



# Westminster News

Presbyterian Church

for the month of  
**December 2023**

## **From the Pastor's Study:**

Advent starts on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> this year and as you all know it is the season of preparation. It is also a new beginning for the Christian church as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the start of a new liturgical year. In The Services of the Christian Year, Robert E. Webber editor, we find "The word advent means 'coming.' During Advent, we celebrate the coming of Christ at Bethlehem, his coming into our hearts, and his Second Coming.... Thus worship during the first two weeks emphasizes the second coming of Christ and the need to prepare for his return.... Starting with the third week of Advent the emphasis shifts to the feeling of joy. Since the day of his appearing is coming closer, the accent falls on what Christ will do in his coming.... In the fourth week of Advent, we are brought closer to the event of Jesus' birth." This season is all about redemption, renewal, restoration and incarnation. Salvation from God. What a powerful reason for us to celebrate.

We have lost several of our church members, friends, and fellow servants of our God to death this year and that can make it hard for us to celebrate the holidays. But when we look back on those who have gone home and the fact that God has welcomed them into God's presence, our Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas celebrations once again take on the aspects of comfort and joy. Joy for the life that we shared here on earth and the God who watches over us all in love through the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

So, this year let Advent lead you to follow the Star of Bethlehem to that wonderful birth of a Savior. The biblical accounts of Advent frankly acknowledge the harsh realities faced by those on the road to the Nativity. These included long distance travel and persecution by Herod for the Magi; rough terrain, crowded conditions, lack of shelter, and a birth unsupported by family and medical care for Joseph and Mary; and terrifying heavenly visitations for the shepherds. All of those things were a part of that first season of Advent, but they could not diminish or prevent the overwhelming joy of the coming of Christ. My hope and prayer for you all is that you can find the joy this season in your preparation for the coming of Christ.

Don

## Newsletter Changes



The Membership Team is excited to announce changes to the *Westminster News*!

Beginning in 2024 – which is just around the corner – the *Westminster News* will change from a monthly publication to a seasonal publication. The first issue will be published around the end of January. It will include articles and events for February through April. Following the first issue, two more issues will be produced in 2024; one around the end of April for May through September, then the final issue for 2024 will be at the end of September for the remainder of the year.

The decision to make this transition was not made lightly. It was based on numerous factors:

- keeping up with the changing times (many churches are no longer publishing newsletters)
- rising postage & printing costs
- redundancy and more up-to-date information available electronically (e-News, Facebook, Instagram, our website, etc.)
- lack of interest in the monthly newsletter

Saving money on postage and printing costs will allow us to divert some of those funds towards other programs and needs in the church.

As the staff works in conjunction with the Session teams, we will be able to disseminate general information about upcoming events in the seasonal issues of the newsletter, with updates being provided via the electronic means listed above, as well as verbally during the Welcome and Announcement portion of Sunday worship.

In preparation for the new schedule, you will notice some information in this issue about events taking place in January.



If you play guitar, want to learn to play, or need a reason to kickstart your rockstar career, we would love to have your help in worship!

On **Sunday December 3**, the special music of the day is a Guitar Choir leading "Awesome God".

You only need to learn 4 chords to play along: Em, C, G, and D.

There will be a rehearsal on Wednesday November 29 at 7:30pm for anyone who would like to participate.

## Happy December Birthday!

- 02 Melissa Mahan
- 03 Marie Nicoll
- 04 Uta Sweeten
- 05 Susan Ost
- 10 Mary Jo Williams
- 13 Richard Poe
- 13 Michael Pooler
- 14 Joyce Hill
- 16 Jill Winn
- 17 Allen Bunch
- 17 Lauren Casebier
- 17 Sondra Quinn
- 18 Jenna Klovstad
- 18 Bret Watkins
- 20 Avery de Carion
- 21 Sandra Klovstad
- 21 Patrick White
- 21 Tommy Dyer
- 23 Ricardo Bargas
- 24 Keith George
- 24 Patricia Watkins
- 26 Audrey Remley
- 26 Richard Rouse
- 27 Jamisen Collier

## Do snow globes  
get scared?



Sunday, December 10



**Get your tastebuds ready!  
(It only happens once a year!)**



## Happy January Birthday!

- |                      |                    |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Andrew Adams      | 16 Libby Winn      | 30 Kayla Cartrette |
| 02 Katie Van Geem    | 21 Doug Snyder     | No, just shaken    |
| 03 Susan Anderson    | 23 Jonathan Carter |                    |
| 04 Laura Wheeler     | 23 Wendy Burke     |                    |
| 04 Flora Bunch       | 24 Linda Wynne     |                    |
| 04 Lydia Halfaker    | 28 Allison Hurd    |                    |
| 12 Daniel Adams      | 29 Connie Bosworth |                    |
| 12 Bea Anna Williams | 30 Douglas Carter  |                    |
| 15 Cal Miyatake      | 30 Jane Winstead   |                    |



# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						9:30 AM Fort Worth Writers' Group
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 AM CE 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM CE 11:30 AM Bells 4:30 PM AI Anon	10 AM ELP Music 6:15 PM Team Leaders' Mtg. 7:15 PM CE Mtg. 7:15 PM Membership Mtg.	9:30 AM Gold Tones 10 AM PW Coordinating Team 10 AM ELP Music 7 PM O&M Meeting	10 AM ELP Music 7:15 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	10 AM ELP Music 6:30 PM AI Anon 7 PM Cantata Rehearsal		9:30 AM Fort Worth Writers' Group 10 AM Cantata Rehearsal
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30 AM Cantata Warm-ups 9:00 AM CE 10:00 AM Worship & Christmas Cantata 11:30 AM CE 11:30 AM Bells 4:30 PM AI Anon	7 PM PW Circle 3	9:30 AM Gold Tones 10 AM PW Circle 1 10 AM ELP Music	10 AM ELP Music 7:15 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	10 AM ELP Music 9 AM Project Linus 6:30 PM AI Anon		9 AM Session Retreat 9:30 AM Fort Worth Writers' Group
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<i>Children &amp; Youth Advent Sunday</i> 9:00 AM CE 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM CE 11:30 AM All Church Christmas Party 11:30 AM Bells 4:30 PM AI Anon	10:00 AM ELP Music 11:30 AM Staff Lunch 7:00 PM Session	9:30 AM Gold Tones 10 AM PW Tuesday Together 10 AM ELP Music	10:00 AM ELP Music 7:15 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	10:00 AM ELP Music 11:30 AM ELP Christmas Program 6:30 PM AI Anon		9:30 AM Fort Worth Writers' Group
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 AM CE 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM CE 11:30 AM Bells 4:30 PM AI Anon 7 PM Candlelight Service	<b>Merry Christmas!</b> <i>(Staff Holiday)</i>  <i>ELP Christmas Break</i>	9:30 AM Gold Tones Day after Christmas Observed <i>(Staff Holiday)</i>  <i>ELP Christmas Break</i>	      <i>ELP Christmas Break</i>	6:30 PM AI Anon      <i>ELP Christmas Break</i>		9:30 AM Fort Worth Writers' Group
31						
10:00 AM Worship (Hymnfest) 4:30 PM AI Anon						

**Early Learning Place Calendar for the Remainder of 2023-2024**

**December 22-January 8..... Winter Break**

**January 15 .....MLK Holiday**

**February 19-22.....Early ELP Registration for Fall 2023**

**March 11-15 ..... Spring Break**

**May 27 ..... Memorial Day**

**May 31 ..... Last Day of ELP**



Come for the Bake Sale and stay for the music!

Our Christmas Cantata is on Sunday, December 10 at 10am in the Sanctuary.

Come listen as we experience the Christmas story in "A New & Glorious Morn: Celebrating the Light and Life of Christmas" by Lloyd Larson



**You're invited to the All Church Christmas Party  
Westminster Presbyterian Church Fort Worth  
December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:15am**

There will be cookie decorating, games, hot chocolate, apple cider, all with a very special guest!  
And to top it all off and really get you in the Christmas spirit, stick around for fresh popcorn, snacks,  
and a special showing of "The Polar Express" in the Choir Room!

# Coming in 2024

## Food, Fellowship & Fun: WPC Dinner Club Returns!

The Membership Team is pleased to announce the 2024 WPC Dinner Club for this spring. The scheduled dates for the dinners are still being determined, but are anticipated to take place once a month, in February, March, and April.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex starting in January.

If it is at all possible for you to be a host this year, it would be greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to this opportunity to visit with our friends.



## Outreach & Mission Opportunities for 2024

**January 7, 2024**

Pennies for Epiphany collection  
*Donations go to the Presbyterian Night Shelter*

**February 11 2024**

Prayer Bear Collection  
*Donations for Cook Children's Hospital  
(New, Unscented Bears Only Please)*

**March 31, 2024**

One Great Hour of Sharing  
*Donations are used to help support the  
Presbyterian Disaster Fund, Presbyterian Hunger  
Program & Self-Development of People*

## 2024 Newsletter Deadlines:



- **Wednesday, January 17**  
*February through April issue*
- **Wednesday, April 17**  
*May through September issue*
- **Wednesday, September 18**  
*October through January (2025) issue*

# More for 2023 & 2024



- Our Christmas Program will be December 21<sup>st</sup> and all children participate! The program will begin at 10am in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited.
- ELP will be closed for Christmas Break beginning December 22<sup>nd</sup>, returning January 8, 2024.
- Tuition for January, and second semester supply fee paid by check can be postdated and will not be deposited until January 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- ELP will also be closed on January 15<sup>th</sup> for the MLK holiday.
- Early registration for Early Learning Place preschool will begin February 19<sup>th</sup> for all current ELP families. Open registration for the public will begin on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Tuition for the 24-25 school year is \$390 a month for the 4-day program and \$250 for the 2-day program. Supply fees are \$100 and \$75, respectively. Supply fee and complete registration packet will be required to hold any spots for the upcoming school year.
- Spring Break for ELP is March 11-15, 2024.

Any questions or comments?  
Call or email anytime.

## January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	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			

### Sundays in January

Christian Ed ..... 9:00 AM  
 Worship ..... 10:00 AM  
 Christian Ed ..... 11:30 AM  
 Bells ..... 11:30 AM  
 Al Anon ..... 4:30 PM

### Tuesdays

Gold Tones ..... 9:30 AM

### Wednesdays

Praise Team Rehearsal ..... 7:15 PM

### Thursdays

Al Anon ..... 6:30 PM

### Saturdays

Fort Worth Writers' Group ..... 9:30 AM

### Mondays through Thursdays

ELP Music Time ..... 10:00 AM

### Presbyterian Women

Coordinating Team ..... Tuesday, Jan. 2, 10:00 AM  
 Circle 3 ..... Monday, Jan. 8, 7:00 PM  
 Circle 1 ..... Tuesday, Jan. 9, 10:00 AM  
 Tuesday Together ..... Tuesday, Jan. 16, 10:00 AM

### Other

Project Linus ..... Thursday, Jan. 11, 9:00 AM  
 Music Dept. Retreat ..... Sunday, Jan. 21, 12:30 PM

### Additional events and information will be added and updated:

- in upcoming issues of the e-News
- during Sunday announcements
- via social media

## Sermons & Scriptures

**Sunday, December 3**

"Advent: A Time of Preparation"

Isaiah 64:1-9

Mark 13:24-37

by Rev. Dr. Donald R. Hogg

**Sunday, December 10**

"A New & Glorious Morn" Christmas Cantata

Mark 1:1-8

**Sunday, December 17**

"Who Are You"

I Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

by Rev. Dr. Donald R. Hogg

**Sunday, December 24**

"O Favored One"

II Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:26-38

by Rev. Dr. Donald R. Hogg

Candlelight-Communion Service (7pm)

**Sunday, December 31**

Hymn Fest

## Our Mission Statement

Our calling as believers in Jesus Christ

is to love and live by His example,

to share God's Word

and to find new ways to serve.

## Our Vision

Worship Prayer Community

### Westminster Presbyterian Church

7001 Trail Lake Drive

Fort Worth, TX 76133

Main: (817) 292-1155

10:00am Worship Service

9:00 & 11:30am Christian Education



### CHURCH CONTACTS

Web-Site: [www.wpcf.org](http://www.wpcf.org)  
E-mail: [contact@wpcf.org](mailto:contact@wpcf.org)  
Newsletter: [www.wpcf.org/newsletter](http://www.wpcf.org/newsletter)  
Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm, M-Th  
Office Phone: (817) 292-1155  
Minister: Dr. Donald R. Hogg  
[pastor@wpcf.org](mailto:pastor@wpcf.org)  
Director of Music & Multimedia: Samantha Logsdon  
[music@wpcf.org](mailto:music@wpcf.org)  
Office Administrator: Sheri Meston  
[contact@wpcf.org](mailto:contact@wpcf.org)  
Organist: Jamisen Collier  
[jamisen.collier@wpcf.org](mailto:jamisen.collier@wpcf.org)  
Treasurer: Larry Bartlett  
[treasurer@wpcf.org](mailto:treasurer@wpcf.org)  
Clerk of Session: Becky Bittle  
Early Learning Place: Debra Bell  
[director@earlylearningplace.com](mailto:director@earlylearningplace.com)