

Westminster United Methodist Church

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



December 28, 2025 • 10:30am • Christmas 1
— **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

PRELUDE

“Carols of Joy and Wonder”

arr. Scott

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child.

As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, “What now?”

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered, does not reign in so many places.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits.

Thanks be to God!

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2025

* OPENING HYMN

“On This Day, Earth Shall Ring”

UMH 248

* PASSING THE PEACE

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

KIDS' TIME

CAROL SING a selection of hymns from UMH and TFWs hymnals

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 2:13-23

* HYMN "A Voice Was Heard in Ramah" (bulletin insert)

REFLECTING UPON GOD'S WORD "A Voice Cried Out!" Pastor Malcolm Stranathan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Leader:

All: Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost.

In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's light is present in this world.

Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.

Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.

God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it.

We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

OFFERTORY "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Laue

*Doxology "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94

*Offertory Prayer—**Steadfast God of refuge and promise, even when the world makes no room, even when fear seems stronger than hope, you are with us. In the flight to Egypt, in the cries of grief, in the fragile beginnings of new life, you make a way. Receive these gifts, O God, as signs of our willingness to make room for your kingdom among us. Use what we bring—not just our treasure, but our time, our voices, our compassion—to heal what is broken, to protect the vulnerable, and to embody your saving love. In the name of Jesus, our Light in the shadows. Amen. (Matthew 2:13-23)**

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 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" UMH 240

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE "Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Page
please be seated for the Postlude

DONOR MATCH UP TO \$25,000 STILL AVAILABLE. A family in our congregation has agreed to match all funds that are given to the church to offset our running deficit up to the amount of \$25,000. \$13,429 has come in, thus far, at the time of printing (Dec 18). The donors have agreed to continue this until the full \$25K is matched, so donations are still being accepted. All financial gifts are tax deductible and will be applied to your 2025 giving statement. Thank you for considering and thanks to our generous donor family. May God bless you, all.

YEAR-END GIVING
IN-PERSON DONATIONS to the church for end of year giving may be brought to the church office at 165 E. Main Street until Dec 31st at noon.
ELECTRONIC DONATIONS, either by transfer of funds or stock donation, must be received by our third-party processors by Dec 31st to be counted in 2025.
MAIL-IN DONATIONS must be postmarked no later than Dec 31, 2025, to be credited to this year and mailed to: Westminster UMC, P.O. Box 2316, Westminster, MD 21158-2316.
Questions? Belinda Norton, Financial Secretary, FinanceSec@wumcmd.org or 410-848-8325, x115.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE IN!
The 2026 Offering Envelopes are in and are now available for pick-up in the Narthex.
The next time you are here for worship or in the main building, please stop by and pick-up yours. The boxes will be available in the Narthex through Sun, Jan18, after which time you may make arrangement for pick-up or mail.
Please email Financial Secretary, Belinda, at FinanceSec@wumcmd.org, or call her at the church office, 410-848-8325, x115. Thank you.

RECONCILING MINISTRIES SIT-DOWN LUNCH SUN, JAN 4, following 10:30am worship. Our third luncheon includes soup and salad as we continue to study the Reconciling Statement. Please bring the worksheets you received at prior luncheons—extra copies will be available.

UWF “Get Acquainted” MEETING SAT, JAN 10, 9am-12pm
Women from all 10 Hub churches will gather and invite all female members from all Hub churches to attend. All ladies are invited. The meeting concludes by assembling UMCOR kits.

CCFS NOVEMBER DRIVE RESULTS
WUMC collected and donated 248 pounds of food to Carroll County Food Sunday. Thank you to all who participated in this outreach event to address critical food needs our local community.

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

SAVE THE DATE(S)
SHROVE TUESDAY
TUE, FEB 17, 5:30-7:30pm - Jubilee Hall

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.



SERVICE NOTES INFORMATION BOX

Music: Peggy Brengle, CAGO-organist Leading Worship: Rev. Dr. Malcolm Stranathan
Chancel Choir: Kyler Brengle, Director Wesley Carillon: Peggy Brengle, Director
Liturgist: Lorna Rice
ASL Interpreter: Bill Pond Slides: Kyler Brengle

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.

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST

Our Church Family

Lily Clendaniel
Sharon Greenway
Meghan Haj
Dick & Bonnie Clendaniel
Heidi Trimmer
Lynn Shaw
Arlene Hirtle *Long-term:*
Susan Harry Wayne Olson
Faye Rosier Christy Swartzbaugh

Our Family and Friends

(requests in the past two months)
John Kattermann (father/g.father of Cortney Golden & Leah)
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)

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

JANUARY

Dee Roush

(443) 398-5473

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's)


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

