



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

DECEMBER 29, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10:30 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

THE REVEREND DR. THOMAS H. YORTY
PASTOR



Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Gospel Acclamation

The people stand.



Gospel Lesson

The people stand.

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' ¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Acclamation



Voluntary

A Christmas Carol

Ned Rorem (b. 1923)

The other night I saw a light! A star as bright as day!
And ever among A maiden song: By-by, baby, lullay.

This virgin clear who had no peer, Unto her son did say,
"I pray thee, son, grant me a boon, To sing by-by, lullay.

Let every child or man whoever can, Be merry on this day,
And blessings bring. So I shall sing, By-by, baby, lullay. (Text: Anon, ca. 1500 A.D.)

Sermon

Immigrant Holy Family

Hymn, No. 36

In the Bleak Midwinter

The people stand to sing.

CRANHAM

Invitation to the Offering



Offertory Anthem

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Ned Rorem

Whose woods these are I think I know,
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

He gives his harness bell a shake
To see if there is some mistake
The only other sound's
The sweep of easy wind and downy flake.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near.
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

The woods are lovely dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep. (Text: Robert Frost)

Presentation of the Gifts

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

OLD HUNDRETH



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.

Prayer of Dedication

**In this gifting season, O God,
we are grateful for the gift of your dear Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Receive, we pray, these offerings we bring.
May they be used in the service of your grace and truth dwelling among us.
In Christ's holy name we pray. 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 56

The First Nowell
The people stand to sing.

The First Nowell

Benediction and Congregational Response

Go, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS



Go, all ye faith - ful, All who know the Sav - ior. Car - ry the



mes - sage far be - yond these walls. Hold, forth the Christ - light.



Con - quer ev - ery dark - ness. Go forth, O church of Je - sus! Pro - claim the one who



frees us! Speak peace! Reach out in mer - cy, in kind - ness, and love.



Closing Voluntary

Fugue and Toccata on ADESTE FIDELIS

Marcel Dupr  (1886-1971)

*Immediately following worship, please join us for Meet & Mingle in the Holmes Room.
Thank you to our host today, Jim Loree.*

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor
The Reverend Katelyn Nutter Dowling, Associate Pastor for Christian Education
Dr. Phillips Stevens, Liturgist
Dr. Stephen Edge, Bass-Baritone

Deacons Serving Today

Wisdon Afealete, Peter Ahrens, Drew Dees, Donald Etulo, Candace Marr,
Johnpatrick Marr, Beatriz Nazario, Roberta Nickelsen, Ron Sutz

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

Notes on Today's Music

‡**Marcel Dupr **, foremost French organ virtuoso of his time, famed for his ability to improvise and influential as a teacher. Dupr  gave his first organ recital at age 10 and had his *Oratorio Le Songe de Jacob* (Jacob's Dream) performed at 15. An organist at Saint-Sulpice and Notre-Dame, Paris, he gave (1920) a series of 10 recitals in which he played from memory the complete organ works of J.S. Bach. He toured as a virtuoso (U.S. debut, 1921), frequently improvising fugues and symphonies from themes suggested by musicians in the audience. His *Symphonie-Passion* and *Le Chemin de la croix* (The Way of the Cross) were first improvised in performance and later written down. His written compositions include a series of 76 chorales and a concerto for organ and orchestra. He also wrote several works on organ technique and improvisation. Dupr  directed the American Conservatory at Fontainebleau, Fr. (1947-54), and the Paris Conservatory (from 1954).

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WORSHIP AND PREACHING SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship

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

January 5 • One Service at 10:30 AM • The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

Live Stream Worship Services Each Sunday

Visit us on Facebook: Westminster Presbyterian Church • Buffalo

NOW & EVER

GIVING 2020 PRESERVE THE PINNACLE

Pledges received as of 12/18/2019	Number of Pledges Received	Total Pledges Received	Dollars to Goal
GIVING 2020	121	\$360,420	\$239,580
PRESERVE THE PINNACLE	128	\$2,941,687	\$1,158,313

The "Now & Ever - Giving 2020 • Preserve the Pinnacle Capital Campaign" is well underway! Pledge packets have been distributed and we ask that you please return your signed *Giving 2020* pledge card by Sunday, December 22 and your *Preserve the Pinnacle* pledge card at your earliest convenience. There is a basket on the table in the Holmes Room where you can place your completed pledge cards.

For your convenience, you may make a pledge, and a pledge payment to *Giving 2020*, as well as a pledge to *Preserve the Pinnacle* on our secure site at www.wpcbuffalo.org/giving. Our goal for *Giving 2020* is \$600,000 and for *Preserve the Pinnacle* is \$4.1 million. As you prayerfully think about your pledge, please consider increasing your pledge for *Giving 2020* by either increasing your weekly offering by a few dollars, or making an overall 5% increase to insure that we successfully accomplish our goal. Please know that whatever you contribute to the "Now & Ever - Giving 2020 • Preserve the Pinnacle Capital Campaign" is greatly appreciated.

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 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-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 10:30 AM Worship

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@wpcbuffalo.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

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@wpcbuffalo.org to sign up and begin the process of finding a mentor!

CASE LIBRARY CONVERSATION SERIES

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

January 5

Climate Topic: "Wind Energy and the Climate Crisis"

Presenter: Ellen Banks, Conservation Chair, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter. Wind, when combined with other efficient energy sources can meet all of New York State's electrical energy needs without the pollution and climate disruption of burning fossil fuels. Learn about some of the myths and fears surrounding wind turbines and the scientific evidence for their safety for human and environmental health.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

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

January 5

Using Top 5 Regrets of the Dying to Shape your Personal Resolutions/Goals for 2020

Presenter: Allan Hayes. We will discuss how we might design our own resolutions based on the findings of a palliative care nurse who found consistency among her patients when it came to their regrets.

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

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

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 Johns 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.

JANUARY MEETUP

Looking for a post holiday pick-me-up? Let’s meet up at the West Side Bazaar, 24 Grant Street, on Saturday, January 18 at 11 AM. Come browse and find interesting items for sale from around the world and stay for lunch. Bring friends who may have never experienced the Bazaar. We’ll have a tour and hear of the exciting expansion planned for the Bazaar. Sign up in the Gallery Room. Contact Carol Greetham at carolgreetham@gmail.com if you have any questions.

(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 AM 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.

Interactive storytelling This class will activate and enhance gross motor skills, listening, responding and using their own unique imaginations. Grades K-2 • 3 consecutive Saturdays: February 1, 8, and 15 10 AM-2 PM in Parish Hall.

SAVE THE DATE!

Valentine’s Day MeetUP •Friday, February 14, 2020. For Adults: Lively Music •Tasty Drinks •Great Food! For Children: Games • Music • Kid’s Food. More information to come!

PRESERVE THE PINNACLE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Roof, Spire and Ceiling Repair... Stained Glass Preservation... Pipe Organ Restoration... Mission Projects...

Since 1854, Westminster has been a special place to worship God, to live according to Biblical lessons and to work for fairness for all people. Our campus and buildings here in the heart of the city are a historic treasure and an effective means of providing mission through everyday use by a wide range of community groups. After two years of extensive research and preparation the WPC Capital Campaign was officially launched to the congregation on Sunday, October 27th. With a goal of \$4.1M we have thus far received commitments of \$2.9M. We please need your commitment now. Capital Campaign gifts can be paid over a three-year period but we please need your commitment as soon as possible so as to allow for planning and negotiating the best possible repair and preservation costs from vendors.

If you would like more information about the options for giving, including designated memorial gifts, please contact Sawrie Becker, WPC Director of Development [Email: sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org, Tel: 716.884.9437 ext. 315 or speak with one of the Preserve the Pinnacle Capital Campaign Co-chairs; Bob Bojdak, Tim Johnson, or Roger Seifert. Capital Campaign Cabinet Members; John Bace, Melissa Balbach, Robert Constantine, Tony Decillis, Camie Greene, Chris Greene, Lucinda Hohn, Fran Holmes, Sarah Williams and Tom Yorty can also be contacted and will be pleased to assist you. There are many ways to give and we please need your commitment to the Capital Campaign now. Please help us Preserve the Pinnacle and the WPC Campus, which serves as a much respected voice for justice and progressive values.

On behalf of the Capital Campaign,
Roger Seifert, Co-chair

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 29

- 9:15 AM Year of the Bible
- 10:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
- 10:30 AM Worship
- 11:30 AM Meet & Mingle

Monday, December 30

- 7:30 AM WECP & WPC Closed
- 7:00 PM Year of the Bible

Tuesday, December 31

- 7:30 AM WECP & WPC Closed

Wednesday, January 1

- 8:00 PM AA Meeting

Thursday, January 2

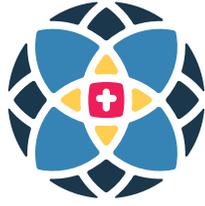
- 7:15 AM Wake Up Group
- 1:00 PM Newsletter Deadline

Friday, January 3

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

Sunday, January 5

- 9:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
- 9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
- 9:15 AM Spiritual Life
- 9:15 AM Year of the Bible Celebration
- 10:30 AM Worship/Communion
- 11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
- 6:00 PM Youth Movement



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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