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

November 29, 2026 **9:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

♦ LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE — EMMA & DAVID ALLEN HERBERT, CLAIRE WINKLES & GREG CRENSHAW

One: We wait for the coming of the Lord with hope.
All: Come, Lord Jesus!
One: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
All: We wait for you with expectation. Come, Lord Jesus!

♦ ADVENT SONG NO. 88 — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Verses 1,2,6 & 7

CONFESSION

♦ CONFESSING OUR SIN AND BROKENNESS

One: We wait for the coming of the Lord with hope.
All: Come, Lord Jesus!
One: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
All: We wait for you with expectation. Come, Lord Jesus!

-Silent Personal Confession-

♦ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

♦ SONG OF RESPONSE — Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

♦ 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 — Mary, Did You Know
Spencer Bruce, Jillian Ramsay, Lauren Cook

SCRIPTURE LESSON — Luke 1:26-38 — PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 56

SERMON — Make Room

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

♦ SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 134 — Joy to the World!

♦ DECLARATION 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.

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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION AND OFFERING

Moment for Mission

Offerings of Time, Talent, and Treasure

Bring your offering to the offering plates as we sing

♦ Song of Response — 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.

♦ Prayer of Dedication

♦ SONG NO. 104 — O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

SENDING OUT

♦ 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!

♦ *Please stand, if able*

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY:

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate;
Janie Bruce, Director of Adult Discipleship; Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries

Nancy Parrish, Pianist

Acolyte: Evan Ford; Ushers: Joe Jeter, Laura Nunn, Sherry Niblock

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

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.

TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT!

There are advent devotional guides for children in the narthex. For adults (or anyone with an email address), make sure you are subscribed to the WPC ENews. You'll receive daily devotionals, written by WPC disciples, in your inbox every morning. If you are not already receiving the ENews and want to receive devotionals, use the QR code to subscribe to the Tuesday ENews.

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. Want to know more? Sign up for the weekly E-News at wpccharleston.org or by using the QR code.

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.

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 center aisle.
Online: Click the "Give Now" button in the top right of our homepage wpccharleston.org. Text: "charlestonwpc" to 73256.
Thank you for giving.

TIME OF OFFERING

At WPC, we have a Time of Offering during worship. As followers of Christ, we are called to offer more than our financial gifts. In worship, we bring our whole selves—our time, talents, resources, prayers, and lives—to God in grateful response to his grace. Each week a brief Moment for Mission will highlight how Westminster is living out our mission in the community and around the world. You will then be invited to place your offering envelope, prayer requests, personal commitments, or kid's artwork in the offering plates (located in the aisles) as we sing the Doxology and offer a Prayer of Dedication. Prayer requests will be shared with the staff and faithfully lifted in prayer throughout the week. Artwork will be posted on the bulletin board in Covenant Hall.

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. 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 Connections 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

THE NARTHEX IS FILLING UP WITH WPC DISCIPLES WHO ARE CONNECTED IN CHRIST!

All the puzzle pieces are coming together as WPC disciples are making their commitments by returning their 2027 Estimates of Giving. For every card returned or online response we get, another puzzle piece will appear. So far, we have received 158 cards for a total of $809,308. 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!!

SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS:

Adult Sunday School through Advent, beginning today at 10:00 in Covenant Hall

Christmas is coming, and music is an important part of the season! Here at Westminster we will be singing both Advent and Christmas hymns, many of which are so familiar that we don't even need the words in front of us. During Advent, our adult Sunday school will be looking at the hymns that will be a part of our worship. We'll look at the history, the scriptural references, and talk about why we sing these hymns, some of which date from 400 AD, and some of which are only 200 years old. Come join us in Covenant Hall as we enjoy learning about the music that is such an important part of our worship!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER:

Joy to the World! An Advent and Christmas Sermon Series

TODAY The First Sunday of Advent Luke 1:26-38 Make Room
"Let every heart prepare him room" Advent begins by making room for Christ–like Mary, we receive God's disruptive invitation with faith.

December 6 The Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 24:36-44 Second Advent
"Joy to the earth, the Savior Reigns" We get ready for the promised return of Jesus: where all things will be made new.
**The children will hang the chrismons at 9:00 and 11:00.*

December 13 The Third Sunday of Advent Romans 8:18-39 Far as the Curse is Found
"He comes to make his blessings flow...far as the curse is found". The redemption provided in Jesus outdistances the effects of the curse he breaks.

December 20 Lessons and Carols *A simple service at 9 and a service with choir and special music at 11

December 24 Christmas Eve John 1:1-18 Truth and Grace
"He rules the world with truth and grace" The reign of Christ is characterized by truth, and grace.

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.

YOU'RE INVITED! "HOLY GROUNDS" *SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6; 9:45- 10:15AM IN COVENANT HALL*

Join us for Holy Grounds, a 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 6 just prior to adult Sunday School. Come for the coffee, stay for the fellowship!

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. Payment can be made on Realm by using the QR code or by attaching a 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 6 service and may be picked up following the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 6, 2026.

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 new, unopened pack of **PLAIN WHITE** (no colors or designs), 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 13th of December. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Lundy or the church office.

SAVE THE DATES:

- SAMS: Mepkin Abbey Creche Festival, December 3. Sign-up is posted in Admin. Building.
- SAMS: Christmas Drop-In and Caroling: December 6, 3-5pm at Pastor Priscilla's home 43 South Hampton, Charleston SC 29407. Please bring your favorite holiday treat to share!

BOOK CLUB: DECEMBER 6 AT 12:15PM

Join us for lunch as we discuss the book *A Red Bird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg. This will be a casual (dutch treat) lunch and chat about this month's book. We'll meet at TBonz West Ashley immediately following 11:00 worship. RSVP's are not required but are appreciated by the Friday before Book Club. Contact Janie Bruce for more information. jbruce@wpccharleston.org

TABLE TALK WITH THE SMOAKS

Second Tuesday of each month*; *6:30 p.m. at The Garden by Charles Towne Fermentory

Looking for a relaxed evening of good conversation? Join **Pastor Daniel and Amy Smoak** for **Table Talk**, a casual gathering where everyone is welcome. Whether you're new to the church, have been here for years, or are simply looking for a place to ask questions and connect with others, we'd love to have you. We'll gather on the **second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.** at **The Garden by Charles Towne Fermentory** (1331 Ashley River Road).

Upcoming Dates: December 8

We'll have a general topic each night, but bring your thoughts and questions. The conversation is informal, and there's always room for whatever is on your mind. Drinks are available for purchase, there are tables for food you bring or have delivered, and plenty of space for kids to romp. We hope you'll pull up a chair and join us!

QUARTERS EVERY QUARTER!

- Celebrate generosity: Our last collection brought in more than 40 pounds of change (that's $545!) for WePack!
- Get involved: Pick up a free collection bank in the narthex and collect quarters and other spare change throughout the quarter.
- Mark your calendar: Our next collection is December 13, and proceeds will support The Blessing Box**.**
- Practice stewardship at home: Use your collection bank as a simple way to talk about generosity and giving with your family.

WESTMINSTER FAMILY RETREAT AT BETHELWOODS: JANUARY 15-17, 2027

Families of all shapes and sizes are invited to join us at Bethelwoods Camp as we explore Building Faithful Families together. We will learn about what tools we need to help incorporate faith into our daily lives through a variety of different spiritual practices. Cost is $100 per person with a $400 maximum per family. Registration is limited. Please contact Claire Winkles cwinkles@wpccharleston.org or Janie Bruce jbruce@wpccharleston.org for more information.

ALL YOUTH ANGEL TREE SHOPPING; Sunday, December 13 5:00-7:00pm

We'll be heading up to Target to do our annual Angel Tree Shopping trip. We will meet at Westminster, ride over to Target to shop, and return with gifts that will be donated to Mary Ford Elementary. Please sign your youth up to help by using the QR code.

ANGEL TREE

Help make Christmas joyful for a Mary Ford student! Select an Angel from the tree in the Narthex (labeled by age and gender). **Unwrapped gifts should be placed in a gift bag with the Angel tag attached and returned under the tree by Sunday, December 13.** Prefer to donate? Place a check in the offering plate or give online from the Give Now link on our website and selecting Angel Tree. The Youth Group will shop for you! (Please do not select an Angel if making a monetary donation.)

WESTMINSTER PRESCHOOL IS HIRING A NEW DIRECTOR!

As we look ahead to the summer of 2027 and the retirement of our longtime, beloved Director, Alicia Crosby, we are actively searching for the next person to lead Westminster Preschool. We are grateful for Alicia's many years of dedicated service and the wonderful foundation she has built. We look forward to welcoming applications from those who feel called to lead, nurture, and serve our preschool community. More information about the position is available on the "Hiring" tab at wpscharleston.org

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

All *W*omen *o*f *W*estminster are invited to celebrate the Christmas season together. Bring an ornament to exchange and a light snack to share. Saturday, December 12 5:00-7:00pm at the home of Sarah Schumann. Please use the link or QR code to RSVP via Realm or send your info to Janie Bruce.

WoW Christmas Ornament Exchange Party

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, November 29

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
4:00 pm	Vision 2050 Team Meeting, Pastor Daniel's Office
5:00 pm	Youth Group Led Parents' Night Out
7:30 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, November 30

Tuesday, December 1

10:00 am	Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 2

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

Thursday, December 3

Friday, December 4

Saturday, December 5

Sunday, December 6

9:00 am	Worship Service
9:45 am	Holy Grounds, Covenant Hall
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:10 pm	CE Committee Meeting, Library
12:15 pm	Worship Committee Meeting, Parlor
12:30 pm	WPC Book Club, TBonz
4:00 pm	Lori Jacques Piano Recital, Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Youth Leadership Team Meeting, Covenant Hall
5:00 pm	Youth Group
5:00 pm	Mahjong Fellowship, Room 15 (Preschool)
7:30 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

The Alexandre Family (WPC)
Daryn Baker (Jane Acker)
Mary Ashley Barbot (Lisa Couch)
Bob & Angelle Beaty (WPC)
The Boyd Family (WPC)
Allyn Bruce (WPC)
Robin Carroll & Family (Becky Grafton)
Susie Cashion (WPC)
Lauren Choate (Sara Dwyer)
Allen Croft (Gwen Croft)
Lydia Crosby (WPC)
Martin Davis (Kevin Mikles)
Hosanna Eadie (Katie Baturin)
Roxanne Eadie (Katie Baturin)
Ann & Ellen Farrar (Beth Georgen)
Art Fields (Gloria Purcell)
John Fishter (WPC)
Edward Fitzgibbon (Joan Frye)
Randleson Floyd/Daniels (Gloria Purcell)
Harold Fountain (Henry Shepard)
Emma Fruth (WPC)
Bob Georgen (WPC)
Margaret Ellen Hamman (Suzanne Fox)
Janie Hammersmith (WPC)
Megan Hatfield (Debbie McQueeney)
Betsy Henson (Ashley Snider)
Richard Holtz (WPC)
Perry Hunter (Kate Cowart)
Carol & Price Jackson (Sara Dwyer)
Emerson Jones (Molly Griggs)
Lynn Koger (WPC)
Mary Laird (Ashley Snider)
Fran & John Ligon (WPC)
Ray Long (Ellen Bollinger)
Joe Marchiney (Carole Russell)
Susie Martin (Beth Georgen)
John Martschink (WPC)
Mary Martschink (WPC)
David McEachern (Debra Luhn)
Charles Mikles (Kevin Mikles)
Jim Mobley (Mobley Family)
Family of Patti Moose (Lesa Grayson)
John & Carolyn Niblock (WPC)
Ottery Family (Sara Dwyer)
Nancy Plowden (WPC)
Powell Family (WPC)
Pratt Family (WPC Preschool)
Donna Purcell (WPC)
Joyce Reeves (Sue Smoak)
Paula Ruth (Debbie McQueeney)
Gail Schier (WPC)
Marlowe Schneider (D. Tumbleston)
Sarah Schumann (WPC)
Tradd Shepard (WPC)
Rachel Singletary (Sara Bobo)
Ray Thomas (Sara Dwyer)
Gloria Underhill (Laura Nunn)
Kathy Unger (John Dounian)
Jacqueline Vance (Sara Dwyer)
The Weaver Family (Abbie Mobley)
Justin Welch (Kristin Dounian)
Aileen Wiese (WPC)
Janet Wilson (Gloria Purcell)
Betty Winter (Dee Bee Wright)
Peggy Winter (Dee Bee Wright)
Dee Bee Wright (WPC)
Robbie Yarnall (WPC)

PRAYER LIST UPDATED NOVEMBER 2026

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**
Lynn Koger	Neighbors Together	Ashleigh Smith	John & Dee Bee Wright
129 Chadwick Drive	2105 Cosgrove Ave.	327 Clayton Dr.	
Charleston, SC 29407	N. Charleston, SC 29405	Charleston, SC 29414	

ELDERS AND SESSION COMMITTEES

Administration: Michael Patrick and Paul Patrick; **Buildings and Grounds**: Tim Fox and Ben Whitener; **Christian Education:** Natasha Akery and Kevin Mikles; **Fellowship:** Michael Scruggs, Andrew Hopkins, Joe Tompkins; **Finance:** Sarah Schumann and Norman Hook; **Connections:** Cameron Baker and Lindy Coleman; **Missions:** Dee Bee Wright and Joshua Robinson; **Preschool:** Rick Baturin; **Worship:** Deborah-Anne Ferguson and Cathy Grills; **Clerk:** Carole Russell; **Assistant Clerk:** Cathy Grills; **Treasurer:** Tim Fox

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
Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate, pholtzclaw@wpccharleston.org
Janie Bruce, Director of Adult Discipleship, jbruce@wpccharleston.org
Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, cwinkles@wpccharleston.org
Sarah Shayban, Director of Music, sshayban@wpccharleston.org
Kate Cowart, Office Administrator, office@wpccharleston.org
Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator, finance@wpccharleston.org
Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, preschool@wpccharleston.org
Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, mdorsel@wpccharleston.org