



Westminster Presbyterian Church

*We are called to be and to make disciples who love
God and who love our neighbors.*

December 10, 2023

9:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

*Please greet each other warmly as the congregation gathers for worship.
Take a moment and sign the virtual friendship register.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Robinson Family

One: On this Advent journey, we are mindful of the brokenness
of the world that surrounds us.

All: We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.

One: As we look around us, we see the hostility
that exists between neighbor and nation.

All: We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.

One: As we look beside us, we see fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

All: We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.

One: As we look within ourselves, we confess
the reconciling words we have yet to speak
and restoring deeds we have yet to do.

All: We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.

◆ PRAYER (UNISON)

Gracious God, we pray that you will help us to see glimpses of your peace in our fractured world. You alone are the Prince of Peace. Help us to remember this Advent that we can also be agents of peace to those around us and in our world. Help us to seek your perfect peace that surpasses all understanding. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.

◆ ADVENT SONG NO. 82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

At this time, youth and children who want to participate in the hanging the Chrismons on the tree may exit to the Narthex to prepare for the processional during the next hymn.

◆ LITANY FOR DECORATING THE SANCTUARY

One: On this second Sunday of Advent, we see the sanctuary decorated with symbols that point us toward the hope we have in Jesus Christ. The greenery, the wreaths, the poinsettias, the tree, the lights, and the ornaments all have special meaning that remind us of the coming of the Lord.

All: As we are at work preparing this sanctuary, may God be at work preparing our hearts. Come, Lord Jesus!

One: We see wreaths of evergreen to signify the eternal reign of Jesus Christ.

All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

One: We see poinsettias, known as the Flower of the Holy Night, to signify the star of Bethlehem.
All: **Wise men followed a star to Bethlehem so that they might worship the new born Savior.**
One: We see a tree, adorned with lights, to signify the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him.
All: **Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."**
One: We hang Chrismons: stars, crosses, triangles, the "alpha" and the "omega" to remind us of the Trinity and the incarnation.
All: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**
One: We worship God and give thanks for the blessings of the coming King.
All: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

◆ HYMN NO. 134

Joy to the World!
Children process with Chrismons.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBER

Timothy Montgomery (at 11:00 service)

◆ PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!
All: **And also with you!**

Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbor

THE WORD

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Away in a Manger Medley
Handbell Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joshua 2:1-24

SERMON

Gospel in the Family Tree: Rahab

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

◆ DECLARATION OF FAITH

TAKEN FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (1983)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the Friendship Register in the pews. There is a virtual option for those who are worshipping online. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to open or find on our website under the Quick Links, Virtual Friendship Register. Want to get involved? Fill out and return a "Using Your Gifts" form in the Friendship Register.



LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

Name tags are available on the name tag cart in the Narthex. Please find yours and wear it on Sunday mornings, returning it before you leave. If yours is missing, please use a sticky badge and put your name on the 'I need a name tag' form.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN THE WESTMINSTER FAMILY?

Here's how you can do it.

1. Fill out a New Member Form and put it in the offering plate in the narthex. Forms are available at the Hospitality Table in the narthex, or you may fill one out online under the visitor tab at 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.



WAYS TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Church Pew Envelope: Place cash or check in the Pew Envelope and drop it in the Offering Plate in the narthex. Online: Click the "Give Now" button in the top right of our homepage wpccharleston.org. Text: "charlestonwpc" to 73256. Thank you for giving.

PRAYER REQUEST?

Leave your written requests in the basket next to the main sanctuary doors. WPC staff will pray for your request at our weekly meeting and throughout the week.

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL! 10:00 - 10:45 ALL OVER CAMPUS

- Children 0-2 Nursery.
- Children 3K-K, 1-2nd, and 3rd-5th classes meet in the Christian Education Building.
- Youth 6th-8th and 9th-12th grades meet in Covenant Hall.
- Adult Class Offerings
- Anchor Class (Christian Education Building)-Bible Study through 6-8 week studies. Currently the group is using the book called Following Jesus.
- Cary Grayson Class (Covenant Hall-Room 4)-This class works through the scriptures by chapter and verse!
- Jesus in the Gospel (Parlor/Admin. building) Book study utilizing the book Having Nothing, Possessing Everything by Michael Mather.

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL POTLUCK

TODAY following 11:00 a.m. Worship. All are welcome to a fried chicken luncheon in Covenant Hall following 11:00 a.m. worship the 2nd Sunday of each month. Cash donations for fried chicken welcome, bring a pot luck side or dessert to the kitchen during the Sunday School hour to share. Be filled with fellowship.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

Gather with friends and family of all ages for food and fellowship December 13, for Christmas Carols and Fun! Our dinner menu will be Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Vegetable and Dessert. See you at 6:00 p.m. Adults \$7, kids \$4 and a family cap of \$20 via cash, card or check.

GROUNDS PROJECTS

Two campus projects (tree work and repair/reseal/restripe asphalt) of the front parkway will be done Monday December 18th through 21st. During this time the right entrance and left exit will be barricaded. Vehicles, Food Pantry recipients and delivery trucks will be re-routed to the front entrance facing Sam Rittenberg. Staff and visitors may park on the side by Vivient Healthcare, or continue around the back of the property and park by the kitchen. Any groups meeting on campus during this time will be notified and instructed on alternate parking. Point of contact is Carole Russell (843-442-5276).

2023 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, 2023. In order to be recorded for 2023 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. 2023 Giving Statements can be accessed through 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 Tommye Owen at 843-766-8311, ext 105 or finance@wpccharleston.org. **For online givers, please make sure to update your "giving fund" to 2024 pledge starting in January. That drop down will be available by 1/1/2024. This is particularly important if you have set up for automatic weekly or monthly giving.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women are continuing with our women's undergarment ministry for the Leeds Avenue Detention Center. You can participate by donating a packet of white, regular briefs, in your own size so we get a variety of sizes for the Christmas collection. They can be dropped off at the church office until December 15. Questions? please contact Barbara Lundy at 843-607-2102.

GIFT OF WARMTH

Our mission partner, Mary Ford Early Childhood Center, is looking to help students keep warm on the playground. Needs include new or VERY gently used outer clothing (coats, sweaters, gloves, caps, and socks) sizes 2T-Children 8. Clothing can be dropped off in baskets located in the narthex. Thank you!

NEIGHBORS TOGETHER

Volunteer to help serve one of the hot meals during the week! We have a team who serves on the third Wednesday of the month, or you can register at www.neighborstogethersc.org. Email Jim Frye at fecr1@yahoo.com to receive emails about our regular Wednesday group.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Soap bars, small toothpaste tubes, individually packaged toothbrushes, and deodorant

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Westminster Presbyterian Church sponsors an AA group Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in Covenant Hall room 3. If you or someone you know is seeking support, please feel free to share this information.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NUMBERS

Mental Health Crisis Hotline 988

Community Resource and Support Hotline 211

My Sister's House (domestic abuse) (843) 744-3242

Al-Anon (843) 762-6999

Narcotics Anonymous (843) 852-3001

Wake-Up Carolina (support for families and individuals battling substance abuse) (843) 972-8154

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

December 17: The Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 Morning Worship: A special “Blue Christmas” service designed for those who aren’t feeling so joyful during the holidays.

11:00 Morning Worship; Lessons and Carols. A festival of readings and singing that point us to the Messiah’s birth.

December 24: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 Note the special time for morning worship! We’ll gather together in the morning for the final service of Advent worship. One service only, no Sunday School.

December 24: Christmas Eve

3:00 & 5:00 Two options to attend a Service for Families with Young Children. We recreate the nativity with help from the congregation and all the children who wish to participate. Costumes provided; it’s wiggly and wonderful.

7:00 Carols and Candlelight. A more reverent service with traditional carols, a sermon, and candle lighting.

December 31: The First Sunday of Christmas

9:00 & 11:00 Morning worship as we rejoice in the Savior’s birth and look forward to the New Year. 10:00 Fellowship time in lieu of Sunday school.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AND CALENDARS

Advent Calendars and devotionals are available in the Narthex. Devotional guides for your daily reading, a calendar for all ages with a question for journaling and/or discussion each day, and star stickers to help identify the days passing as we countdown to Christmas, celebrating the coming of Jesus.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING

When we think about what we are giving for Christmas, often we want to give something that is needed and celebrated. What if you could give gifts to your friends and family that you knew would do both? The WPC Alternative Gifts Catalogue will help you give gifts to WPC Mission Partners who have an established avenue for God’s missional work in our community and in the world. Catalogues and cards to ‘wrap’ are available in the Narthex.

Make checks out to Westminster Presbyterian Church with “Alternative Gifts Fair” in the memo line and fill out the (enclosed) Order Form to make sure your monies get sent to the correct mission partner. You can mail or drop off checks and forms to the Church Office OR you can gift online! Visit wpccharleston.org and click “Give Now” in the top right. Simply choose “Alternative Gift Fair” under the FUND tab. Please identify Mission Support in the memo section. When you make your donation, gift note cards and envelopes will be made available to you to wrap and give to friends, family, co-workers and neighbors. Your gift will make a difference in someone’s life.

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.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 10

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:00 pm	Chicken After Church Senior High Youth
12:00 pm	Second Sunday Lunch
5:00 pm	All Youth Angel Tree Shopping
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, December 11

10:00 am	Hooks and Needles
11:30 am	Presbyterian Village Luncheon

Tuesday, December 12

8:00 am	Men's Bible Study Breakfast Meeting
9:30 am	Charleston Atlantic Presbytery Meeting
10:00 am	Staff Meeting
7:00 pm	Handbell rehearsal

Wednesday, December 13

6:00 pm	Wonderful Wednesday
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Thursday, December 14

Friday, December 15

8:30 am	WPC Preschool Program
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Saturday, December 16

Sunday, December 17

9:00 am	Worship Service, Blue Christmas
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service, Lessons and Carols
5:00 pm	Mid-High Youth
6:00 pm	Senior High Youth
6:00 pm	Session Meeting
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

Cary Alexandre	Nikolai Fruth	Christina Miller	Rachel Singletary
Joyce Aydlette	Harold Fountain	Love Moody	Judy Tag
Daryn Barker	Bruce Hamilton	Roy Nickles	Bryan Thomas
Mary Ashley Barbot	Judy Hatch	Joe Nuchols	Towne Family
Gary Brooks	Megan Hatfield	Gary Payne	Gloria Underhill
Maryann Brown	Jennifer Holladay	Nancy Plowden	Dick Unger
Brian Carolow	Rev. Chris Huff	Suzy Pitsey	Maryalice Vann
Susie Cashion	Maurice Jackman	Brayden Preus	Nancy Waller
Lydia Crosby	Brenda Jonsson	Monnie Privette	Lisa Wilcox
Harper Croft	Journey/Campus Ministry	Reed Family	Laura Wilson
Sandi Daniels	Mildred Kennerly	Charles Reeves	Robbie Yarnall
Martin Davis	David Kerr	Nita Rodemann	Robin Zemp
Rose Derrick	Adam Kozel	Gloria Ricoma	EmpowHer Campus Ministries
Cynthia Ebigwei	Fran Ligon	Kevin Ritzel	
Will Edwards	Evan McMillian	Jim Seay	
Bob Ferguson	Frances McLean	Dave Stanton	
Pat Finn	John Martschink	Mark Stender	
Edward Fitzgibbon	Mary Martschink	Ginger Stoke	

PRAYER LIST UPDATED DECEMBER 2023

If you need to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please email Suzann at office@wpccharleston.org

College Student of the Week	Friend of the Week	Mission of the Week	Church Family
Skylar Frasier Winthrop University PO Box 8185 2020 Alumni Drive Rock Hill, SC 29733	Robbie Yarnall 1355 Pinellas Bayway S Apt 2 Tierra Verde, FL 33715-2137	Food Pantry	David and Donna Purcell Gloria Purcell

WESTMINSTER SESSION MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES

Administration: Tom Whetstone and Matthew Patrick; **Buildings and Grounds:** Matt Teitsort and Randy Davis; **Christian Education:** Lindy Coleman and Laura Patrick; **Fellowship:** Jonathan Bazzle, Betsy McLaughlin, and Mike Niblock; **Finance:** Norman Hook and Chuck Towne; **Membership:** Beth Georgen and John Dounian; **Missions:** Dee Bee Wright and Mary McAbee; **Preschool:** Abbie Mobley; **Worship:** Allyn Bruce and Ashley Snider; **Clerk:** Carole Russell; **Assistant Clerk:** Lindy Coleman; **Treasurer:** Nancy Dixon; **Assistant Treasurer:** Patty Stokes

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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