



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

The First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

9:00 a.m.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

The Gentry Family

One: We begin the season of Advent with expectant and believing hearts.

All: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

One: During Advent we confront the darkness that so often exists around us.

All: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

One: During Advent we confront the doubt that so often resides within us.

All: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

One: During Advent we confront the division that so often occurs between us.

All: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

◆ PRAYER (UNISON)

Gracious God, as we embark upon another Advent journey, we pray that we would be encouraged by hope, strengthened in unity, and inspired through faith. May our ears be open and our hearts ready to receive the gift of hope embodied in the Word made flesh. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.

◆ ADVENT SONG NO. 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(verses 1,2,6,&7)

CONFESSION

◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

Lord, have mercy on us.

We are not ready for your coming.

We live in sin as though there is no justice.

We live in fear as though there is no grace.

We live in despair as though there is no hope.

Forgive us, Lord.

Show us your mercy and steadfast love.

Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths,

for you are our hope and the God of our salvation. Amen

◆ SILENT PRAYERS

◆ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 447 We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Chris Lynch; Logan Winkles

◆ 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

Claire Winkles

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:1-17
Genesis 38

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 1
PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 35

SERMON

Gospel in the Family Tree: Tamar

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 102 Savior of the Nations, Come

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

◆ INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM THE NICENE CREED (381)

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 at 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.

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

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER

◆ SONG NO. 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

SENDING OUT

◆ BLESSING AND RESPONSE

We sing together: He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
Hallelujah forevermore.

◆ Please stand, if able

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY: Daniel Smoak, Pastor, Lissa Long, Pastor; Nancy Parrish, Music.

Acolyte: Thomas Robinson

Ushers: Dee Bee Wright*, John Wright, Robinson Family

11:00 am Livestream at www.wpcharleston.org, YouTube (Westminster Presbyterian Charleston)

You may also listen to the weekly sermon by utilizing *Sermon By Phone* and calling 843-252-0146.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI License #2778901

*The flowers today in the narthex are given to the glory of God and in honor of the
worship prep class of 2023 taking part in their first communion.*

Today we celebrate with the Worship Prep Students who are completing their study with Dee Bee Wright and their parents. They've been learning all about worship and will be sharing the Lord's Supper today. Students are:

Natalie Bauer, Reid Baker, Travis Baker, Piper Boyd, John Christian, V., Elsie Crosby, Alexis Davis, Caroline Ferguson, Jack Frazier, Lana Kuenzel, Graham Ludwig, Irene Mills, Emma McCullough, Henry Mobley, Hattie Parrish, Ann Robinson, Cameron Shepard, Thomas Robinson, Wyatt Teitsort, Elizabeth Wade.

TODAY WE SHARE THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

All who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to share in the bread and the cup. Elders will serve the congregation seated in the pews; please hold the elements and we will partake together. WPC is a safe place for those in recovery- we serve grape juice only. Gluten free bread is available in the center of the juice tray. Children are invited to the table provided they've had instruction at home or in Westminster's worship prep class (1st grade).

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.



WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

Gather with friends and family of all ages for food and fellowship December 6, along with guest speaker from the Lowcountry Food Bank. Our dinner menu will be Salad, Chicken or Shrimp Alfredo, Vegetable and Dessert. See you at 6:00 p.m. WiNK (for children 4 years old-5th grade) will also be meeting! Nursery provided. Adults \$7, kids \$4 and a family cap of \$20 via cash, card or check.

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL POTLUCK

Sunday, December 10! 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.

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.

ANGEL TREE

Westminster's goal this year is to provide gifts to 125 students at Mary Ford Early Childhood Center. All of the children are between the ages of 4-5. Please select an angel in the narthex, and place your name on the sign-up sheet indicating your selection. (i.e. boy or girl along with the age of the child selected). This information is provided on the angel. Put your unwrapped gifts in a gift bag and bring them to the church by December 10th. Please affix your angel on the gift bag as that becomes the gift tag for your child's gift. You may also make a contribution with a check (memo; angel tree) or online at wpccharleston.org. Choose the 'Give Now' option, then 'Angel Tree' on the drop-down menu.

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.
- WoW Women's Study (Covenant Hall-Library)-Book study utilizing the book Daughters of Grace.

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!

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.

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.

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 their 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.

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.neighborstogether.org.

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.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

December 3: The First Sunday of Advent

9:00 & 11:00 Morning Worship; The Lord's Supper

December 10: The Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 & 11:00 Morning Worship
Children Hang the Chrismons

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.

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 (up next week) 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 3

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
3:00 pm	SAMS Christmas Drop-In
4:00 pm	Club 3,4,5
5:00 pm	Mid High Youth
6:00 pm	Senior High Youth
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, December 4

Tuesday, December 5

10:00 am	Staff Meeting
7:00 pm	Handbell rehearsal

Wednesday, December 6

6:00 pm	Wonderful Wednesday
6:30 pm	WiNK
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Thursday, December 7

Friday, December 8

Saturday, December 9

Sunday, December 10

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

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

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

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
Molly Kerr	Ginnie Yarborough	Thornwell Home for Children	Charlie and Meg Powell
15 Kelsey Lane	1600 Dickens Street	302 South Broad Street	Gail Puffenbarger
Bluffton, SC 29910-4556	Charleston, SC 29407	Clinton, SC 29405	

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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Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Smoak, Pastor, dsmoak@wpccharleston.org

Rev. Lissa Long, Associate Pastor, mlong@wpccharleston.org

Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, cwinkles@wpccharleston.org

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Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator finance@wpccharleston.org

Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, preschool@wpccharleston.org

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