

DECEMBER
2019

The Westminster
WINDOW

Issue 12
Volume 17

Sunday Worship 10 AM & Sunday A Jazz Christmas Vespers 4 PM

Celebrating Christmas at Westminster

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 1 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 / Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14 / Matthew 24:36-44

Dec. 8 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 / Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13 / Matthew 3:1-12

Dec. 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10 / Psalm 146:5-10 or
Luke 1:46b-55 / James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Dec. 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 / Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

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

Dec. 25 - Nativity of the Lord

Dawn: Isaiah 62:6-12 / Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7 / Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20
Day: Isaiah 52:7-10 / Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) / John 1:1-4

Dec. 29 - First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9 / Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18 / Matthews 2:13-23



**A FESTIVAL
OF NINE
LESSONS
AND CAROLS**

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday | December 8 | 4 PM

Thomas Clark-Jones

The Choir and Hand Bells of Westminster Church present A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This has become a tradition in our congregation as a festive part of the Christmas season. The service dates back over a hundred years, when the Bishop of Truro (England) put together a simple service of scripture and music for celebration on Christmas Eve. Later that same bishop became the Dean of King's College Chapel in Cambridge and brought with him his wonderful service to this house of worship with one of the world's finest choirs. Thus was born our contemporary Lessons

continued on page 2...

**A JAZZ
CHRISTMAS**

**with David Hoffman &
the Westminster Quartet**



A JAZZ CHRISTMAS

Sunday | December 15 | 4 PM

Thomas Clark-Jones

This will be our Fifth Jazz Christmas celebration.

David Hoffman and the Westminster quartet and other guest musicians will do some seasonal standards as well as some of David's great tunes written for the occasion. Add to this, readings from familiar Christmas Narratives and some wonderful

continued on page 2...



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ON-SITE MISSIONS

WestMark Food Pantry **Elizabeth Richmond**
Phone 309-673-8501 Opt. 3
Hours Mondays 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 Helfrich, Pat Wagner, Marian Borders,
Alice Nash, Gary Leonard and Carol Borders.

Lessons & Carols continued...

and Carols service with its choral carols and anthems along with congregational singing and the Nativity Narrative read by members of the congregation and choir. This year's musical offerings include carols from Peter Warlock, David Willcocks, John Rutter, Lloyd Pfautsch, Stephen Cleobury and others. Plan now to make this a part of your Christmas celebration. 🐦



A Jazz Christmas continued...

the season and it makes for a happy Sunday afternoon in December! Come early and get your favorite seat. This is sure to be a hit! Come and have a *Cool Christmas!* 🐦

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday | December 8 | 5:30 PM

Thomas Clark-Jones

Following Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 8, at 5:30 p.m., there will be a Church Christmas Dinner celebration. This will be a catered meal by Barrack's Cater Inn. The menu will be Sliced Roasted Turkey, Home Style Dressing, Whipped Potatoes & Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Hot Vegetable Medley, Rolls and Butter; for dessert you will have your choice of Pumpkin Pie or Holiday Cake.

This will be provided free for church members and any guests they bring along. NOTICE!!! In order to come to the dinner, you need a ticket! Tickets will be available from the church office, or in the Narthex after church on November 24 and December 1.

Closing date for reservations is at NOON, on Wednesday, December 4. NO EXCEPTIONS! We are issuing tickets so we have an honest head count for the caterer, whose fee is dependent upon our attendance.

**Again ... the tickets are FREE, but
YOU MUST HAVE A TICKET!**



Any questions, please call the church office for details. We will have baskets on the tables for voluntary contributions to help offset the cost of this congregational meal. 🐦

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Tuesday | December 3 | 9:00 AM

Anna Bussian

The Circle of Friends will meet this month for a Christmas Breakfast. All women are invited to join us. Our only agenda this month is fellowship, a time to visit with friends at this wonderful time of the year. We will meet at LePeep Restau-

continued on page 5...

2020 STEWARDSHIP NEWS

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OCTOBER YTD OPERATING BUDGET

	October YTD Actual	October YTD Budget	Over/ (Under) Budget	Notes:
Revenues				1. Revenues - General Offering includes \$42,979 of pre-paid pledges actually received in 2017 & 2018.
General Offering	\$ 166,101	\$ 162,500	\$ 3,601	2. Most restricted contributions and the offsetting distributions like for WICC, Food Pantry, OGHS, etc., are not included.
WDFund	201,246	198,058	3,188	3. Westminster Dev. Fund value as of 11/14/2019 = \$1.615 mil.
Other Revenues	9,676	6,417	3,259	
	377,023	366,975	10,048	Tips:
Expenses				1. You can monitor your Giving throughout the year by requesting access to the church's database (Realm) from the church office.
Operating Expense	334,577	351,892	(17,315)	2. You may write " WPC " as the payee on checks payable to Westminster.
Major Prop. Improve.	31,677	15,083	16,594	
	366,254	366,975	(721)	
Net: Rev. less Exp.	\$ 10,769	\$ -	\$ 10,769	

2020 STEWARDSHIP

Gary Leonard



"... Do Justice; Love Kindness;
Walk Humbly with your God." - Micah 6:8

Thanks to all members and friends of Westminster who either presented their 2020 pledge commitments at the morning worship service on Stewardship Sunday, November 17, or otherwise mailed/submitted their pledge to the church. As of 11/21/2019, the church had received 35 pledges that represent a 2020 financial commitment of \$145,249. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, I encourage you to do so. You may mail it to the church or place it into the offering plate on any Sunday. If you do not have a pledge card, you may use the form to the bottom. There are also 2020 Pledge Cards available in the Narthex and in the church office.



2020 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): _____

Thank You!



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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ♦ 1420 W MOSS AVE ♦ PEORIA, IL 61606
WestminsterPeoria.org ♦ 309.673.8501



Everybody loves a good laugh. As Proverbs 17:22 declares, "a joyful heart is good medicine."

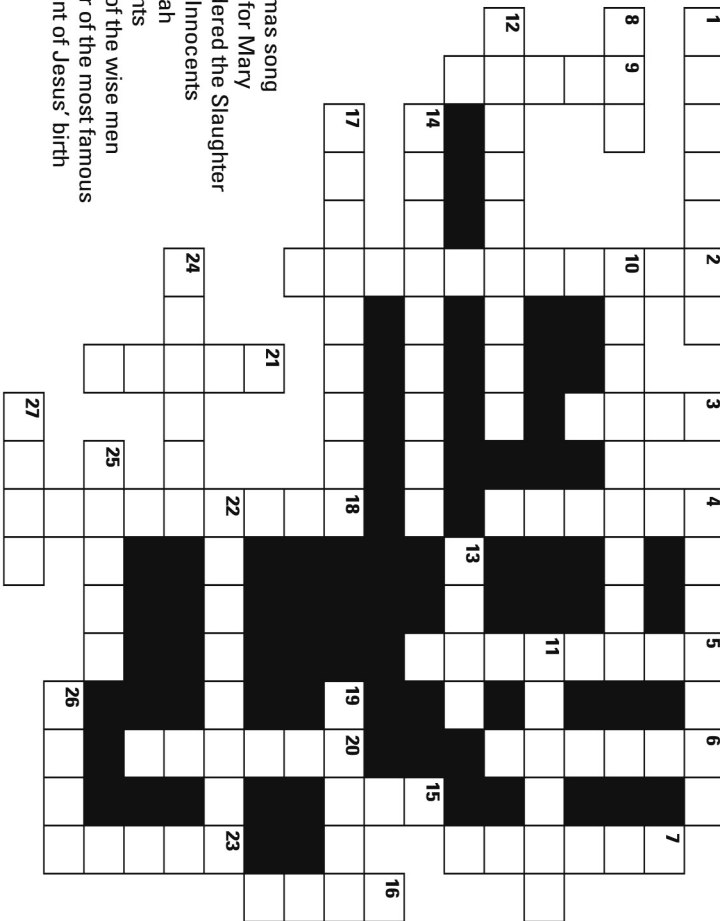
There's something about laughter that can restore the soul and provide some much-needed relief from stress and pain.



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

CLUES

1. He has a red nose
2. Red plants
3. A nova
4. (across) The Anointed One
5. (down) Crib
6. Keeper of sheep
7. Season that means "coming"
8. 12th month (abbr.)
9. Northern little helpers
10. Emfleshed
11. Messiah composer
12. Of Ephrathah
13. Gabriel came to her
14. A form of holly
15. B&B
16. Wise men
17. Tree decorations
18. Patron saint of children (2 words)
19. Red-suited man
20. Heavenly singers
21. Christmas song
22. Home for Mary
23. He ordered the Slaughter of the Innocents
24. Messiah
25. Presents
26. A gift of the wise men
27. Author of the most famous account of Jesus' birth



Answers: 1. Rudolph, 2. poinsettias, 3. star, 4. (across) Messiah, 5. shepherd, 6. advent, 7. Joseph, 8. Dec, 9. elves, 10. inn, 11. Bethlehem, 12. Mary, 13. manger, 14. mistletoe, 15. angels, 16. Santa, 17. angels, 18. angels, 19. angels, 20. angels, 21. carol, 22. Nazareth, 23. Herod, 24. Christ, 25. gifts, 26. gold, 27. Luke

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12-14-2012

I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO BRIGHT THIS YEAR



CHRISTMAS ENSCRAMBLE

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.



1. TGLBEHHEME
2. NEAGLO
3. NRMEDAG
4. ODEKSNY
5. AMGYR
6. OHESJIP
7. EFJUSS
8. ITEENMSW
9. SPHHDSREEO
10. EMCFAL
11. TLSRA
12. CSSNUEO
13. HEVSPE
14. ENIN

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14

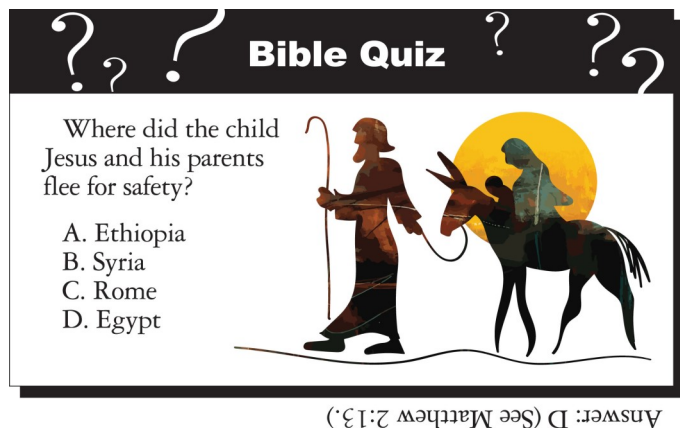
Answers: Bethlehem (G), angel (O), manger (D), donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (T), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E), God's gift of love



rant, located at 7501 University Street, Tuesday, December 3, at 9 a.m. (NOTE we are back to the regular time). Breakfast will be dutch.

Please R.S.V.P. Anna Bussian 309-865-0656 if you know you will be joining. She needs to know how many seats to reserve.

There will be no meeting in January and we still need someone to host in March. 



THE WORK OF ADVENT

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

After two snows and some very wintery temperatures in November, I am finding it hard to resist putting up Christmas decorations in my house before Thanksgiving. Tom and I are not even celebrating Christmas at our home this year or even on the day. We will be celebrating on the 26th in Binghamton, NY with our son, Will, who lives there, and our daughter, Jenna, who lives two hours away in Brooklyn, New York. Having the Lessons and Carols service and the Jazz Christmas service on Dec. 8 and 15, respectively, helps make up for not singing Christmas hymns in church until the 24th for me. It is a sneak preview of the joy to come.

Why do we need a time of waiting? Because in our impatience, we want to skip past the work. The word "liturgy" means "the work of the people." In the wisdom of our Jewish ancestors and early Christian worshipers, we have a liturgical calendar that revolves around seasons of wor-

ship. Acknowledging the Christian calendar is an affirmation of our faith.

The Gregorian Calendar we now use came from the original Roman calendar, updated in Julius Caesar's reign (the Julian calendar) and then updated again in the early 16th century to become known as the Gregorian calendar. Thus, the calendar used by most of the world has its roots in the Roman Empire. Jesus was, most definitely, anti-empire. The values he learned from God's Word in the Hebrew Scriptures were in direct conflict with the values of the Roman government and Roman society. Early Christians were persecuted for witnessing that Jesus Christ was their Lord, not Caesar. The historic creeds of the Presbyterian Church all affirm our ultimate allegiance is to Christ over any earthly authorities.

The Book of Worship for the Presbyterian Church (USA) further elaborates on our liturgical calendar:

As God created and appointed days, God created a rhythm of time and appointed seasons for worship. In the Old Testament, people observed seasons of fasting and feasting as occasions for festival worship of God. Jesus kept these festivals. For the Church in the New Testament, the festivals were transformed in meaning and purpose by Jesus' life and teaching, his death and resurrection, and by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promised return give meaning to the seasons which order the annual rhythm of worship and guide the selection of lessons to be read and proclaimed in the life of the Church. (W-1.3013)

And so, in Advent, we focus in our scripture readings on how we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord. We are suspended between our gratitude for what God has done in the past and the hope for what God will do in the future through our faith in Christ. This is the time we work, as Christ's hands and feet in the world, toward the kingdom of God.

As we read scripture and sing Advent hymns, we are reminded why the world needed a Savior. Yes, there are some grim and challenging scrip-

continued on page 7...

WOULD YOU BE A SANTA'S HELPER?



SANTA'S HELPERS NEEDED

Elizabeth Richmond

This year we will again be providing gifts to the young ones and their Moms in our WICC program in addition to some youth from Common Place. The Gift Giving Tree (Christmas tree) is up in the Narthex for you to chose your young people to shop for.

This year there will be a place for you to fill out the child's name you have chosen, and your name, just to help us keep track of each child.

Please have your wrapped gift to Church no later then **Sunday, December 15.**

If you would really like to help but can't shop for a young person, we have a solution for you. You can "adopt" a child from the tree and some of Santa's Elves will shop for you. Just take an envelope off the tree and complete the information and enclose a check by **Sunday, December 8.**

You can also mail a check.

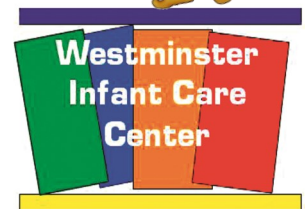
Just clip the form below and mail it along with your check to:

WPC Gift Tree
1420 W. Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



Please mark the memo line of your check "Gift Giving Tree".

Questions? call Elizabeth Richmond at 697-9720. T



I'M A SANTA'S HELPER

☐ YES. I want to "ADOPT" a child from the "GIFT GIVING TREE" and have Santa's Elves shop for me.

I am contributing the amount of: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to: WPC or Westminster Presb. Church

Write on memo line: GIFT GIVING TREE

Clip and mail this form to: WPC Gift Tree
1420 W. Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



Thank You !

Enclosed you will find my donation in the amount of \$

WESTMINSTER SESSION

Clerk of Session	Jim Burnham Class of 2021
Christian Education	Peggy Bragg Class of 2021
Church Life	Vacant
Finance.....	Gary Leonard Class of 2019
Membership.....	Bonnie Jackson Class of 2019
Missions/Outreach	Jan Leonard Class of 2019
Personnel	Larry Hicks Class of 2019
Properties	John Jackson Class of 2021
Worship.....	Suellen Kirkwood Class of 2020



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

DEACONS

Moderator	Jeanie Olson Class of 2019
Anna Bussian.....	Class of 2020
Sue Burnham.....	Class of 2020
Kim Mitchell	Class of 2019
Alice Nash	Class of 2019
Edna Nugent	Class of 2019
Phyllis Rafferty	Class of 2020
Marge Willadsen.....	Class of 2020
Laura Van Riper	Class of 2021

The Work of Advent continued . . .

tures for us to hear in Advent – not the stuff of Hallmark cards. But then, God presented Jesus to the world as a new creation. Jesus taught disciples to spread the Good News throughout the world and through the ages. The Apostle Paul and other New Testament epistle writers talked about the hope of becoming a new creation in Christ.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. - 2 Cor. 5:17

What is the new that God is gestating in us? This is something for us to ponder in the expectant waiting time of Advent. May you be blessed with a fruitful Advent and a joyous Christmas!

Pastor Denise 


LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY



Thursday | December 12 | 1:30 PM

You are welcome to join us in the church parlor starting at 1:30 p.m. We usually meet on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons. The verses are printed in *The Window* every month. Rev. Denise helps us understand them before they are read in church on Sunday.

In December, we will meet on the 12th only. The fourth Thursday (Dec. 26) is the day after Christmas and we will not meet.


If you have any questions or wish to be on a reminder list, call Marilyn Luman (309-691-0607).... We need YOU! 



AUTUMN CLEAN-UP DAY

Janet Kelley

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the church's November 6 autumn clean-up day: Dan, Susan, Delores, Laura, Michael, Gary Dutro, who brought the delicious donuts, John, Pat, Steve, Caden, Dennis, Brian, and the crew from LJ's Mowing.

The time and effort spent by everyone was appreciated by the Properties Committee. The grounds are beautiful but require a lot of upkeep, so thanks again to one and all! If someone's name was omitted, it was unintentional. 



LET'S CONNECT WITH REALM

Did you miss the training session on how to use Realm, our new online church directory and notification program and app? No Problem! Bonnie Jackson (309-696-1955) is available to help answer your questions and even help you get started online or downloading the app.

PS - The app will only work if you have first initially signed up online. It really is easy to use. If you would like to begin, first contact the church office (309-673-8501). An email will be sent to you with an invitation to Realm and instructions to begin. 🕊



Let's get connected. ✨

ATTENTION - SNOWBIRDS



Are you planning on heading someplace warm?

Do we know how to reach you?

Please make sure to contact the church office as to the date you will be leaving and returning, also your new address so you don't lose touch with what is happening here at home. Thank You. 🕊

MEN'S COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Come and join us for a great time, coffee, food, and meaningful discussion of the sermon that was just given at Sunday morning worship. We value this opportunity to connect with each other and to study God's Word together.

We meet at Panera Bread, 2515 N. Westlake, on Wednesday mornings typically at 7:30 a.m.

We will not meet on Christmas Day, December 25.

Then the following week, Wednesday, January 1, 2020, we will get together, but **at 7:45 a.m. instead** of 7:30 a.m. (hey, it is the morning after New Year's Eve).

Invite a friend or if you still have family visiting... bring them along! The food and beverage are great, but connecting with each, in Christ, is priceless! 🕊



WESTMARK FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY HOURS

The WestMark Food Pantry (WMFP) will be closed on Monday, December 23, and Monday, December 30, to allow our wonderful volunteers so much earned rest and relaxation. The food pantry will be closed on Monday, December 23 and 30.

FOOD PANTRY

During the month of October, we provided food to 1,020 individuals. The partnership we have with St Mark's Church creates an amazing opportunity to help those that might otherwise be hungry. This makes for lots of work for our volunteers, but it is great to help hungry, grateful folks.

HOW CAN I HELP?



First, keep the food pantry volunteers and clients in your thoughts and prayers.

Second, come help unload deliveries:

The first and third Tuesday, December 3 and 17, at 11:20 a.m.

Thursday, December 12, at 1:00 p.m.

There will be no fourth Thursday delivery this month.


Third, volunteers to help occasionally on Monday mornings (9 a.m. to 11 a.m.) when one of our regular volunteers are gone for the day, not feeling well, or on vacation.

Questions? Call
Elizabeth Richmond
at 309.697.9720.




LIQUID DETERGENT LAUNDRY BOTTLES

Bonnie Jackson

The Midwest Food Bank is still receiving donations of empty laundry detergent containers to fill for needy clients. The green bin will remain in the Narthex for you to place your empty containers at least through the month of December. Questions? Contact Bonnie Jackson. 696-1955 

MAKE-IT TAKE-IT BAZAAR

Marilyn Luman

A BIG THANK YOU from the Westminster Infant Care Center (WICC) for supporting our fundraiser that was held on November 24. Your support helps us to administer quality care to our teenage Moms and their families. This year over \$800 was raised. Have a wonderful holiday and Thanks for your support. - WICC Board 

SESSION NOTES

November 12, 2019 Meeting

Jim Burnham - Clerk of Session



At its regular monthly meetings your session always discusses the issues that need to be addressed to keep our church operating efficiently and, as the Book of Order would put it, "in good order". Among other agenda items, the meeting this month focused on two things: (1) It is time to start the process of preparing a budget for next year, and (2) The numerous tasks required to maintain our property of which we are all justifiably proud.

The work required to develop a budget falls primarily on the shoulders of the Finance Committee chaired by Elder Gary Leonard, while the task of maintaining our property is the responsibility of the Properties Committee chaired by Elder John Jackson.

We will all see the details of the budget when it is presented at the Annual Congregation Meeting, while the details of property maintenance are less visible. Here are a few maintenance issues that are being addressed right now. Most of these things are probably not on your mind when you attend Sunday Morning services: The humidity in the sanctuary needs to be monitored and controlled, our outdoor lighting needs to be improved, we have a van that has to be maintained, our insurance coverage needs to be kept up-to-date, our

sound system may not be operating as well as it could be. The whole list is pretty long.

We should all appreciate the time and effort that is required for these tasks. We are lucky to have elders and other church members who are able and willing to serve the church in these ways.



HELP REDUCE WASTE DURING THE HOLIDAYS


Mary Lee

The holiday season is upon us once again. For most people, this typically involves at least a few holiday parties with family, friends, and/or coworkers. Such parties usually include "grand feasts." Also, just like every year, a great deal of the food at holiday parties does not get eaten and ends up going to waste.

According to a study that was conducted by Duke University, "the average person generates 4.3 pounds of waste per day." This number rises significantly during the holidays. Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, "household waste increases by more than 25%."

Here are some tips on how you can reduce waste during the holidays:

- * Make a shopping list. Think of how much food is actually required to feed all of your guests. Then you will only buy what you really need. Sticking to the list will also help avoid impulse buying.
- * Keep serving sizes small. For a lot of us, our eyes are bigger than our stomachs. You can always go back for a second helping if it is not enough.
- * Store leftovers properly. Use airtight containers and freeze whatever does not get eaten within a few days.
- * Put labels with dates on the leftovers you store in your refrigerator. That will make it easier to remember what needs to be eaten first.
- * Look online for recipes that reuse food scraps. There are thousands of them out there.
- * Donate any extra canned or boxed food items to the food pantry here at Westminster.

Keep these tips in mind this holiday season, and you are sure to make a difference! 



WICC PARENT SHOWCASE

Valerie Sager, WICC Director



For the month of December, WICC would like to introduce you to Tennishea Crawford and her daughter TaN'nya, who is 16 months old. We are so proud of Tennishea and felt it was fitting to showcase her as she is graduating on December 13 through the Knoxville Center for School Success. This is our mission at WICC....to provide quality

childcare services so our parents can graduate and move on to the next goal in their life.

Tennishea has plans to work and is interviewing

for various jobs right now. Her hopes are to secure a job, save money, and start college at ICC in the spring semester. She recently moved into her first apartment and is still in need of many items to help complete her move. Living room and dining room furniture, carpets or rugs, are still needed. Monetary donations are welcome as well and we will help her shop for these much-needed items.

Tennishea always has a smile on her face and says that she is very thankful and blessed to have good people in her life. She also wants to say "thank you" for feeding her and TaN'nya and for providing transportation to school and the daycare center. "I will always remember how good everyone was to me and TaN'nya."


We pray for this young Christian family as they go forward in life and for God's blessings on them. 



TAIJI NEWS

Donna Sturm


Wishing you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR from Taiji for Life, Donna and Terrisa. The watercolor above is one that Donna Sturm did.

Also, for our holiday break we will have our last class on Wednesday, December 11, and will resume January 20, 2020. 



WPC ANNUAL REPORTS



It is that time to start thinking about what information you need to begin gathering for our Annual Report. We have just one month left of 2019 and this last month is going to go by quickly, with all of the family gatherings, festivities and shopping. 2020 is really just around the corner. 

Daily Showroom Hours at Gregg Florist
Mon. - Fri. 8 to 5:30 | Sat. 8 to 4:30

Peoria Historical Society
HOLIDAY TOUR
Sat. Dec. 7 - 5 to 9
Sun. Dec. 8 - 1 to 5
Tickets available at Gregg's Florist \$20

SAVE 10%
Bring this card for a 10% discount of any one item purchased in-store

Plants, Home Décor, Chocolates, Caramels, & Gifts.
There is something for everyone on your list!

4p Sun. Dec. 8
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Westminster Church
1420 W. Moss
Peoria

4p Sun. Dec. 15
A Jazz Christmas with Dave Hoffman
Westminster Church
1420 W. Moss
Peoria

KICK OFF THE SEASON

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

From Presbyterian Missions

Gratitude begets gratitude. We rejoice, pray continually, and give thanks for you, and your congregation for so many things, but on this day for you continued gifts to the Presbyterian Mission.

Your support of Presbyterian Missions Special Offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and the Christmas Joy) is a blessing for all of us as part of God's own family.



continued on page 12...

POINSETTIAS

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 the December 29 worship service. Please remove only the number of plants you ordered or check the box to have them delivered to one of our homebound members to enjoy.

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the order form below. Be sure to PRINT the name as you want it printed in the special section or insert that will appear for Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (4PM) and again in the January edition of the *Westminster Window*.

Your payment must accompany your order. Make your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and write "Poinsettia" in the memo line. Place this order form with your payment in the offering plate, or mail it or bring it to the church office.

If paying by cash, please place your form and money in a specially marked envelope, found in the Narthex and the church office, for your poinsettia order. The poinsettias are \$20 each. 



Poinsettia Order Form


If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the order form below. Payment must accompany your order. Make your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and write "Poinsettia" in the memo line. The poinsettias are \$20 each. You may pick them up after the December 29 worship service. Please, remove only the number of flowers you ordered or check the box to have it delivered to one of our homebound members to enjoy. ☐ (PLEASE PRINT) ☐

☐ in **HONOR** of : _____

☐ in **MEMORY** of: _____ *(the name as you would like it to be listed in the bulletin.)*

Given by: (your name) _____

Best way to contact you if there is a question: _____

☐ **Please deliver to one of our homebound members.** 


Clip and mail this form along with your payment to: WPC Poinsettias
 1420 W. Moss Avenue, Peoria, Illinois 61606 **DEADLINE 12/22/19**



Thank you for supporting ministries that develop leaders, revitalize congregations and produce resources for worship, Christian formation, and theological reflection. Thank you for your gifts that, when combined with those of other Presbyterians, support members who are discerning their call, mid council leaders as they offer support, advice and guidance to congregations, and to all of us as Presbyterians as we gather to discern and decide what God is calling us to do as the hands and feet of Christ. All of your gifts bring God's love and Christ's presence to places that have suffered loss and pain and have lost hope. Your gifts make a difference as hope and joy become real - for as we always say, when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Your generosity to the Presbyterian Mission has given your congregation a Four for Four status. A Four for Four congregation declares its commitment to respond to causes that Presbyterians care deeply about and touch every stage of life. By participating in each Offering, Presbyterians share God's grace and endless love, around the corner and around the world.

The Presbyterian Mission gives to Westminster Presbyterian Church this Certificate of Appreciation, which can be found in the Narthex, for its commitment to the ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and its outstanding participation in the Presbyterian Mission through the participation in all four annual Special Offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and the Christmas Joy).

The Presbyterian Mission recognizes Westminster Presbyterian Church as a Four for Four congregation for the last 21 years. *Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above. - James 1:17* 



JOIN US IN ADVENT WORSHIP **SUNDAYS AT 10AM**



While the world around us moves quickly on to the next holiday and beyond, the **historic church encourages us to anticipate, celebrate, and then remember special days in the church calendar.** Recognizing that Christmas does not end on December 26, we will continue to sing in celebration of the Christmas season which began on Christmas Day and includes the following two Sundays, December 29 and January 5.

Israel **waited and hoped** for the Christ child. Today we wait for Christ to come again in a world that is still full of sorrow and sin. **In this season of waiting and anticipation called Advent, we take time to watch, repent, and prepare** so that we may be ready to **proclaim** the Good News that God has come through Jesus Christ to restore us and all of creation.

The candles lit each week by members of Westminster Presbyterian Church, represent hope, peace, joy, and love and are lit as signs of the coming light of Christ.

1. **HOPE** - Think about hope as you hear Lamentations 3:21-24 *"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

2. For the second week in Advent, we focus on **PEACE**. In John 14:27, Jesus said, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."*

3. During the third week in Advent, we spend time thinking about **JOY**. From Psalm 5:11, we hear these words, *"But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, so that those who love you name may exult you."*

4. In this final week of Advent, our attention is on **LOVE**. Listen for the call to love in these words. Matthew 22:36-40 says, *"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well*

continued on page 13. . .

as you love yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

5. Christmas! This is the day we have been preparing for throughout Advent. JESUS IS BORN!

Join Us for Worship
beginning with the First Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 1 at 10:00 AM and ending
with Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
Service on Tuesday, December 24 - at 4 PM.

We will light the first candle in the Advent wreath as we begin our worship. ✨

The season of Advent calls us to look with expectation toward the coming of Christ.

Some of this involves a kind of hindsight—we look backward and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Each year that birth warms our cold hearts. Each year it brings light to our shadowed world. We need that. We desperately need the warmth and light that we experience in looking backward.

Advent—a word that means “coming”—also challenges us to look forward to the Christ who continues to come into our lives and our world. These days call us to keep awake as we anticipate what ancient people of faith called “the day of the Lord.” ✨

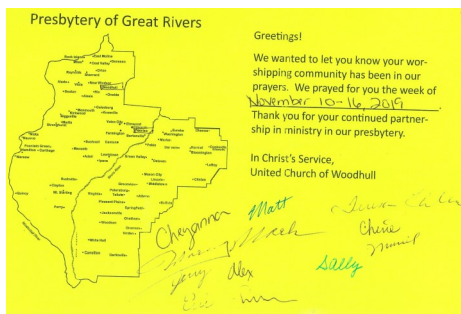


PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS

The postcard below reads...

Greetings! We wanted to let you know your worshipping community has been in our prayers. We prayed for you the week of November 10-16, 2019. Thank you for your continued partnership in ministry in our presbytery.

In Christ's Service, United Church of Woodhull
Cheyanna, Matt, Jerry, Mary, Eric, John, Sally,
Teresa, China, Muriel, and Alex ✨



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Taken from Presbyterian Missions

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the perfect gift — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up on Christmas morning. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth that our words cannot.

Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously, knowing, as the New Testament letter of James says, “every generous act of giving ... is from above.”

For those of us who gather in Advent expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ. The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the “perfect gift” from a gracious God.

Devoted and caring leaders have led many of us in the way of Christ. Church workers have shaped our faith and they have been God's gifts among us. As we celebrate Christ's coming, and think of the profound impact these individuals have had on us, the Christmas Joy Offering provides a way for us to offer a gift in response.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), through the Christmas Joy Offering, helps us respond to God's gift with generous gifts supporting church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. For church workers in need of financial help, whether due to declining health or a catastrophic event, such as Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, Christmas Joy provides for those needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

Even as we support our current and former church leaders, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. For students receiving scholarships and support at Menaul and Presbyterian Pan American secondary schools, and Stillman College, a Historically Black College, the generosity of Presbyterians means a brighter future and enhanced oppor-

continued on page 14...





tunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come. When you give to the Christmas Joy Offering, you help sustain these promises and uplift our brothers and sisters in Christ by reducing their burdens and opening new paths of opportunity.

We can never match God's perfect gift in Jesus, but through the Christmas Joy Offering, we can testify to who we have known God to be. Our perfect gift comes from above. Our gifts reflect our generous God. Our gifts support leaders in our Church and world — past, present and future.

The Christmas Joy offering is a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. Because Advent and Christmas are a time for celebrating the arrival of "the true light" (John 1:9), this offering provides us the opportunity to support those in need of help and hope. Alongside this message of promise and fulfillment, we also hear the encouraging words, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" from John 1:4. When we give out of the abundance of God's blessing in our lives, the light of Christ shines through us and illuminates those in need of help and hope.

We will be collecting The Christmas Joy Offering during the Advent season, which lasts through Christmas Eve. If you would like to give to this offering you will find a special Christmas Joy offering envelope on the back of the pews and in the Narthex. You may also mail your offering using the coupon below. Please mark in the memo portion of your check "Christmas Joy" or give by going to WestminsterPeoria.org.

Some of the ways our offerings have helped...

\$1.1 million in gifts from 2017

are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need

26 countries

represented in the last 25 years at Presbyterian Pan American School

98% of graduates

from Menaul School go on to college

84% of faculty

at Stillman College hold terminal degrees 



**CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS - PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



☐ **YES!** I want to help more young people learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges and assisting current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. Enclosed you will find my donation in the amount of \$ _____

Clip and mail this form along with your contribution to:

WPC JOY

1420 W. Moss Avenue

Peoria, Illinois 61606

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to:

WPC or Westminster Church

Thank you for your participation in the Christmas Joy Special Offering

Write on memo line:

Christmas Joy

Let's go **FOUR** for **FOUR**

November 2019						
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



DECEMBER



January 2020						
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	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 COMMUNION <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 10a Worship	2 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open 6:30p Taiji, Advanced	3 #GIVING TUESDAY 9a Circle of Friends Christmas Breakfast 11:20a Food Delivery	4 Don't Forget Rsvp to Christmas Dinner by NOON	5	6	7 Remember to donate to Gift Giving Tree so Santa's Elves can go shopping for me.
8 GRETCHEN R IBEN EVENT <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 10a Worship 4:00p A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols 5:30p Christmas Dinner	9 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open 6:30p Taiji, Advanced	10 4:30p WICC Meeting 6:30p Session Meeting	11 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10a Staff Meeting	12 1:00p Food Delivery 1:30p Lectionary Bible Study	13 WINDOW DEADLINE	14 Reminder to bring wrapped gift for WICC Giving Tree tomorrow.
15 GRETCHEN R IBEN EVENT <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 10a Worship 4p A Jazz Christmas	16 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open	17 11:20a Food Delivery Committee on Ministry Meeting. Pastor will be out of the office today.	18 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10a Staff Meeting	19	20	21 Last day tomorrow to order a Poinsettia
22 ✠ SPECIAL OFFERINGS <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 10a Worship	23 CLOSED: WestMark Food Pantry Open	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 11:30a Office Closes 4:00p Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Worship Service, 2019	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26 NO Food Delivery	27	28
29 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 10a Worship Those who ordered poinsettias can bring home after mornings service or leave for the homebound	30 CLOSED: WestMark Food Pantry Open	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 11:30a Office Closes 	DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS			
			2 Abbie Alexander 5 Juliet Babbitt 5 Robert Seelye 6 Sandra Gebhardt	6 Janet Leonard 11 N. Lee Nugent 22 Patricia Wagner 24 Beth Alt	27 Tom Clark-Jones 28 Sara Meyers 30 Brian Slutz	

WESTMINSTER
Presbyterian Church

Rev. Denise
Clark-Jones


1420 W. Moss Ave.
Peoria, Illinois 61606



**JOIN US
SUNDAYS**

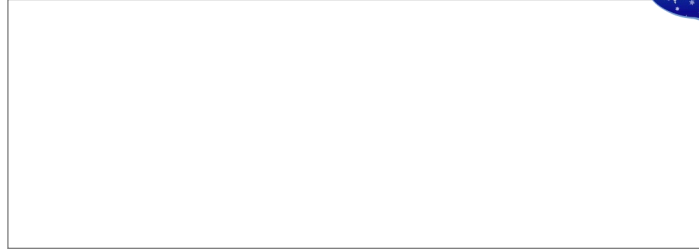
10 AM Morning Worship

4 PM Second Sunday Jazz Vespers
Dec. - "A Jazz Christmas"

*"Serving God with
Open Mind, Hands, and Heart."* 



Merry Christmas to



*Faith makes all things possible,
Hope makes all things work,
Love makes all things beautiful,
May you have all the three for
this Christmas.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Westminster Presbyterian Church Family

