

Sunday Service Times: 10 AM Worship and 4 PM Jazz Vespers

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

12/03 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
 Mark 13:24-37

12/10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11
 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
 2 Peter 3:8-15a
 Mark 1:1-8

12/17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 Psalm 126
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

12/24 - 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

12/25 - Christmas Day Nativity of Jesus Christ

Dawn
 Isaiah 62:6-12
 Psalm 97
 Titus 3:4-7
 Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

Day
 Isaiah 52:7-10
 Psalm 98
 Hebrew 1:1-4 (5-12)
 John 1:1-14

12/31 - 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Psalm 148
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:22-40

AND GOD CREATED CHRISTMAS

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Like many mothers, I have often thought of myself as being responsible for making Christmas happen for my family. I have worried about finding just the right gift for everyone. I used to worry about sending Christmas cards, but I gave that up a long time ago when I got them out closer to Valentines' Day than Christmas. Every year I still start making lists of what I should cook or bake – neither of which I like to do. The grocery list gets longer each week as Christmas approaches. Advent is supposed to be a time of spiritual preparation for the Incarnation, but it is hard to be spiritual when the demands of Christmas preparation exhaust you.

The truth of the matter is, none of us make Christmas happen – God already did it. God has given us the ultimate gift that keeps on giving. More than a time of celebrating being together with our own families, or friends that have become our family, Christmas is a celebration of being a part of God's family. The most precious meaning of Christmas is that God came to us in the most humble, human way to bring us back into the family fold when we had gone

astray. This is a gift especially for those who do not feel connected. Through Christ, we are intimately connected to one another.

At the start of Advent, instead of sending out invitations, we have been sent one. The Christmas party to end all Christmas parties is a family gathering in which we come to God, who loves us so much a child was given to us. That child, Jesus, came as the Incarnation, God's Word-made-flesh. Below is an excerpt from the poem, "Here on Earth," by the American poet, Anne Porter.

*"And he became a child
 The better to be near us
 Born in the wintertime
 Born on a journey*

*He grew to be a man
 And lived among us
 To be our healing
 When we were sick
 Our bread
 When we were hungry
 To be the wine
 At all our weddings
 He suffered at our hands*

Continued on page 4 . . .

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ON-SITE MISSIONS

WestMark Food Pantry Elizabeth Richmond

Phone 309-673-8501 Ext. 7
Hours Weekly Monday 9 to 11 AM
Email wpc@westminsterpeoria.org

Westminster Infant Care Center

Director **Valerie Sager**
Phone 309-674-6701
Hours Monday-Friday 6:30 to 3 PM
in accordance with Peoria school calendar
Email WICC1973@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Editing/Proofing

Peggy Carter

Collating/Securing

Dick and Norma Helfrich, Pat Wagner,
Monte and JoAnn Gibson, Alice Nash,
Marilyn Luman, Adele Fleming and
Peggy Carter.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Anna Bussian

Circle of Friends will not meet in the months of December and January. We will begin our meetings again on February 6, at 9 a.m. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter and the weekly bulletin. If you haven't signed up to host a month, please get in touch with Anna Bussian, who has the available months yet to be filled. ❄

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Marilyn Luman

As of this date, we are planning to meet on two Thursdays -- December 14 and December 21, at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Whether we meet on December 21 will depend on the availability of our attendees. Please check the Lectionary verses that are listed on the cover of the December *Window*.

December 14 - we will discuss the verses listed for December 17.

December 21 - we will discuss the verses listed for December 24.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Questions?

Contact Marilyn Luman. ❄

FORE!

The golfing team has hung up their clubs 'fore' the weather has gotten a bit too chilly. We will meet you at the clubhouse in the spring and putt around the greens when the weather hits 50. See you next year! Questions? Contact Dick Helfrich. ❄

MEN'S COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Come and join us for a good cup of joe and good conversation. We meet at Panera Bread, 2515 N. Westlake, weekly on Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. Invite a friend. There is always room. ❄

ATTENTION, SNOWBIRDS

Do we know how to reach you? Please make sure you alert the church office to the date when you change addresses. Thanks. ❄

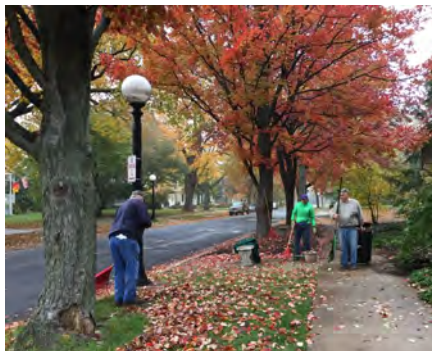
THE RED BOX

Mary Lee

Get important messages from the homepage of our website (www.westminsterpeoria.org) As the weather changes and gets colder, this is where you can find out if church service, meeting, or other event has been cancelled due to inclement weather. There is NO searching for the correct page. The "red box" is immediately below the sliding photos, on the homepage, IF an announcement has been posted. ❄

FALL CLEAN-UP DAYS AT WESTMINSTER

Janet Kelley and pictures by Dan Callahan



Many thanks to Don Bell, Dan Callahan, Gary Dutro, Pat Flynn, Janet Kelley, Alan Kupper, Jan and Gary Leonard, Susan and Roger Leighty, and our church neighbor, Mark, for helping get the church grounds ready for winter during the Properties Committee fall clean-up days! Also, many thanks to Gary Dutro for providing donuts and to Westlake Paneras for providing coffee. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank You!! ❄



CHRISTMAS WREATH FUNDRAISER

Chris Day

Thanks! For all your support on our wreath fundraiser. Delivery should be no later than December 10th. You may pick up your order after church or let us know if you need a delivery.

We hope you enjoyed the Make It - Take It Bazaar too. The board enjoyed making some items to help the sale.

Our final fundraiser for this year (2018 will be here before we know it!) will be on Saturday, December 9. We will participate in the "Gifting Hope Market 2017," sponsored by the Northminster Presbyterian Church.

This year it will be held on Saturday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the First Federated Church Living Life Together Center. This is located on the corner of Sheridan Road and War Memorial Drive (used to be the Great American Insurance building) 3625 N. Sheridan Road. You can get there off of Florence.

The Market is an alternative of gifting, offering hope to those in need with donations to non-profit organizations locally and globally. A shopper will have the opportunity to select from 25 non-profits. The shopper buys the item/gift and it is given in honor of a loved one. Instead of purchasing a tangible gift, their donation will be used to fund a specific need of the non-profit. Upon purchase of the gift, the receive a card describing the gift and charity to which it was

given signed by the shopper. We enjoy getting WICC recognized and sharing our good works.

If you can not make the December 9 "Gifting Hope Market" and like the idea of giving a gift for those hard to buy for friends on your list, then you can do it anytime through Westminster.

Westminster Infant Care Center has the same concept called the "Spirit of Christmas: an Alternative Gift List." It can be found on page 7 of this month's newsletter. ❄

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Dorothy Crozier

Please join us after the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 10 for a celebration in the William O'Neill Parish House. Please R.S.V.P. if you are planning on attending the dinner. You may sign-up in the Narthex or call the church office at 309-673-8501 to be placed on the list. The ladies of Westminster have planned a meal that will make your mouth water. The menu will be fruit, stuffed pork tenderloin, mashed potatoes with sour cream, peas, salad, and buttered rolls. Dessert will be an assortment of Christmas desserts. We are asking each of you to bring one batch of your favorite Christmas dessert (cookies, pie, cake, etc.) Please bring your dessert to the Fellowship Hall kitchen prior to the event. ❄

MAKE IT - TAKE IT FUNDRAISER

Marilyn Luman

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Nov. 19 WICC fundraising event a success. It was "cozy" in the Parlor instead of Fellowship Hall but that helped promote the Christian "giving spirit". Whether you dropped off an item to sell, bought an item to eat, or just ate an item during the event, THANKS for showing your support of WICC . . . IT WAS VERY APPRECIATED. We raised \$801 during this event. ❄



Pictured left to right: Alice Nash, Jerrie Ruck, Marilyn Luman, Linda Kupper



*And he forgave us
He sweat from head to foot
With human anguish
And shedding every drop of blood
To give us each other*

*He gave himself to us
That we might live forever*

*He gave us even more
Than he has given the angels."*

This is the perfect gift. Let us slowly open the package, savoring the expectation as we journey through Advent to the manger in Bethlehem.

Blessings on your journey!
Pastor Denise ❄

THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift! - Corinthians 9:15

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly "indescribable gift," as well as the gifts of church leaders - past, present, and future.

In the second letter to the Corinthians, Paul talks of a generous gift that has been promised. As he send folks ahead to make arrangements for this gift, he takes the opportunity to illuminate the impact of generosity. Paul grounds readers first in God's generosity, reminding us that God not only provides seed for sowing and bread for food, but God goes further, partnering in human generosity both as source and as amplification. The gifts we give are from God, and they are multiplied and increased by God as we give. The result of the generous gift made by the Corinthians therefore has a compounding effect, enriching the Corinthians "in every way." it results in impact to those whose need is met, and the ministry made possible by the gift - to the giver of the gift as well. It is that grace, then,

that Paul describes as "indescribable."

Through the work of the Christmas Joy Offering, we seek the living of this truth: that God's generosity is the source, the support, and the outcome of our own. We give because God has freely given. We give to support the needs of our church leaders - past, present, and future - and God amplifies and extends those gifts through the ministry of those leaders. Their gifts of ministry extend and amplify as well, "overflowing" in thanksgiving to God, and the entire environment of generosity bears witness to God's grace, a truly indescribable gift.

A church worker in a time of need receives the generosity of the church in the same way they have been generous in their service to it - then turns around and makes a gift himself to help other church leaders in need. A student at Presbyterian Pan American School receives the generosity of the church and responds by dedicating his life to serving the church. The work of the Offering is compounding generosity, with unending expansion and ceaseless increase.

In gratitude to God for the gift of Jesus, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) invites congregations to join this celebration of God's presence with us by supporting those in need of help and hope.

Thank you for your support of this life-changing Offering. Please give generously as you give your Christmas Joy Offering. On Sunday, December 24, Westminster Presbyterian Church will take a special Christmas Joy Offering. This offering provides financial assistance to individuals and families who have dedicated their lives to the church, and supports leadership development and education for students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. ❄

WESTMARK FOOD PANTRY

Elizabeth Richmond

During the month of **October** the WestMark Food Pantry was open five Mondays and provided food to **2139** individuals.

The shelves are a bit bare. Any help in filling them up again would be greatly appreciated. We can always use peanut butter, applesauce, canned meat and fruits, macaroni and cheese, and cereal.

The partnership we have with St. Mark's Church creates an amazing opportunity to help those who might otherwise be hungry. This makes for lots of work for our volunteers but it is great to help hungry, grateful folks. ❄

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Elizabeth Richmond

Come help unload deliveries: every first and third Tuesday, **December 5 and 19**, at **11:30 a.m.** Then on Thursday, **December 14**, at **1 p.m.**

We also can use some help filling in for our regular volunteers on Monday mornings. If you are interested in helping once-in-awhile but cannot commit to every Monday, let Elizabeth Richmond know. We will add you to the list of volunteers to call when needed. ❄

WESTMARK FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY HRS

Elizabeth Richmond

The WestMark Food Pantry will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1 to allow our wonderful volunteers time to rest, rejuvenate, and spend this special time of the year with their family and friends.

If you have any questions about the food pantry, please call Elizabeth Richmond or the church office, 309-673-8501. ❄

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays

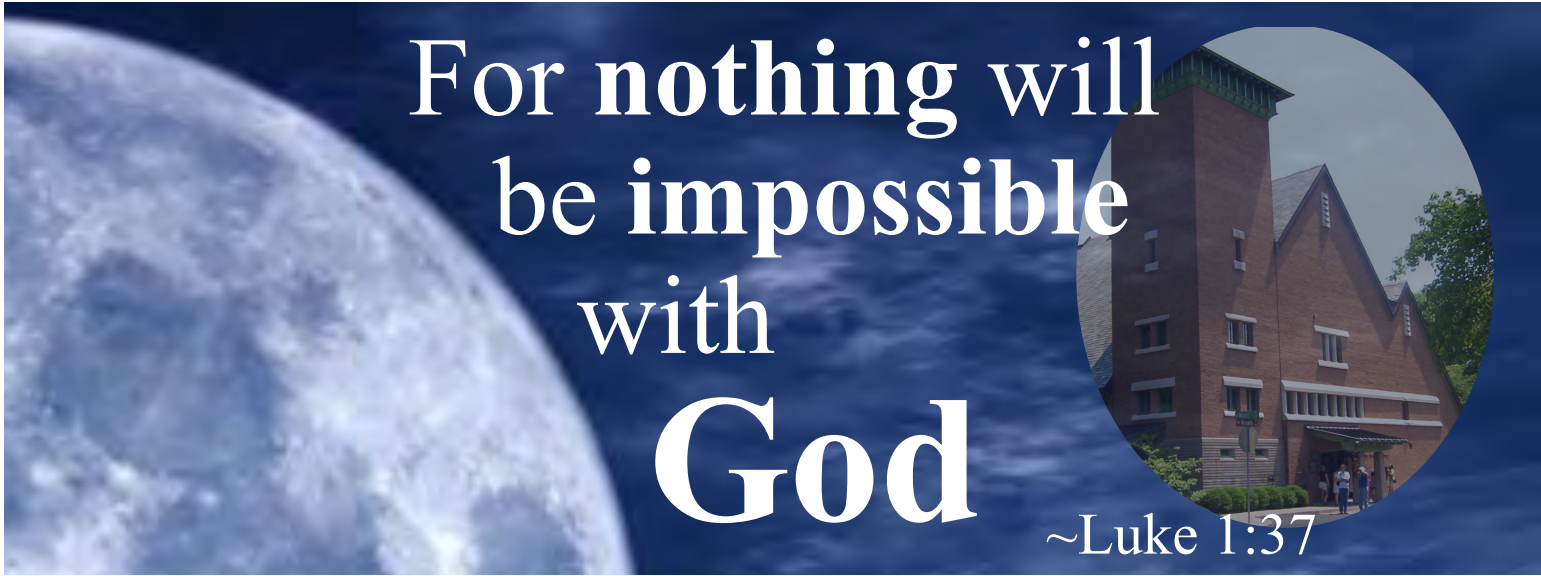
2 Abbie Alexander
5 Juliet Babbitt
5 Robert Seelye
6 Sandra Gebhardt
6 Janet Leonard
11 N. Lee Nugent
13 Janet Avendano

December Birthdays

17 Debbie Burns
22 Patricia Wagner
24 Beth Alt
27 Tom Clark-Jones
28 Carol Carlson
28 Sara Meyers
30 Brian Slutz

December Anniversaries

2 Phyllis & Bill Rafferty
17 Linda & Alan Kupper



For nothing will
be impossible
with
God

~Luke 1:37

2018 STEWARDSHIP - "ENABLING MIRACLES"

Gary Leonard

Thanks to all members and friends of Westminster who either presented their 2018 pledge commitments at the morning worship service on Stewardship Sunday, November 12, or otherwise mailed/submitted their pledge to the church. I am encouraged by the pledges that have been received to date. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, we encourage you to do so. You may mail it to the church or place it into the offering place on any Sunday. If you do not have a pledge card, you may use the form below. There should also be pledge cards available in the pews. ❄

2018 Pledge Commitment to Westminster Presbyterian Church

With a grateful heart for God's grace and as an expression of Christian stewardship, I/we make this commitment to the ministry, missions, and operations of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

I/we pledge: \$ _____ per week or
\$ _____ per month or
\$ _____ per year

☐ Check here if you do **NOT** want to receive envelopes.

I understand that I may adjust this pledge at any time due to changes in my circumstances by contacting the financial secretary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email (optional): _____

LUKE 1:37

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ♦ 1420 W MOSS AVE ♦ PEORIA, IL 61606
www.westminsterpeoria.org ♦ 309.673.8501 ♦ wpc@westminsterpeoria.org

Please mail to the church or place into the offering plate at any worship.

Elizabeth Richmond

A woman with glasses is wearing a green elf costume with a pink hat and a yellow pom-pom. She is holding a large, festive tag that reads "I'M A SANTA'S HELPER!" and contains a donation request for the "Gift Giving Tree". The tag also features illustrations of a reindeer and Santa Claus. The text on the tag includes: "YES, I want to adopt a child from the 'Gift Giving Tree'!", "Please call on shopping for me!", "I am contributing the amount of \$ _____", "I will be donating to 'Adopt a Child' at _____", and "If you would like to do the shopping, please give a donation from the Gift Giving Tree in the backroom." The tag ends with "Thank You for giving generously!" and a dashed line. The woman is also holding a small white card that says "beth".

You can cut the snowman along the dotted lines and use it as the tag for your gift.

You can also mail a check to church with "Gift Giving Tree" in the memo line. Questions? call Elizabeth Richmond. ❄️

Elizabeth Richmond



Schnucks located at 4800 N. University has WestMark Food Pantry as the latest beneficiary of the Schnucks "Bags 4 My Cause" program!

Please go to the store, find the reusable bag rack and buy a few Hunger bags in support of West-Mark Food Pantry. When you use these bags, you show others that you not only care about the community but also about the environment because you are choosing a more eco-friendly way to bring your groceries home. And remember to spread the

For more information about the Schnucks Bags 4 My Cause Program, visit www.schnucks.bags4mycause.com or call Elizabeth Richmond. ❄️

Submitted by the Fine Arts Society of Peoria



Visit <http://www.fineartsociety.net> or contact 309-686-6886 for more details ❄

Spirit of Christmas: an Alternative Gift List

- Give from the heart.
- Simplify shopping.
- Honor a loved one.



Do you know someone that has everything they could ever need or want?

Do you struggle to figure out what to give them for Christmas?

We have the solution for you, and it supports our Westminster Infant Care Center (WICC). Below is a coupon that you can purchase to give a gift to WICC in honor of that hard-to-shop-for person's name.

There are specific items to choose from, like books, or educational toys, to practical items like diaper wipes, or assistance with the cost of transportation. You can also just pick a dollar amount you would like to give and the WICC staff will get what the nursery needs most.

What a great way to honor a family member or a friend that has everything and help WICC at the same time.

You can find additional "Gift Tag Coupons" in the Narthex or contact the church office (673.8501) and more will be mailed out to you.

- 1) **Choose** from a list of gift items below.
- 2) **Make** a contribution to WICC.
- 3) **Complete** both parts of the coupon.
- 4) **Return** the smaller stub portion to the church with your check.
- 5) **Give** the "Gift Tag" to the person you are buying for.
- 6) **Questions?** Call Elizabeth Richmond (697-9720)



Gift No. 1
\$5.00
Baby
Wipes

Gift No. 2
\$10.00
Children's
Books

Gift No. 3
\$10.00
Children's
Puzzles

Gift No. 4
\$15.00
Transportation
to/from school
and WICC

Gift No. 5
Any Amount
General donation
to WICC to help
with any need.

Keep this portion and give it to the recipient.

Fill out and return this stub to:

TO:

In your honor I have donated: _____
_____ to the Westminster Infant Care Center.

Merry Christmas!

From: _____

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1420 W. Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606
along with your check.

Gift in honor of: _____

Gift No. _____ Amount \$ _____

Given From: _____

DECEMBER SERVANT SCHEDULE

SERVICES	USHERS	GREETERS	SOUND	LITURGIST	ACOLYTE	COFFEE HOUR
3 Sun AM	Kim Mitchell Horst Prohaska Alice Nash	Dick Helfrich	Chris Hovey	John Jackson	Horst Prohaska	Carole & Hannah Willadsen
3 Sun Jazz	Conrad Stinnett	Suellen Kirkwood	Alan Willadsen	Pastor Denise	Suellen Kirkwood	
10 Sun AM	Alan Kupper Gary Dutro Marge Willadsen	Dick Helfrich	Steve Sager	Kim Mitchell	Alan Kupper	Dorothy Crozier
10 Sun Lesson & Carols	Dick Helfrich	Suellen Kirkwood	Don Bell	Pastor Denise	Suellen Kirkwood	
17 Sun AM	Jeff Case Gary Dutro Laura Van Riper	Dick Helfrich	Steve Sager	Jan Leonard	Jeff Case	Suellen Kirkwood
17 Sun A Jazz Christmas	Alice Nash	Suellen Kirkwood	Tom Clark-Jones	Pastor Denise	Suellen Kirkwood	
24 Sun - Christmas Eve Morning	Gary Leonard Janet Kelley Dan Callahan	Dick Helfrich	Steve Sager	Jessica Case	Gary Leonard	
24 Sun Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion	Brian Hakes Joyce Hakes Suellen Kirkwood	Suellen Kirkwood	Alan Kupper	Dorothy Crozier	Suellen Kirkwood	
31 Sun AM	Alan Kupper Linda Kupper	Dick Helfrich	Steve Sager	Jordan Case	Suellen Kirkwood	

If you are unable to work on your scheduled date, please try to find your replacement or switch with someone, before contacting the Ministry Elder of the changes.

COMMUNION SERVERS

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 3 | 10 AM
1st Sunday of Advent

Bread	Kim Mitchell
Wine	Pastor Denise
Bread	Diane Case
Wine	Jeff Case
Traveler	Bonnie Jackson



SUNDAY | DECEMBER 24 | 4 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

Bread	Dick Helfrich
Wine	Pastor Denise
Bread	Brian Hakes
Wine	Joyce Hakes
Traveler	Suellen Kirkwood



SUNDAY | DECEMBER 24 | 4 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

Bread	Tom Clark-Jones
Wine	Pastor Denise
Traveler	Suellen Kirkwood

November 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

January 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 1st Sun. of Advent Communion Sunday 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 4p Jazz Vespers	4 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open	5 NO Circle of Friends 11:30a Food Delivery	6 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10a Staff Meeting	7 6:15p Bell Choir Reh. 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 2nd Sun. of Advent 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 4p Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols 5:30p Christmas Dinner	11 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open	12 WINDOW DEADLINE 4:30p WICC Board Mtg 6:30p Session Meeting	13 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10a Staff Meeting	14 10a Midnight Ride of Paul Revere Concert 1p Food Delivery 1:30p Lectionary Bible S. 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 3rd Sun. of Advent 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 4p A Jazz Christmas	18 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open	19 11:30a Food Delivery	20 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10a Staff Meeting 12p Finance Meeting	21 1:30p Lectionary Bible S. 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 4th Sun. of Advent Christmas Eve 10a Worship 4p Candlelight Communion Service	25 Christmas Day CLOSED Church Office Food Pantry WIOC	26 CLOSED Church Office WIOC	27 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. NO Staff Meeting	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour NO Jazz Vespers	CLOSED Church Office Food Pantry WIOC					

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

Annual Reports due to Mary Lee by Monday, January 8, 2018
Congregational Dinner January 28, 2018



Every year we decorate our sanctuary with poinsettias at Christmas.

The flowers are purchased by members and friends to remember special people in their lives.

The poinsettias will be displayed through the Advent season.

You may pick them up after that service. Please, remove only the number of flowers you ordered.

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the order form below.

Make check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church or WPC with "Poinsettia" in the memo line. Bring or mail to the church (1420 W. Moss Ave. Peoria, IL 61606)

The poinsettias are \$15.00 each. ❄



CHOOSE what happens to your flowers:



- ☐ I will pick up after the Christmas Eve 4 PM service OR
☐ Please give to one of our Homebound Members.

Honor of	Memory of	Name flowers are for:	From (How your name(s) will be listed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Quantity of Arrangements at

\$15 each equals \$_____ **Total Due** (check payable to WPC)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Thank you for your donation.

*"So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off
and peace to those who were near..."*

-Ephesians 2:14-17

WORSHIP

Celebrating God as a church family.

10 a.m. Sunday Morning

4 p.m. Sunday Jazz Vespers

CONNECT

Engaging as a Follower of Christ

Men's Coffee Fellowship: weekly, Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m.

Circle of Friends: monthly, September - May, 9 a.m.

DEVELOP

Growing as a Follower of Christ

Bible Study: monthly, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 1:30 p.m.

SERVE

Honoring God by Serving Others

- MAKE desserts for the Christmas Dinner (pg. 3)

- SHOP for missions (The Gift Giving Tree (pg. 6), Give an Alternative Gift in someone's name (pg. 7), donate food for the WestMark Food Pantry)

- VOLUNTEER to serve (run sound, usher, host coffee hour, help at food pantry)

- PLEDGE to the church

PRAY

Humble Yourself before God

- Pray for WPC, our elders, deacons, and for our homebound members (Wanda T., Shirley K., Helen H., Dorothy M., Hettie B., Florence W., Marge S., Marilyn H.
 - Those we serve through the food pantry and the Infant Care Center.

- Pray for needs of our family, friends, and loved ones. Dave, Ron, Lynne, Erika, Barbara, Brian, Jim, Jan, Charles, Jim, Anne, Laura, Eric, Elizabeth, Nelda, Bill, Jack, Charles, Dorothy, Linda, Marilyn, Bruce, Julie, Jan, Eunice, Joan, Renny, Joe, Keith, Zoe, Brad, Jane, Tom, Julia, Sylvia, Carolyn, Diana. ❄

WESTMINSTER SESSION

Clerk of Session	Brian Hakes Class of 2018
Christian Education	Bonnie Jackson Class of 2019
Church Life	Dorothy Crozier Class of 2019
Finance	Gary Leonard Class of 2019
Membership	Carol Carlson Class of 2017
Missions/Outreach	Jan Leonard Class of 2019
Personnel	
Properties	Don Bell Class of 2018
Worship	Suellen Kirkwood Class of 2017

**SESSION MEETS ON THE
SECOND TUESDAY, MONTHLY,
6:30 PM, IN THE PARLOR!**

DEACONS

Moderator	Jeanie Olson Class of 2019
Anna Bussian	Class of 2017
Sue Burnham	Class of 2017
Mary Dill	Class of 2018
Kim Mitchell	Class of 2019
Alice Nash	Class of 2019
Edna Nugent	Class of 2019
Phyllis Rafferty	Class of 2017
Marge Willadsen.....	Class of 2017



KEEPSAKE QUILTS FOR WICC CHILDREN

Valerie Sager

Mrs. Roshanda Lavender, eldest daughter of WICC Board Member and Vice President Marie Moss, has lovingly made and donated Christmas crib quilts that were handmade by herself to each of the children in the Westminster Infant Care Center.

Mrs. Lavender resides in Miami Gardens, Florida, and is a Science teacher at M. A. Milam, grades K-8 of Miami Dade County School District.

Mrs. Lavender wanted to do something special for the WICC children so she decided to create a keepsake quilt for the children. We thank Mrs. Lavender for her gift of love to our WICC children. ❄



Setting Text to Music: **The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere**

An original composition by
Dr. John Orfe, with
narration by Lee Wenger

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1420 West Moss Avenue
in Peoria

Thursday, December 14, 2017
10:00 – 11:00 A.M.



Dr. John Orfe

A social hour follows in the Fellowship Hall
across the driveway from the church.

Admission at the door:
\$12 for adults; \$5 for students



Sponsored by:

PEORIA
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SESSION NOTES

From the November 14 Meeting

Respectfully,
Brian Hakes, Clerk of Session



- ◆ The contract for the interim executive presbyter (bridge consultant) was extended for another six months.
- ◆ Heritage Presbyterian Church to leave the PCUSA and become a Bible Church.
- ◆ Bethel Presbyterian Church to be dissolved with the membership roll held by the Presbytery.
- ◆ A developer has plans to construct nine townhouse units on Moss Avenue west of McArthur Drive.
- ◆ Pastor Clark-Jones will serve a second term on the Presbytery Committee on Ministry.
- ◆ Olli has inquired about renting space in the Parish Hall.
- ◆ The Session approved a job description for a program coordinator.
- ◆ There were 2, 139 people served by the WestMark Food Pantry in October.
- ◆ The Session has started working on the 2018 budget.
- ◆ Included in the budget, but not yet approved for expenditure by the Session are capital projects for:
 - A lift in the Parish House from the lower floor to the upper floor \$26,000
 - Carpet and upgrades in the Morgan room - \$10,000
 - Professional cleaning of the Parish House 2nd floor classrooms - \$5,000 ❄

HUNGRY BULLETIN

Ashley Foster

Due to conflict and severe drought, there are several countries in the United Nations that are currently at great risk of famine. These countries include South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen. There are more than 20 million people who are at risk of starving to death. According to the United Nations, this famine crisis is the "largest humanitarian crisis since 1945." Drought makes food production extremely difficult. There is not enough water for people or animals. Conflict causes a disruption in the availability of food. People are not able to access the lands that they farm. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is working in South Sudan distributing food and other items that provide relief in emergency situations. The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) is "currently collaborating with partners to find ways to promote agricultural techniques for sustainable food, nutrition, and income security in both South Sudan and Syria." Here are a few ways that you can help those who are under the threat of famine.

Pray for those who are not getting enough food or water. Pray that solutions for the conflict and drought can be found.

Send letters to Congress via the Office of Public Witness. In order to do this, go to:
capwiz.com/pcusa

Give money to PDA Disaster Relief South Sudan or Disaster Relief Lebanon/Syria. ❄

SEASON OF ADVENT

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones



*"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Each Sunday in Advent we will light a candle on the Advent wreath in the sanctuary to represent the light of Christ coming into the world. This year the liturgy of each candle-lighting will include texts from familiar, traditional Christmas carols. These texts are not just lyrics, they are beautiful poetry that expresses the meaning of Christmas for Christians. If you find it hard to wait until Christmas to sing Christmas carols in church, this will be a foretaste of the joy of singing these beloved songs. ❄

ANSWER KEY

QUESTION MARK: 3. The numbers in columns 2 and 3 equal the number in column 1.

SWITCHEROO: 1. Whoever, 2. Inking, 3. Venerate, 4. Cutlet, 5. Strumpet, 6. Edited, 7. Toppings, 8. Trickle

CHRIST IS BORN: 1. carol, 2. shopping, 3. Mary, 4. gift, 5. Joseph, 6. tax, 7. camel, 8. manger, 9. sheep

Vertical Word - Christmas
Secret Phrase - Peace on Earth

WORD BOX:
adore, robin, tired

ACTIVITY PAGE

QUESTION MARK:

What number should replace the question mark in the box to the right?

6	2	4
9	4	5
8	7	1
4	1	?

*For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us; authority rests upon his
shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*



SWITCHEROO:

Change the position of only one letter in each word below to make a new word.

Example: MINUTE - MINUET

1. HOWEVER _____
2. LINKING _____
3. ENERVATE _____
4. CUTTLE _____
5. TRUMPETS _____
6. DEIFIED _____
7. STOPPING _____
8. TICKLER _____

CHRIST IS BORN

A Christmas song is called this.

What happens at malls.

The angel Gabriel appeared to her.

You'll find this under a Christmas tree.

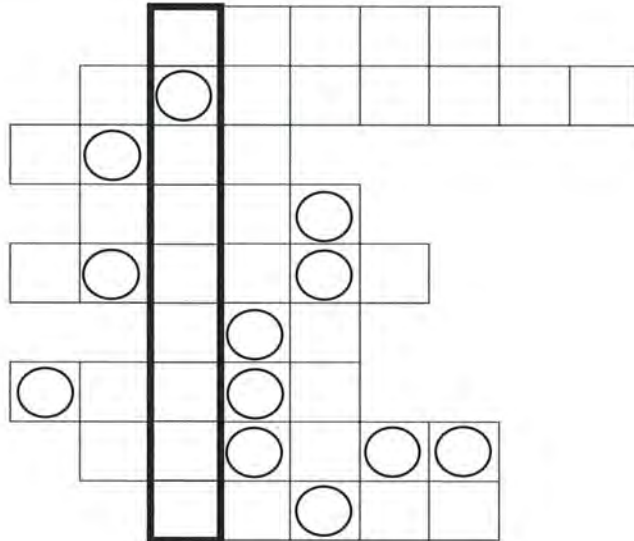
He was a carpenter.

Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem

The "ship of the desert."

Cattle eat out of this.

Shepherds tend these.



What is the word in the boldface, vertical column? _____

Now, unscramble the circled letter to reveal the Secret Phrase. (three words)

P	A	R	T	S
A				E
R				N
T				D
S	E	N	D	S

WORD BOX

Directions: Fill in the word square below using these 9 letters: two O's / two I's / two R's / one each D, B, and E. The resulting words can be read both across and down.

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday
Dec. 10

4:00 PM

**Free-will
offering**



Come celebrate a remarkable afternoon of music and scripture that will lift your spirits just in time for Christmas! This beautiful service tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus as told in nine short Bible readings interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols by all and special offerings from the Westminster Choir and Hand Bell Choir!

Directed by Thomas Clark-Jones. Followed by a Christmas Meal.

RSVP is required for dinner. - Call 309.673.8501.

DECEMBER 17, 2017 | 4 PM

THIRD ANNUAL JAZZ CHRISTMAS

with Central Illinois Jazz Performer
David Hoffman & Friends

DECEMBER 24, 2017 | 4 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas music begins at 3:45 PM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 W Moss Ave - Peoria | 309.673.8501 | WestminsterPeoria.org

GRETCHEN R. IBEN ART SERIES EVENTS

Thomas Clark-Jones



There are two events in the Iben Series scheduled for December. The first is on December 10 at four in the afternoon when we gather for our annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols led by the Westminster Choir and Hand Bell Choir. Wonderful bell music, beautiful choral carols from the choir and the singing of the great traditional carols of Christmas by the congregation make this a perennial favorite, not just at Westminster, but around the English-speaking world. Following the Festival we will again have a festive Christmas dinner in the Parish House. There is information about how to sign up for the dinner on page 3 in this edition of the *Window*.

Then, the next week, on December 17, we will look toward a more contemporary Christmas celebration with an event that is becoming a new tradition at Westminster ... "A Jazz Christmas" featuring David Hoffman and his friends from the Central Illinois Jazz community. The program will feature traditional Christmas music and some original compositions by David. We will again have two pianos in the Jazz ensemble and a wonderful sound for the season. The event also features some contemporary poetry of the season and, of course, the reading of the Nativity Narrative from the Scriptures.

These two dates are just about upon us as you receive this issue of the *Window*. So set the dates aside now and plan to attend. Music is just a natural part of Christmas, and you won't want to miss these outstanding programs. Also, don't forget that the Sunday following the Jazz Christmas will be Christmas Eve. Once again our Christmas Eve service will be at four o'clock, giving everyone time to get home and have a Christmas Eve meal with family and friends and enjoy this holiday, which is as much a cultural celebration as a wonderful religious holiday celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. May your Christmas be blessed. ❄

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

DID YOU KNOW?

- ♦ The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's.
- ♦ The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



- ♦ The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families.
- ♦ Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. ❄

 **Westminster
Presbyterian Church**
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Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

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JOIN US SUNDAYS

10 AM Traditional Worship
4 PM Jazz Vespers
Jazz Vespers Service with David
Hoffman and Friends.

Our mission is to *Serve God
and Others with Open Mind,
Open Hands and Open Heart.*



Please Deliver to our Friends at

*May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace...
The gladness of Christmas give you hope...
The warmth of Christmas grant you Love...*

*Merry Christmas
Westminster Presbyterian Church*



**The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 25, Christmas
Day and Tuesday, December 26 in observance of Christmas.
Also, Monday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.**