

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

December 21, 2025



3819 CENTRAL AVENUE  
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71913  
501-525-1367  
[www.wpchotsprings.org](http://www.wpchotsprings.org)

*This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. If you are passing through, Godspeed. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join the Westminster Presbyterian Church family. If you are interested in church membership, please indicate this on the pad or you may speak with Pastor Carl about your interest.*

### **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sara Ferril

WELCOME FROM THE PASTOR

PRELUDE

*Noel Nouvelet!*

Arr. Edwin McLean

ADVENT CANDLE

ONE: Let us pray.

**ALL: Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways—in angel appearances, and in the birth of a newborn King, show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

No. 104

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, the days of Advent are quickly passing by, and we still aren't ready. We have prepared our homes for the holidays, yet we have failed to prepare our hearts. We have gazed at the colorful lights all around us, but we haven't allowed the light of Your Word to touch our souls. We have spent weeks searching for the perfect gift, yet we have spent relatively little time searching for You. Forgive us for our misguided efforts. Merciful Lord, before this Advent season draws to a close, enable us to use these days to make ourselves truly ready for the coming of our Lord and Savior. Hear us now as we silently confess the sins of our daily life...**

**\*KYRIE**

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ONE: Friends, believe and proclaim the good news of the gospel:  
ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**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.**

**\*PASSING THE *PEACE OF CHRIST***

**The Peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.**

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING                      Romans 15:4-13                      NT Page 199

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM                      *The Father's Love*                      Arr. William Roger Price  
WPC Chancel Choir

GOSPEL READING                      Matthew 1:18-25                      NT Page 1

One: The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**All: Praise to you O Christ.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON                      *Joseph Speaks Out*                      Rev. Carl McCormack

## **RESPONDING TO AND SEALING OF THE WORD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, maker of all things, provider of all things, who loves all people. We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us: he sees us for who we are, heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new. In his death and resurrection, we see the deepest truth of life. We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us for self-giving love. We give thanks for the Church, the Body of Christ, and for the gift of forgiveness, the power of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

No. 347

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.**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

\*DOXOLOGY

**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.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

No. 144

\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World!*

Arr. Bill Wolaver

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\*Congregation standing, if comfortable to do so.

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**INVITATION TO JOIN THE WESTMINSTER FAMILY:** A person may become a member of this church family by one of the following methods:

- Transfer of letter from another church.
- Affirmation of Faith if you have not joined a church before.
- Re-affirmation of Faith if you have not been active in church recently.

The **Presbyterian Church** recognizes the baptism of other Christian denominations. We are an “Open Communion” church. You are encouraged to talk with our Pastor about becoming a part of the Westminster church family. If you need more information, please contact our Minister, Rev. Carl McCormack us at **wpchsar@gmail.com**. The church office hours are Mon.-Thurs., 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

### THE SESSION

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Carol Birmingham	Debbie Grubb	Mary Cole
Mariko McCallum	Mary Marasco	David Howell
Mike Morrison	Janie Russell	Harvey Miller
NiAnn Thompson	Curtis Wright	Karen Wacaster

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

*Striving to share Christ's love with all of God's people.*

## PRAYER CONCERNS

The congregation is asked to pray for the members and friends listed each week, and those listed are asked to pray for our congregation. This week, please pray for the **WPC Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**, **Kristen La Madrid, Jill Lancaster, Susan Lascaro, Claude, Tara, Malachi Tackett, Carmen Lealie, Ezekiel & Mila Mahend, and Mary Marasco.**

Arkansas Presbytery requests prayers for **Memorial Church** of Atkins and **First Presbyterian Church** of Walnut Ridge.

REMEMBER **Our Country, our Leaders, our military—Austin DeGrasse, and Adam Howell.**

## MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN LONG-TERM RETIREMENT & HEALTH-CARE FACILITIES

West Shores ..... **Jim & Sybil Dowds, Jane Daugherty**  
Garrett Manor ..... **Nancy Ransweiler, Jean Grim**  
The Atrium ..... **Rev. Jim Chaffin**  
Country Club Village ..... **Harvey Miller**  
Senior Comfort Living ..... **Susan Lascaro**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**RED ATTENDANCE PADS** are found at the center-aisle end of each row of the pews. We ask each individual to complete the form with your name and ask that visitors provide contact information. If you have a change of address (either physical and/or email) and/or phone number, please include that info on the form.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS** cont'd

**IF YOU WISH TO DO SO**, you may take your **poinsettia** home today.

**WEDNESDAY'S VERSE-BY-VERSE BIBLE STUDY** will not meet on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve but will resume the study of the Book of Romans on Wednesday, January 7, at 12 noon to 1:00 pm in the Community Room. All are invited to join.

**THE CHANCEL CHOIR** will hold rehearsal at 4:15 pm on Wednesday, December 24. **THE JOYFUL RINGERS** will be on break and will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

**DECEMBER DOLLAR GIVING** is designated to collect monetary donations to purchase space heaters.

**2026 GIVING ENVELOPES ARE** available in the narthex. Please pick up the envelopes with your name on the box. If you have not used the envelopes previously and wish to start doing so, please select one of the numbered boxes without a name and notify the office of your choice please.

**THE LAST BANK DEPOSIT OF 2025** will be made at 10:00 am on Monday, December 29, for those of you who wish to have your donations credited in 2025.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** will be held at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 24. Following the service, **ALL** are invited to join the pizza and salad gathering to be held in the Community Room. The cost of the pizza is \$14 per individual. If you plan to join us for the pizza, please notify either Susie Wright or the church office of your intentions no later than 4:00 pm on **Monday, December 22**.