



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

DECEMBER 8, 2019

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:15 AM IN THE HOLMES CHAPEL

10:30 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

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 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

Sinfonia

George Friedrich Handel (1685-1759)

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

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Yorty

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.

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 that we sing during festival days and ordinary time.

Introit

Recitative and Air

George Frideric Handel[†] (1685-1759)

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,
That her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord;
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:1-3)

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low;
The crooked straight and the rough places plain. (Isaiah 40:4)

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Ryan O'Laughlin and James Zawodzinski will light the second Advent candle.

The Gospel of Luke speaks about God's messenger:
In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius...
The word of God came to John son of Zechariah...
He went into all the region around Jordan,
Proclaiming a baptism of repentance
For the forgiveness of sins.

God comes to us through particular people,
In particular places and times in the past, and here and now.
Our second candle reminds us to look for the light of God
In God's messengers today.

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you, and hope to follow 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.



Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Gospel Acclamation

The people stand.

Glo - ry to you, O Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ!

Gospel Lesson

The people stand.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Glo - ry to you, O Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ!

Sermon

A Stump, A Voice, A Stone

Hymn, No. 12

People, Look East

The people stand to sing.

BESANÇON

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem

Chorus

George Friedrich Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)



Presentation of the Gifts

The people stand as the Deacons come forward and remain standing for the Prayer of Dedication.



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;



Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication

**We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things:
For this universe and for Earth itself,
For creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness;
For Jesus, our brother, who enlarged our vision,
Setting himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life;
And for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism
And moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you.
Turn our offerings to your good will,
And turn us always to you in gratitude. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Sending Hymn, No. 13

Prepare the Way
The people stand to sing.

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Benediction and Choral Response

Air and Chorus

George Friedrich Handel

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain.
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;
Lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! (Isaiah 40:9)
Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. (Isaiah 60:1)

Closing Voluntary

Grand Chœuer en Ré Majeur alla Handel, Op. 18

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

*Immediately following worship, please join us for Meet & Mingle in the Holmes Room.
Thank you to our hosts today, Camie Greene and Joan Maitino.*

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor
The Reverend Katelyn Nutter Dowling, Associate Pastor for Christian Education
Dr. Phillips Stevens, Liturgist
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries
The Westminster Choir
Andrea Cone, violin Doug Cone, violin,
Derek Chazen, viola Nancy Anderson, cello

Deacons Serving Today

Ellen Bean, Drew Dees, Kate Dierenfield, Carol Greetham, Tom Greetham,
Stephen Johnson, Donald Etulo, John Mahoney, Beatriz Nazario

The Christmas tree in the Narthex is a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Speth.



Notes on Today's Music

This Sunday, all liturgical music is from Part I of Handel's *Messiah*.

†**George Friedrich Handel** was a German Baroque composer who spent the bulk of his career in London, becoming famous for his operas, oratorios, anthems, and organ concertos. Born in a family indifferent to music, Handel received critical training in Halle, Hamburg, and Italy before settling in London (1712), and became a naturalized British subject in 1727. He was strongly influenced both by the great composers of the Italian Baroque and the middle-German polyphonic choral tradition.

Messiah (HWV 56) is an English-language oratorio composed in 1741 with a scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens from the King James Bible, and from the version of the Psalms included with the Book of Common Prayer. It was first performed in Dublin in 1742 and received its London premiere nearly a year later. After an initially modest public reception, the oratorio gained in popularity, eventually becoming one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music.

Handel's reputation in England, where he had lived since 1712, had been established through his compositions of Italian opera. He turned to English oratorio in the 1730s, in response to changes in public taste; *Messiah* was his sixth work in this genre. Although its structure resembles that of opera, it is not in dramatic form; there are no impersonations of characters and very little direct speech. Instead, Jennens's text is an extended reflection on Jesus Christ as Messiah. The text begins in Part I with prophecies by Isaiah and others, and moves to the annunciation to the shepherds, the only "scene" taken from the Gospels. In Part II, Handel concentrates on the Passion and ends with the "Hallelujah" chorus. In Part III, he covers the resurrection of the dead and Christ's glorification in Heaven.

Handel wrote *Messiah* for modest vocal and instrumental forces, with optional settings for many of the individual numbers. In the years after his death, the work was adapted for performance on a much larger scale, with giant orchestras and choirs. In other efforts to update it, its orchestration was revised and amplified by (among others) Mozart. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, the trend has been towards reproducing a greater fidelity to Handel's original intentions, although "big Messiah" productions continue to be mounted.

WORSHIP AND PREACHING SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship • 8:15 AM in the Holmes Chapel with Communion • 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

December 15 • Third Sunday of Advent • The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

Matthew 11:2-11; *Crucible Faith: John's Joyful Message; The Children's Christmas Pageant*

December 22 • Fourth Sunday of Advent • The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

Matthew 1:18-25; *Crucible Faith: Messiah in Disguise*

December 29 • One Service at 10:30 AM • The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

Matthew 2:13-23; *Crucible Faith: The Teetering Powers*

Live Stream Worship Services Each Sunday

Visit us on Facebook: Westminster Presbyterian Church • Buffalo

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 8 • First Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
 8:15 AM Worship W/ Communion
 9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
 9:00 AM *Messiah* Rehearsal
 9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
 9:15 AM Spiritual Life
 9:15 AM Year of the Bible
 9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:15 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
 10:30 AM Worship
 10:40 AM Sunday School
 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting
 11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
 11:45 AM Special Session Meeting
 12:00 PM Dream Group
 12:00 PM Confirmand Brunch @ Lafayette
 6:00 PM Youth Movement

Monday, December 9

4:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting
 4:30 PM ENERGY/ FLY Program
 7:00 PM Year of the Bible

Tuesday, December 10

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 9:00 AM Management Meeting
 4:30 PM ENERGY/ FLY Program
 6:00 PM Zen Dharma Holiday Gathering
 7:00 PM WECP Parent Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

7:15 AM AA Meeting
 8:00 AM Ministry of Generosity Meeting
 9:00 AM Worship Planning
 1:30 PM Staff Meeting
 3:45 PM Capital Campaign Cabinet Meeting
 4:30 PM ENERGY/ FLY Program
 5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
 8:00 PM AA Meeting

Thursday, December 12

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 4:30 PM ENERGY/ FLY Program
 6:00 PM Handbells
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 13

9:00 AM Partnership for the Public Good

12:00 PM Noontime AI-Anon
 4:30 PM ENERGY/ FLY Program

Saturday, December 14

10:00 AM TOY- Intro to TeenScene Study

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
 8:15 AM Worship/Communion
 9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
 9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
 9:15 AM Spiritual Life
 9:15 AM Year of the Bible
 9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 AM Worship/Christmas Pageant/
 New Members
 10:40 AM Sunday School
 10:40 AM Youth Holiday Party
 12:00 PM Advent Dinner



2019 Christmas Eve Offering at Westminster

Every year on Christmas Eve, we hear the story about a woman away from home and about to give birth. We imagine the fear of sleeping rough in a stable and the trauma of giving birth on the ground surrounded by animals. We are confronted with the horrors of homelessness.

Like Mary and Joseph, people still find themselves threatened by homelessness from circumstances that overwhelm them. Job loss, death of a loved one, medical expenses or disability are some of the threats to a family's ability to maintain a roof over their heads. This year, our Christmas Eve offering is being given to the Emergency Financial Assistance Program, a program that aims to prevent eviction by provided up to \$750 in emergency aid to people who are temporarily encountering financial hardship. The program is administrated by Catholic Charities and is open to all people in need. These people are helped to stay in their homes and are given other wraparound services to stabilize their financial lives.

We usually divide our Christmas Eve offering between two non-profit organizations, but this year we have chosen to concentrate our gifts on the prevention of homelessness, because the need is so large and the resources are so small.

To contribute by check, please make payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church, and note "Christmas Eve Offering" in the memo.

NOW & EVER PRESERVE THE PINNACLE

Westminster Presbyterian Church wishes to gratefully acknowledge and thank the following members and friends who have committed to the *Preserve the Pinnacle* Capital Campaign as of December 5, 2019.

Anonymous	Frederick B. & Valerie Cooley	Janet & David Kowalski	Bruce A. and Jane Roberts
Anonymous	William J. Currie	Charles F. and Louise Kreiner Jr.	Judith S. Ronald
Anonymous	R. Rhys and Christine Curtis	Christopher and	Robert and
Heather Esther Ackley	Anthony and Jeanne Decillis	Deborah LaMendola	Audrey Ross Sanders
Susan W. Adams	Leslie Deich	Sandra J. Laub	Joan Sanford
Cameron and Mindy Airhart	Mary Dimock	Margaret May Logan	Sara Schneider
Stephen H. and Holly Allen	Richard and Cornelia L. Dopkins	James M. Loree	Elenora Jean Seib
Nancy Anderson and	Douglas and Linda Fabian	William J. and	Roger Mark Seifert
Leslie Salathe	Margaret Gordon	Linda* Magavern II	Monica Spaulding
John Bace and Melissa Balbach	F. William Gray and	Janet Mascio	Joseph A. and Diana Speth
Anthony L. Bannon and	Molly Glennie Gray	Elaine Mattar	Erich and Mimi Steadman
Elizabeth Black Stewart	Christopher T. and	Paula M. Mazur	R. Reed and
Alexandra Prentice Barrett	Cameron Greene	John & Louise McClive	Carolyn Hoyt Stevens
Max Becker Jr.	Thomas and Carol Greetham	Peter V. McNally	Roy Stewart
Sawrie Becker	Joan Willard Gruen	Brendan and Michele Mehaffy	A. Reed Taylor
Sherrie Bernat	Charles D. and Sandra Hahn	John A. and Elizabeth Mitchell	The Estate of Ted and
Peter A. Boeckel	Mark Hall and Claire Pennell-Hall	John S. and Rebecca Montague	Mary Kent Prentice
Stuart A. Boeckel	Jane Hamilton	Jane Morris	The Estate of Jeannette Ludwig
Alex and Lisa Blair	Raymond C. Herman III	Bonnie L. Morton	The Estate of Kenneth C. Drake
Elizabeth Bojduk	Richard W. Herr	Mulroy Family Foundation	Thomas H. Yorty and
Robert Bojduk	Perryann L. Hoffman	Beatriz Nazario	Carol Timmerman-Yorty
and Sarah Williams	David C. and Lucinda Hohn	Barbara Billings Neal	Nancy Trimble
Douglas and Laurel Braun	Mary Frances Holmes	Barbara L. Nelson	Kathy Vitagliano
Russell Braun	Deborah Izatt	Joan Nenno	Sally Walsh
Dorothy J. Brown	John Carl and Jennifer Jacobs	Roberta Nickelsen	Thomas W. Weber
Mary and Jen Callaghan	James H. Cummings	Philip R. and Donna Niswander	Claude Welch Jr.
Carlos and Elizabeth Heath	Foundation	Callie Z. Ostendorf	James Zawodzinski and
Foundation	Edwin M. Johnston III	Mary Beth Parrinello	Ryan O'Laughlin
Carol & Reginald Newman Fund	Marc W. and Alice Joseffer	Kristen Pattoli	Stephen and Julie Smith Zenger
David R. and Marcia Carstensen	Gerald E. Kelly	Virginia L. Paul	
Patricia Charlier	Kathleen Isabelle Kelly	Lansing and Pamela Pollock	
Benjamin C. Christy	Ellen Kennedy	Joan Rice	
Robert W. and	Janet Kifner-Arnatt	Robert and Patricia Colbe	
Jeannette W. Constantine	Doug and Nancy Kirkpatrick	Foundation	

*Deceased

If an error has occurred, please accept our apology and contact Sawrie Becker at sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org with any concerns.

NEWS AND NOTES

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The meeting will be held immediately following the 10:30 AM service today. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Elders, Deacons, and at-large members of the Nominating Committee.

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 LGBTQIA+ 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 8 AM to 11:30 AM 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

INQUIRER CLASS

February 9 following the 10:30 AM service

Friends and visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and the ministries we support are invited to attend a meeting in the Case Library immediately following worship. We will share 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@wpccbuffalo.org

MISSION AND OUTREACH

WESTMINSTER'S ALCOHOL/OTHER DRUG EDUCATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

This 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. Jen Read (228.7526) and Elizabeth Stewart (585.217.7878), Co-Chairs; Dave Carstensen (884.5403), Jane Morris (571.481.1839), Ellen Smith (431.9284), Phil Stevens (247.3824).

BOOKCASES NEEDED FOR ENERGY/ FLY PROGRAMS

Any size (particularly small ones!) will be appreciated. Please drop off at the church. Any questions, contact Betsy Biggar at 716.803.2100.

WEST SIDE BAZAAR

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

ENERGY

The name ENERGY reflects what we value: Education, Nurture, Encouragement, Readiness, and Growth for Youth.

The ENERGY school-year program gathers Monday through Friday from 3:30 PM–6 PM at Westminster and offers a robust place for children, whose families are refugees and recently immigrated to this country, to develop English-language skills, self-confidence, and cultural awareness. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, students receive a one-on-one experience with trained volunteer tutors and staff. If you are interested in reading with children, helping with homework, cooking meals, or leading lessons or activities, contact volunteer@wedibuffalo.org

THE ANGEL TREE

Time to select and return your wrapped Angel Gifts. Gifts will be distributed to various agencies around WNY to help those in need. **Please return all angels by Sunday, December 15. Help is needed to sort gifts on Sunday, December 8 and 15 after worship and for delivery at 9:00 AM, Monday, December 16.** All gifts you purchase must be wrapped when you return them.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our Confirmation Class is in conjunction with Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church. Confirmation is a "rite of initiation" that welcomes young people that have grown up in the faith (or not) to take the Presbyterian Church as their own set of beliefs and polity. For many students, church has been something they've gone to because of you—their parents. This is a wonderful gift you have given your child: a solid foundation on which to build their own faith. Confirmation is a chance for the student to ask questions, dig deep, and stand in front of our congregation and proclaim the PCUSA to be their church of their own free will and choosing. If your student is in grade 8 or above and have not gone through confirmation, please contact Katelyn at katelynnd@wpccbuffalo.org to sign up and begin the process of finding a mentor!

DIALOGUE DINER

Dialogue Diner is a weekly breakfast and fellowship for students 6th-12th grade. We start today and go through the 22nd. Come start your Sunday off with good food and good community. We meet in the Parish Hall kitchen from 9:30AM to 10:15AM before worship.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: YEAR OF THE BIBLE CLASS

Sunday mornings, 9:15 AM–10:15 AM in the Parish Hall and Monday evenings 7 PM–8:15 PM in the Case Library.

Our journey through the entire Bible, from Genesis through Revelation, will come to an end on December 31 as we read the wonderfully appropriate final words of Revelation 22: "Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen"

Congratulations to all those who will "graduate"! We're certain to offer the class again in the not-too-distant future, so you too will have your opportunity to explore the world of the Word as you spend a Year with the Bible!

CASE LIBRARY CONVERSATION SERIES

Sundays, 9 AM-10:15 AM in the Case Library

December 8

The Gospel According to Luke

Presenter: David Weeks

Hear how Luke differs from Matthew and how some of our greatest painters have interpreted Luke's story.

December 15

The Gospel According to Matthew

Hear an analysis of this different version of the birth story and look at some of the stunning artistic interpretations.

Presenter: Rebecca Montague

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Sundays, 9 AM-10:15 AM in the Heritage Room

December 8 and 15

Honoring the Advent Season

Presenter: Elizabeth Stewart

Christmas is a day of celebration and joyful times with family and friends, good food, and laughter. Yet in the midst of merriment, many of us find ourselves feeling alone. Join us as we learn to reflect on the season of Advent and the practices which bring us closer to a fulfillment of the joy of Christmas.

WOW LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY

Monday, December 16 • 1 PM-2:30 PM in the Case Library

Women of Westminster cordially invites you to a Brown Bag Lunchtime Bible study on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Case Library. This year we will explore the Horizons Bible study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*. Each lesson begins with an exploration of one of the Ten Words in its biblical context. From there, we consider a moment from Jesus' life that shows us how he lived out that Word. We then consider the Word for our own lives and contexts. There will be a nominal fee for the book.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNITTING GROUP

The next meeting is December 10, 2 PM-4 PM. Our group meets on occasional days throughout the year and works on their individual projects, as well as prayer shawls, scarves, and other handmade items for members of the church. Contact Fran Holmes for information or dates, mfranholmes@verizon.net

PASSAGES: A PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Tuesday, January 7 • Lunch: 12:30 PM in the Case Library

Lunch: 1:15 PM in the Oak Room

Topic: Gender Development

Speaker: Tom Mazur Co-director, Center for Psychosexual Health.

Mr. Mazur is an expert in the psycho-social development of children and youth in the areas of sexuality, gender identity, as well as disorders of sexual development. Tom trained at John Hopkins and has counseled families and individuals at Womens and Children's Hospital since 1979. He is currently co-director of the Center for Psychosexual Health. The goal

of Tom's presentation is not only to educate us but also answer questions each of us may have regarding such new terms as LGBTQ and more, including pronoun confusion and the new gender linguistics.

(WOW) WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER WINTER RETREAT

Friday, January 24, through Sunday, January 26, at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. We begin Friday evening with a light supper of chili (one is vegetarian) and ends Sunday morning after worship. It is a weekend filled with many things (everything is optional): workshops, relaxing, sharing laughter, and getting to know one another better, spending time in your room, or trekking through the (snowy) woods. The cost is \$130 for a double room and \$ 175 for a single. Rooms are assigned on a first come first served basis, depending on when you turn in your reservation form with at least a 50% deposit. The remainder must be paid by the start of the retreat. Cost includes all meals through Sunday breakfast. We car pool from the church parking lot. More details and reservation forms will be available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room or at our website. under "Church Life." Please consider joining us!

MEET AND MINGLE

Please join us on Sundays following 10:30 Worship. Enjoy snacks and fellowship in the Holmes Room with friends old and new! Sponsors, shoppers, and hosts are needed for Meet & Mingle in December. Meet & Mingle is a great way to celebrate a special person or occasion. For more information please sign up in the Gallery Room or contact Sawrie Becker, sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

Theatre of Youth Company, Inc. (TOY) stimulates the imagination, nurtures the creative spirit, and enhances the education of young people by engaging them in relevant, child-centered, and professionally-produced live theatre programs.

Mad Skills: Intro to Scene Study for Teens, December 14 in the Parish Hall. For the teen who wants to explore the world of the play and relationships between characters.

DID YOU KNOW...

That since the Now & Ever combined *2020 Annual Giving* and *Preserve the Pinnacle Capital Campaign* was formally launched to congregation on Sunday, October 27, we have been pleased to receive gifts and pledges to both. If you have not yet returned your pledge cards, please do so as soon as possible as it is imperative to our financial planning. Both the annual budget and the capital campaign need your generous support *Now & Ever!* Thank you.

GIVING 2020 AND PRESERVE THE PINNACLE

Now & Ever Giving 2020 and Preserve the Pinnacle Pledge Packets were distributed over the course of four weeks in November. If you were unable to pick your packet up, it will be mailed to you. Thank you for returning your commitments to these two important campaigns at your earliest convenience.

ADVENT DINNER • SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Join us in the Parish Hall following 10:30 AM Worship to 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 8 and under), \$45 for a family. Reservation forms are available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room



Scripture Lessons

Romans 15:4-13

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; ¹⁰and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; ¹¹and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; ¹²and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Meditation

Peace is Hard Work

Rev. Nutter Dowling

Prayers of the People

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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.

Sending Hymn, No. 13

Prepare the Way
The people stand to sing.

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Grand Chœuer en Ré Majeur alla Handel, Op. 18

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Micah Nutter Dowling, Director of Youth Ministries
The Reverend Katelyn Nutter Dowling, Associate Pastor for Christian Education
The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries



WESTMINSTER

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Christmas at Westminster

Wednesdays @ Westminster

December 18 • Noon
The American Caroling Company leads a holiday sing-a-long.

Christmas at Westminster

December 20 • 7:30 PM
•The Choirs of Westminster
•The Western New York Chamber Orchestra
•The Buffalo Brass
•QED Vocal Ensemble
•The Westminster Handbell Choir
• Rosanna Moore, Harp
•Garrett F. Martin, Conductor
•Walter S. Mayo, Handbell Choir Conductor

Westminster presents Buffalo's favorite new holiday tradition with something for everyone! Nearly 100 musicians will ring in the Christmas season with classical masterworks, handbell favorites, and treasured congregational Christmas Carols. Bring your family and friends!

Family Service

December 24 5:15 PM
A service of harp, choirs, and carols for all ages. The QED Vocal Ensemble will present Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols.

83rd Annual Lessons and Carols

December 24 • 10 PM
The Westminster Choirs pay tribute to the traditional Lessons and Carols service format which began at Truro Cathedral, Cornwall. Nine scripture texts alternating with choral anthem and congregational carols help prepare for the birth of Jesus. The Choirs of Westminster, The Western New York Chamber Orchestra The Buffalo Brass The QED Vocal Ensemble, and the Westminster Handbell Choir lead us in this festival service — one of Western New York's cherished Christmas traditions.

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