

DECEMBER
2020

The Westminster
WINDOW



Issue 08
Volume 18

Sunday Worship 'LIVE STREAMING' 10 AM

Celebrating Christmas at Westminster

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 6 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

Dec. 13 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 | Psalm 126:1-6
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Luke 1:46b-55 | John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec. 20 - 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 | Luke 1:47-55
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27 | Luke 1:26-38

Dec. 27 - 1st Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3 | Psalm 148:1-14
Galatians 4:4-7 | Luke 2:22-40



Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7 / Psalm 96:1-13
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



**A FESTIVAL OF
NINE
LESSONS
AND CAROLS**

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday | December 20 | 4 PM

Thomas Clark-Jones

The Westminster Quartet, along with organist Thomas Clark-Jones, presents this historic service as celebrated annually at Kings College, Cambridge, England. It is a simple service of nine scripture lessons from the beautiful King James Bible and carols for congregation and choir. It is sure to brighten your Christmas. Included are choral carols by Warlock, Carter, Rutter, Mathias and more. The event will be online, at YouTube at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 20. If a miracle happens and we are able to have a congregation - details will be emailed to all our congregation and friends. Realistically, we just hope you will enjoy this traditional Christmas offering in music. ❄️



The **Window** Newsletter is a monthly publication of



1420 W. Moss Avenue - Peoria, Illinois 61606

Phone 309-673-8501
Fax 309-673-6708
Website westminsterpeoria.org
Email wpc@westminsterpeoria.org
Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 to 2:30 PM

STAFF

Pastor Rev. Denise Clark-Jones
Direct Line 309-439-9737
Phone 309-673-8501 Opt. 5 / Ext. 6
Email pastor@westminsterpeoria.org
Hours Monday-Thursday 9 to 2 PM

Financial Secretary Denise Wirth
Direct Line 309-439-9740
Phone 309-673-8501 Opt. 5 / Ext. 4
Hours Tuesday-Thursday 9 to 2 PM
Email financesecy@westminsterpeoria.org

Buildings Mgr./Custodian Steven Sager
Direct Line 309-224-6237
Phone 309-673-8501 Opt. 5 / Ext. 2
Hours Mon., Wed.-Fri. 8 to 3 PM
Email buildings@westminsterpeoria.org

Admin/Communications Mary Lee Caudle
Phone 309-673-8501 Opt. 5 / Ext. 3
Hours Monday-Friday 8:30 to 2:30 PM
Email admin@westminsterpeoria.org

Organist/Choirmaster Thomas Clark-Jones
Phone 309-673-8501 Opt. 5 / Ext. 5
Hours Monday-Friday 11 to 1 PM
Email music@westminsterpeoria.org

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

PLEASE NOTE - EARLY DEADLINE!

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

BY NOON ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays | December 3, 10, & 17 | 1:00 PM

Mary Lee

Join us as we dig deeper into the meaning of the scripture for Sundays. For this month we will only meet on December 3, 10, and 17. We will resume on January 7.

Bible study is on Thursdays at 1 p.m., via Zoom. We take an in-depth look of the scriptures for that Sunday. All are welcome to join us either at 1 p.m. via Zoom or those who can not make it at the scheduled time can watch at our website: <https://westminsterpeoria.org/worship/bible-study/>. These are usually available within a week of the study.

To join Zoom Bible Study: <https://zoom.us/j/98673203228pwd=Tm5nc0JlTTlrRkxiSHg2VzNNdHNDdz09>

Meeting ID: 986 7320 3228 | **Passcode:** BIBLESTUDY ❄

AUTUMN CLEAN-UP DAY

Mary Lee

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the church's autumn clean-up day! There were many leaves to rake up.

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! ❄

ATTENTION - SNOWBIRDS

Mary Lee

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. ❄

MAKE-IT TAKE-IT BAZAAR

Marilyn Luman

Due to this scheduling change the MAKE IT TAKE IT is hoping to be re-scheduled for December. Pre-orders will be personally contacted. Questions? call Marilyn Luman 309-691-0607. ❄

WPC ANNUAL REPORTS

Deadline: January 8, 2021

Mary Lee

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 2020 and this last month is going to go by quickly. ❄

WESTMINSTER SESSION

Clerk of Session	Jim Burnham Class of 2021
Christian Education	Peggy Bragg Class of 2021
Finance.....	Brian Hakes Class of 2022
Membership.....	Kim Mitchell Class of 2022
Missions/Outreach	Jan Leonard Class of 2022
Personnel	Larry Hicks Class of 2022
Properties	John Jackson Class of 2021
Worship.....	Suellen Kirkwood Class of 2020



**SESSION MEETS
ON THE
SECOND TUESDAY,
MONTHLY, 6:30 PM,
VIA ZOOM**

**Meeting ID: 938 3912 0143
Password: SESSION**

DEACONS

Moderator	Jeanie Olson Class of 2022
Anna Bussian.....	Class of 2020
Sue Burnham.....	Class of 2020
Alice Nash	Class of 2022
Edna Nugent	Class of 2019
Phyllis Rafferty	Class of 2021
Marge Willadsen.....	Class of 2020
Laura Van Riper	Class of 2021

SESSION NOTES



**Jim Burnham
Clerk of Session**



Notes from the October 13, 2020 Session Meeting.

The session met for its regular monthly meeting on October 13. As everyone must be aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has added challenges to the normal business of the church. Since reopening, church attendance has been about 15-20 people in addition to the pastor, organist, musicians, and others needed to conduct services which are now being held both in person and online. Since the size of any group is now limited to 50 people or fewer, plans are in place to hold services twice in the event that more than 40 people are expected—a little leeway has been built in there just in case. Technical problems from the first three in-person services have been resolved, and some new equipment will soon be in place.

In other news:

- The budget process for next year will be starting soon.
- Plans for the annual meeting of the congregation are being discussed. The usual in-person meeting including a meal may not be feasible this year in light of safety concerns and restrictions on group size.
- The number of people served by the food pantry during the past month was 906. This seems to be a significant increase over previous months since the pantry was only open three Mondays in September.
- Plans for use of Fellowship Hall continue to evolve. It appears that a program to aid students at Whittier School will begin in November. The many hours that Elder Jan Leonard and others have spent on this and other worthwhile projects will result in an increased use of some of our under-used space and will be an asset to both the church and to our neighborhood.

The church is indebted to Elder Larry Hicks for his contribution of time and expertise that has allowed our Sunday services to be presented online. We are also indebted to Elder Jan Leonard for her leadership on the enhanced use of Fellowship Hall. I can't say often enough that Westminster has been fortunate to have people with skill and the willingness to help the church work its way through complicated situations.

Notes from the November 10, 2020 Session Meeting.

The session held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 10. The meeting was held online as has been our practice during the pandemic. Since events are moving at such a rapid pace, any discussions about the state of our Sunday services were already out of date by Friday. At this time we can only say that online services will continue.

This is the time of year to begin planning for 2021. A budget proposal has been submitted and is being considered by the Session. This process takes a while, but it will be completed soon. As you know, the budget is normally approved by the congregation at its annual meeting in January. In light of present circumstances, we will have to decide what form the annual meeting will take. Several questions come to mind right away. Is it feasible to have an online congregational meeting? Or, can some combination of online and in-person meeting be worked out? How would we vote? Is there a way to share a meal along with the meeting as we usually do? We need to wait a little longer to see how things develop before trying to answer any of these questions.

continued on page 5...

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

continued on page 7...

WOULD YOU BE A SANTA’S HELPER?

SANTA’S HELPERS NEEDED

Valerie Sager

This year we will again be providing gifts to the young ones and their Moms in our WICC program. We will be doing it a bit differently this year. Instead of choosing a name and you do the shopping, we are asking for donations to be mailed to Westminster Infant Care Center (WICC) and we will do all the shopping for you, including the wrapping.

Please mail your donations to WICC no later than **Sunday, December 6** we have extended this to Sunday, December 13.



Just clip the form below and mail it along with your check to:
WICC GIFT
1420 W. Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606

Please mark the memo line of your check “GIFT”



I’M A SANTA’S HELPER

☐ YES. I want to help make a child’s Christmas brighter. Enclosed please find my/our donation.

Here is my/our contribution in the amount of: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to: WICC

Write on memo line: GIFT

Clip and mail this form to: WICC GIFT
1420 W. Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



Thank You !





Session Notes continued . . .

During the month of October the food pantry served 285 families representing 1106 individuals.

In addition to the WestMark Food Pantry, our church participated this month with a neighborhood project called Little Free Pantry for which we provide some of the food.

The cooperative program between the YMCA and Whittier School began meeting with students in Fellowship Hall on Monday, November 9. Students are present from 9 AM until 3 PM on weekdays when they are not in

school. At the start, three students were involved. This number is expected to grow to a maximum of ten. Students receive tutoring and help with their school work.

We can all see how easy it is to become discouraged with the limitations and restrictions imposed by the Covid situation. But, despite the pandemic and all its associated problems, you will be glad to know that Westminster is still moving ahead. The staff is at work. Our property is being maintained. Services are being conducted albeit with restrictions. Longstanding mission projects are ongoing and new ones are being developed. These realities show that our church is able to withstand big challenges even in difficult times. ❄

2021 STEWARDSHIP



DO
justice



LOVE
kindness



WALK
humbly

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

2021 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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Abbie Alexander	20	Virginia McNear
5	Juliet Babbitt	22	Patricia Wagner
5	Robert Seelye	24	Beth Alt
6	Sandra Gebhardt	27	Tom Clark-Jones
6	Janet Leonard	28	Sara Meyers
11	N. Lee Nugent	30	Brian Slutz

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2	Phyllis & Bill Rafferty
17	Linda & Alan Kupper



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 during the week between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., after the December 27 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. ❄



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 27 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 : _____
(print the name as you would like it to be listed in the bulletin.)

☐ in **MEMORY** of: _____
(print 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 12/21/20

Christmas Joy continued . . .

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 opportunities 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

CHURCH LEADERS - PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOV
29

DEC
20

☐ **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 \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for your participation in the Christmas Joy Special Offering.

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

Clip and mail this form along with your contribution to:

WPC JOY
1420 W. Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606

Make checks payable to:
WPC or Westminster Church

Write on memo line:
Christmas Joy

WESTMINSTER
Presbyterian Church

1420 W. Moss Ave.
Peoria, Illinois 61606



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

Merry Christmas to



***The church office will close at 11 a.m. on
Thursday, December 24 and Thursday, December 31.
The office will also be closed all day on
Friday, December 25, 2020 and Friday, January 1, 2021.***