

Today's bulletins are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Catherine Bohn, by Larry and Ronnie Bohn.

Our Church Family

BULLETIN

Lily Clendaniel
Sharon Greenway
Meghan Haj
Dick & Bonnie Clendaniel
Heidi Trimmer
Lynn Shaw
Arlene Hirtle
Susan Harry
Faye Rosier

PRAYER LIST

Long-term:
Wayne Olson
Christy Swartzbaugh

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

Lisa Norton (sister-in-law of Belinda Norton)
Amy Beauchamp (daughter of Charlotte Young)
Matt Younglove (son of Mary Louise Poole's friend)
Robert Greenway (brother-in-law of Sharon Greenway)
Mack Demetrakis (great-grandson of The Parlamans)
Pastor Johnson, Union Memorial Baptist Church
Michael Aldom (brother-in-law of John Taylor)

Those in Military Service

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,
Fort Carson, CO (son-in-law of The Flinn)

During the season of Advent and Christmas we shall actively pray for sisters and brothers persecuted for their faith, and especially for those in Nigeria.

REQUESTING PRAYER

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

REACH MINISTRY

Are you a church member in need of:

- Funeral Lite Fare
- Meals following recovery/mourning
- Transport to local medical appt's

DECEMBER

Kristy Vandervalk
(443) 789-0346

Joan Redman
410) 596-7152

ATTENDANCE—

LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE.

Complete this tear-off for the offering plate —or— simply text your first and last name to 443-234-0806.

DATE: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

Names of those with you, today:

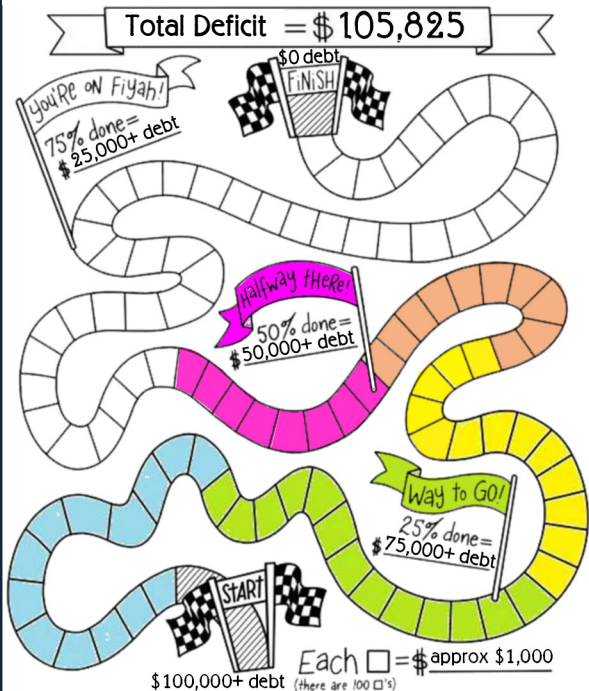
Are you a visitor to our church?

Are you seeking a new church home?

Yes No Unsure

Preferred contact: _____

Deficit Free Land



Westminster United Methodist Church

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

**VOICES OF ADVENT
JOHN**

December 7, 2025 • 10:30am • Advent 2

— **Attendance: 443-234-0806** —

Please text your first/last name. Thank you.

Restroom use during worship - youth, especially, are encouraged to access private restrooms via the exit door, front left wall near the altar rail.

WELCOME

Anne Dorwart

PRELUDE

"Toccata on "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" and "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Rebecca K. Owens

WREATH LIGHTING—(Scripture Isaiah 11:1-10)

Jacki Stranathan

Leader: In a world still marked by conflict and fear, God plants a promise: a shoot rising from the stump, a Savior who brings justice for the poor, equity for the meek, and peace that reaches from creature to creature.

People: We long for this peace. We seek the world Isaiah saw — where nothing harms or destroys, and all live in the knowledge of the Lord.

Leader: Christ comes as the One who restores creation, who judges with compassion, who gathers the lost, who breaks down the walls of division.

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him. **ALL SING:**

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love. **ALL SING (repeat):**



* OPENING HYMN "God Almighty, We Are Waiting" (see bulletin insert)

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

KIDS' TIME

ANTHEM "A Voice in the Wilderness" J. Milligan & A. Sherman

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.

GOD'S WORD IS READ Matthew 3:1-12

REFLECTING UPON GOD'S WORD "Voices of Advent—John" Pastor Malcolm Stranathan

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON—(Drawing from Isaiah 11:1-10)
But we confess that our lives are not yet shaped by the vision You set before us. We cling to what is familiar even when it bears little fruit. We settle for a faith that comforts but does not transform. We carry fears that close our doors, habits that dull our compassion, and self-interest that keeps us from seeing our neighbor as kin.

Forgive us, O Lord. Clear away what chokes the roots of our faith. Pull up what no longer reflects Your love. Make room in us for the life You are growing from the stump — the life that comes with Christ.

In this Advent season, turn our hearts toward the One who is coming, that we may walk in His peace and live in His justice. (silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon (Grounded in Matthew 3:1–12) Hear the Good News: ... The One who comes after John brings a refining fire — not to destroy, but to cleanse and renew. His winnowing is the gentle, holy work of separating what is hurting us from what gives us life.

So hear this promise and hold it close: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. God is already clearing a path for grace to take root and bear fruit. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

OFFERTORY "Prepare Thyself, Zion (from Christmas Oratorio)" Bach/James
*Doxology "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94

*Offertory Prayer
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.

* CLOSING HYMN "Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting)" UMH 210

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE "Postlude on "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"" arr. McConnell
please be seated for the Postlude

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS, WREATHS, AND ALTERNATIVE GIVING—DUE TODAY, DEC. 7
Order forms are in the narthex. Thank you.
DID YOU KNOW that a member of our congregation generously pledged up to \$25,000 as a match to our donations to erase our deficit? Our Christmas Eve alternative giving will go toward the deficit and will qualify for the match. **TODAY is the deadline to submit your donation and dedication form.** Forms are in the narthex, or you can email the Church office. In past years, Alternative Giving donated to community needs such as Food Sunday, etc. but don't worry — the Missions committee will make those donations this year from their budget.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING AND READING SIGN-UPS
Sign-up to light the Advent Wreath, Sundays & Christmas Eve and perform a small responsive reading. Ideal for families, friends, multi-generational groups. To sign-up, please scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/49ma4xl>



SOUP KITCHEN CHRISTMAS—We will be giving \$10 gifts cards from Chick-fil-A, tucked into a Christmas card signed "from your friends at Westminster UMC." Thank you for placing your **monetary donation** in the collection box in the narthex, SUNDAYS DEC. 7, 14, 21.
(Barbara Luckenbaugh will be shopping for us and purchasing the gift cards.)

RECONCILING MINISTRIES 2nd SIT-DOWN LUNCH—SUN, DEC. 14, following 10:30am worship. Soup and salad provided as we begin to study the Reconciling Statement. Please bring the worksheets you received at the 1st luncheon—extra copies will be available.



CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR THE NIGHT-BY-NIGHT SHELTER—Drop off cookies in **Mission Hallway on Christmas Eve, Wed., Dec. 24, 11am-12noon**, or before the 7pm Christmas Eve service from **6-6:50pm in the Martha Manahan Room**. Please—no nuts or peanut butter in the cookies, due to food allergies. Learn more in your Dec/Jan Herald or contact Norman Hirtle.

CHRISTMAS CARROLL CONCERT
SAT, DEC 13, 7pm at WUMC Sanctuary
Benefit concert for Shepherd's Staff featuring seasonal music performed by local choirs (including our Chancel Choir), soloists, and congregational carols. Tickets in advance or pay at the door. Adults \$10, Seniors/students \$8, under 6 yrs free. Personal care and non-perishable food collection. Questions? Kyler Brengle: k.brengle@wumcmd.org. Tickets available at: <https://bit.ly/4a6nFcE>.

YEAR-END GIVING donations credited in 2025 may be brought to the church office at 165 E. Main Street until Dec 31, 12noon. Electronic donations, either by transfer of funds or stock donation, must be received by our third-party processors by Dec 31. Mail-in donations must be postmarked by no later than Dec 31, 2025: Westminster UMC, P.O. Box 2316, Westminster, MD 21158-2316. Questions? Belinda Norton, Financial Secretary, FinanceSec@wumcmd.org or 410-848-8325, x115

WYP COAT/HOODIE COLLECTION—Please put items in box in Mission Hallway. Thank you, from the Westminster Youth Project.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS—9am Education Hour
NURSERY—ages 2-4yrs—Nursery Room, ground level
PRIMARY—ages 4yrs-4th grade—Sunday School Tower
YOUTH—ages 5th-10th grade — Youth House
NEW LIFE IN CHRIST CLASS—NLIC room
ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS—Library room

THIS IS A GREAT TIME OF YEAR TO SPONSOR A COLOR BULLETIN 
Scan the QR code to sponsor a bulletin with your dedication—or—go to our website www.wumcmd.org, click the MEMBER TOOLBOX tab. 
Sponsorship payments may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to Westminster UMC, POB 2316, Westminster, MD 21158-2316.
Please note the bulletin date on your check memo line.



CHRISTMAS CARD LISTS are available in the narthex! *Consider sending Christmas joy to our friends at home.*

| 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 | Praise Band @Center&Main: Rich Umla, Worship Leader | |
| Liturgist: Anne Dorwart | Wreath: Jacki Stranathan | |
| ASL Interpreter: Bill Pond | Slides: Will Somers | AV Tech(s): Tyler Williams, Chris Schryer, Maddie Schryer |

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.