

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST (see REQUESTING PRAYER, below)

Our Church Family

Cooper Reppe
Chuck Sterling
Lynne Rittenberg
Jeff & Marjie Kimble
June & Don Hicks
Wayne Olson

Long-term:

Dan LaFon
Ellis Lawson
Chris Clise
John Carbaugh
Christy Swartzbaugh

Our Family and Friends (requests in the past two months)

Sherri Haines (church administrative assistant)
UPDATE—Thank you for your continued prayer. I approach my final heavy chemo infusion, this Wednesday. Following the 3-week chemo recovery and MRI, we close phase 1 on Jan 10, and move to phase 2—surgery—followed by phases 3 and 4 of radiation and lighter chemo. I treasure your love and prayer in my HER2+ journey. Merry Christmas to all!

Our Global Ministries Missionary & World Vision Child

Nan McCurdy, Miguel Mairena (Puebla Mexico) - GBGM
Onney Khosa (Zimbabwe) - World Vision/WUMC UMYF

Those in Military Service

LCDR Tracie Demaree, Navy, serving on an aircraft carrier in The Mediterranean (daughter of Jan Halman-Miller)

Jonyae Curry, Army
(Director of Youth Ministry at Westminster UMC)

Alex Gray, Air Force, Ft. Gordon, GA
(son-in-law of Steve & Darlene Sadowski)

Jason Marusiak, Army, 82nd Airborne Div., Fort Riley, KS
(son-in-law of The Flinns)

MISSION TRIP

Least of These Ministries is hosting a mission trip from January 13-20, 2024.

On a Mission Team, you can see & experience first-hand the work we are doing in the Dominican Republic! Scan the code for registration info.



THANK YOU. There will be 62 smiling children's faces around the world because they received Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes packed with love and prayer from Westminster UMC.

REQUESTING PRAYER

Submit your prayer request via online, email, or phone:

- Online, www.wumcmd.org/prayer-requests.html
- Email Pastor Malcolm, m.stranathan@wumcmd.org
- Email Rev. Ken, revkenh@starpower.net
- Call the church office, 410-848-8325.

REACH

OUR MISSION: To reach out to those within our congregation who are reaching out to us in need of help.

Are you a church member in need of:

- Funeral Lite Fare
- Meals following recovery or mourning
- Transport to local medical appointments

Please contact REACH, directly, for help:

REACH—DECEMBER

Kristy Vandervalk
(443) 789-0346

MONTHLY 90's BIRTHDAYS

published with permission through LINKS

No 90's birthdays in December

If we missed someone, please reach out to Sherri at s.haines@wumcmd.org.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

by appointment, 410-848-8325

Sherri, s.haines@wumcmd.org
Belinda, financesec@wumcmd.org

SECURITY SYSTEM CONCERNS

Please conclude church business and exit the buildings by 9:30pm, latest.

TEXTING OPTIONS IN WORSHIP

OFFERING

Text amount to 844-307-2876



Mail to POB 2316, Westminster 21158

Online offering—please scan QR code

ATTENDANCE

Text "HERE" to 443-234-0806

WESTMINSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

162/165 East Main Street • Westminster, MD 21157 www.wumcmd.org • 410-848-8325 • 410-876-2124

December 17, 2023, 10:30am—Advent 3

Heaven and Earth



Attendance — text "HERE" to 443-234-0806.
Visiting?—text "WELCOME" to 443-234-0806.

WELCOME

Carole Roberts

PRELUDE

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

arr. Lau

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are witnesses to the light.

People: The light shines brightly and fills us with gladness.

Leader: We are ready to receive the light and share it with others.

People: God has done great things for us. God's light has shined on us.

* HYMN

"God Almighty, We Are Waiting"

bulletin insert

* ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

"When God Is a Child" (see bulletin insert)

arr. Tim Osiek

(Continued on page 2)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE ~ written by Dr. Lisa Hancock
... for communion with you and our neighbors.

God, restore us to the joy of our common life in you.

... and work together to tend to the needs that keep us apart.

God, restore us to the joy of our common life in you.

Liberating God, We remember now those who mourn and are oppressed as we offer our silent confession to you. —Silent prayers of confession.—

... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

May God restore us to the joy of our common life now and always. Amen.

* PASSING THE PEACE May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

KIDS' TIME

ANTHEM "We Are" Chuck Butler, Ed Cash, James Tealy, Hillary McBride

PASTORAL PRAYER/COMMUNITY PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (UMH 895)

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. Amen.

* HYMN "Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice" FWS 2089

GOD'S WORD IS READ John 1:6-8,19-28

REFLECTING UPON GOD'S WORD "Heaven & Earth: Light" Pastor Malcolm Stranathan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

As forgiven and reconciled people of God, let us give God's tithes and our offering.

OFFERTORY "Come, Lord Jesus" Deborah Governor

*Doxology "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 95

*Offertory Prayer

God of hope and compassion: Just as John the Baptist came long ago in Judea to witness to your light, we remember that Light he heralds is the Savior of Hope. Sometimes it seems our world is determined to extinguish hope and light. We admit that there are times when we feel the darkness is just too prevalent, too strong, and hope is just wishful thinking. May we witness through our giving not scarcity and despair but fierce joy, hope, and compassion. May we also witness through what we say and what we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Text your offering 844-307-2876; Give online at www.wumcmd.org; or Mail to: Westminster UMC, P.O. Box 2316, Westminster, MD 21158-2316. Thank you.

* HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH 206

* SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE (please be seated) "Rejoice and Be Merry" Paxton

TODAY'S BULLETINS are given anonymously to the Glory of God and dedicated: "This Advent Sunday of joy seems the best week to remember Gayle Dix. Heaven is a lot more joyful this Christmas."

SOUP KITCHEN CHRISTMAS—DEC 18
FINAL SUNDAY TO DONATE—\$10 Chick-fil-A gift cards for clients, this year! **SK Gift Box in the Narthex**, \$10 Chick-fil-A gift cards (must be \$10) or monetary donations. We are hoping and praying to meet our goal. Thank you, so much! Questions—Barbara Luckenbaugh, 410-848-8726.

A BLUES CHRISTMAS & HOMELESS MEMORIAL SERVICE—THU, DEC 21, 7pm at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 17 Bond Street, Westminster. www.stpauls-ucc.org

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES available for pick-up in the Narthex thru Sun, Dec 31, after that pick-up in the Happening Hub or by arrangement with Belinda at FinanceSec@wumcmd.org or x15.

Evaluating the "Rightsizing" of WUMC Campus
Church leadership has identified the possible sale of our office building (162 E Main St) to "right size" our campus, which will reduce expenses and produce capital. Advice from credible real estate analysts suggests this property is quite marketable and could generate significant cash. This money could be used for needed capital improvements within our campus to advance the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Before moving forward with the decision to sell the property, a team consisting of representatives from the SPRC, Trustees, Finance committees and church staff has been created. This team is tasked with exploring the feasibility of moving offices to other spaces within our campus. This may include the consideration of designs and locations for offices, placement of furnishings, and preparation for installation of IT hardware.

Please pray for our church leadership as we navigate through this potential transformation.
Trustees

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE—
8:15am CHAPEL SERVICE—Duvall Chapel
9am EDUCATION HOUR—all ages, campus-wide
Dec 24—no child ed; Dec 31—no child/adult ed
10:30am WORSHIP—onsite and online

2023 YEAR END GIVING
1) Checks/cash accepted onsite thru Dec 29, 12pm, at 162 E Main Street. 2) Electronic donations, either by transfer of funds or stock donation, must be received by our third party processors by Dec 29. 3) Mail-in donations must be postmarked by Dec 30, 2023 to be credited to this year and should be mailed to: Westminster UMC, P.O. Box 2316, Westminster, MD 21158-2316. Questions? Reach out to Belinda at FinanceSec@wumcmd.org or in the office at x15.

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM THANKS AND PICK-UP!

THANKS—Thank you to EVERYONE who helped make possible "A Night in Bethlehem" here at WUMC. Cast, marketeers, crew, kitchen crew, set construction, costumers, set-up and take-down crew, generous donors, prayer partners, attendees... just, well, everyone!

We trust and pray that spirits were lifted, hearts moved and joy in the Lord extended. According to our "Census Takers," some 576 guests were registered. A small number of others walking the area (mostly from the city's light show in the park) also shared the evening. Altogether, our guests graciously gave a free will offering of \$1165. ...And, a number have already asked, "Next year?"

PICK-UP—A number of you came through with donations of extension cords to help us light and power the event. Thank you so much. **If you have not already picked up your cords, you'll find them in Jubilee Hall, base of stairs to the right of the stage.** You have marked them with your names, for which we are also most grateful.



SPONSOR A BULLETIN—Scan the QR code to sponsor a bulletin with your dedication— or—go to our website www.wumcmd.org and MEMBER TOOLBOX tab.

SERVICE NOTES INFORMATION BOX	
8:15am/10:30am—Music: Peggy Brengle, CAGO-Organist	Leading Worship: Rev. Dr. Malcolm Stranathan
10:30am—Chancel Choir: Kyler Brengle, Director	Slides: Katherine Scherck, Kyler Brengle
Liturgist: Carole Roberts	Advent Wreath: The Lyle Family
AV Tech: Maddie Schryer, Chris Schryer, Mark Gieselman	Praise Band: Rich Umla, Worship Leader
	ASL Interpreter: Bill Pond
All music used in today's service is podcast/streamed with permission from either ONE LICENSE #731177-A or CCLI Licenses #627547 & #20216174. Contact Kyler Brengle, Director of Music Ministries, for additional details, if needed.	

Our Mission: "Changing lives through Jesus Christ to make a difference."