



# Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 2025

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

#### ◆ SONG OF PREPARATION NO. 137

He Came Down

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.

#### ◆ LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

The Daniels Family

One: In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

All: We see hope when we look to the next generation.

We feel hopeful when we gather together.

We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.

One: Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us.

All: Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

*The Candle of Hope is lighted.*

One: Thanks be to God!

All: Amen.

#### ◆ SONG OF PRAISE NO. 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

### CONFESSION

#### ◆ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

Ever-present God,

we long to feel you close.

We long to feel your presence in our lives.

We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.

However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst.

Forgive our rushing and distractions.

Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space.

Remind us that even in the time of Herod,

even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

*-Silent Personal Confession -*

## ◆DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

One: Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence,  
even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world,  
God is always moving closer to us.  
Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

All: **Nothing can keep God's love away.**

**We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.**

## ◆SONG OF RESPONSE

Gloria!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

## ◆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

Bobbie Jean Whittington

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:5-13

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 56

SERMON

In the Time of Herod

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## ◆SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 102

Savior of the Nations, Come

## ◆DECLARATION OF FAITH

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars.  
We have seen the longest night, and *still* we believe.  
We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow.  
We believe that good news is louder than fear.  
We believe this good news is for all people.  
So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles,  
even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.  
We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst.  
We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: *Unto us, love is born.*  
We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love.  
So *still*, we believe. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

## SENDING OUT

### ◆ SONG NO. 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

### ◆ BLESSING AND RESPONSE

*We sing together:*

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed to us; His name is called Em-man-u-el!**

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Portions of today's liturgy are created by Rev. Sarah Are Speed; Sanctified Art

◆ Please stand, if able

### **LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY:**

Daniel Smoak, Pastor;

Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate;

Nancy Parrish, Pianist

Acolyte: Evan Ford

Ushers: Joe Jeter, Laura Nunn, Sherry Niblock

11:00 Livestream at [www.wpccharleston.org](http://www.wpccharleston.org), YouTube (Westminster Presbyterian Charleston)  
Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI License #2778901

*The rosebud in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God in celebration of the birth  
of Daphne McKenzie Moody, born November 24, 2025 to parents Matt and Riviere Moody.*

### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP! ALL ARE WELCOME**

We are called to be and to make disciples who love God and who love our neighbors. We are all neighbors no matter our age, race, language, culture, gifts and challenges, gender identity, or sexual orientation. We strive to be a safe and supportive community where all people are included, celebrated, and loved as we grow as disciples together.

### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP! LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE**

Please take a moment to sign and pass the Friendship Register in the pews. If you are visiting and wish to learn more about Westminster, leave your contact information. If you are interested in becoming a member, check 'wish to join' and a pastor will be in touch with you.

**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.

### **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.

### **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](http://wpccharleston.org). Text: "charlestonwpc" to 73256.  
Thank you for giving.

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

Here's how you can do it. 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](http://wpccharleston.org) or using the QR code. 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. 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. 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.



## **TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT!**

You are invited to pick up your advent devotionals in the narthex. For adults, there is one that corresponds with the Sermon Series. For families, there is one that is age appropriate for children. Make a commitment to prepare your hearts for Christmas!

## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER**

### **What Do You Fear? An Advent and Christmas Sermon Series**

#### **November 30: The First Sunday of Advent**

*Luke 1:5-13 In the Time of Herod, We Long for God to Break in*

#### **December 7: The Second Sunday of Advent: The children hang the chrismons.**

*Matthew 11:1-11 Is it Hopeless? When We Are Running Out of Hope, God Is at Work*

#### **December 15: The Third Sunday of Advent : Lessons and Carols**

*Luke 1:26-39 The Angel Visits Mary: Even in Our Fear, We Are Called Forward*

#### **December 22: The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Matthew 1:18-25 The Angel Visits Joseph: When You're Afraid, Give Me Your Hand*

#### **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. *Luke 2:1- The Angels Declare a Good News that Is Louder Than Fear.*

#### **December 28: One worship service at 10:00. No Sunday School.**

*Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 Fleeing to Egypt: Let Fear Fuel a Fire for Justice*

#### **January 4: One worship service at 10:00. No Sunday School.**

*Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18 The Magi: Fear Doesn't Stop Us*

## **ANGEL TREE**

Help a Mary Ford student have a joyful Christmas! The Angel Tree will appear in the Narthex on Sunday, November 30th. You can help in one of two ways: 1) Select an Angel (labeled by age, the children are between 4 & 5, and gender) from the Angel Tree in the Narthex. Purchase gifts accordingly. Gifts should go unwrapped in a gift bag with the Angel tag attached and placed under the tree by Friday, December 12 **OR** 2) Put a check in the offering plate or go to [wpccharleston.org](http://wpccharleston.org), select "Give" in the top right corner, then select "Angel Tree" from the drop down menu to make a donation and the Youth Group can shop for you. Do not choose an Angel if you're making a monetary donation.

## **POINSETTIAS**

If you would like to help beautify our sanctuary for this year's Advent and Christmas season through the gift of one or more poinsettias, please complete a Poinsettia order form located in both the friendship pad and the narthex. The cost is \$20 per poinsettia and payment can be made by attaching check or cash to the completed form and placing it in the offering plate or dropping it by the church office. Poinsettias will be placed on the chancel for the December 7 service and may be picked up following the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 7, 2024.

## **COMBINED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING ADVENT: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!**

We'll view and discuss portions of the classic movie It's a Wonderful Life.

It's a Wonderful Life is one of the most popular and heartwarming films ever made. Its near universal appeal and association with Christmas has provided a rich story of redemption that has inspired generations for decades. Set on Christmas Eve in a post-World War II small town, it tells a story of the likable and selfless George Bailey, a small-town banker who suffers scandal and ruin not of his own making only to be saved in the final act through intervention by God, family, and friends. There's no better time than Christmas to be reminded that every human life has value, and that true wealth - spiritual wealth - comes from a right relationship with God and selfless love toward others.

Everyone is invited. November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 in Covenant Hall at 10:00.

### SAMS UPCOMING EVENTS

- Christmas Drop-In December 7, 2025 at 3:00pm at Pastor Priscilla's house (43 South Hampton Drive, Charleston, SC 29407 in Sandhurst neighborhood). Bring a sweet or savory treat to share. Christmas sing-along at 4pm!

### CIRCLE 4 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS UNDERWEAR DRIVE

The Presbyterian Women's Circles will once again participate in the Christmas women's underwear drive for the Leeds Avenue Detention Center. Circle members are asked to participate by donating a pack of **WHITE ONLY**, regular, cotton briefs (in their own size so that we get a variety of sizes). Underwear can be dropped off at the church office until the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. If you have any questions please contact Barbara Lundy at (843) 607-2102.

### ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH W.E. PACK!

We have officially kicked off another year of snacks (Weekend Eats) for students! After supper on the first Wednesday of every month, we take about 30-45 minutes to pack snack kits for Goodwin and Mary Ford students who are facing weekend food insecurity. We pack enough for 300 students a week to go home with a bag of nutritious snacks. It is a fun and meaningful mission opportunity for all ages. You can support this important ministry financially. The cost to send snacks home for one child for the month is \$10 or \$90 for the year! Make checks payable to WPC and marked "WePack" or on the WPC website. Click "Give" and choose WEPack on the drop-down menu. Thanks!

### JOIN US FOR WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY!

Gather with friends and family of all ages for food and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. Feliz Navidad! It's Taco Night this week! Adults \$8, children \$4 and a family cap of \$25 via cash, card or check.

### YOU'RE INVITED! "HOLY GROUNDS" SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7; 9:45- 10:15AM IN COVENANT HALL

Join us for Holy Grounds, a new monthly gathering during the Sunday School hour, hosted by the deacons! This casual time of coffee, conversation (and pastries!) is designed to welcome new members and invite existing members who want to meet others, get more involved in the life of the church, and build meaningful connections. Our next session is Sunday, December 7 just prior to It's a Wonderful Life adult Sunday School. Come for the coffee, stay for the fellowship!

### READ GOOD BOOKS IN 2025!

On December 21, we'll discuss Fleming Rutledge's *Advent*. In her collection of writings and sermons, Rutledge will help us get ready. As the midnight of the Christian year, the season of Advent is rife with dark, gritty realities. In this book, with her trademark wit and wisdom, Rutledge explores Advent as a time of rich paradoxes, a season celebrating at once Christ's incarnation and his second coming, and she masterfully unfolds the ethical and future-oriented significance of Advent for the church. We'll read prescribed portions of the book in preparation for discussion on Sunday December 21 at 4:00. Books are \$25 and available in the narthex.

### PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Attention Parents! Save the date for our annual "Parent's Night Out" on December 7th from 5:00-7:00. Please bring your children to the church for a night of fun and fellowship and head out for a date night or just simply relax for a few hours at home! There will be a sign up with limited spots, so be sure to sign up today using the QR Code below!



We need your help with the service project portion of our night! We invite the congregation to bring in items for the food pantry (not bagged) so our children attending this event can work together with youth to sort pantry items and create Christmas cards to stuff in the bags! Please bring some items from the list below and drop it off on the table marked "Parent's Night Out Service Project" in Covenant Hall. The deadline to drop off pantry items is December 7th at 5:00 p.m. Westminster's Youth Group thanks you for your generosity!

Items to bring: Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Chef Boyardee, Peanut Butter, Dried Beans, Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Baked beans or pork and beans, Canned soup, Spaghetti noodles, Rice, Cereal(hot/cold), Canned fruit, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash(travel size), Travel Deodorant

### GIFT MAKING WORKSHOP

On December 13th we will have our annual gift making workshop in the Covenant Hall from 9:00-11:00a.m.! First through fifth graders are invited to sign up and join us to create and wrap Christmas gifts for their loved ones. There is only room for 25 children, so sign up quickly using the QR code below. We look forward to seeing you there!



Volunteer Opportunity- If you would like to host a gift making station, please email Claire Winkles at [cwinkles@wpccharleston.org](mailto:cwinkles@wpccharleston.org)



### THE NARTHEX IS FILLING UP WITH WPC DISCIPLES WHO ARE WALKING WITH JESUS!

Jesus is over the entry into the sanctuary, and he's holding hands with everyone who has returned their 2026 Estimates of Giving. For every card returned or online response we get, another "person" will appear connected to and walking with Jesus. Your gifts make a difference, and your participation strengthens our faithful response to God's call for our church. Make your commitment with the card in the Friendship Pad or on the WPC website. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness!!

## *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, November 30

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
5:00 pm	Youth Group, JI Festival of Lights
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

### Monday, December 1

6:00 pm	Troop 79 Leadership Meeting, Covenant Hall
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### Tuesday, December 2

10:00 am	Staff Meeting
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### Wednesday, December 3

6:00 pm	Wonderful Wednesday, Covenant Hall
6:30 pm	WePack, Covenant Hall
6:30 pm	Handbell Choir
7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

### Thursday, December 4

### Friday, December 5

### Saturday, December 6

9:00 am	Deacons Create Christmas Cards for Hope Team, Covenant Hall
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### Sunday, December 7

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:10 pm	CE Committee Meeting, Library
12:15 pm	Worship Committee Meeting, Parlor
2:00 pm	Lori Jacques Piano Recital, Sanctuary
5:00 pm	SAMS Christmas Drop-in, Pastor Priscilla's House
5:00 pm	Youth Lead Parent's Night Out
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT NUMBERS

Al-Anon (843) 762-6999

Community Resource and Support Hotline 211

Neighbors Together (843) 747-1788

Narcotics Anonymous (843) 852-3001

Mental Health Crisis Hotline 988

PostPartumsupportchas.org

## WESTMINSTER PRAYS

Cary Alexandre (WPC)	Margaret Ellen Hamman (Suzanne Fox)	Julie Pell (Sandy & Debbie Pell)
Daryn Baker (Jane Acker)	Janie Hammersmith (WPC)	Crystal Pluck (Jennifer Binnicker)
Mary Ashley Barbot (Lisa Couch)	Megan Hatfield (Debbie McQueeney)	Pratt Family (WPC Preschool)
Ron Booth (WPC)	Betsy Henson (Ashley Snider)	Donna Purcell (WPC)
Sissie Brigman (WPC)	Anna Hewitt (Dee Bee Wright)	Stan Rich (Suzanne & Tim Fox)
Allyn Bruce (WPC)	Charlie Howell (Debbie Baskin)	Nita Rodemann (WPC)
Diane Byers (Deb Frasier)	Chris Huff (Gloria Purcell)	Cliff & Liz Shelor (WPC)
Susie Cashion (WPC)	Janssen Family (WPC)	Tradd Shepard (WPC)
Lauren Choate (Sara Dwyer)	Emerson Jones (Molly Griggs)	Rachel Singletary (Sara Bobo)
Pat Coggins (WPC)	Lynn Koger (WPC)	The Jerry Smoak Family (WPC)
Cherie Couche (Dana Tumbleston)	Mary Laird (Ashley Snider)	Ray Thomas (Sara Dwyer)
Lydia Crosby (WPC)	Fran Ligon (WPC)	Towne Family (WPC)
Martin Davis (Kevin Mikles)	Jane Livingston (Tom Livingston)	Gloria Underhill (Laura Nunn)
Rose Derrick (Brenda Clarey)	Ray Long (Ellen Bollinger)	Kathy Unger (Keith Gordon)
Hosanna Eadie (Katie Baturin)	John Martschink (WPC)	Jacqueline Vance (Sara Dwyer)
Roxanne Eadie (Katie Baturin)	Mary Martschink (WPC)	Mark Warner (Kendall Ramsay)
Ann Farrar (Beth Georgen)	Jay Massalon (Dana Tumbleston)	Tom Whetstone (WPC)
Ellen Farrar (Beth Georgen)	David McEachern (Debra Luhn)	Aileen Wiese (WPC)
Edward Fitzgibbon (Joan Frye)	Gavin McLeod (Dana Tumbleston)	Janet Wilson (Gloria Purcell)
Randleson Floyd/Daniels (Gloria Purcell)	Marley Miller (Dee Bee Wright)	Betty Winter (Dee Bee Wright)
Harold Fountain (Henry Shepard)	Abbie Mobley (WPC)	Robbie Yarnall (WPC)
Joan Frye (WPC)	Moody Family (WPC)	
Keith Gordon (WPC)	Jennifer Morgan (Susie Cashion)	
	Joe Nuchols (Debbie McQueeney)	

## PRAYER LIST UPDATED NOVEMBER 2025

If you need to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please email [office@wpccharleston.org](mailto:office@wpccharleston.org)

Friend of the Week	Mission of the Week	Student of the Week	Church Family
Mrs. Robbie Yarnall	Neighbors Together	Corbett Housley	Tradd & Caroline Shepard
1355 Pinellas Bayway S, Apt 2	2105 Cosgrove Avenue	3288 Plow Ground Rd.	Jett
Tierra Verde, FL 33715-2137	N. Charleston, SC 29405	Johns Island, SC 29455	

## ELDERS AND SESSION COMMITTEES

**Administration:** Michael Patrick and Paul Patrick; **Buildings and Grounds:** Randy Davis and Tim Fox; **Christian Education:** Cathy Grills and Kevin Mikles; **Fellowship:** Jon Bazzle, Janie Bruce and Michael Scruggs; **Finance:** Sarah Schumann and Joshua Robinson; **Membership:** John Dounian and Cameron Baker; **Missions:** Mary McAbee and Natasha Akery; **Preschool:** Ashley Snider; **Worship:** Allyn Bruce and Deborah-Anne Ferguson; **Clerk:** Carole Russell; **Assistant Clerk:** Cathy Grills  
**Treasurer:** Tim Fox

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1157 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard  
Charleston, SC 29407  
[www.wpccharleston.org](http://www.wpccharleston.org) (843) 766-8311

Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Smoak, Pastor, [dsmoak@wpccharleston.org](mailto:dsmoak@wpccharleston.org)  
Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate, [pwholtz@gmail.com](mailto:pwholtz@gmail.com)  
Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, [cwinkles@wpccharleston.org](mailto:cwinkles@wpccharleston.org)  
Sarah Shayban, Director of Music, [sshayban@wpccharleston.org](mailto:sshayban@wpccharleston.org)  
Kate Cowart, Office Administrator, [office@wpccharleston.org](mailto:office@wpccharleston.org)  
Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator [finance@wpccharleston.org](mailto:finance@wpccharleston.org)  
Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, [preschool@wpccharleston.org](mailto:preschool@wpccharleston.org)  
Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, [mdorsel@wpccharleston.org](mailto:mdorsel@wpccharleston.org)