

WESTMINSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

December 24 2023, 10:30am—Advent 4

Heaven and Earth

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

WELCOME

Larry Bohn

PRELUDE

“Noel, Cette Journee (Christmas, this Special Day)” Lebeque (1631-1702)

GOD’S WORD IS READ

Luke 1:26-38

* CALL TO WORSHIP ~ written by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker, Joy Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

With Mary, we long for the coming of the Child who will transform the world, bringing justice where injustice reigns, fullness where hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world calls lowly.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

So let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God, our Savior!

We come to wait and to declare the coming of the Love that transforms us! Amen.

* HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” stanzas 1-3

UMH 234

* ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream for our salvation and

(Continued on page 2)

flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

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

arr. Tim Osiek

* GATHERING PRAYER

Please join me as we pray, saying, **We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God. The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. We would live secure in your love; we would be the ones of peace for our world, we would seek to do your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray.**

Silence is kept

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

KIDS' TIME

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

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

UMH 218

GOD'S WORD IS READ

Luke 1:39-56

ANTHEM

"My Soul Glorifies the Lord (Mary's Magnificat)"

David Foley

REFLECTING UPON GOD'S WORD

"Heaven & Earth: Rejoice!"

Pastor Malcolm Stranathan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

"The First Nowell"

arr. Cherwien

*Doxology

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH 95

*Offertory Prayer

Gracious and Generous God: We offer our gifts to you, knowing that the energy exerted in our giving is tiny compared to what we've expended finding the gifts for our families and friends. You have given us a glimpse of the gift you truly seek in the angel's conversation with Mary: when told that she would give birth to our savior, she simply said, "Yes, let it be according to your word." May that affirmation of faith and obedience be the gift we offer this day. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (Luke 1:26-38)

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

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

UMH 238

* SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE (please be seated)

"Toccata on "Regent's Square""

arr. Smith

TODAY'S BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my parents, Robert & Mildred Poole, and my sister, Bernice Elaine Taylor, by Mary Louise Poole

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE—

8:15am CHAPEL SERVICE—Duvall Chapel
9am EDUCATION HOUR—adult, only.
No Ed. Hour, Dec 31; child/adult resume, Jan 7.
10:30am WORSHIP—onsite and online

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES—JOIN US...

4pm Family Service
7pm Candlelight Service
9pm Candlelight Service with Communion

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

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: Kyler Brengle
Liturgist: Larry Bohn Advent Wreath: unknown at printing—thank you, volunteer family
AV Tech: tbd 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.”

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST (see REQUESTING PRAYER, below)

Our bulletins were printed in advance; apologies for any outdated or missing prayer requests.

Our Church Family

Cooper Reppe	<i>Long-term:</i> Dan LaFon
Chuck Sterling	Ellis Lawson
Lynne Rittenberg	Chris Clise
Jeff & Marjie Kimble	John Carbaugh
June & Don Hicks	Christy Swartzbaugh
Wayne Olson	

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

Sherri Haines (church administrative assistant)

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