



Westminster Presbyterian Church

125 N. Wilkinson Street • Dayton, OH 45402

www.westminsterdayton.org

Service for the Lord's Day – January 12, 2025 Baptism of the Lord Sunday

"Baptism is about love! It is given to the church as a way to express God's love to all people who seek it. It is the entryway to the church, yes, but it is primarily and always an expression of God's profound love." - Mary N. Pugh

CARILLON PEAL

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

"O God, Thou Faithful God"
Arioso

*Johannes Brahms
Joseph Jenkins*

(During the Call to Worship in Music you are requested to enter into a time of silence,
actively opening your spirit to God's presence in your midst.)

INTROIT - "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Freylinghausen's Gesangbuch, 1704

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

WELCOME

Kylie Hettinger

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP IN WORD

Leader: God's voice stirs the waters.
People: Our glorious God thunders,
Leader: Calling us to worship,
People: Calling us to peace.
Leader: Beloved children, give God glory.
People: Worship God in the splendor of holiness.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor with a verbal greeting or enthusiastic wave.)

*HYMN 478 - "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Lauda anima

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one

another. We allow the past to hold us captive.

In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news of the gospel: You are God's beloved!

People: **We hear. We Trust. We believe.**

Leader: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*GLORIA PATRI

H. W. Greatorex

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON - Genesis 1:1-5

Pew Bible, p. 1 OT

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Children in Pre-K—Grade 2 will leave the service at this time.

An adult leader will be in the Narthex to escort them to their classrooms.)

ANTHEM - "O Thou the Central Orb"

Charles Wood

O thou the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most high, eternal light.
Of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,

In fellowship with thee, transforming day
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within.
Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON - Mark 1:4-11

Pew Bible, pp. 34-35 NT

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Reverend Nancy S. Hodgkins

Torn Apart by Love

Focus: "And just as he was coming out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him." - Mark 1:10

***HYMN 241- "Behold the Goodness of Our Lord"**

Crimond

(Children in Grade 3-8 will leave the service at this time.
An adult leader will be in the Narthex to escort them to their classroom.)

***LITANY FOR BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Leader: In the beginning, darkness covered the deep,
and God said: Let there be light.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Leader: Through the words of the prophet, the Lord said:
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Leader: Do not fear, says the Lord; I am with you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Leader: When Jesus was baptized by John,
suddenly the heavens were opened.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Leader: And as Jesus was coming out of the water,
The Spirit of God rested on him like a dove.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Leader: And a voice said: You are my beloved child;
with you I am well pleased.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Leader: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the
Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your beloved son.

**People: Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful in your service,
that we may rejoice to be called children of God; through the same Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.**

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM - "Salvation Is Created"

Pavel Tshesnokoff

Salvation is created in midst of the earth, O God, our God. Alleluia!

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

***HYMN 275 - "God of Our Life"**

Sandon

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE (all sing) - "God Be with You"**

Ralph Vaughan Williams

**God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY - Festival Trumpet Tune

Gilbert Martin

(The Concluding Voluntary is the final Alleluia of our worship.
You are invited to remain in silence.)

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Music Participants: Westminster Choir – The Reverend John Neely is Organist-Director.

Today's Music: In the mid-nineteenth century, the pressure was on hymn writers to keep their versifications of psalms as close to the Scriptural text as possible. Henry F. Lyte would have none of this however, and boldly published a book of psalm paraphrases entitled *Spirit of the Psalms*. Lyte decided he could maintain the spirit of these beautiful texts while still using his own words, probably with the intention of making the reader see the psalms in a new light. One such paraphrase is "Praise, my Soul, the King of Heaven." Lyte's text speaks to the love of God and our dependence on him in a clear and imaginative way. Think of what might happen if we woke up every day with these words on our lips: "Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing." How would our lives change if we walked through our days singing "Alleluia!" or through our times of sorrow declaring that we rest in the gentle hand of God? This is a text with beautiful imagery and thoughtful prose that, like Psalm 103, gives us words to praise our God with heart, mind, and soul.

Choirs for children and youth today. New members welcome!

Children's Choirs and Youth Handbells (Sundays)

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Genesis Singers (4 and 5 year olds, Pre-Kindergarten) - Rm. 104 – Hilary Toerner, Director

Cherub Choir (grades K-2) - Theater – Rachael Boezi, Director

Calvin Choir (grades 3-6) - Rm. 100 (Choir Room) - John Neely, Director

Knox Ringers (grades 7-12) – Rm. 203 - Brent Manley, Director

Youth Choir

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Knox Choir (grades 7-12) – Choir Room – John Neely, Director

Youth Fellowship Groups follow.

All are welcome!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Please stop by our Children's Ministry check in desk anytime between 9:40-10:05 to record your child's attendance & receive their name tag.

Infants and Toddlers, Room 108 (Infant - 3 years old), are cared for from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 108. Parents of infants will be contacted via text by the nursery staff in case immediate communication is needed while they worship in the Sanctuary. During the worship hour, children take part in an activity and enjoy a snack.

Classes for children and youth today. New members are welcome.

Pre-K - 2nd Grades:

10:00-10:20 - Worship with family in the Sanctuary

10:25-11:30 - Sunday School

Pre-K & K, Room 101

1st & 2nd grades, Room 103/105

3rd-8th Grades:

10:00-10:40 - Worship with family in the Sanctuary

10:45-11:30 - Sunday School
3rd & 4th grades, Room 109
5th-8th grades, Theater

Junior High and Senior High Youth Fellowships meet from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. today. All youth in grades 7 through 12 are welcome. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please \$3.00 to help cover the cost of dinner.

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Welcome Visitors: We are so glad to welcome you to worship with us today! Whether you are just passing through or looking for a new church community, we hope you feel right at home. At Westminster we believe that Jesus welcomes all people, just as they are, and so do we. We understand the life of faith to be a journey that is better walked together than alone. Following worship please join us for Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall, or join one of our Sunday School classes. We hope you will explore the bulletin as well as our website www.westminsterdayton.org to learn more about us. Please leave us your name and contact information in the Friendship Pad so we can get to know you as well! Grace and peace to you. -Westminster Pastoral Staff and Congregation

Join the Westminster Fellowship Facebook Group (Westminster Presbyterian Church Dayton Fellowship)! Be part of our online community and stay in the know of all upcoming Fellowship Events.

Thank you for your 2025 pledge to Westminster. There is still time to give! Pledge cards are in the literature racks in the Narthex, or you can pledge on the website by going to www.westminsterdayton.org/give.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The flowers in the Chancel are given in loving memory of the Reverend Richard and Rachel Bower by Becky Bower and Suzanne (Bower) Perkins.

If you are interested in donating Chancel flowers, please contact Kay Berg (bergkay07@gmail.com or 937-367-9297). Please note that there is a one month lead time for flower donation announcements.

Emergency Response Team: Sean Hearrell, Cheryl Paquette

During the service, if you notice someone who appears to require medical attention, please raise your hand or contact the head usher. Emergency Response Team members will care for the person.

If you have a security concern please notify the head usher who can connect you to our security personnel.

Each week the churches of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley keep one particular congregation or group in their prayers. This week the churches are praying for **First Presbyterian Church, Middletown**.

Westminster is a praying church and we would love to pray for you. You are welcome to **add your prayer to our Prayer Wall**, located in the Sanctuary near the front on the east wall. You will find paper and pencil to write your private prayer to God and place it between the bricks of the wall.

If you have a prayer request you would like to share with our **Westminster Prays weekly email**, please use the Prayer Request Card in the pew rack and place it in the offering box following worship. You can sign up to receive the Westminster Prays email and share prayer requests or other pastoral needs directly with our pastoral staff by emailing caitlin@westminsterdayton.org or calling 937-907-6078.

Members recently released from the hospital: Joyce Krueger

Richard Baker is away recovering from surgery on his injured quadriceps.



Thank you for coming to Westminster today! We hope to see you again soon. If you enjoyed the service, and want to help us continue to share the love of God with our neighbors and transform their lives, please consider donating to our ministries. Donation boxes are located in the Narthex and by the elevator. You can also donate online at www.westminsterdayton.org/give or by scanning the QR code to the left with the camera of any smart device. You can also text "give" to 937-468-4003.

The Baptism of the Lord Sunday, or Theophany, is a day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany, which commemorates the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Christ, and the wedding at Cana. Over time in the West, however, the celebration of the baptism of the Lord came to be commemorated as a distinct day from Epiphany. It is celebrated in the Catholic Church as well as the Anglican and Lutheran Churches on the first Sunday following The Epiphany of Our Lord. Some Lutheran churches celebrate it on the Sunday before Lent.

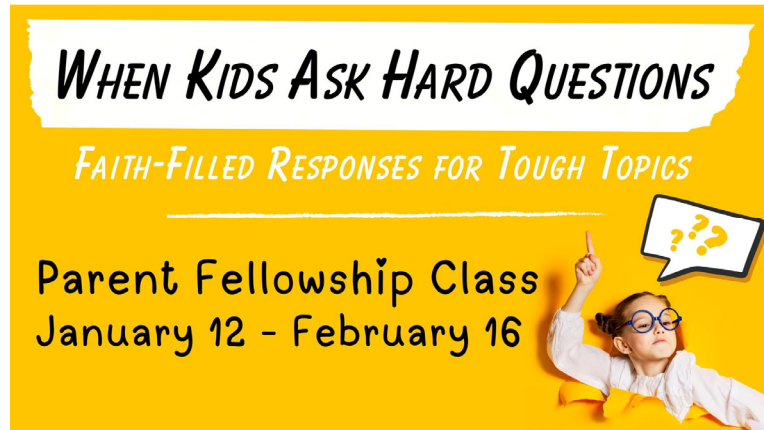


Fellowship Game Night

Friday, January 24, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 22

Join us in Fellowship Hall for an evening of fun and games brought to Westminster by the Fellowship Committee. Food will be provided. Please RSVP at so we can plan accordingly. All are welcome to bring board games to contribute in addition to the games provided. From Sorry to Twister and Chess to Codenames, it promises to be a fun night for all ages! RSVP at westminsterdayton.org/fellowship or by using the QR code.



When Kids Ask Hard Questions: Faith-Filled Responses for Tough Topics
January 12 - February 16

All parents are welcome to join our Parents Fellowship Discussion class in the Mission Room. To kick off the new year we will be discussing topics from the book, *When Kids Ask Hard Questions: Faith-Filled Responses for Tough Topics*. No reading required, just join the conversation!

This class is intended as a fellowship opportunity for parents currently raising their children. Join us for an opportunity to talk, listen, support, and learn together!



For God So Loved the World: An Examination of the Crucifixion
Led by J.D. Whitlock

This one-day class aims to provide a thoughtful exploration of the evolution from the perspective of "God is Love" to the more somber view of "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" found in many Christian spaces throughout history. We will take a closer look at the concept of "substitutionary atonement" and consider why it became the predominant interpretation of the crucifixion in Christianity after its development 1,000 years following the death of Jesus. Furthermore, we will engage in a discussion of an alternative understanding of the crucifixion as a transformative force that invites us into the expansive love of God. Come with an open mind, and a spirit open to fresh perspectives.



Presbyterian Heritage Sunday will be observed Sunday, January 26, at 10:00 a.m., with the Miami Valley Pipes and Drums. Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to wear any Tartan or plaid that they may have such as skirts, kilts, and ties. This is a day to be Scottish, no matter what your heritage.

Flag Bearers Wanted! Join this Westminster tradition and take up a tartan for the worship procession! Volunteers will meet for a practice run Sunday, January 19. Please keep in mind the flags are large and unwieldy. Contact Donna to volunteer (donna@westminsterdayton.org or 937-223-7285).



Westminster 101

Sunday, January 26, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Library

Are you interested in officially becoming a part of this vibrant congregation, or do you know someone who might be? If you have been visiting with us for a while and are interested in church membership, we are offering our "Westminster 101" class on Sunday, January 26, in the Library. Lunch is provided and childcare is available upon request. Please contact Mattie Pennington (mattie@westminsterdayton.org) for more information, or to sign up to attend. The deadline to RSVP is Monday, January 20.

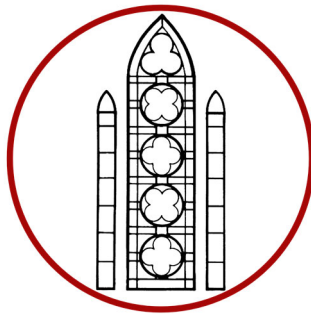


Socks For ID Ministry

Socks are a simple yet vital need for those experiencing homelessness or financial hardship. They provide comfort, warmth, and protection from the elements. By contributing, you're helping to ensure that everyone has a warm pair. Many of our clients lack this simple staple, and ID Ministry provides clean socks for those who need them, no questions asked. Donate new, unused socks at the bus in the hallway.



Looking for something to do while the weather outside is frightful? Check out the Church Library! The library is a wonderful resource available to all members. Whether you're looking for spiritual growth, devotionals, inspirational books, or family-friendly reading materials, our library has a variety of resources to support your faith journey and keep you company while you wait for spring. Simply use the sign out binder located on the table under the angel painting to check out a book.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

MINISTERS

All members of the Church

STAFF

Richard L. Baker, Jr. Pastor/Head of Staff
John W. Neely Assoc. Pastor for Music
Nancy S. Hodgkins Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Mission
Caitlin T. Deyerle Assoc. Pastor for Congregational Care
Jenne Gross Mission Associate
Kylie Hettinger Director of Discipleship
Brent Manley Music Associate
Mattie Pennington Congregational Care Coordinator

Tim Francis Business Manager
Brittany Campbell Director of Communications
Donna Schoonmaker Office Manager
Wayne King Facilities and Technology Coordinator
Keith Spencer Sexton
Marvin Fleming Sexton
George H. McConnel Pastor Emeritus

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” (478)

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.
Praise him for his grace and favor
To his people in distress;
Praise him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness.
Fatherlike he tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows.
Angels, help us to adore him:
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

“Behold the Goodness of Our Lord” (241)

Behold the goodness of our Lord,
how blest it is to be
a company of God's beloved,
in holy unity.

Like precious oil upon the head,
a healing for our strife,
it flows throughout our common bond,
refreshing all of life.

As dew on Zion's mountaintop
brings freshness to its door,
our Lord commands this in our midst
and brings life evermore.

“God of Our Life” (275)

God of our life, through all the circling years,
We trust in thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in thy hand;
With us abide.
Lead us by faith, to hope's true promised land;
Be thou our guide.
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown
We follow thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;
Our refuge be.
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart's true home when all our years have
sped.