



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

DECEMBER 22, 2019

FOURTH 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

First Sonata, op. 42
II. Pastorale

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

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

Advent Processional

Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

Rise up, O Jerusalem, stand upon the heights:
You shall see the salvation of our God.
Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed:
Today you go forth, and the Lord will be with you.
Let us go forth in peace. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

The Izatt Family, Debbie, Callan, and Evan will light the fourth Advent Candle.

In the Gospel of Luke, Mary meets her cousin Elizabeth:
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, The child leaped in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,
"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."
God speaks in many ways: through dreams, visions, new ideas,
And the kicking of a child not yet born. We light our fourth candle,
Asking that we may hear God's call In our body, mind, and spirit.

**Living Christ, give us faith to trust you,
Hope to follow you, love to live for you, and wisdom to know 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.

Hymn in Procession, No. 5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

Call to Confession



Prayer of Confession

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you,
 Neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people,
 Trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made,
 Taking from Earth what we cannot give back.
 We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families,
 Or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives.
 Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life.
 In your compassion, turn us to your way.
 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us,
 And we shall be saved. Amen.

Time for silent prayer.

Kyrie

The people sing.

Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1961)

The musical score for the Kyrie is written on two staves. The first staff has three measures: the first measure is labeled 'Cantor' and the second and third are labeled 'Congregation'. The lyrics are 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' The second staff also has three measures: the first and third are labeled 'Congregation' and the second is labeled 'Cantor'. The lyrics are 'Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.'

Assurance of Pardon

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.
 And also with you.

Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbors.

Time with Children

Rev. Nutter Dowling

At this time, parents may decide to have their children 3 years and older leave with their teachers. When the children leave, please make sure they take their belongings with them.

The musical score for 'Time with Children' is written on two staves in G major and common time. The lyrics are: 'Go with them, Lord and guide their way through this and ev - ery com - ing day, that in Your Spi - rit, strong and true, their lives may be a gift to you.'

Prayer for Illumination

Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Plainchant

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. ³Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. ⁴O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. ¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. ¹⁷And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name. ¹⁸Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.



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 1:18-25

⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Sermon

Redefining Faith

Hymn

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear

JOSEPH LIEBER, JOSEPH MEIN

The people stand to sing.



1. "Gen - tle Jo - seph, Jo - seph dear, stay with me, for the
2. "Glad - ly Mar - y, Mar - y mine, I will cra - dle the
3. "Peace to all and God's good - will," heaven and earth with this



ba - by's near; God will sure - ly your good - ness hear, as
 child di - vine; Here will heav - en and earth com - bine, for
 song will fill; Soon will God, in the eve - ning still, be



you will love this new - born child," says Mar - y.
 you will bear God's child, O dear - est Mar - y."
 born in Beth - le - hem, the child of Mar - y.

Invitation to the Offering



Offertory Anthem

The Lord Will Surely Come

Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

Kyrie eleison.

The Lord will surely come and not delay, and He will bring to light the things hidden in darkness.
The Lord will surely come, and will manifest Himself to all nations.

Therefore work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,
That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish.
Kyrie eleison.

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

**Holy God, you bless us with many gifts,
You retrieve us from despair and fear,
You visit us with surprising proclamations,
And you intend for us good things.
We thank you for your steadfast love,
For sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith.
Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need,
Reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Hennessy

**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 7

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth
The people stand to sing.

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Variations sur IN DULCI JUBILO

Denis Bédard† (b. 1950)

*Immediately following worship, please join us for Meet & Mingle in the Holmes Room.
Thank you to our hosts today, Claude Welch and Julie Fennie.*

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor
The Reverend Katelyn Nutter Dowling, Associate Pastor for Christian Education
The Reverend Beth Hennessy
F. William Gray, Liturgist
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries
The Westminster Choir

Deacons Serving Today

Ellen Bean, Drew Dees, Teddie Granville, Carol Greetham,
Tom Greetham, Stephen Johnson, Janet Kifner-Arnatt, Joan Rice

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

Notes on Today's Music

‡**Denis Bédard** first studied music at the Conservatoire de musique de Québec, graduating with first class honours in organ, harpsichord, chamber music, counterpoint and fugue. He continued his studies in Paris and Montreal, as well as in Amsterdam with Gustav Leonhardt, and was laureate of the "Prix d'Europe" in 1975 and of the CBC Radio Talent Competition in 1978. A professor at the Conservatoire de musique de Québec from 1981 until 1989 and organ professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver from 2001 until 2004, Denis Bédard was organist at St-Coeur-de-Marie church in Quebec City for 19 years and then became organist at St-Roch church, also in Quebec City, in September 1997. Since September 2001 Denis Bédard has been organist and music director at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver. As a concert artist he has given recitals across Canada, in the United States, in France and in Brazil.

Denis Bédard's compositions include more than twenty chamber music works as well as orchestral and vocal music and many organ works. He has received commissions from Radio-Canada, the CBC, the Québec Symphony Orchestra and various professional musicians in Canada, England, France, Switzerland and the U.S. Many of his works have been performed internationally (U.S.A., France, Monaco, England, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Poland, Estonia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Greece, South Africa, Namibia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, Brazil, Ecuador, Israel, Russia), particularly at international organ and saxophone conventions, and several have been recorded on CD. His music, essentially tonal and melodic, is characterized by a concern for formal clarity and immediate communication with as vast a public as possible.

Music reprinted with permission: OneLicense.net license #A-72296

WORSHIP AND PREACHING SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship

8:15 AM in the Holmes Chapel with Communion

10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

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 anthems 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 this festival service — one of Western New York's cherished Christmas traditions.

December 29

One Service at 10:30 AM

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

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

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



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

**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.

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, sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org, 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

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!

DIALOGUE DINER

Dialogue Diner is a weekly breakfast and fellowship for students 6th-12th grade. Today will be our last Dialogue Diner of the year — in the Parish Hall kitchen and served by Rebecca Monague.

CASE LIBRARY CONVERSATION SERIES

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

December 22

The Apocrypha and Hanukkah

Presenter: Doug Braun

Hear about some birth stories maybe you aren't familiar with, and the story behind Hanukkah. Also, a look at some very different nativity sets. Joseph with a man bun?!

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

December 22

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.

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.
Dr. Mazur is an expert in the psychosocial 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 10AM-12PM 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 • Surprises! More information to come!

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 22 • Advent IV

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
8:15 AM Worship /Communion
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
9:15 AM Spiritual Life
9:15 AM Year of the Bible
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship
10:40 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle

Monday, December 23

7:00 PM Year of the Bible

Tuesday, December 24

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
5:15 PM Christmas Eve Early Service
8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
9:00 PM Christmas Eve Gathering
10:00 PM Christmas Concert
10:45 PM 83rd Annual Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, December 25

7:15 AM AA Meeting
7:30 AM WECP & WPC Closed

Thursday, December 26

7:30 AM WECP & WPC Closed

Friday, December 27

7:30 AM WECP & WPC Closed

Sunday, December 29

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



Worship in the Holmes Chapel • 8:15 AM

The Gathering is an opportunity for worshippers to greet one another and to share prayer concerns. An offering plate has been placed on the Communion Table to receive your gifts.

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.

Opening Voluntary

First Sonata, op. 42
II. Pastorale

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

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

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Yorty

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn.

Hymn in Procession, No. 5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

Prayer Of Confession

**Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you,
Neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people,
Trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made,
Taking from Earth what we cannot give back.
We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families,
Or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives.
Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life.
In your compassion, turn us to your way.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us,
And we shall be saved. Amen.**

Time for silent prayer.

Kyrie

The people sing.

Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1961)

Cantor	Congregation	Cantor
<p>Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.</p>		
Congregation	Cantor	Congregation
<p>Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.</p>		

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbors.

Prayer for Illumination



Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. ³Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. ⁴O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. ¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. ¹⁷And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name. ¹⁸Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Gospel Lesson

The people stand.

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Meditation

Redefining Faith

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 7

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth

The people stand to sing.

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Variations sur IN DULCI JUBILO

Denis Bédard†(b. 1950)

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor

The Reverend Micah Nutter Dowling, Director of Youth Ministries

Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

Christmas at Westminster

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.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor
tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 313

The Rev. Katelyn Nutter Dowling
Associate Pastor for Christian Education
katelynnd@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 311

The Rev. Beth Hennessy, Pastoral Care Associate
bhennessy@wpcbuffalo.org, 716.697.0919

Garrett F. Martin
Organist and Director of Music Ministries
gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 318

Jamie Adamczyk, Administrative Assistant
jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 326

Sawrie Becker, Director of Development
sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 315

Matthew Marco
Assistant to the Pastor and to the Director of Music
mmarco@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 306

Lenore Neiler, Graphic Designer
lneiler@wpcbuffalo.org, ext 302

The Rev. Micah Nutter Dowling
Director of Youth Ministries
micahnd@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 310

Kathryn Wilde, Director of Finance
kwilde@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 305

Westminster Early Childhood Programs

Dr. Cindy Lynn-Garbe, Director
clynn-garbe@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 328

Todd Bothwell, Associate Director of Admissions
tbothwell@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 330

Jessica Mitrovits, Development Associate
jmitrovits@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 332

Lindsay McGuire, Human Resources
lmcguire@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 359

Heather Abbott, Administrative Assistant
habbott@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 300

Facilities

Aaron Vivian, Facilities Supervisor
avivian@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 319, 716.504.7308

Jeff Kaczmarek, Maintenance
ext. 319, 716.345.8013

Austin Becker, Maintenance
716.479.0668

Luigi Sylejmani, Maintenance
716.472.5477