



First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2024

GATHERING

(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)

About the Prelude

The Prelude is a musical offering to help move the hearts and minds of the gathering community from the daily struggles of life to the worship of God.

PRELUDE	In the Bleak Midwinter All is Well I Wonder as I Wander Let All mortal Flesh What Child Is This? Do You Hear What I Hear? Mary Did You Know?	arr. Sam Levine
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***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

Men and women, old and young, together:
Praise God and exalt the Author of Life.

Praise God in the highest heavens.

Praise God, all dwellers on the earth.

God commanded, and we were created.

God sustains us and enables us to grow.

Praise God, all who seek to live in faithfulness.

Glorify God's name and join the loving community.

Know that we are chosen by God, holy and beloved.

We are called into one body, the church of Jesus Christ.

Let us draw close to God and to one another.

Let us join with all creation to worship God.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

God of growth and maturation,

we remember that in Jesus Christ

you modeled what it means to be fully human.

Thank you for the unwritten years of Jesus' life—

the growth that happened in private,

the lessons learned in secret,

the burgeoning favor and hidden treasure.

Grant us your grace in this time of worship.

**Help us welcome and receive the gift of slow growth,
that we might be formed in your likeness. Amen.**

*The Cross and Bible lead the procession,
symbolic of the centrality in worship of
Jesus Christ—the Living Word, and the Bible—the written Word.*

***HYMN 147**

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

CALL TO CONFESSION

In faith and in hope,
we trust that God is merciful and just
and receives our prayers with grace.
In humility and with meekness,
let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God,
though we are in awe of the dawn
of your light in Jesus Christ,
we remain self-centered
and cling to the sin of the world.
We celebrate the birth of our savior,
yet we struggle in our commitment to follow him.
We are called to pursue justice,
love kindness, and walk humbly with you;
yet we are content to seek our own comfort
and conveniently ignore the cries
of those in need.
By the light of the Christ child,
lead us on a path of goodness and righteousness,
as we seek to love all of your bountiful creation.**

(Silent confession)

Kyrie *(Singing together Hymn 115, verse 3)*

MUELLER

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

About Hymn 147

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus* | *né*) as well to "news" (*nova* | *nouvelle*). TEXT: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.; MUSIC: English carol; *Sandy's Christmas Carols*, 1833.

Call to and Prayer of Confession

A call to confession expresses God's initiative in calling for repentance and promising forgiveness in Christ. As members of Christ's body, we confess the reality of sin, captivity, and brokenness in personal and common life and ask for God's saving grace.

About the Kyrie

The Kyrie (Greek "kyrios" [Lord]) is a corporate musical prayer for grace.

Assurance of Pardon

A declaration of forgiveness proclaims the good news of God's mercy and offers the assurance of pardon in Jesus' name. The liturgist pours water into the font, which reminds us of the grace and cleansing of our Baptism, and the baptismal call to new life in Christ.

About Psalm 148, Hymn 679

Originally this text was more than twice as long as the present version because it followed Psalm 148 in directing additional parts of the created order to praise God. This wide-ranging text is set here to a suitably expansive and well-crafted 17th-century chorale melody. TEXT: Stopford A. Brooke, 1881; Music: Jakob Hintze, 1678.

About Hymn 545

This unrhymed 20th-century paraphrase by a Scottish Jesuit gives fresh immediacy to the Song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32) and recaptures something of that aged priest's sense of wonder in beholding the infant Christ. The shape note tune enhances the text's down to earth quality. TEXT: James Quinn, 1969; MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Alleluia! Amen!

*The Peace

Since God in Christ has forgiven us,
let us also forgive one another.

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

*(Please exchange the peace with the words,
"The peace of Christ be with you.")*

*ACT OF PRAISE *(Hymn 113, all sing)*

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

*(Everyone is asked to sign the Friendship pad
located on the center aisle-end of each pew).*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

Colossians 3:12-17

(New Testament, page 201 in your pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 148, Hymn 679

SALZBURG

Luke 2:41-52

(New Testament, page 59 in your pew Bible)

SERMON

"Christmas Pondered"

Stephanie Boaz

(A moment for meditation)

*HYMN 545 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace LAND OF REST

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Obedying the word of our Lord Jesus,
and confident of his promises,
we baptize those whom God has called.

**In baptism God claims us and seals us
to show that we belong to God.
God frees us from sin and death,
uniting us with Jesus Christ in his
death and resurrection.**

**By water and the Holy Spirit,
we are made members of the Church,
the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry
of love, peace, and justice.**

**Let us remember with joy our own baptism,
as we celebrate this sacrament.**

Questions to the Parents, Congregation and Children of the Church

*Profession of Faith

Through baptism we enter the covenant...
With the whole Church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven
and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven;
he is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

The Baptismal Rite

The Apostles' Creed: The oldest surviving baptismal liturgy, dating from around the year 200 C.E., describes the candidate for baptism standing in water and affirming the faith by responding to three questions. Each question corresponds to one person of the Trinity. The Paschal Candle is symbolic of Christ's death and resurrection. The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, is our Paschal sacrifice. The Paschal Candle also symbolizes the light of the risen Christ, shining in the world. The use of this symbol dates from the early days of the Church. New Christians were given a lighted candle, symbolic of their having died and been raised to new life in Christ through baptism.



Baptism

The sacrament of baptism will be administered today at the 11:00 a.m. worship service to:

Robert Vance,
son of Annie and Brent
Blackburn.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal and gracious God...lives and reigns forever. **Amen.**

About Hymn 132

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody. TEXT: Medieval Latin; MUSIC: German folk melody, 14th cent.

The Baptism

Welcome

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into the body of Christ.

**Live as a child of the light and let your light shine
before others. Amen.**

***HYMN 132** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
IN DULCI JUBILO

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Anthem What Is This Lovely Fragrance
French Carol/arr. Paul Manz

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head Spiritual

***DOXOLOGY** LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Offering

The collection of tithes and offerings takes place as a response to the Word. These actions are signs of our gratitude for the grace of God proclaimed in the gospel.

To GIVE, please scan the QR code below:



*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God most high
receive the gifts of our lives
as an offering of gratitude for your grace.
Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit
and let it be with us according to your word,
for nothing is impossible with you. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Singing together)*

*(See the inside back cover of your hymnal
for words and music to this prayer.)*

SENDING

***HYMN 136** Go, Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE I Saw Three Ships a Sailing arr. Sam Levine
 Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella
 Good Christian Friends Rejoice

**(Those who are able may stand.)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God's grace elicits our heartfelt gratitude. We respond to the good news of forgive-ness with joyful acclamations of praise!

About Hymn 136

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition. TEXT: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American spiritual.

About the Postlude

The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of worship.

Welcome

Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes you to share our common journey to become more faithful disciples of Christ. Any who are interested in joining us in this journey are invited to contact Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler by email at hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org or 615.292.5526 in the church office.

TODAY@ WESTMINSTER

Worship Leaders

Preaching

Rev. Stephanie Boaz
Parish Associate for Congregational Care

Liturgist

Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake
Pastor and Head of Staff

Presenting Elder for Baptism

Virginia Reynolds

Lay Liturgist

Hamilton Proctor

Music

Richard Lane, guitar
Doug Leins, guitar
Frank Fish, bass
Same Levine, woodwinds and arrangements

Dr. John Semingson
Director of Music Ministries

Dale Nickell
Organist and Associate Director of Music Ministries

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

*The flowers in the Sanctuary
are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of
family and friends
by Janet R. Hirt.*

2025 SANCTUARY AND PARLOR FLOWERS

Reserve your date now to provide arrangements in the Sanctuary or Parlor in 2025. Celebrate your friendships and honor your loved ones with arrangements provided by our talented Flower Guild members.

Email or call Terri Eckert to select your special Sunday.

Please note that reservations for flowers do not carry over from year-to-year. (teckert@nashvillewpc.org or 615.292.5526)

Mask Policy

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville is mask optional.

Hearing Assistance

We offer personal FM Receivers with an ear-piece, located in the Narthex and in the Parlor on the Welsh dresser. Instructions can be found at each location.

Large Print Hymns

Looking for large-print hymns? They can be found in the Narthex at the Sanctuary entrance or in the Parlor on the Welsh dresser.

Recorded Worship Services

To watch a service at a later time, go to www.nashvillewpc.church and scroll down to the Worship Service Archive. Click on the service you would like to view.

Dial-a-Sermon

Dial 629.206.1073 after 10:15 AM each Sunday morning to listen to the sermon. The sermon will be available all week.

Childcare

Childcare is available on Sundays from 8:15 AM to 12:00 PM.

Nursery - Room 146

Toddlers - Room 152

2s and 3s - Room 151

Copyright Information

The music used in the service this morning is copyrighted under Christian Copyright Licensing International, Inc., No. 1121525.

Our Mission

Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."

(2 Corinthians 4:6-7)



TODAY @ WESTMINSTER



**LIVING
OUT THE
WORD**

LOVE
RECONCILE
SHINE
TRANSFORM

The youngest words of Jesus recorded in the Bible are in Luke 2:49.

"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Ponder this:

What was Jesus doing in the Temple?

Did Jesus answer Mary's question?

"Mary pondered all these things in her heart." What can we learn from her?



Church Office Hours

The church campus will be closed January 1, 2025 for New Years Day.



Wednesday Night Dinner

January 8, 2025 | 5:30 PM in the Café

Join us for dinner from Brown Bag Catering (chili, baked potatoes, and pizza for the kids). We'll also be baking cookies for Monroe Harding with the Hands on Mission Committee after we eat! We hope you can join us. Scan QR code to register.



Generosity 2024 Payments

For those who have not paid their pledge for 2024, we invite you to complete your pledge. Please remember that to add your contribution to your 2024 taxes, your pledge payment must be postmarked by December 31, 2024.

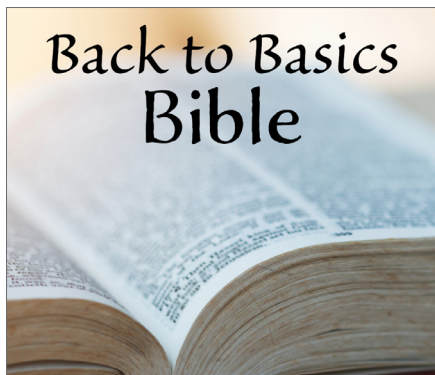


TODAY @ WESTMINSTER

Adult Education Classes start at 9:45 AM

Covenant Class • Fellowship Hall

Fellowship Sunday



Starts January 12

**Back to Basics: Christian Belief
Room 10**

Westminster is continuing our new series of Sunday School classes to help us get back to the basics! This Spring we'll continue with an introduction to Christian Beliefs. We'll explore how Christians understand their faith, the doctrines of the church, and our own Reformed tradition. Attendees will become familiar with the beliefs of the church, why they

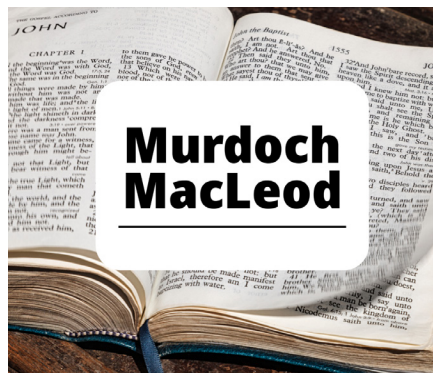
matter now, and how they shape and form our lives as contemporary Christians. This class is great for anyone who is new to the faith all the way to seasoned theologians who would like a refresher—all are welcome! Email Will Wellman with any questions, wwellman@nashvillewpc.org



**Faith & Fellowship •
214**

Fellowship Sunday

For more info, please contact Donna Schwaber, dkschwaber@gmail.com.



**Murdoch MacLeod •
Library**

We will discuss this week's gospel lesson.

For more info, please contact Paul DeWitt, pdewitt@comcast.net.



**Young Families •
Overlook Room**

Fellowship Sunday



TODAY @ WESTMINSTER



Youth

Enjoy the holiday break. We will not have Sunday School or Youth Group December 29.



Children & Youth Choirs

No rehearsals today.



Winter New Member & Inquirer Class To Begin January 12

The winter New Member and Inquirer Class will begin Sunday, January 12, and runs through February 16, with the opportunity to join on March 2 for those who feel called into membership. The class runs during the Sunday School hour, 9:45 – 10:45 AM.

To sign up for the class please contact Sherri Givens, sgivens@nashvillewpc.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

8:30 & 11:00 AM • Worship Services

Children and Worship

Childcare is available for children who are infants through kindergarten during both services. While childcare is available, children are always welcome in worship. There are quiet toys and worship bags for children. They may be found in baskets in the Parlor and in the back of the Sanctuary. The bags have plain paper, crayons, a pencil and a children's bulletin.

9:45 AM • Sunday School

2s are in room 149

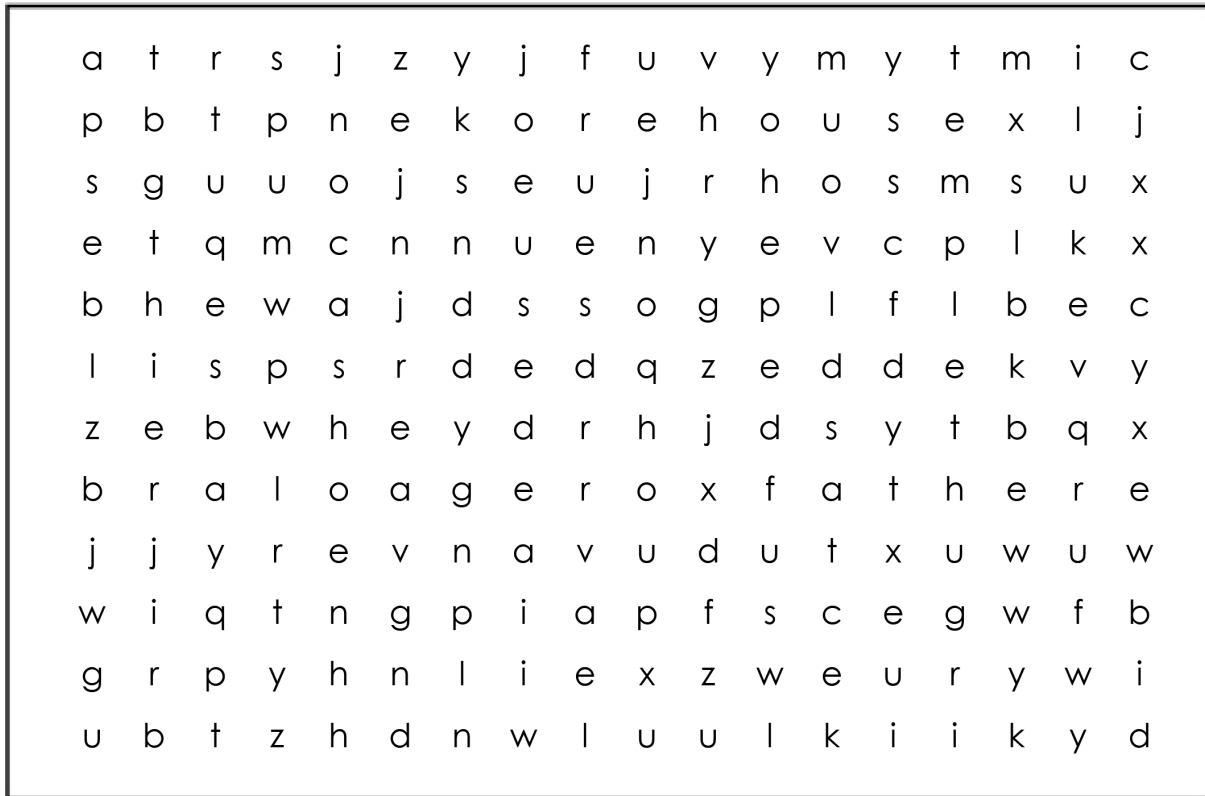
3s are in room 161

4s are in room 163

Godly Play/Kindergarten in 183

4th & 5th Grade in room 292

1st - 3rd Chapel first and then will be picked up in rooms.



Word Search

See if you can find these words in the puzzle on the left.

Bible
Mary

father
ponder

house
temple

Jesus
youngest

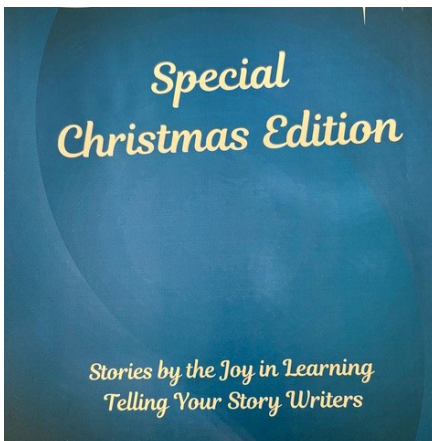
learn

Luke



JOY IN LEARNING

Joy in Learning creatively shares God's gifts of play through the arts and other activities. As we gather in community, we promote connection, understanding and caring relationships. This is a welcoming environment for all ages as well as those from diverse cultural, ethnic and economic backgrounds.



Telling Your Story Christmas Edition Booklets

Pick up a copy of the Telling Your Story Christmas Edition Booklet featuring stories from the participants in the latest class. Copies are available in the Parlor and the Café.



Thursdays
January 9, 16, 23, & February 6, 13, 20
9:30-11:30 a.m.
\$50 for all supplies

Instructors: Jillian Morse and Vivian Bauman

This class is mainly for beginners, but all levels are welcome! If you are an experienced oil painter, please email beth@westminsterjoy.org. We have a place for you!



Special Open Studio for Experienced Oil Painters!

Tuesdays
January 7-February 25
9:00 AM -Noon
Coordinator: Jackie Shrago

Wednesdays
January 8-February 26
9:00 a.m.-Noon
Coordinator: Susan Holt

Scan QR code for more info and to register.





CAFÉ ACTIVITIES



Tuesday - Friday
8:00 AM - Noon

The Westminster Café is closed the weeks of Christmas and New Year's. (Dec. 24-Jan. 3). We will reopen January 7. Have a beautiful Christmas!

Songwriting Class

Starts January 14



Tuesdays
10:00 AM - Noon
No fee

The Craft of a Nashville Songwriter:

This is a four-week introduction led by Steve Leslie. Steve has had a professional songwriting career for more than 30 years with songs recorded by Kenny Rogers, George Strait and many more.

Scan QR code to register.



Weaving

Ongoing



Thursdays
10:00 AM - Noon
No fee

Community Tapestry Project

This is a tapestry project that begins with the creation of a tapestry structure. Community members will develop and write messages on strips of ribbon that convey their hopes and prayers for the community. Scan QR code to register.



January 9
Music Box Series
11:00 a.m.
Goodpasture Hall



January 16
The Joy of Jazz
6:00 p.m.
Westminster Café

January 9
Music Box Series
Goodpasture Hall

11:00 AM | Fellowship
11:15 AM | Program
12:00 PM | Lunch

Join Sam Levine for a morning filled with traditional jazz music. Sam will be joined by Jim Ferguson on double bass and Richard Lane on banjo.

Start your year off right with good friends and great music.

Please make lunch reservations with Sherri Givens, sgivens@nashvillewpc.org.

January 16
The Joy of Jazz with Sam Levine's Jazz Quartet
Westminster Café

Playing songs from the 40s and later that make up the Great American songbook.

6:00 PM | Café Opens ~ Coffee, tea, and desserts available

6:30-6:50 PM | Sam Levine will discuss the spirituality of group improvisation and the basic elements of mainstream jazz

7:00-8:15 PM | Jazz Music ~ Sam Levine performs with Jim Ferguson, Bruce Dudley and Chris Brown.

Cost \$20 benefitting flood relief in TN and NC. Scan QR code to



MINISTRY TEAM



Donovan Drake
Pastor
ddrake@nashvillewpc.org



Sophie Maness
Executive Director of Children's
& Community Life Ministries
smaness@nashvillewpc.org



Guy D. Griffith
Associate Pastor for Adult
Education & Spiritual Nurture
ggriffith@nashvillewpc.org



Adam DeVries
Parish Associate for Youth
adevries@nashvillewpc.org



Ashley Higgins
Associate Pastor
for Young Families
ahiggins@nashvillewpc.org



Hannah Norris
Interim Associate Director of
Senior High Youth
and College Ministries
hnorris@nashvillewpc.org



Heidi Hudnut-Beumler
Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care, New
Members, & GET*connected*
hhudnutbeumler@
nashvillewpc.org



John Semingson
Director of Music Ministries
johns@nashvillewpc.org



Stephanie Boaz
Parish Associate for
Congregational Care
sboaz@nashvillewpc.org



Dale Nickell
Associate Director of Music
Ministries and Organist
dnickell@nashvillewpc.org



Will Wellman
Parish Associate for
Adult Education
wwellman@nashvillewpc.org



3900 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205-1899
615.292.5526 | www.nashvillewpc.church