



# CHRISTMAS EVE

9pm Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 24, 2025



Westminster United Methodist Church

165 East Main Street • Westminster, MD 21157 • [www.wumcmd.org](http://www.wumcmd.org) • 410-848-8325 • 410-876-2124

# WESTMINSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

welcomes you to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

9pm Wednesday \* December 24, 2025

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

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WELCOME

PRELUDE

*"O Holy Night"*

arr. Hughs

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

One: We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory that came among us in unexpected places and to unexpected people, that we may be people who seek and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now

All: Christ comes to bring salvation, may we always be ready to welcome him. As this light of Christ penetrates the darkness, this wreath is a constant reminder to be prepared for his coming. Let this Christmas season fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow Christ.

Come, Lord Jesus (all singing)



Come, Lord Jes-sus.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, on this evening, we gather to worship, recollecting once again the God who came to dwell among us as a vulnerable baby.

**We rejoice in this day that all the earth awaits.**

We recall the stable, the animals, and the manger that witnessed the arrival of Emmanuel, God with us.

**We rejoice in this day that all the earth awaits.**

We celebrate and praise as we join the chorus of angels announcing the Messiah's birth to humble shepherds.

**We rejoice in this day that all the earth awaits.**

\* HYMN

*"Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

UMH 220

\* GATHERING PRAYER

**God with us, kindle your spark within us, that together we may shine forth your light, we might banish the shadows of this world, we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle: Emmanuel is in this world, God is with us, now and evermore. Amen.**

\* PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you. **Response: And also with you.**

Pastor: So that there are no strangers among us, I invite you to turn to one another; and pass the peace of Christ with one another.

\* HYMN *"Star Child"* TFWS 2095

GOD'S WORD IS READ Luke 2:1-20 (NKJV)

REFLECTING UPON GOD'S WORD *"Keeping Watch"* Pastor Malcolm Stranathan

CHRISTMAS CAROL COMMUNION

Please follow the liturgy in the separate booklet.

Leave the booklet in the pew racks at the end of tonight's service. Thank you.

As you come forward to receive communion  
you are invited to bring God's tithes and your Christmas offering  
and place these in the offering plates provided.

As you return to your seat, you are invited to take a candle  
and receive the light from the usher.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*"A Manger Medley on Away in a Manger and What Child Is This?"* Owens

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

CANDLELIGHT CAROLS *"Still, Still, Still"* (sung by the choir)

*"Silent Night"* (sung by the congregation) UMH 239

Pastor: Let us pray. God of light and love, in this quiet glow, we give you thanks.

For light that finds us in our darkness.  
For peace that comes not by force, but by grace.  
For love made flesh and placed among us.

As we leave this place, do not let the light fade when the candles are extinguished.  
Send us into the world as bearers of Christ's light—  
to rooms filled with worry, to relationships in need of healing,  
to places where hope feels fragile or far away.

**All: May the joy we have received tonight spill into our lives, our homes,  
and our communities. And may we go forth rejoicing, for the light shines on,  
and Christ is born. In the name of Jesus — the Light of the world. Amen.**

(carefully extinguish your candle)

\* HYMN *"Joy to the World"* arr. Diane Bish, UMH 246

\* SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE *"Toccata on 'Adeste Fideles' (O Come, All Ye Faithful)"* arr. Hagerty  
please be seated for the Postlude



# Christmas Giving

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THANK YOU for your kind and generous contributions:

Wreaths — 10      Poinsettias — 32

Deficit Reduction — \$8,920 (a generous donor is matching this amount)

Donations of Wreaths to adorn our campus  
and Poinsettias to adorn our chancel and take home.

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*Our dedications are given to the Glory of God and....*

In memory of John L. Armacost and Jill L. Armacost, by Betty Armacost.

In honor of Jennifer Munch, by Ronnie & Larry Bohn.

In memory of Betty Davis, by Ed Davis.

In honor of Rev. Dr. David Highfield & Conni, by Dick & Bonnie Clendaniel,  
Scott & Lily, Jeremy & Rachael Clendaniel.

In memory of Lura & Earl Griswold, by their family.

In memory of Bill & Jackie Hering, by Randy & Diane Groft.

In honor of our children and grandchildren: Ashley & Kevin Graff and grands Olivia, Ava, and Nathan Graff; and Ryan & Lauren Groft, and grands Madison, Carsyn, and Rhett Groft, by Randy & Diane Groft.

In memory of Tom Hepler, husband, father, Papa, Grandpa - missed by Peggy, Zachary, Amanda, Mark, Kaia, and Cole.

In memory of Killian Kenney, by Pastor Dave & Conni Highfield.

In honor of the church staff, by Pastor Dave & Conni Highfield.

In memory of my dad, Erich J. Hofmann, Jr., with love by Rob, Heather, Jakob, & William Keefer.

In memory of Anna Mae Melown Beard, Robert W. Melown, and Harry B. Beard, Jr., by Al & Sandy Keefer.

In memory of Ellis Lawson, by his family.

In memory of Brian Lockard, by Lynda Lockard.

In memory of Loved Family Members who have passed on, our parents King and Luckenbaugh, by Barbara & Richard Luckenbaugh.

In memory of Loved Family Members who have passed on, Barbara's siblings and a niece and nephew, by Barbara & Richard Luckenbaugh.

In memory of Loved Ones, by Richard & Shirlee Marrs.

In memory of my husband, Austin Maxson, by Eunice Maxson.

In memory of my parents, Charles and Ferne Thompson, by Helen Miller.

In memory of my siblings: Glenna Krebs, Geraldine Perryman, and Richard Thompson, by Helen Miller.

In memory of Charles Moroz, by Al Moroz.

In honor of my sister and brother-in-law, Ronnie & Larry Bohn, by Jennifer Munch.

In memory of Loved Ones, by Bill & Peg Pond.

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In memory of Mr. & Mrs. J. Garold Barnes, by Don & Gerri Reck.

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Reck, by Don & Gerri Reck.

In memory of James Barnes, James Reck, and Robert Reck, by Don & Gerri Reck.

In memory of my brother, Craig, by Carole Roberts.

In honor of my children and grandchildren, by Dee Roush.

In memory of David Roush, by Dee and family.

In memory of Jane Anderson, with love by Malcolm & Jacki Stranathan.

In honor of Jack Anderson, with love by Malcolm & Jacki Stranathan.

In honor of our family, with love by Malcolm & Jacki Stranathan.

In honor of my sisters, Roma Wright and Karen Aldom, by John T. Taylor.

In honor of my cousin, Anne Mazzone, by John T. Taylor.

In honor of my children and grandchildren, by Sue Thomas.

In memory of my husband, Tom Thomas, by Sue Thomas.

In memory of Bob and Helaine Bowersox, my parents, by Pam Valis.

In memory of my husband, Arnie, and my sister, Karen Homeier, by Kristy Vandervalk.

In memory of my mom, Terry Kulakowski, with love by Sarah, Craig, Tyler, and Emma Williams.

# Donations to reduce our running deficit and support our church mission and ministry @ Center & Main

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*Our dedications are given to the Glory of God and.....*

Anonymous donation.

In memory of John L. Armacost and Jill L. Armacost, by Betty Armacost.

Given by Dianne & David Bearr.

In memory of Danny Bohn and Chris Clise, by Ronnie & Larry Bohn.

In honor of the leaders of the New Life in Christ class, by Jackie Cage.

In loving memory of Denise Clendaniel, by her family.

In loving memory of Lillian & Norman Osten, by their family.

In loving memory of Charles & Reba Clendaniel, by their family.

In loving memory of Bill, Becky, & Paul Swartzbaugh, by their family.

In honor of Rev. Dr. Malcolm Stranathan (Pastor Malcolm) for his dedicated ministry at WUMC,  
by Michael & Vicki Collett.

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Russell Conover, Jr., Martin Conover, and Ruth Ohler,  
by Richard Conover.

Given by Dan & Ann Dell.

Given by Dixie Elmes.

Given by Jean Garver.

Given by Randy & Diane Groft.

In memory of our loved ones, by John & Susan Harbold.

In memory of our mom and Grammy, Barbara Hayman, with love by Lori and Alexa Hayman.

In memory of my friend, Mac Conover, with love by Lori Hayman.

In memory of my friend, Geoffrey Seargeant, with love by Alexa Hayman.

In memory of our friend, Stephany Seargeant, with love by Lori and Alexa Hayman.

In honor of our dad and Pop, Bob Hayman, with love by Lori and Alexa Hayman.

In honor of this wonderful church family, by Peggy Hepler.

Given by Linda Lawson.

Given by Mary Linker.

In honor of our staff at WUMC - to God by the Glory - for their faithful service!  
By Barbara & Richard Luckenbaugh.

In honor of our grandchildren: Leila, Tyler, Collin, Conner, Emma, Caroline, Stella, Lucille,  
Grayson, and Laurel, by Tom & Karen Malehorn.

In honor of our children: Tom, Christiane, David, Kim, Nicholas, Colleen, Dave, and Meghan,  
by Tom & Karen Malehorn.

In memory of our parents, by Dean & Pat Minnich.

In honor of our sons, by Dean & Pat Minnich.

In memory of my parents, James & Jean Clise, by Jennifer Munch.

In memory of my brother, Chris Clise, by Jennifer Munch.

Given by Judy & Lou Piel.

In memory of Loved Ones, by Mary Louise Poole.

Given by The Reppe Family.

Given by Lorna Rice.

In honor of my church family, by Carole Roberts.

Given by Dee Roush.

In memory of Joseph Shaw, by Lynn Shaw.

In memory of former disciples of Jesus Christ, by Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling.

In honor of current and future disciples of Jesus Christ, by Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling.

In honor of the staff at Westminster UMC and Crossroads Preschool and our mutual ministry to the people and community of Westminster UMC, by Pastor Malcolm Stranathan.

In memory of Bill & Doris Troxell, by Bill & Paula Troxell.

In memory of Bob and Helaine Bowersox, my parents, by Pam Valis.

In memory of Charles Furlong, by Betsy Waldheim.

In honor of Elizabeth Furlong, by Betsy Waldheim.



This evening's bulletins are given to the Glory of God and  
and in loving memory of our mother, Jean Clise,  
and our brother, Chris Clise, by Jennifer Munch and Ronnie Bohn.



— Thank you to those participating in this evening's service —

Music — Peggy Brengle, CAGO-Organist      Lead Pastor — Rev. Dr. Malcolm Stranathan

Chancel Choir — Kyler Brengle, Directory      ASL Interpreter — Bill Pond

Slides — Bill Eckles      AV Tech — Craig Williams

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."*

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



We hope you will join us for Sunday Worship as we continue the Christmas season and enter the season of Epiphany

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28—CHRISTMAS 1  
10:30am Carol-Sing Worship Service

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4—CHRISTMAS 2  
8:15am Chapel Service (Center Street  
side entrance)

9am Education Hour, all ages  
10:30am Worship Service

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11—EPIPHANY 1  
We remember our baptism as we  
celebrate the baptism of Jesus and  
His divine nature revealed.

8:15am Chapel Service (Center Street  
side entrance)

9am Education Hour, all ages  
10:30am Worship Service

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