

December 3, 2023



# Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## Worship With Us On Sunday!

### 2nd Sunday of Advent

#### Scripture

Luke 1:26-45

#### Sermon

*The Eye of the Storm*

The Rev. Julie Emery

#### Bulletin

10:00 a.m. Sunday Hybrid Worship Link

Zoom Meeting ID: 822 3301 6989

Any questions, contact Becky Kimberly in the office  
at [office@westpresby.org](mailto:office@westpresby.org).

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*This Week at Westminster*

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Celebrate the Season of Advent



*The Advent Season has begun! Below are a list of wonderful opportunities to mark the season including taking part in mission opportunities for Covenant to Care and South Park Inn, joining the Christmas Choir, coloring and conversation post-worship, an Advent book study and two joyful Christmas Eve services (at 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.). Come celebrate the season with us!*



## **You Are Invited!**

Please join the WPC Chancel Choir on Christmas Eve for our Christmas Eve Choir. We will be singing familiar hymns in worship and want you to be a part of lifting our voices in song. Arrive at 8pm for a brief rehearsal and then sing with us during worship.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Callie Boone, Minister of Music, at [music@westpresby.org](mailto:music@westpresby.org).

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# Advent Coloring & Conversation



**Children • Adults • Youth**

Join us during Advent to **Look, Listen** and **Learn**.

We'll have the opportunity to listen to music, listen to each other, listen to God - and color!

Join Karen Hammond in the Smart Room  
following worship (11:15) on  
**Sundays November 26, December 3, 10 & 17**

*Come once or come often.*

*We'll meet for 30-45 minutes, but stay as long  
as you want and leave when you need to.*

The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas. This is a time of preparing, watching and waiting. For many of us, this is also a season of many emotions - joy, sadness, hopefulness, anxiety, stress, and more!

You are invited to take some time to breathe and relax during this season. Join us on Advent Sundays following worship to pause, center and ground ourselves in the spiritual practice of coloring. All adults, youth and children are invited to join us.

If you would like to participate from home we will send you the coloring pages. You can connect with us on Sunday mornings via Zoom, or you can color on your own time. Contact Karen Hammond at (860) 214-1903 or [khammond@westpresby.org](mailto:khammond@westpresby.org) for more information.

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# Advent Book Group

**Join Rev. Julie Emery for a book discussion group this season**

We'll launch our discussions from the book  
Enchantment: Awakening Wonder in an  
Anxious Age by Katherine May

*read more about the book [here](#)*



Join us on Zoom at 12:00 noon on  
Thursdays 11/30, 12/7 and 12/14

Advent Book Group Zoom Link

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*From left to right: Maggie and Nora, daughters of Abbey Downing and Alyssa Mansolf, delivering donations to South Park Inn.*

## **Magi Gifts for South Park Inn Homeless Shelter Needed**

Westminster extends heartfelt gratitude for your support during our recent Essential Garments Drive for South Park Inn. Through your benevolence, we were able to provide warm and essential clothing to the clients at South Park Inn during a time of particular need.

**As we navigate the Christmas season, we embark on a new mission—collecting gift cards for the guests at South Park Inn** who often arrive with just the clothes on their back, hungry, cold and tired. In a manner akin to the Wise Men's offerings, these gift cards provide a modern-day treasure, offering flexibility for those in need to obtain essentials such as food, personal care items, clothing, and other necessities.

As we do each Christmas, Westminster will be collecting these Magi gifts, also known as white gifts, to be distributed on behalf of our Ministry at the South Park Inn. Just as the Magi's gifts were a beacon of hope and support for the Holy Family, your contributions of gift cards will illuminate the lives of those facing hardships this Christmas. Your kindness resonates with the timeless tradition of giving,

reflecting the true spirit of this sacred season.

The South Park Inn shelter suggests gift cards to any of the following locations: Stop & Shop, Big Y, Target, Walmart, Walgreens, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Subway, McDonalds, gas stations, Uber and Lyft. Gift cards will be collected through Christmas Day and can be either put in the collection plate on Sundays, left in our secured locked mailbox outside our church entrance or dropped off with Becky Kimberly, church administrator, in the church office.

May our collective efforts continue to emulate the love and compassion exemplified by the Magi, bringing light and joy to those we serve.

Contact Abbey Downing for any questions or concerns at 860-601-6178 or [downingac@gmail.com](mailto:downingac@gmail.com).

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## Angel Tree Gifts for Children in Need

Each Christmas, through Westminster's partnership with Covenant to Care, our church community purchases gifts for the children in the care of our assigned social worker Nadia at the Department of Children and Families (DCF). All the children are listed with their name, gender and age. Please choose a gift or gifts for the child of your choice appropriate for their age. The total cost per child should not exceed \$50. Gifts should be wrapped with a label attached with the child's name on the tag.

Click the button below to purchase a gift for a child in need.

[Sign-up for Angel Gift](#)

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, checks can be made out to "Westminster Presbyterian Church" with a note in the memo line "Covenant to Care".

Gifts can be dropped off at the church Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. or on Sundays during worship. If you need to drop the gifts off in the evening, the church is opened on Thursday evenings until 8:30 p.m. There will be a box outside the church office and one in the back of the Sanctuary. **Donations must be received no later than Monday, December 18.** Questions? Please contact Ellen Smith at 860-402-7198 or [elsmith\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:elsmith_2000@yahoo.com).

On behalf of the Serve Team, we are very grateful for all contributions during Christmas and throughout the year.

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## Christmas Eve at Westminster!

Christmas Eve will fall on a Sunday this year and there will be two joyful opportunities to worship with us. **At 10:00 a.m. we will hold our Paper Bag Pageant (see details below).** Traditionally this service is held in the early evening on Christmas Eve. We hope this year provides a unique opportunity for those who have never experienced this lively telling of the Christmas story to join us. All ages are welcome and encouraged to participate. At 9:00 p.m. that evening we will have our traditional Christmas Eve service featuring candlelighting, communion, handbell choir and brass quintet. Join the service early for the musical prelude that starts at 8:30 p.m.





**CELEBRATE WITH US!**

# **PAPER BAG CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**Christmas Eve Morning**

**10:00a.m. All Ages Service**

On Christmas Eve morning at **10:00 a.m.** we will feature our Paper Bag Christmas Pageant. The way the pageant works is simple and fun. A paper bag will be given at the door to each person (adults and children alike!) Inside each paper bag is a prop that reveals one's part (angel's halo or a king's crown, for example). There are no lines to speak. As a narrator reads the story of Jesus' birth, the pageant director will cue the participants when it is time to come forward.

The beauty of the Paper Bag Christmas Pageant is that there are no rehearsals, costume fittings or lines to memorize. And everyone who wants to be a part of this can participate! The joy of being a part of a Christmas pageant is not just for children - adult sheep, shepherds and stars have just as much fun. This one hour service welcomes all, so invite your family and friends. In addition to the pageant the service will include the lighting of the Advent Candles, special music and many Christmas carols. **Please note, this service will be in-person and online using our Sunday morning worship link.**





# 9:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE

TRADITIONAL SERVICE  
CANDLELIGHTING AND COMMUNION

**MUSICAL PRELUDE BEGINS AT 8:30 P.M.**

WORSHIP WITH US IN-PERSON OR ONLINE.



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## Thanksgiving Baskets Thank You!

This year's Thanksgiving Basket collection was a huge success - thank you to everyone who donated. Each family was provided with 3 bags of food and \$50 in gift cards that could be used for additional groceries. Nadia, our Covenant to Care liaison, is always very grateful for the church's generosity and how it benefits the families she works with as a social worker for the Department of Children and Families.

In this small way, Westminster is helping to end food insecurity for our neighbors living nearby.

## Prayers of the People

**We continue to pray for:**

The people of Palestine and Israel; healing relationships; Cori Mackey; Karen Wagner; Art Riihimaki; Jolee West and family; El Harp; David

MacMeekin's wife Colleen; Liz Grabber's nephew Drew Newsom; Rhys Logan; Howard Sprout; Dorothy Elsner; Laura Berman and family; Elle Dewey; Karen Wagner's friends Rich and Ramon; Jon Scoville; Paige Logan's friend Mia; Muriel Sherman; David MacMeekin's brother-in-law, Dan Reinhard; Rachel Lloyd's Aunt Katie; Stella Madjitey and Betty Stokes.

### We grieve with:

- Friends and families of those in recent months who mourn the death of loved ones. May they be comforted.

## Session Members (Teams)

Peter Benner (Flourish) [pbenner16@gmail.com](mailto:pbenner16@gmail.com)  
Cyndi Buckley (Serve) [cindykozak59@gmail.com](mailto:cindykozak59@gmail.com)  
Ma'Lynn Feingold (Worship) [mlnewportmd@aol.com](mailto:mlnewportmd@aol.com)  
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