on "alert." Most of my wakeful moments I have a tiny computer right by my side just waiting to provide me with the latest tweet, new update, global tragedy, weather report, sales announcement or Facebook image of a friend/family member doing the latest and greatest thing. I find that I am frequently on hyper-alert mode and crave the intentional moments of unplugging.

As we move into the Advent season, Luke is calling us to be watchful and expectant. This journey begins with waiting and paying attention. Both require us to move at a slower pace and to look up and toward something.

I am not at my best when waiting. I seem to be easily drawn into "busyness." Being a structured person, I also need a plan. What do I do as I wait? How do I prepare for the awaited and the hoped for Savior? How will I recognize the Savior? While waiting we can be faithful servants. This Advent I desire to pay closer attention to opportunities to serve. As I wait with great expectation, I pray that I will see the vulnerable and the marginalized.

As we celebrate this season of Advent with one another, may we do so with a faithful serving persistence. We faithfully pursue hope and love and we share that same hope and love with others so they know the Savior has come.

Sonya O'Neal

**WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
ANNUAL ADVENT LUNCHEON**

Tuesday, December 4 in the Fellowship Hall

We are excited to have Pastor Ben Dorr and the Weekday School K5 class join us as part of this year's program. A social will begin at **11:30 a.m.**, followed by lunch and the program beginning at **noon.** The cost is \$9. Childcare will be provided. Menu: Chicken salad on a bed of baby spinach, pasta salad, croissant, and red velvet cake. RSVP on the website or call the church office. Deadline for sign ups is Sunday, December 2.

Like last year, there is an option to support the women and children of Serenity Place this holiday season. To purchase a gift, please visit www.wpc-online.org to sign up. All gifts should be brought (unwrapped) to the Advent Luncheon or dropped off in the church office prior to the event.