

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 31, 2017

11:15 a.m.

*First Sunday after Christmas*

### THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

It is the aim of this church to present a religion as considerate of persons as the teaching of Jesus, as devoted to justice as the Old Testament prophets, as responsive to truth as science, as beautiful as art, as intimate as the home, and as indispensable as the air we breathe. For the achievement of this goal we bid you welcome, and invite your attendance, your prayers, your gifts, and your service.

### OUR APPROACH TO GOD

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples,

**People: Princes and all rulers of the earth,**

Leader: Young men and women alike,  
Old and young together –

**People: Let us all praise the name of the Lord!**

Leader: God has raised up a horn for his people Israel  
who are close to him –

**People: Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Let us worship the God of our salvation!

\* HYMN No. 132 IN DULCI JUBILO

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We bring our prayers to you, gracious God, sensing that there is more to life than the ways we have known. We are drawn to the Messiah, yet we shrink from following where faith leads. We are afraid of what we might lose if we are guided by the Spirit. Thoughts of sacrifice and servanthood are not appealing to us. We are reluctant to enter into a close relationship with you. We think we know better than you what is best for us. Forgive our arrogance. Help us to see the Christ.**

\* 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.**

BAPTISM OF EMERSON KEATS RIGOT

### THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MORNING PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Hymnal page 35, Traditional*

*K5 and first grade children leave for Children’s Church following the prayer.*

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

\* HYMN No. 110 “Love Has Come” BRING A TORCH

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3 (Page 692)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – Luke 2:25-38 (Page 59)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON Mary Kathleen Duncan

“A Baby Named Hope”

### 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 Voluntary on STILLE NACHT arr. Smith

\* 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. 136 GO TELL IT

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE “Wondrous Tidings” arr. Martin

*\*All who are able may stand.*

**HEAD USHER:** Charles Little  
**SPONSOR:** Steve Johnson  
**GREETERS:** Rita Barker, Brent Thomasson  
Sarah-Ann Davis  
**LITURGIST:** Leigh Stuckey  
**ACOLYTES:** Anna Puntch, Zach Warren

*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.*

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## 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 10:15 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](http://www.wpc-online.org) and click the link “Worship via Live Streaming.”

Musicians leading in worship:

*Nancy Smith, organist*

During the worship service, children in 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 31**, are *Bryant & Cara Puntch*.

## 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.

## BIRTH

A daughter, *Ansen Grace Patel*, was born to Chetan & Kristen Patel on Thursday, December 21, 2017, in Greenville.

This **Sunday, December 31**, we will have only one worship service at **11:15 a.m.** with no Sunday School. There will be a fellowship hour following the service in the **Sanctuary Atrium**.

## AMOS WORKMAN

**Parish Associate for Older Adults**

On January 1, 2018, we will welcome *Amos Workman* as our part time Parish Associate for Older Adults. Amos will be responsible for ministries such as shut in communion and hospital visitation for our senior members. Recently retired from the Wyche Law Firm, Amos is also a graduate of Erskine Theological Seminary and has served in several ministerial capacities in this Presbytery. We look forward to his ministry here at Westminster.

## BAPTISM

This morning we welcome *Emerson Keats Rigot*, son of Taylor & Erin Rigot, into our fellowship.

## NURSERY PARENT SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 31

11:15 a.m.

Toddler *Andrew & Elizabeth*

*Wheaton*

K4 *Jon-Mikel & Bryant Byrne*

## THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet **Monday, January 8**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Charter Room**. *Ann Hicks* will lead a discussion of **Fair Labor Lawyer: The Remarkable Life of New Deal Advocate Bessie Margolan**, written by Marlene Trestman. Join us for an interesting evening. All are invited.

## FINANCIAL MINISTRY 2017 BUDGET UPDATE



Amount Received \$2,409,691 (89%) Pledges Outstanding \$272,189 (11%)

Our auditing firm has informed us that we must close our books on December 31. Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2017 statement in by December 31, 2017. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners. Thank you.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## MEN'S GROUP BOOK STUDY

The Men's Group will continue a book study on **Tuesday, January 2**, 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).

## ADULT GROUPS

### Needle Arts Group:

- Will meet **Wednesday, January 3** at **6:30 p.m.** in the **Entrance Pavilion**. Leader: *Terry Gentry* (tmgentry@charter.net).

## BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, January 2**, from **7:00-8:00 p.m.** in the **church library** to discuss the book The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead. Visitors are always welcome.

## RETIREMENT GIVING

For those 70 years of age or older, you can make a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Though you will not get a charitable deduction, the withdrawal can serve as your required minimum distribution. The money will not be taxed and will not count toward your adjusted gross income. If you have any questions, please contact Sherri Owens, the church's Financial Secretary.

## YOUNGISH ADULTS

Join the Youngish Adults on **Saturday, January 6**, for a trip up the mountain! We'll enjoy a tour of New Belgium Asheville and food nearby. All are welcome. To sign up, or with questions, email Leigh (lstuckey@wpc-online.org).

## 2018 Women's Retreat

All women of Westminster are encouraged to join us at the **2018 Women's Retreat, February 23-25**, at **Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, NC**. We will be joined by author and spiritual director, *Jeannie DuBose*, as our keynote speaker. *Judy McKenney* will lead music. Registration includes breakfast and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. All rooms are in Assembly Inn.

- Single Occupancy - \$220
- Double Occupancy - \$195 (double occupancy may be either one king or two twin beds)
- Quad Occupancy - \$175 (quad occupancy may have a shared bath)

Payment is due upon registration. Cancellations before January 20 will be applied to your pledge or considered a contribution to the church. Cancellations after January 20 will be forfeited. Sign up online at <http://www.wpc-online.org/women-of-westminster-retreat.php>.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, January 14, 2018**, immediately following the **11:15 a.m.** worship service. The order of business will be: (1) To elect twelve elders for the Class of 2021, (2) To elect one trustee for the Class of 2023, (3) To act upon proposed changes in the ministers' terms of call, (4) To answer questions concerning the 2018 budget.

## SESSION NOMINEES

During the Congregational meeting on **Sunday, January 14**, the Nominating Committee will nominate the following to serve on the Session:

### Class of 2021

<i>Kristin Burrell</i>	<i>Elizabeth McElveen</i>
<i>Phillip Cox</i>	<i>Grier Mullins</i>
<i>Ted Gentry</i>	<i>Pete Roe</i>
<i>Philip Land</i>	<i>Gaye Sprague</i>
<i>Brad Lucas</i>	<i>Catherine Stoddard</i>
<i>David Massey</i>	<i>Freddie Williams</i>

**Class of 2023 Trustee:** *Vernon Anderson*

Others may be nominated from the floor. If you plan to do so, please contact the person beforehand to be certain he/she is willing to serve.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 31, 2017 - January 6, 2018

### SUNDAY

11:15 a.m. Worship Service  
 12:15 p.m. Fellowship Hour  
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

### MONDAY

Church Office closed

6:15 p.m. NAMI  
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

### TUESDAY

12:00 p.m. Administrative Committee Meeting  
 Al-Anon Meeting  
 Men's Book Study Group  
 Westminster Book Club  
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### WEDNESDAY

Weekday School reopens

11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
 3:00 p.m. "It's Elementary!" & Tweens  
 4:30 p.m. Junior & Senior Choristers  
 6:30 p.m. Needle Arts Group  
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. Thursday Bible Study  
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

### SATURDAY

9:00 a.m. Middler Winter Retreat  
 8:00 p.m. Youngish Adults Day Trip

## #yeahTHATwpc

## WESTMINSTER-CAROLINA HIGH CONNECTION

We are weeks away from launching our largest off-site local mission project in the history of this church. Visit the website at <http://www.wpc-online.org/westminster-carolina-high-connection.php> for updates, audio links from educational classes held and information on the three pilot dates, **January 29, March 26 and April 23, 2018**. Questions? Contact Steve Johnson ([stevejohnson.cvm@gmail.com](mailto:stevejohnson.cvm@gmail.com)) or Susan McLarty, Mission Outreach Coordinator.



One of my favorite theologians is Karl Barth. Barth was a Swiss Reformed theologian who had a great influence on the church of the 20th century in Europe and America. He was also a very outspoken opponent of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime and the primary author of The Theological Declaration of Barmen which is found in our Book of Confessions. Over the years I have been blessed by a book of his prayers that I have in my study. As we find ourselves bidding farewell to 2017 and ready to welcome 2018, I wanted to share one of his prayers that was written for a New Year's Eve worship service:

*Lord, God of heaven and earth, we are once again,  
 one last time at the end of the year,  
 together to hear what you have said to us and say again and again,  
 together to praise you as well as we can,  
 together to call on you to give us what only you can give us.*

*We need forgiveness for the innumerable things that  
 we have done wrong this year, and we need light in the great darkness  
 that surrounds and fills us in these last hours of the year.  
 We need new courage and strength to move forward from  
 where we are now and continue toward the goal that you have set for us.*

*We need much greater faith in your promises,  
 much stronger hope in your gracious actions,  
 and much more love for you and for our neighbors.  
 These are our New Year's wishes, which only you can fulfill.*

*Be then among us even now in this hour!  
 Show us again that you are not far from us and from each of us,  
 but that you are near and will hear our petitions,  
 and that you will be far better than we could imagine or conceive.  
 And on this night, for the many others who are at their  
 wits' end without you, be the faithful God who was, and is,  
 and will be for the whole world! Amen.*

May this prayer richly bless your life as you look for God's presence in and call upon your life in the new year.

*Mary Kathleen Duncan*

## 2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



- We have met 95% of our goal

As of Tuesday, December 26, we have received \$2,380,115 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](mailto:sherri@wpc-online.org).