

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### BLUE CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 12, 2021

9:00 AM

## GATHERING

*Please greet each other warmly as the congregation gathers for worship.*

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Brenda Jonsson and Jill Lundgrin

◆ We sing together:

**He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.**

◆ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: During Advent, we wait for the one who gives us joy.

All: **He came down that we may have joy.**

One: During Advent, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

All: **He came down that we may have joy.**

◆ SONG NO. 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

VENI EMMANUEL

## CONFESSION

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

**God of love and mercy, forgive us for when we turn away from you. Forgive us for when we seek our own counsel versus yours. Forgive us for when in our darkest moments we dismiss your light, your love, your presence, and your sovereignty. We are humbled before you, O God, this morning and on this day.**

Silent Personal Confession

◆ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE

GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

## THE WORD

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:8-11

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 58

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A Savior for You

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### ◆ CANDLE LIGHTING

*As music begins, all who wish may come forward to light a candle in memory of someone, in prayer, or as a sign of hope.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Silent Night

Chris Dorsel

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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

## SENDING OUT

◆ SENDING SONG NO. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

◆ BLESSING

*Please place your offering in the plate as you leave the sanctuary.*

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◆ *Please stand, if able*

Leading the service today: Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Lissa Long, Pastor; Janie Bruce, Children and Youth; Robin Zemp, Music.

Acoyltes are Mary Patrick and Catherine Patrick.  
Ushers are Matt Akery, Joe Jeter, and Laura Nunn.

## *The Season of Advent*

Advent is the Latin word for “coming.” For Christians it refers to the church season that prepares for the coming of Jesus Christ as God in human flesh – the incarnation. We celebrate his humble birth, his coming to us now, and his coming again in glory at the end of time.

The round shape of the Advent Wreath is a symbol of God's never-ending love for us. The evergreens represent everlasting life, and the purple candles are for him who comes royally as King of kings and Lord of lords. The pink candle is for the joy of the season, and in the center of the wreath is the white Christ candle lit on Christmas Eve. In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

The Christmas tree is adorned with lights and Chrismons. Lights remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Chrismons are symbols that illustrate aspects of the Christian faith.



# ReShape

“Like the clay in the potter's  
hand, so are you in my hand...”  
Jeremiah 18:6

Thank you to those who have made financial commitments for 2022! We're off to a good start receiving 115 pledges totaling \$530,998.00. Our goal is 100% participation, so if you have not yet turned in your Commitment Card or made an easy online pledge at [wpccharleston.org](http://wpccharleston.org), we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in 2021- even as we look forward to fruitful ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church in the next year!

### 2021 YEAR END GIVING

As we approach the end of the church's fiscal year, please be aware that the church books will close December 31, 2021. In order to be recorded for 2021, all contributions will need to be received by December 31. You can mail your check, bring to the church office, or take advantage of the safe and convenient online giving. Thank you for your faithful and generous support of the missions and ministry of Westminster. 2021 Giving Statements are in your online Realm account. If you need to have it printed for pick up or mailed, please contact the church office. If you have any questions or need any information, please don't hesitate to call Tommie Owen at 843-766-8311, ext 105 or [finance@wpccharleston.org](mailto:finance@wpccharleston.org).

### FROM THE WESTMINSTER PULPIT

Today	Advent 3	9:00am Blue Christmas, Luke 2:8-11 11:00am Lessons and Carols
December 19	Advent 4	Luke 1:39-45; 46-55

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN PRAYER**

Presbyterian Women invite all the women of Westminster to join together to pray 5 minutes a day through December 12. As we pray for one another, we ask God to invite us into conversations of encouragement, rejuvenation and peace. Presbyterian Women are collecting women's white, regular cotton, briefs for the Leeds Avenue Women's Detention Center. Please put donations in the workroom, in a bag marked PW. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Lundy at 843-607- 2102. Collections end on December 15.

### **ANGEL TREE SHOPPING TODAY**

Westminster's Youth are Angel Tree shopping today at 5:00 pm. Unwrapped gifts must be delivered to the church by Monday, December 13.

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Join us for Breakfast and Bible Study from 8:00 - 9:00 am on the Second Tuesday of every month. We are meeting IN-PERSON for breakfast at Trotters Restaurant at Town and Country Inn and Suites (2008 Savannah Highway). We're studying OT characters: Isaiah this month. Pastor Daniel will be leading; join us for the Fellowship and Encouragement!

### **SERMON BY PHONE 843-252-0146**

Many of us have friends, family, and neighbors who are still removed from worshiping at church due to technical difficulties. Please feel free to share with them the WPC Sermon By Phone number so they may call in and hear God's Word read and proclaimed. Simply dial 843-252-0146 to listen to the latest sermon by phone. There is no charge to the caller for the call.

### **A CELEBRATION FOR JANIE BRUCE**

Sunday, December 19 during 11:00 am Worship and Cookie Reception we will give thanks to God for Janie Bruce and her ministry at Westminster; wishing her well as she becomes the new Director of Charleston Youth Mission. We will share a moment in the 11:00 am Worship service and all are welcome to a cookie reception in the courtyard following the worship service. Come share warm hugs and wishes with Janie!

### **YOUTH GROUP**

Today                      Angel Tree Shopping      All Youth 5:00–7:30 pm

### **LOOKING FORWARD:**

December 19	Youth Christmas Party	
December 26	Christmas Holiday	No Youth Group
January 2	New Year Holiday	No Youth Group

## WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

- We are delighted you have joined us for in-person or online worship, and we hope you are encouraged and strengthened in the faith.
- The nursery is available for children 2 and under in the Preschool Building. We'll gather pertinent information upon check-in and be able to contact you during the service should a need arise.
- Parents who need to step out of the sanctuary for a while to tend to the needs of infants or small children can find privacy down the hall in the church parlor, family restroom, or in the church nursery.
- Worship bags and worship worksheets are available in the narthex for preschool and elementary age children.
- Following Time for Children (11:00 only) children ages 3-5k will gather in the narthex with adult leaders and then be led to the Children's building room 16 for Children's Church. Parents may pick them up following the service.
- Hearing devices, magnifying sheets, and large print hymnals are available in the narthex.
- If you have a prayer request or questions about faith, life, or being part of the Westminster family, we invite you to reach out to one of our pastors.
  - Pastor Daniel Smoak, 843-872-1001
  - Pastor Lissa Long, 843-810-2232
- For more information about Westminster or to subscribe to our weekly ENews and email updates visit [www.wpccharleston.org](http://www.wpccharleston.org)

### VIRTUAL FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

Please let us know you're here by completing the Virtual Friendship Register. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to open or find on our website under the Quick Links, Virtual Friendship Register.



## COVID PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP UPDATED POLICY (9/1/2021)

*Thank you for following these protocols which enable weekly in-person worship without interruption.*

1. Hand sanitizer is available and should be used upon entering.
2. Following the guidance of the CDC and our concern for the most vulnerable, masks are required for all three years old and older, vaccinated and unvaccinated, as they enter all buildings for church activities.
3. Offering plates are at the entrances/exits to receive your offering.
4. While the ropes have been removed from most of the sanctuary and seating is open, there are some reserved sections:
  - Socially-distanced seating is available. Please indicate your preference to an usher.
  - A few other pews are reserved for ushers, latecomers, acolytes, and staff.



## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Sunday, December 12

9:00 am	Worship Service, Blue Christmas
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service, Lessons and Carols
5:00 pm	Youth Group Angel Tree Shopping
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

### Monday, December 13

9:50 am	4's Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary
11:45 am	Dance, Covenant Hall
4:30 pm	Robotics, Room 1
7:00 pm	Scout Pack 79

### Tuesday, December 14

6:30 am	Toast Master, Covenant Hall
8:00 am	Men's Bible Study, Town and Country
9:30 am	3's Music, Sanctuary
9:50 am	4's Music, Sanctuary
10:00 am	Staff Meeting, Parlor
10:30 am	Circle 4, Room 1
5:30 pm	Exchange Club, Covenant Hall
7:00 pm	Handbell Choir, Sanctuary

### Wednesday, December 15

9:00 am	Preschool Funastics, Covenant Hall
11:00 am	Preschool 3's Storytime, Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

### Thursday, December 16

11:00 am	Preschool 3's Storytime, Sanctuary
9:30 am	3's Music, Sanctuary
9:50 am	3's Chapel, Sanctuary
9:50 am	4's Music, Covenant Hall
7:00 pm	Cub Scout Pack Meeting, Covenant Hall

### Friday, December 17

9:30 am	Preschool Christmas Program, Sanctuary
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

### Sunday, December 19

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:00 pm	Cookie Reception, Courtyard
5:00 pm	Youth Group Christmas Party
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

## IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN THE WESTMINSTER FAMILY?

Here's how you can do it.

1. You may fill out an online New Member form under the visitor tab at [wpccharleston.org](http://wpccharleston.org) or using the QR code.
  2. One of our Pastors or someone from the Membership Committee will quickly be in touch, providing an opportunity individually or with a group to learn more about the church.
  3. On a Sunday morning, you'll attend a meeting with the Session for reception into membership. We'll handle paperwork if you're transferring from another church or arrange baptism if you've never been baptized.
  4. That same Sunday morning, you'll be introduced to the congregation during worship.
- Questions? Speak with an usher or one of our pastors following the service.



## Westminster Prays

Carol Cummings	Meg Powell	Summer Garris	Andria Sanchez Freeman
Dart Willer	Keith Gordon	Mary Ashley Barbot	Chrissie Bosworth
Bill Pennekamp	Shirley Seay	Joyce Aydlett	Ginger Siefing
Kate Pennekamp	Larry Salley	Daryn Baker	Martin Davis
Sara McCoy	Dot Dangerfield	Curtis Sponseller	Kevin Ritzel
Love Moody	Lydia Crosby	Sean Fitzgibbon	Gloria Underhill
Karen Dangerfield	David Morris IV	Thom Penney	Jeff Bryant
Lisa Wilcox	Brian Carlow	Nikolai Fruth	Barbara Johnston
Harold Fountain	Frances McLean	Allan Scott	Michael Morgan
Nancy Plowden	David Kerr	Mary Martschink	Nita Rodemann
Gary Brooks	Sharon Hutchinson	David Wiggins	Jean Isbell
Steve Buddin	Harper Croft	Allene Buddin	Will Kuenzel
Rosa Oswald	Deb Sloan	Jerry Smoak	Janie Hammersmith
Dick Unger	Leigh Throckmorton	Brenda DeSmet	Jim Hammersmith
Anderson Scruggs	Jean Lewandowski	Maryalice Vann	Frank Painter
Pam Smith	Branden Preus	Karen McInnes	Jackie Epstein
Davina Hartigan	Anne Willis	Dan Butts	Libba Johnson
David Grove	Julie Pell	Jerry Hallman	Stephen Moody
Chad Waldrop	Brooks Oswald	Christina Miller	Liz Shelor
Jerry Waldrop	Towne Family	Meghan Hatfield	Beth Janssen
Charles Reeves			

**Prayers of Sympathy and Support are extended to**  
Robbie Yarnall and family upon the death of her brother, Jack K. Morris.

## Blessing Box Prayer Requests

December 9: Prayers for parenting and family reconciliation.

<b>Friend of the Week</b>	<b>Mission of the Week</b>	<b>Student of the Week</b>	<b>Church Family</b>
Harriet DaSilva 201 W. 9th North St. Unit 149 Summerville, SC 29483	Scout Troop 79 1157 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. Charleston, SC 29407	Amber Appell 320 Stanley Ave. PO Box 6125 Greenwood, SC 29649	Melissa Warner Richard Holst Tom and Mellany Whetstone

## Westminster Session

**Class of 2022:** Nancy Dixon, Sandra Pell, Kendall Ramsay, Carole Russell, Nathan Snider, Graham Wade  
**Class of 2023:** Matthew Akery, David Boyd, Earl Frasier, Brenda Gibson, George McAbee, Nathan Ward  
**Class of 2024:** Norman Hook, Abbie Mobley, Karen Norman, Laura Patrick, Chuck Towne, Dee Bee Wright  
**Clerk** - Carole Russell, **Treasurer** - Doug Earnst, **Assistant Treasurer** - Patty Stokes

### Westminster Presbyterian Church

1157 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Charleston, SC 29407  
www.wpccharleston.org (843) 766-8311

Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Smoak, Pastor, dsmoak@wpccharleston.org  
Rev. Lissa Long, Associate Pastor, mlong@wpccharleston.org  
Mr. Robin Zemp, Director of Music, rzemp@wpccharleston.org  
Mrs. Janie Bruce, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, jbruce@wpccharleston.org  
Mrs. Nita Rushton, Office Administrator, office@wpccharleston.org  
Mrs. Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator, finance@wpccharleston.org  
Mrs. Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, preschool@wpccharleston.org  
Mrs. Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, mdorsel@wpccharleston.org