

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 10, 2017

9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

If you are curious, and have come to see
 If you are weary, and have come to rest
 If you are grateful, and have come to share
 If you are hurting, and have come for solace
 If you are listening, and have come to pray
 If you are seeking, and have come for answers
 WELCOME

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION Rita Barker

INTROIT "Wexford Carol" Morris

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: My soul magnifies the Sovereign One.
People: And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
 Leader: For God who is mighty has done great things for me.
People: And holy is God's name.
 Leader: Let us worship God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

9:00 a.m. – Joey & Susan Maxwell and Ella Kate
 11:15 a.m. – Todd & Andrea Lantz, Olivia and Mary Catherine

The candle of peace is the second candle on the Advent Wreath. It symbolizes the peace Christ can bring to each of our lives and the world.

* HYMN OF PRAISE - No. 82 HYFRYDOL
 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of the covenant, have mercy upon us as we make our confession. The afflicted await good tidings. The brokenhearted would have their wounds bound. The captives still yearn for freedom, and those who mourn remain to be comforted. Forgive us who fail to follow Christ's call to faithful ministry; restore us and make us worthy to serve in his name.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

** CALL TO PRAYER "Come, Emmanuel" Chepponis

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER Hymnal page 35, Traditional
 Children in K5 and first grade will leave for Children's Church.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE — Isaiah 40:1-5 (Page 667)

Taylor Rigot

** ANTHEM "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" White

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE — John 1:19-28 (Page 92)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON Ludwig Weaver

"Who Are You?"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Offertory "Sing We Now of Christmas" McChesney

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN No. 106 BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

* BENEDECTION

** CHORAL RESPONSE "Wait for the Lord" Taize

* POSTLUDE J.S. Bach

"Unto Us a Child Is Born"

*All who are able may stand ** 11:15 a.m. service only

HEAD USHERS:	9:00 a.m.	Brad Lucas
	11:15 a.m.	Josh Howard
SPONSOR:		Hunter Williams
GREETERS:	9:00 a.m.	Collin Mackie, Jason Farmer
		Joanne Sweeny
	11:15 a.m.	Stephen Woods, Sarah-Ann Davis
		Elizabeth Palmer
LITURGIST:		Mary Kathleen Duncan
ACOLYTES:	9:00 a.m.	Amelia Kent, Emily Jane Rayneri
	11:15 a.m.	Parker Meredith, Sterling Porterfield

If you are visiting this morning, we extend a special welcome to you. Westminster Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a community of faith open to all who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

STREAMING

All worship services at Westminster are broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at www.wpc-online.org and click the link "Worship via Live Streaming."

CHURCH NOTES

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Nancy Smith, organist
 Westminster Bells
 Bob Dellert, baritone
 11:15 a.m.
 Sanctuary Choir

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

During the worship service, children in rising K5 - 1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children's Church in Room 206. The leaders for Children's Church this Sunday, December 10, are:

9:00 a.m. Chris & Meg Bradley
11:15 a.m. Tyler & Brady Godfrey

NURSERY

PARENT SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 10

9:00 a.m.

Crawler Mike & Laura Weiss
 Toddler Jim & Kate Gilreath
 K3 Jay & Grace McKnight

11:15 a.m.

Crawler Bryan & Joanna Key
 Toddler Peter & Kendall Bemisderfer
 K2 Chris & Meg Bradley
 K4 Clark & Everett Waldrep

LET US PRAY FOR:

Jesse Stafford and family
 Vickie Taylor and family
 Sallie Beth Todd and family
 Tiffany Rhodes and family
 Viviane Till and family

"A HEART FOR MISSION"

Our new mission wall, artfully displayed in the Sanctuary Atrium through the work of Bill & Becca Donohue and Catherine Blount, seeks to highlight Westminster's many mission projects. We thank Bill, Becca, and Catherine for their creative and informative design and invite you to take a moment to see the multitude of places where your gifts to Westminster are making a difference.

A CHERUB CHOIR CHRISTMAS

This Sunday evening, December 10, you are invited to hear the youngest voices of Westminster proclaim the birth of Christ through traditional music and storytelling at 6:00 p.m. After the program, gather among the newly decorated Christmas Trees for pictures, punch, and cookies.

GAIHN

This week we welcome to Westminster three families who are experiencing homelessness. Thank you to WPC members who are serving and helping empower families in our community who are on the transformative journey to self-sufficiency. GAIHN + United Ministries, now joined together as one agency, are working more effectively to strategically engage congregations in the provision of education, employment readiness services, emergency assistance and interim housing. Have questions or want to join the GAIHN email list to receive updates? Contact GAIHN Coordinators Beth Edwards (bethholladay73@gmail.com) or Julia Bellow (juliabellew@gmail.com) or Mission Outreach Coordinator, Susan McLarty (smclarty@wpc-online.org).

WHAT IS "REVERSE ADVENT?"

In addition to opening a window on the Advent calendar that WPC children received in the mail, we are encouraging everyone to "give" something on each day of Advent. Beginning December 1, you can join our Reverse Advent by adding one can of food to a basket or box at your home each day. The goal by Christmas is to have 25 cans of food you can bring to our church at the New Year. This food will be donated to the United Ministries food pantry. Start your Advent countdown by helping others in Greenville.

2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, December 5, we have received \$2,185,351 in pledges toward our 2018 budget goal of \$2,514,739.

For your convenience, pledge cards are in the pews, or you may mail in your pledge or send it by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens at sherri@wpc-online.org.

YOUTH

This Sunday, December 10, we will gather at our regular times:

- Middler School Youth 5:00 p.m.
- Joint Dinner 6:00 p.m.
- Senior High Youth 6:30 p.m.

#YEAH THAT WPC

Join us this Sunday, December 10, at 10:00 a.m. to hear WPC members, Brad Wingate and Anne Lamb, provide overviews of how WPC members will be involved in the field trip to the Fine Arts Center and Financial Literacy through EverFi. Everyone is welcome even if you cannot help on January 29. Contact Steve Johnson or Susan McLarty with questions.

OLD BUT YOUNG GROUP

Join your OBY (Old But Young) friends for our Annual Christmas Social at the home of Judy & Paul O'Neal (112 New Beechwood Ct., Piedmont), this Sunday, December 10, at 5:30 p.m. Iced tea and punch will be provided. Bring a white elephant gift and an appetizer. Also, please bring womens socks to be distributed through The Family Effect.

YOUTH CHOIR

CAROLING TO ATLANTA

On Friday, December 15, Westminster's Youth Choir will head out on the 15th Annual Caroling trip to Atlanta. We'll leave after school at 4:30 p.m., sing at Foothills Presbyterian Retirement Home, do a little shopping at Lenox Mall, spend the night in Buckhead, and return by 4:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. Total cost of the trip is \$30 to cover hotel rooms, payable in the church office by Sunday, December 10 to reserve your spot. Space is limited. Contact Mark Kemp, Music Director (mkemp@wpc-online.org) for more information.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group's Christmas Gathering will be Saturday, December 9, at 3:00 p.m. at the Foothills Presbyterian Community (205 Bud Nalley Dr.) in Easley. This is a special time for sharing and fellowship. Contact Sandra Wallace (wsandra78@gmail.com) with questions.

MEN'S GROUP BOOK STUDY

The Men's Group will continue a book study on Tuesday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 212. We will study the book, The True Measure of a Man, by Richard Simmons. All WPC men are invited to participate. For more information, contact Rick Carpenter (608-1881).

WOMEN of WESTMINSTER

Tuesday, December 12

- Circle #5: Ilene Schlacht, chair (rischlacht@att.net), will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Entrance Pavilion.
- Circle #3: Joanne Sweeny, chair (swejoa38@gmail.com), will meet at the home of Becky Murphy (123 Buckingham Rd.) at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13

- Circle #6: Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) and Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com), co-chairs will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sherry's home (207 Camille Ave.).

CONNECTIONS

Connections will meet at the Westin (120 S Main St.) on Sunday, December 17, at 12:30 p.m. Respond by Friday, December 15, to Edna Ruth Miller (288-8645 or rgvduo@bellsouth.net). New members are welcome.

THE FLOCK CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join the Flock families (children included) for a fun night of caroling on Wednesday, December 20, hosted by the Palmers. More details coming!

THE HARBINGER WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2310 Augusta Road Greenville, South Carolina 29605 (864) 232-2424

www.wpc-online.org

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	mkemp@wpc-online.org
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	cpuntch@wpc-online.org
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	jpitman@wpc-online.org
Director of Hospitality	Lisa Ridge
	lisa@wpc-online.org
Building Supervisor	Steve Phillips
	stevep30@bellsouth.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS December 10 - 16, 2017

SUNDAY	<i>GAIHN arrives</i>	
8:15 a.m.	8:45 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
		Witness & Service Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m.		Worship Service
10:00 a.m.		Sunday School
11:15 a.m.		Worship Service
12:15 p.m.		Stated Session Meeting
5:00 p.m.		Middler Youth Group Meeting
5:15 p.m.		Senior High Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m.		Old But Young Group Party
6:00 p.m.		Cherub Choir Christmas Youth Dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Middler Choir Rehearsal
		Senior High Group Meeting
	8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous
MONDAY	<i>GAIHN</i>	
6:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	NAMI
		Narcotics Anonymous
TUESDAY	<i>GAIHN</i>	
11:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	PW Circle 5
		Al-Anon meeting
6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	PW Circle 3
		Men's Book Study Group
7:00 p.m.		Chancel Choir Rehearsal
WEDNESDAY	<i>GAIHN</i>	
9:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	PW Circle 6
		Staff Meeting
3:00 p.m.		"It's Elementary!" & Tweens
	4:30 p.m.	Junior & Senior Choristers
	5:45 p.m.	Churchwide International
		Christmas Festival & Dinner
	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
THURSDAY	<i>GAIHN</i>	
10:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	Thursday Bible Study
		Youth Open Gym
8:00 p.m.		Narcotics Anonymous
FRIDAY	<i>GAIHN</i>	
4:30 p.m.		Youth Choir to Atlanta
SATURDAY	<i>GAIHN</i>	
4:30 p.m.		Youth Choir returns

SAVE THE DATE
Women of Westminster:
February 23-25
Women's Retreat
 More details and sign-ups to come!

LIBRARY/POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in two ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for \$15.00, or money may be given to buy library books. Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary at the Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve Services. Please fill out the slip below or contact the church office, 232-2424. Donors may pick up their poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service you choose to attend. Orders must be placed by Sunday, December 17.

Donor _____
 In Memory of _____
 In Memory of _____
 In Honor of _____
 In Honor of _____
 Library Amount \$ _____ OR Poinsettias x \$15.00 = \$ _____



ROADS UNDER REPAIR

*"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God."*
 Isaiah 40:3b

When I was young, I found this passage – and the entire role of John the Baptist in the New Testament – confusing. Subscribing to something of a “superhero” vision of God’s role in the world, I didn’t understand why God required any help or preparation from anyone. An omnipotent God can bulldoze the mountains and bridge the valleys. Why does God need a puny human to pave the way?

I think the answer has to do with the nature of our relationship with God. God did not create us and endow us with free will, only then to turn around and overwhelm that freedom with the overpowering force of God’s glory and power. Instead, we are invited to enter into – or to decline – a relationship with God. As is often the case, C.S. Lewis puts it memorably. In The Screwtape Letters, he writes, “The Irresistible and the Indisputable are the two weapons which the very nature of [God’s] scheme forbids Him to use. Merely to override a human will ... would be for Him useless. He cannot conquer. He can only woo.”

This “voluntary disarmament” on God’s part explains why the way must be prepared for Jesus. “Preparing the way of the Lord” is critically important because humans are free to accept or reject what Jesus offers. This requires at least two things from us, as Christians. First, it calls on us to make a way for God in the world – to witness and act in a way that makes others want to draw closer to God. Second, though, it also requires us to prepare a way within ourselves. If our own hearts are not prepared, we will not be able to receive Jesus properly.

At this season, talk of preparing our hearts to receive Jesus segues naturally into talk of preparing for Christmas. In an ideal world, the two would be the same thing. They are not. If we prepare for Christmas as instructed by Pinterest or television ads, we may wind up with “Insanely Festive Cookies!” or even a car in the driveway with a cartoonishly large bow on the roof, but it won’t bring us closer to God. I don’t think that Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and the rest of the secular bustle during the holiday season are intrinsic evils. But if we’re not careful, that bustle can form detours and tie-ups that will snarl the way to our hearts that God wants to travel.

We need to remember that – as it is practiced in modern America – preparation for Christmas is not preparation for Christ. We need to give Christ equal time (at least) in our preparation. God’s promise is that if we will spend as much time “making straight in the desert a highway for our God” as we spend picking clever stocking stuffers, our Christmas will be blessed. Experiencing Christ at Christmas will not occur automatically when we open our presents; it requires us to prepare a way for Him.

Ted Gentry

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 10
The Second Sunday of Advent
Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality
Network (GAIHN) families arrive
9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Worship Services
Advent Wreath Lighting
5:00 p.m.
Middler Youth Group meeting
5:30 p.m.
Old But Young Christmas Party
6:00 p.m.
A Cherub Choir Christmas
Youth Dinner
6:30 p.m.
Senior High Youth Group meeting

Sunday, December 17
The Third Sunday of Advent
GAIHN families depart
9:00 a.m.
Worship Service - preaching
Advent Wreath Lighting
11:15 a.m.
Children's Christmas Musical
Advent Wreath Lighting
12:30 p.m.
Connections Group Lunch
4:00 p.m.
Middler Christmas Party
6:00 p.m.
Senior High Christmas Party
Youngish Adult
Christmas Drop In

Wednesday, December 13
2:30 p.m.
"It's Elementary!" & Tweens
Christmas Parties at WPC
5:45 p.m.
Churchwide International Christmas
Festival with dinner and
New Member tables

Wednesday, December 20
The Flock Christmas Party

Thursday, December 21
11:00 a.m.
Youth Open Gym

Sunday, December 24
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
11:15 a.m.
Worship Service
Advent Wreath Lighting
57th Annual Service of Lessons & Carols

Thursday, December 14
10:00 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study
Christmas Luncheon

Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Candlelight Worship Services
Advent Wreath Lighting

Friday, December 15 -
Saturday, December 16
Youth Choir:
Atlanta Caroling Trip

Sunday, December 31
11:15 a.m.
One Worship Service (no Sunday School)
12:15 p.m.
Fellowship Hour

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Wednesday, December 13 5:45 p.m.

Piñatas, ginger snaps and Belgian chocolates. Taffy pulls, marzipan pigs and spiders on your tree. What are some Christmas customs, desserts and traditions around the world? Join us at our annual Christmas dinner, on **Wednesday, December 13**, at **5:45 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall**. After an amazing dinner of turkey, dressing, gravy, green beans, sweet potato casserole, and salad, you can sample international desserts, play games or make a craft to help you know about Christmas in other nations. You can pick up a "passport" and go from table to table. We will even have door prizes! Plan now to join us for this festive event for all ages. Sign ups end on Monday, December 11.

Name: _____
Adults (\$7.50) _____ Children 3-11 (\$3.50) _____
Children 2 and under _____

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