

WESTMINSTER NEWS

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2017



Advent and Christmas at Westminster

| | |
|--|--|
| Sunday, Dec. 3 9:30 am | First Sunday in Advent Worship-Communion Sunday Scott Anderson preaching, "Strengthened for the Journey" I Cor. 1:3-9 |
| 10:45 am | Intergenerational Sunday School: "Making Blankets for the Linus Project" (see article inside this issue) |
| Sunday, Dec. 10 9:30 am | Second Sunday in Advent Worship-Ordination and Installation of Church Officers; Reception of New Members Scott Anderson preaching, "Wilderness Wanderings" Mark 1:1-8 |
| 10:50 am | Sunday School for all ages. Adult Forum: "Moving Through Advent Centered in the Heart: Prayer and Meditation for the Season and Beyond." Beth O'Brien |
| Sunday, Dec. 17 9:30 am | Third Sunday in Advent Worship-Service of Lessons and Carols |
| 10:50 am | Sunday School for all ages |
| Sunday, Dec. 24 9:30 am | Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship Scott Anderson preaching, "Call and Response" Luke 1: 26-38 No Sunday School |
| Sunday, Dec. 24 4:00 pm | Christmas Eve Worship Scott Anderson preaching, "When Heaven and Earth Meet" Luke 2: 1-14 |
| Sunday, Dec. 31 9:30 am | 1st Sunday after Christmas Worship – Julie Waterdu guest preacher No Sunday School |

~ *Advent* ~



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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Joy Offering - Season of Advent & Christmas

During the Season of Advent & Christmas, Westminster will join with other Presbyterian congregations in the collection of the Christmas Joy Offering. The Offering provides assistance to individuals and families who have dedicated their lives to the church. It further supports leadership development and education for students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Of the offerings collected, 50% will provide financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. The remaining 50% will support leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Westminster will collect our offerings on December 17th, during morning worship on December 24th, and during our Christmas Eve celebration. As a congregation, please pray for how we might participate in this important offering.

Music Notes

 In the worship service on December 17, the Westminster Chancel Choir will lead us in a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The structure of this 75-minute, alternative worship service is based on services led by the King's College Choir and conducted annually at their chapel in Cambridge since 1918.

The creator of the original Cambridge service described it in this way:

"Its liturgical order and pattern is the strength of the service; the main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God, from the Creation to the Incarnation, through the windows and words of the Bible: the scriptures, not the carols, are the backbone."

This service is rich with musical offerings, many of which are drawn from the English carol tradition. However, as with all worship services at Westminster, the faithful expression of God's word is our primary focus. In this service especially, the music—the handmaid of the liturgy—is our response to God's word proclaimed. In this Festival, we have an opportunity to respond to God's word through carols and choral compositions from the 4th to the 21st centuries, which exhibit our rich heritage of Christmas music. The service will be enriched by organ, piano, string quartet, and handbell accompaniments. The congregation will also join in singing several carols.

Please invite a friend to join you for this special service of worship at Westminster on December 17!

—Joe Chrisman, Minister of Music—



Dear Session, Members, and Friends of Westminster:

Thank you so much for the generous monetary gift you shared with me in honor of the 20th anniversary of my service as Westminster's Minister of Music! I am touched, but not surprised, by the depth and breadth of your kindness. It has been my privilege to respond to God's call and serve among you. Our gathering on October 29 to sing hymns was a wonderful way to offer our thanks to God for this opportunity to be in ministry together. I thank choir members, both past and present, for their partnership and collaboration through the years. I also thank my friend and colleague, Dorothy Blotz, for her dedicated service to the congregation. I appreciate and celebrate all this congregation does in service of Christ. May God bless our continued service together.

- Joe Chrisman, Minister of Music -

Fund a Farm

During the weeks of Advent, the loose change offering will be used to "Fund a Farm" through the PCUSA Presbyterian Mission. Depending on the amount of loose change collected we could purchase a family of chickens that a household can get the eggs for food, feathers for pillows and fertilizer for crops. This is truly a gift that keeps on giving. Perhaps we will be able to purchase a piglet (or more than one) that can provide income to a family when the pig



is grown and sold at the market. If we want to dream big, we can purchase a pair of goats that will provide food security for a family through milk, cheese, butter and yogurt. Keep those coins in your pocket all week and bring them to worship on Sunday. As you hear them clink in the offering plate, imagine that sound is the cluck of a chicken, the oink of a pig and the sigh of relief from those we help.

From the Worship Committee:

The focus of the Worship Committee this month has been preparing for the celebration of Advent and Christmas, followed by Epiphany. The sanctuary will be decorated a little bit each week through Christmas Eve. On December 17th, the service will be the Nine Lessons and Carols. The service will include numerous pieces by the choir and plenty of opportunity for the congregation to join them in singing hymns. There will be two services on December 24th. The first will be held at our usual morning time of 9:30am and we will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent. That same evening is Christmas Eve and there will be just one service, at 4pm, to be preceded by a carol sing at 3:30pm. Come and join us for a full day of worship and celebration!



PLEASE JOIN US AT WESTMINSTER FOR FELLOWSHIP & FUN PWW SOUP LUNCHEON AND CHRISTMAS AUCTION

Saturday December 9, 2017

11:30-2pm in the Narthex

Proceeds benefit local community agencies and our Westminster PWW mission work

Organ Fund Pledges Top \$111,500. Our Goal: \$150,000

In early October, about 20 members and friends of Westminster gathered for lunch after Sunday School to discuss our church's need for a new organ console and how we might raise the \$150,000 needed for the necessary work.

Our Minister of Music Joe Chrisman explained that this organ project is chiefly focused on the long-term investment in improving and stabilizing the player's interface with the instrument...not on expanding or increasing the overall size of the organ. The console from which the organist plays is the original console installed in 1972 after the fire that destroyed the sanctuary. The improvements made to the instrument in 1999 and 2001 did not include improvements to the console. As a result, there are certain instabilities that can lead to unpredictable glitches. A congregation member has suggested our current circumstance is akin to running a new computer on Windows 98. If this organ project is successful, the playability of the instrument will be ensured for decades to come.

Since that early October conversation, an informal, word-of-mouth campaign has developed and \$111,500 has been received to date in pledges, of which \$68,500 has been pledged by the end of 2017 and \$43,000 pledged by the end of 2018. What a wonderful and generous response!

In order to place the order for the new organ console, we will need to make a deposit for half the cost, which is \$75,000. It will take about a year to build the new console and about two weeks to install on site. The current console will remain in place until the new console arrives.

We are now inviting other members and friends of the church to consider a one-time pledge for the new organ console. Joe Chrisman and I are both available to answer any questions and provide additional information if needed. Pledge cards for the organ fund are available in the church office.

Wouldn't it be great if we could place the order for the new organ console in January?

—Scott Anderson, Pastor



Intergenerational event - Join Us!

Dec 3rd after worship (10:45am), join us for an intergenerational project to make blankets for Project Linus. The mission of Project Linus is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children in need. Blankets are delivered to children at local hospitals and other organizations like Dane County Human Services Foster Care, Middleton Outreach Ministry, Ronald McDonald House, and ANU Family Services. All you need to bring is your smile and willingness to use your hands while you visit with others!



Poinsettia Orders

You are invited to share in the Christmas decoration of the sanctuary by purchasing a poinsettia plant at a cost of **\$13 each**. You can take your poinsettia home after the 4 pm worship service on Christmas Eve, or leave it in the sanctuary until the New Year. This is a lovely way to 'remember' someone who has passed, or to 'honor' someone living; family or friends. Order forms can be found in the church bulletin and in the Narthex. Please return it to the church office with your payment by Dec. 17. Please make checks payable to WPC with "poinsettia 2017" in the memo.

Please return forms during worship or to the church office by Sunday December 17, 2017

You may also email/call Katie with your order info@westminsternmadison.org or 238-3141

YOUTH UPDATES

Hey there youth! We have a lot of events coming up and we would love for you to join us.

Sat 12/2 from 11:00 - 1:00 pm

We are meeting at the church in the Narthex to prep and prepare the blankets for the Linus Project. We will have pizza and drinks and treats! Come and help us cut the strips in the blankets. This is a fun and easy project. We were able to get 9 blankets done the last time we got together and we had a blast! Please let Sara or Sandy know if you will be there so we can have enough food.

Sun 12/3 10:45 am - 11:45 am

As a congregation we are meeting after church to tie as many blankets as we can for the Linus Project. Please consider joining us in the wonderful event where we can visit with our fellow congregation members while helping to provide comfort and warmth to those in our community who have suffered a traumatic event.

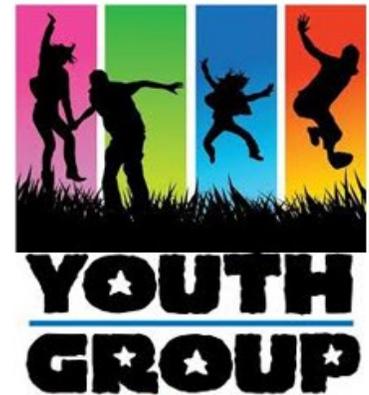
Fri 12/8 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm

We need all youth on hand. We are hosting a Parent's Night Out. We need you to arrive at church at 5:00 pm to set up. Kids will be there from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm and then you will work together with your fellow youth to lead the kids in games and activities. Starting at 7:30 pm we will be watching kid movies. After the kids leave at 8:30 pm, we will head to Target to complete the Angel Tree Christmas shopping and then back to the church for wrapping and a movie. Youth can get picked up at 11:00 pm. Feel free to come to all of this event, or just part. Either way, just let us know when you will be attending so we can plan accordingly.

Sat 12/9 12:00 - 2:00 pm

We will meet at church at 12:00 pm (PLEASE EAT LUNCH FIRST). We will head to a local Fire House to drop off the Project Linus blankets and participate in a Fire House tour. We will be back to the church by 2:00 pm.

If you are in 3rd grade and up, please consider joining this new and growing group of kids. We have a lot of fun together and would love to have you join us.



EDUCATION



Dec. 3: Intergenerational Service Project for all ages: Blankets for Project Linus

Dec. 10: Adult Forum, "Moving Through Advent Centered in the Heart: Prayer and Meditation for the Season and Beyond," Beth O'Brien & Sunday School for Children

Dec. 17: Sermon Discussion with Pastor Scott & Sunday School for Children

Dec. 24 and 31: No Sunday School/Adult Forum

Dec. 10 Adult Forum: Beth O'Brien will be coming to Westminster to talk about "Moving Through Advent Centered in the Heart: Prayer and Meditation for the Season and Beyond." Ms. O'Brien is founder of Contemplative Presence, a ministry focused on nurturing spiritual formation in the Christian tradition. She is a Benedictine oblate of the Holy Wisdom Ecumenical Monastery, spiritual director, and meditation teacher. She has worked with Rev. Nancy Enderle on prayer and meditation and will be speaking about the importance of prayer as a centering practice for the holiday season.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

From the November 28 Meeting

- Approved the request from the Mission Committee to use loose change offering for the four Sundays in Advent to purchase farm animals through the PCUSA Presbyterian Mission.
- Approved Worship Committees schedule for serving communion in 2018
- Approved setting up a direct deposit option for contributions to Westminster
- Received a report from the Stewardship Committee on the status of pledges for 2018: about 19 pledges from this year have not yet come in for next year. The committee will follow up with those people. We can still expect a shortfall in meeting the 2017 budget. The committee will have a full report for the December 14th meeting.
- Property Committee reported on the completion of the drainage and window repair which came in under budget.
- Nominating Committee is working on recruiting congregational members for the committee. Elections to Nominating will be held at the Congregational Meeting, which was also approved, to be held on January 28 following worship.
- Reviewed the survey results on the Sunday morning schedule experiment: about 60% like the new schedule; about 25% do not and a number suggested adjusting worship time to 10:00; 90% found the adult Bible study a meaningful experience and it was noted that there was greater participation in this than in other adult education.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Donna Chandler 12/02
 Betsy Ernst-Mullin 12/02
 Dale Rohde 12/02
 Douglas Rouse 12/04
 Robert Stockton 12/04
 Joshua Watters 12/05
 Connie Evans 12/09
 Jean Ruhde 12/09
 Beth Swedeen 12/09
 Hunter Jon Witt 12/09
 Richard Hein 12/10

Bonnie Packer 12/11
 Garrett Fletcher 12/15
 Joyce Schultze 12/18
 Linda Schultz 12/19
 Newt + Roberts 12/20
 Sally Forsberg 12/26
 Lu Kummerow 12/26
 Mark Ringsmuth 12/26
 Kathy Granquist 12/27
 Kathy Kamp 12/28
 Nancy Prine 12/29

Caelan Grady 12/30
 David Packer 12/30
 Calyn Ostrowski 12/31

UPDATED WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

| | Liturgists | Ushers | Greeters | Communion Servers |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|--|
| 12/3/2017 | Sandy Curran | Julie Madden | Dorothy Hujik | Thatcher Root Andrea Kenny Ed Cothroll Peg Zimmer |
| | | Jerry Donnell | Lee DeSpain | |
| | | Paul Bishop | | |
| | | Linda Bishop | | |
| 12/10/2017 | Karen Stephens | Ed Cothroll | Bill Tanke | |
| | | Kathy Key | Linda Tanke | |
| | | Margie Knott | | |
| | | Judy Stone | | |
| 12/17/2017 | TBD by Joe C. | Judy Graham | Peg Zimmer | |
| | | Doug Kornetzke | Dick Zimmer | |
| | | Carrie Aberle | | |
| | | Rhea Schultz | | |
| 12/24/2017 9:30 AM | Ken Sadeghian | Ron Behling | The Hayes Family | |
| | | Doug Halls | Garrett Fletcher | |
| | | Juanita Halls | | |
| | | Ed Cothroll | | |
| 12/24/2017 evening 4:00 PM | The Hayes Family | Karen Osborne | Dale Rohde | |
| | | Lee DeSpain | Marion Rohde | |
| | | Dorothy Hujik | | |
| | | Ed Cothroll | | |
| 12/31/2017 | Cynthia Bush | Bob Goller | Pat Marshall | |
| | | Gay Didriksen | Kathy Key | |
| | | Doug Halls | | |
| | | Bob Forsberg | | |

JOYS & CONCERNS

Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers for health, peace and wholeness:

Jack Browning, Betty Fox, Shirley Toomey, Vern Forsberg, Wade Waggener, Ann Friedley, Lil Marsh, Marjorie Hamann and son Jack, Howard Thompson, Joel Nancy and Bob Dott (friends of the Bridsons), Hannah Kwiatkowski, Sandy Butler, Patricia Miller, Newt Roberts



DECEMBER 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Choir Practice | 30 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Group | 1 5:30 PM DBSA | 2 10am New Deacon/Elders meeting |
| 3 Food Sunday 9:30 AM Worship 10:45AM Intergenerational Linus Project 11:45 AM Worship committee | 4 | 5 12 PM JKP Regional Meeting 4:00pm-5:30pm Bible Study | 6 1:30 PM Oakwood West Worship 7:00 PM AA 7:30 PM Choir Practice | 7 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Group | 8 5:30 PM DBSA 5:30 PM Parents Night Out at WPC 6:30 PM Shelter Dinner | 9 5:00 AM Shelter Breakfast 11:30am-2pm Soup Lunch & Auction 12:00PM Youth Group |
| 10 9:30 AM Worship 10:40 AM Sun. School | 11 9:30 AM Knitwits 4:00pm-5:30pm Bible Study | 12 7:00 PM Stewardship | 13 1:30 PM Oakwood West Worship 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Choir Practice | 14 9:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Group 7:00PM Session | 15 5:30 PM DBSA 7:00 PM Doin' R Thing Dance | 16 9:00 AM Choir Dress Rehearsal |
| 17 Just Bakery Sale! 9:30 AM Worship 10:40 AM Sunday School | 18 | 19 10:00 AM Allied Partners Meeting | 20 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Choir Practice & Party | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:30 AM Worship 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship | 25 Church office closed for Christmas | 26 | 27 7:00 PM AA | 28 | 29 5:30 PM DBSA | 30 |
| 31 9:30 AM Worship | Jan 1 Church Office Closed fro New Years Day | | | | | |

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4100 Nakoma Road
Madison WI 53711

Call: 608-238-3121
Email: info@westminstermadison.org
Fax: 608-441-7798



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We are especially thankful for :

Westminster Mission

Ever seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit, we strive to follow Jesus Christ by being...

Attentive to the Word,

Faithful to our covenant with God and each other, and

Diligent in ministering to the needs of the world.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

DECEMBER

STAFF

The Rev. Scott Anderson, Pastor
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Dorothy Blotz, Accompanist
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Vern Forsberg, Pastor Emeritus
608-230-3164

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westminstermadison.org



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God's grace".**

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service:
9:30am Sundays

Sunday Schools:
10:40am: K-4th grade &
Youth (5th - high school)
10:50am: Adult

~ Child Care available ~