



# WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

DECEMBER 2, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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8:15 AM IN THE HOLMES CHAPEL

10:30 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

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THE REVEREND DR. THOMAS H. YORTY  
PASTOR



## Worship in the Sanctuary - 10:30 AM

### Welcome to this Place of Christian Worship

Do not wait for someone else to begin worship. Pray silently for yourself, for those about you, for the poor and the oppressed, for those unable to be present, for those who will shortly lead our common worship. Latecomers may enter the Sanctuary during the singing of the first hymn or during the Response to the Assurance. Ushers are available for assistance. Please turn off all cell phones.

### Opening Voluntary

Reprise on *E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Paul Manz† (1919-2009)

*It is the tradition of this congregation to remain silent during the Opening Voluntary as we collectively prepare for worship.*

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Hennessy

### Order of Worship

#### Chiming of the Trinity

*The sounding of the chimes, invoking Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, is an invitation to prepare for worship through a time of silent reflection. Please be respectful of those who are praying.*

#### Introit

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)  
arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955)

Wake, awake, for night is flying: the watchmen on the heights are crying;  
Awake, Jerusalem, arise! Midnight's solemn hour is tolling,  
His chariot wheels are nearer rolling, he comes; prepare, ye virgins wise.  
Rise up; with willing feet, go forth, the Bridegroom meet, Hallelujah,  
Bear through the night your well-trimmed light, speed forth to join the marriage rite.  
Hear thy praise, O Lord, ascending from tongues of men  
and angels blending with harps and lute and psaltery.  
By thy pearly gates in wonder we stand, and swell the voice of thunder in bursts of choral melody.  
Hallelujah! No vision ever brought, no ear hath ever caught such bliss and joy:  
We raise the song, we swell the throng, to praise thee ages all along.

#### Lighting of the First Advent Candle

*Roger Seifert and Dennis Stewart will light the first Advent candle.*

The Gospel of Luke speaks about the future:  
"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars,  
and on the earth, distress among nations.  
People will faint from fear and foreboding."

Because the world is full of fear and distress,  
we light the first candle as a prayer for hope and longing  
that God's glory may be revealed on earth,  
through justice, peace and faithful love."

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you.  
**We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.**

#### Call to Worship

*The people stand and remain standing for the hymn that follows.*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.  
**Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.**

#### Hymn in Procession, No. 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL





## Gospel Lesson

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Luke 21:25-36

<sup>25</sup>There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’ <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

Saying Yes to Hope

## Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,  
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,  
whose love was crucified by the evil that awaits to enslave us all,  
and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.  
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,  
we trust in God; and in the name of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves, i  
n the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace,  
to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God’s goodness,  
to live in freedom of forgiveness and the power of the Spirit of love,  
and in the company of the faithful so to be the Church, for the glory of God. Amen.**

*(“The Iona Community” from The Iona Abby Worship Book, published by Wild Goose Publications,  
Iona Community, Fourth Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall St Glasgow G2 3DH, UK)*

## Hymn, No. 332

Live Into Hope  
*The people stand to sing. Please see insert for hymn.*

TRURO

## Invitation to the Offering

## Offertory

*The Deacons receive the gifts, a portion of the blessings God has given us, which we return unto God.*

E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sin,  
Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.  
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come.  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming soon!  
E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;  
They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun,  
For Christ will be their all.



## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*It is the practice of this congregation to welcome all baptized persons, including those children whose parents have given their permission, to join in receiving the elements. Unfermented grape juice is used.*

### Invitation

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

How can we thank you, O God? For sun and moon and stars, for breath and life and all things good, for your steadfast promises and your faithful love. You set us in this world to love and serve you, and to live in peace with each other and all you have made, and we live in hope - for the day is surely coming when all things will be made new.

With saints and angels, and with the whole creation, we join in the ancient and eternal hymn of praise:

*The people sing.*

Thomas Pavlechko

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to be your living Word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire, to live among us, to share in human suffering, to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty, to establish justice for the oppressed and to announce the good news of your coming realm. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us - this bread, this cup, these people - Christ's body and blood given in love for the world. Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church and one with Christ our Lord dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*The people sing.*

Thomas Pavlechko

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

God of Mercy...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those Who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil;**

**For thine is the kingdom And the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.**

### Words of Institution

#### Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*We distribute the elements of communion by intinction - simply take the bread and dip it in the cup. It is appropriate to say "Amen" or "Thanks be to God" when receiving the bread and the cup as they are gifts of God for the people of God. Westminster serves only gluten-free and dairy-free bread. Please take the aisle nearest you to the communion station at the front of that aisle, and return to your seat by the same aisle.*



## Voluntary at Communion

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

*Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*

## Prayer After Communion

**God of Hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness and peace of your new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve you. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming of your kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Sending Hymn, No. 12

People, Look East  
*The people stand to sing.*

BESANÇON

## Benediction and Choral Response

Keep Your Lamps!

Spiritual, arr. André Thomas (b. 1939)

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.  
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.  
Which evermore shall be, sole inmate of his dwelling. Amen.

## Closing Voluntary

Improvisation on WACHET AUF

Garrett F. Martin (b. 1986)

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*Immediately following the service, please join us for special Meet & Mingle in the Holmes Room, to celebrate Joan Osborne's 90th birthday.*

*As we begin the new liturgical year and the season of Advent, it may be noted that a few things in our service change. Our paraments will change to purple, the color of Advent. While the world anticipates Christmas in red and green, the church uses purple, the same color used during the season of Lent. Purple is the color of royalty, but it is also the color of penitence. During these penitential seasons, we do not sing the congregational Gloria or the Alleluia at the Gospel reading; we will sing the Old Hundredth Doxology, which eliminates the Alleluias from the Doxology that we sing during festival days and ordinary time.*

## Worship Leaders

The Reverend Beth Hennessy, Guest Preacher  
Mary Beth Parrinello, Liturgist  
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Music Director  
Jennifer Shin, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar  
The Westminster Choir

## Elders Serving Today

Melissa Balbach, Jen Callaghan, Bill Gray, Fran Holmes, Jeff Renzoni, Ellie Seib

## Deacons Serving Today

Kate Dierenfield, Teddie Granville, Carol Greetham, Tom Greetham, Janet Kifner-Arnatt,  
Jane Morris, Roberta Nickelsen, Jo Stevens, Ron Sutz

## Chancel Flowers

The flowers at the Lord's Table are given by James N. Weiland, DDS in honor of World Aids Day, December 1st of each year. This day gives people an opportunity to unite in the fight against HIV and show their support for the people both present and future who are living with HIV infection, and to commemorate those saints who have died from HIV infection. World Aids Day was the first ever global health day and was first held in 1988. A special honor in memory of his friend, Richard Gresham.

The flowers at the Pulpit are given by Sue Adams in loving memory of her parents, John and Dolly Adams, Mary Kent Prentice in honor of their Dec birthdays.

The flowers at the Lectern are given by Chris and Camie Greene

*If you would like to purchase Sunday flowers in honor/memory of family or friends, please sign up on the Information Table in the Gallery Room. You may also call Sue Adams at 883-7597 or email hugwalker1@gmail.com*

## Notes on Today's Music

‡**Paul Manz** was an American composer for choir and organ. His most famous choral work is the Advent motet "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come", which has been presented at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, though its broadcast by the neighboring Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge, in its Advent Carol Service precipitated its popularity. Just before he died, his family and friends gathered around his bed and sang "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come." Today's opening voluntary is Manz's organ improvisation on his choral motet that will be sung at the offertory.

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## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Sunday, December 2

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care  
8:15 AM Worship/Communion  
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations  
9:00 AM Advent Wreath Making  
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds  
9:00 AM Spiritual Life  
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner  
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM First Sunday Youth Service/  
Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship/Communion- Advent 1  
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle  
12:00 PM Holiday Sanctuary Tours

### Monday, December 3

8:00 AM WECP Wreath/Poinsettia P/U  
4:30 PM Membership Committee Mtg.

### Tuesday, December 4

7:15 AM Wake Up Group  
8:00 AM Budget & Finance Mtg.  
9:00 AM Management Mtg.  
12:30 PM Passages Lunch  
1:15 PM Passages Program

4:30 PM ENERGY Program  
5:00 PM Personnel Mtg.  
5:00 PM Spiritual Life Mtg.  
6:00 PM WOW Christmas Party  
6:00 PM Zen Dharma  
7:00 PM Tom's Book Signing/Talking  
Leaves  
7:00 PM Zen Dharma

### Wednesday, December 5

9:30 AM Worship Planning  
12:00 PM Enews Info. Deadline  
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline  
1:00 PM Newsletter Deadline  
1:30 PM Staff Mtg.  
4:30 PM ENERGY Program  
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace  
5:30 PM Deacon Mtg.  
5:30 PM Elder Mtg.  
6:30 PM Elder/Deacon Dinner  
7:00 PM Joint Elder/Deacon Mtg.  
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

### Thursday, December 6

7:15 AM Wake Up Group

7:30 AM Coffee @ WECP  
4:30 PM ENERGY Program  
5:30 PM Case Library Planning Comm.  
6:00 PM Handbells  
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, December 7

7:30 AM Coffee @ WECP

### Saturday, December 8

10:00 AM QED Student Session  
Sunday, December 9 - Advent II  
8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care  
8:00 AM Senior Choristers  
8:15 AM Worship/Communion  
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations  
9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal with strings  
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds  
9:00 AM Spiritual Life  
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner  
10:30 AM Worship/Messiah Sunday  
10:40 AM Sunday School  
11:30 AM Session Budget Mtg.  
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle

## NEWS AND NOTES

### WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

If you are visiting and would like to learn more about our programming or mission, please fill out a Welcome Card (found in the pews) and return it to a deacon or staff member.

- As a More Light church, we invite all persons of the LG-BTQIA+ community to membership and full participation in all ministries of Westminster.
- We light our Peace Candle to pray for peace—both in our own neighborhoods and across the world.
  - Bibles and children's worship guides are available at the Sanctuary entrances.
  - For the hearing impaired, wireless receivers are available in the Church Conference Room.
    - Childcare for children 5 years old and younger is available from 9:30 AM to 11:30AM in the school building (across the garden).
  - If you need assistance at any time, please ask a Deacon.
  - Please pick up your generosity envelopes, which are available on the table in the Holmes Room.

### CHURCH LIFE

Westminster's Alcohol and Drug Education and Referral service provides support to assist members and friends with issues and questions related to abuse of alcohol or other drugs. If you or someone you love needs help, call for free and confidential advice. Phil Stevens, Chair, 839-3357; Dave Carstensen, 884-5403; Jane Morris, 571-481-1839; Ellen Smith, 882-2064; Elizabeth Stewart, 585-217-7878; Jim Wieland, 523-0217.

If you are recovering from an illness/surgery, a caregiver with an ill family member, or have had a new baby, Westminster can provide a simple meal for those in need. Please contact

Jamie Adamczyk at [jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org) or 884-9437, ext. 326.

### INQUIRER CLASS

Sunday, January 20, 11:30 AM

Friends and visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and the ministries we support are invited to attend a meeting immediately following worship. Dr. Yorty will share details of Westminster's history, discuss current outreach and mission programs in the city and region, and answer any questions. At the conclusion of the meeting, those who so desire will be received into the membership of the church. For more information, please contact Sawrie Becker, 884-9437, ext. 315 [sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org)

### WEDI AND MISSION

#### ENERGY

Get involved with ENERGY! Sign up to tutor students, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday afternoons, 4:30-6:30 PM. Contact Alyssa Wojciechowski, Program Coordinator at 507-8216 or [awojciechowski@wedibuffalo.org](mailto:awojciechowski@wedibuffalo.org)

### WEST SIDE BAZAAR

Check out The West Side Bazaar, 25 Grant Street, for lunch and shopping. Sunday and Monday: Closed. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM. Friday: 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM. Saturday: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM.

### DONATE TO HURRICANE RELIEF

PCUSA Disaster Relief is accepting donations online at [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org) or by phone, call 800-872-3283. To donate by check, mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

## WORSHIP, MUSIC, AND ARTS

The Worship, Music, and Arts committee strives to assist the staff to give shape and substance to the life and work of Westminster Church as expressed in its worship and music ministry. Our worship services are never static but always a 'living testimony' of our attempt to worship and praise God to the best of our ability. From year to year, season to season, the form and order of worship changes as our worship leaders seek to enable us to give fresh and meaningful corporate and personal expression to our love for God and depth of faith - which varies in taste and temperament, origin and background, and length of journey among us. Since Rally Day, this year our liturgy has included some new aspects including the presentation of the Gospel selection for the day. Ellie Seib, the Chair of WMA, would like to take this opportunity - following the Committee's spring '18 Case Library session on worship/liturgy planning at Westminster - to remind the congregation that the Committee is open to hearing from members and friends of the congregation regarding our Sunday corporate worship experience. Please feel free to contact her at [ejseib@yahoo.com](mailto:ejseib@yahoo.com)

### MESSIAH SUNDAY, December 9 at 10:30 AM

The Westminster Choirs sing popular selections from Handel's Messiah in morning worship.

### WEDNESDAYS@ WESTMINSTER, December 19 at 12 PM

The American Caroling Company will lead a sing-a-long.

### CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER, December 21 at 7:30 PM

The Westminster Choirs and Brass present festive music of the season in this new holiday tradition.

### CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24 at 10 PM. Westminster shares its annual service of music and scripture telling the birth of Christ.

### THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR SCHOOL

All Choir School offers programs for all children—regardless of age, musical skill, or Westminster membership! Choristers receive individualized weekly training from talented teachers and regularly lead worship services. For more information, please contact Garrett Martin, Organist and Director of Music, 884-9437, ext. 318 or [gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org)

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Each Sunday, join a conversation about the week's scripture passages and how they apply to our lives. The discussion is led by Debbie Katz and uses the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum.

### CASE LIBRARY

Sundays, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Every Sunday, Case Library Conversations provides an opportunity to discuss local, national and global issues. With these conversations, we can examine our life-long adventure in faith.

### Advent Series - December 2, 9, and 16

*Why God Became Human*

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Lance Brown

Join us for conversation in the Case Library Series during Advent to reflect upon Scripture, the theological history of the church, and integrating Jesus' birth into our human lives.

*"The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."* John 1:14

### SPIRITUAL LIFE

Sundays, 9:00 AM in the Heritage Room

Spiritual Life creates opportunities for Westminster members and friends to explore and reflect together upon the interior life of faith. Discoveries and questions come from topics such as Deep Listening, Gratitude, Attentiveness, Compassion, Sacred Spaces, Grieving, and Joy. Poetry or art are frequently woven into a presentation. We are always interactive and supportive, looking for ways to apply important spiritual concepts to our daily lives. As a Christian congregation, we are also open to learning about other faith traditions and practices that nurture, sustain, and challenge the "inward journey."

### December 9 and 16

*Learning to Walk in the Dark*

Presenter: Allan Hayes.

With her characteristic charm and wisdom, Barbara Brown Taylor is our guide through a spirituality of the nighttime, teaching us how to find God even in darkness and giving us a way to let darkness teach us what we need to know. She writes, "I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is really only one logical conclusion. I need darkness as much as I need light."

### Year of the Bible, *New Adult Education Course will begin*

**January 6, 2019.** The Rev. Dr. Skip Ferguson, who recently retired from his pastorate at the First Presbyterian Church, Manassas, VA and relocated to Orchard Park, will lead a year-long weekly Sunday morning (9:15-10:15 AM) during the school year and (8:30-9:30 AM summer hours) class which will read and discuss the entire Bible. Dr. Ferguson has led this class several times in the congregations he has served. In fact, he uses a special Bible that selects the readings for each day (requiring about 15 minutes) that will be available to class participants. The class will be structured around brief presentations with questions for discussion, including visual and video aids. Dr. Yorty and Ms. Debbie Katz, as well as a small team of church members, will also teach some of the sessions. I hope you consider this exciting option for your continued spiritual growth and development. The class is open not only to members, but friends of Westminster. If you have any questions, contact Tom Yorty or Debbie Katz.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH EDUCATION

- Preschool class meets in the WECP building. After *Time with the Children*, children 3-5 years old leave with their teachers, Debby and Chris LaMendola, and Janet Kifner-Arnatt and walk to the building together. In cold weather, the children need their coats. After worship, the children and their teachers gather in the Holmes Room.

- 1st-2nd grade class meet each Sunday with their teachers in the first classroom before the Parish Hall balcony.

- 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades meet with their teachers in the first classroom on the Parish Hall balcony.

- 6th-7th grade class meet each Sunday in the last classroom on the Parish Hall balcony.

- Confirmation class is made up of 8th graders. They meet with their mentor until January, after which they meet each Sunday from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM in the classroom on the Parish Hall balcony.

- Senior Highs, 9th-12th grades, meet each Sunday at 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall kitchen for Dialogue Diner.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT-DECEMBER 16

The Pageant is open to all children - from our youngest to our oldest. The Senior & Junior Highs have speaking parts, and they'll be practicing Sunday December 2, 9 & 16. Some of the practices will take place during Sunday School class time along with younger classes. Mark Aquino will be keeping our youth informed of their practices. We need all the angels, stars and shepherds. For parents of younger children, plan to be here by 10AM on December 16 at the back of the Sanctuary where your child can become an angel, star, or shepherd.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**MEET AND MINGLE**-Sundays, following 10:30 AM Worship  
Following 10:30 AM Worship, enjoy snacks and fellowship in the Holmes Room with friends old and new! Please consider lending a hand to ensure Meet & Mingle's continued success by shopping, hosting, or sponsoring. For more information, please contact Sawrie Becker, sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org or 884-9437, ext. 315.

**HEAVENLY GROUNDS CAFÉ**-Sundays, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM  
Stop by the Oak Room for a cup of Coffee or Tea as you make your way to Adult Education programs between the worship services, or sit and enjoy with friends after Sanctuary service.

### KNITTING GROUP

The next Knitting Group meeting is 12/11. The group works on individual projects, as well as prayer shawls, scarves, and other items for members of the church. Beginners welcome! Contact Fran Holmes, mfranholmes@verizon.net for information.

**PASSAGES**-December 4, 12:30 PM Lunch; 1:15 PM Program  
*Music of the Season*, performed by the Nardin Children's choir. Sign up in the Gallery Room if you are planning to come for lunch.

### WOW BOOK DISCUSSION

This year, WOW will discuss these five books on the following dates. Join us at 7PM on these Monday nights in the Case Library. Feel free to attend as your schedule permits:

January 14: *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer.

March 4: *The Women's Hour* by Elaine Weiss

May 6: *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn.

### THE ANGEL TREE

Please choose at least one Angel from our tree or make a donation toward gifts for the individuals on the tree. Checks are gladly accepted and should be made out to Westminster and note "Angel Tree." Cash is accepted as well. ENERGY

gifts are due back in ONE week on December. All others are due on December 16. Thank you for helping with this yearly Mission project! Call 310-5395 or see Ardrey Manning.

### WOW ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP & MISSION

**EVENT, Tuesday, December 4** 6pm in the Case Library. Our pot luck dinner is a lovely time for fellowship as we prepare gift bags for Concerned Ecumenical Ministries of the West Side for elderly shut-ins, many of whom receive this bag as their only Christmas celebration. A list of items to bring for the bags, and to sign up for what dish you will bring to share, will be available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room.

**ADVENT DINNER, Sunday December 16** in the Parish Hall following the 10:30AM service. Enjoy a delicious turkey dinner, and wonderful side dishes which will please all ages. Vegetarian meals are available with advance request. \$12 for ages 9 and over (no charge for under 8) \$45 for a family. Reservation forms will soon be available. Sponsored by Church Life.

### WOW WINTER RETREAT

Mark your calendars now and save **Friday, January 25 through Sunday, January 27, 2019**. If you haven't been to our Winter Retreat, plan to join us for inspiring workshops, wonderful conversations, fresh air, beautiful surroundings, great food, and spiritual renewal. Everything is optional--participate or not, the choice is yours. Single rooms are limited, plan on attending and register early. Registration forms will be available in both in the December newsletter and brochures on the Information Table.

### MEN'S RETREAT- 2019

*Being Present in the Moment*

Friday, February 1 - Saturday, February 2, 2019 at the Byrnclyff Resort, Varysburg, NY. This year's Men's Retreat promises to be a well-spent overnight, taking time for "Being Present in the Moment." Our lives are so easily distracted by our personal and professional responsibilities, as well as the never-ending news and social media, that we easily lose touch with the very resources—everyday occurrences, people, routine opportunities and challenges—that remind us that life is a gift and instill gratitude for all that we have. may have. The retreat will feature speakers - Tom Yorty, Dave Carstensen, and an artist (TBD), brief talks, activities and extended small and large group discussion as we explore the theme of being more intentional and mindful of our daily lives and relationships. Reservation forms are on the Information Table in the Gallery Room. LIMITED ROOMS AVAILABLE! Deadline for reservations is December 10.

## WORSHIP AND PREACHING SCHEDULE

8:15 AM: Worship in the Holmes Chapel with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; 10:30 AM: Worship in the Sanctuary

December 9-Advent II - The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty  
"A Word in the Wilderness"; Luke 3:1-6

December 16-Advent III - The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty  
"When God Turns To You"; Luke 3:7-18

December 23-Advent IV - The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty  
"The Beloved Oppressed"; Luke 1:39-45

December 30 - One worship service at 10:30 AM





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## Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

## Gospel Lesson

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Luke 21:25-36

<sup>25</sup>There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Meditation

Saying Yes to Hope

## Prayers of the People

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

## Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*We will distribute the elements of communion today by intinction – simply take the bread and dip it in the cup. It is appropriate to say "Amen" or "Thanks be to God" when receiving the bread and the cup as they are gifts of God for the people of God. All of the bread distributed is gluten free. Please take the center aisle to the communion station, receive the elements, and return to your seat by a side aisle.*

## Sending Hymn, No. 12

People, Look East  
*The people stand to sing.*

BESANÇON

## Benediction

## Closing Voluntary

Improvisation on WACHET AUF

Garrett F. Martin (b. 1986)

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## Worship Leaders

The Reverend Beth Hennessy, Guest Preacher  
Jennifer Shin, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar



# WESTMINSTER

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