



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 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 peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

◆ LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

The Crosby Family

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

All: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

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

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

May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present.
We only have to look for it.

The Candle of Peace is lighted.

One: Thanks be to God!

All: Amen.

◆ ADVENT SONG NO. 82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

At this time, youth and children who want to participate in the hanging of 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.

(Continued)

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!

◆ SONG NO. 134

Joy to the World!

Children process with chrismons.

◆ 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

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Dee Bee Wright, Cymbells

Kurt Meyer

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 11:1-11

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 11

SERMON

Is It Hopeless?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

◆ INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

◆ AFFIRMATION 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.

PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

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.

◆ SONG NO. 105

People, Look East

◆ 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!**

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;
Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries

Nancy Parrish, Pianist

Acolytes: Annie Robinson, Everett Daniels

Ushers: Dee Bee and John Wright, Robinson Family

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

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

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. 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 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 WE CELEBRATE 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; you may partake as soon as you are served. 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).

WORSHIP PREP DISCIPLES

Today we celebrate with Worship Prep Students Everett Daniels and Eleanor Barfield 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. We are proud of these students and the other 9 who took part in the class this year.

TODAY IS THE SECOND 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 heart for Christmas!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

What Do You Fear? An Advent and Christmas Sermon Series

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, 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 beginning today and may be picked up following the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. The deadline for ordering is today!

YOU'RE INVITED! "HOLY GROUNDS" TODAY; 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. We will meet this morning just prior to It's a Wonderful Life adult Sunday School. Come for the coffee, stay for the fellowship!

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. December 7, 14, and 21 in Covenant Hall at 10:00.

SAMS UPCOMING EVENTS

- Christmas Drop-In today 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!

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Attention Parents! Tonight is our annual "Parents' Night Out" 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 "Parents' Night Out Service Project" in Covenant Hall. The deadline to drop off pantry items is this evening 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

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 15th of December. If you have any questions please contact Barbara Lundy at (843) 607-2102.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEETS THIS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

Men of all ages: Join us for Breakfast and Bible Study from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9th. We are meeting for breakfast at Trotters Restaurant at Town and Country Inn and Suites (2008 Savannah Highway). Pastor Daniel will be leading-continuing our study of Revelation. Join us for the Fellowship and Encouragement!

JOIN US FOR WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY!

Gather with friends and family of all ages for food and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. This week is chicken & waffles! Adults \$8, children \$4 and a family cap of \$25 via cash, card or check.

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.

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



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 7

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:10 pm	CE Committee Meeting, Library
2:00 pm	Lori Jacques Piano Recital, Sanctuary
3:00 pm	SAMS Christmas Drop-in, Pastor Priscilla's House
5:00 pm	Youth Lead Parents' Night Out
7:00 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, December 8

10:00 am	Hooks & Needles, Covenant Hall
5:15 pm	APNC Meeting, Parlor

Tuesday, December 9

8:00 am	Men's Bible Study, Trotters Restaurant
10:00 am	Staff Meeting
10:30 am	Circle 5 Meeting, Parlor
10:00 am	Circle 4 Meeting, Covenant Hall
5:30 pm	Exchange Club of Charleston Meeting, Covenant Hall

Wednesday, December 10

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

Thursday, December 11

10:00 am	Lowcountry Smockers Guild, Covenant Hall
1:30 pm	SAMS Night of a Thousand Candles Trip

Friday, December 12

Saturday, December 13

9:00 am	Children's Christmas Gift Making Workshop, Covenant Hall
1:00 pm	Jerry Adams Memorial Service, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 14

9:00 am	Worship Service, Lessons and Carols
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service, Lessons and Carols
12:00 pm	Second Sunday Social, Covenant Hall
2:00 pm	Sarah Shayban Piano Recital, Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Deacons' Christmas Cookie Exchange, Covenant Hall
5:00 pm	Youth Angel Tree Shopping
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

Friend of the Week	Mission of the Week	Student of the Week	Church Family
Pat Coggins	Metanoia	Izzy Justice	Diane Sloan
201 W. 9 th North Street	2005 Reynolds Avenue	PO Box 7207	
Summerville, SC 29483	N. Charleston, SC 29405	2020 Alumni Drive	
		Rock Hill, SC 29733	

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

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Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate, pwholtz@gmail.com
Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, cwinkles@wpccharleston.org
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