Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 19, 2025



LOVE · RECONCILE · SHINE · TRANSFORM

### **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.

Today's Prelude is a setting of Hymn 689, "When the Morning Stars Together."

Worship on the Lord's Day

Worship begins as the people gather - greeting one another, praying in silence, or offering music to the glory of God. The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world.

On the cover...

Conrad Schmitt Studios. Wedding at Cana, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

PRELUDE Weisse Flaggen

Dale Nickell

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! May all people take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

We feast on the abundance of your house, and you give us drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lord, open our hearts to the surprising ways in which you offer to us your love and your presence. Help us to truly believe in the wondrous ways that you work in our lives. Give us hearts and spirits for service to you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. 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.)

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN 263

CORONATION

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Who among us has not been enticed and led astray by idols?
All of us come with need to confess.
Let us do so with trust in God's endless desire to forgive.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Lord,
we long to be your faithful people,
but our good intentions run out
and we come up empty.
For all the ways we fall short in our sin,
forgive us, Gracious One.
Change us—like water into wine—
to become what the world lacks,
that our community, our nation,
our church, and all creation
may know your justice and love.

(Silent confession)

### **Kyrie**

Hal H. Hopson

(Sung responsively by the choir and congregation)

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

### \*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.")

### Prayer of Confession

Having praised the holiness of God, we must also face the errant state of the world and of our lives, confessing our unworthiness to enter into God's presence. Nevertheless, we approach God with confidence, trusting in the mercy of Jesus Christ. This turn from communal praise to corporate confession, established on the promise of God's grace, is one of the hallmarks of the Reformed tradition.

### 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.

### Turning 100 Years Old!

Herschel Stewart's birthday was January 15th and he is 100 years old.!

Please join us is showering him with cards.

870 Oak Meadow Dr, Apt #1320 Franklin, TN 37064

About Psalm 36, Hymn 477

These five stanzas celebrating God's merciful care for all creation correspond to Psalm 36:5-10 and were prepared by a joint committee of nine North American churches in the Reformed tradition. They are set here to a simple but memorable tune from the mid-16th century. TEXT: The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909; MUSIC: Thomas Tallis, c. 1567.

\*ACT OF PRAISE (Singing together Hymn 581) GLORIA PATRI Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

### CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

CHILDREN'S TIME (8:30 AM)

INTERLUDE

Tallis' Ordinal

George Thalban-Ball

### THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### **SCRIPTURE**

Hear the Word of God! Our ears are open.

Isaiah 62:1-5

(Old Testament, page 692 in your pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Psalm 36: 5-10, Hymn 477, All sing.

Verse 1: Choir alone; Verse 2 All Sing;

Verse 3 Treble voices; Vs 4 Men's voices; Vs 5 All sing

John 2:1-11

(New Testament, page 93 in your pew Bible)

**SERMON** Filled and Changed Stephanie Boaz

(A moment for meditation)

**\*HYMN 850** In a Deep, Unbounded Darknes

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

#### Affirmation of Faith

Responding to the word proclaimed, we affirm our faith in the holy, triune God. This affirmation of faith is drawn from sentences of scripture or the creeds, confessions, and catechisms.

### 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:



### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving the sinful. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.15

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

### THANKSGIVING

### **OFFERING**

Anthem

Everett Titcomb

O Love, How Deep

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing thought and fantasy, that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortal's sake!

For us he prayed, for us he taught; for us his daily works he wrought; by words and signs and actions thus still seeking not himself, but us.

All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad: the Trinity whom we adore, forever and forevermore. Amen.

### \*DOXOLOGY

### LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Doxology

A short hymn of praise to the triune God (God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit).

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!

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Just as Jesus turned gallons of water into wine, we too know God's extravagant blessings.

Take these gifts we give today and bless them,
Holy God, that others may know your abundance and live whole and healthy lives. Amen.

### \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Singing together, see inside back cover of your hymnal for words and music to this prayer.)

### SENDING

\*HYMN 733

We All Are One in Mission ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

### \*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

J.S. Bach

Prelude & Fugue in G Major, BWV 557

About Hymn 733

A Lutheran pastor wrote this text in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require the denial of diversity but are enriched by it.

TEXT: Rusty Edwards, 1985; MUSIC: Memmingen ms., 17th cent; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904.

About the Postlude

The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of worship.

<sup>\*(</sup>Those who are able may stand.)

### 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. Guy D. Griffith Associate Pastor for Adult Education

### **Lay Liturgists**

8:30 AM Jane Kirchner 11:00 AM Scott Carey

### Music

8:30 AM Chamber Choir 11:00 AM Westminster Choir

Dale Nickell Organist and Associate Director of Music Ministries

### **Flower Dedication**

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Aline Patte and family in loving memory of Daniel Patte on his birthday.

### **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)



"Now standing there were six stone jars for the Jewish rites of purification..." John 2:6

Jesus transformed water into wine. Of course, that wasn't the point.

Jesus showed that he has the power to transform. He came to transform hearts.

What does it mean to you that Jesus can transform hearts? How has Jesus transformed your heart? What does this mean to you in your day to day life?



As we reflect on all the blessings we have experienced together at Westminster, we are reminded of God's abundant grace and provision. From inspiring worship and meaningful fellowship to opportunities for service and outreach, we have truly felt the Spirit at work in this church. While our 2025 pledge campaign has officially concluded, we joyfully invite anyone who has not yet submitted their pledge to do so today. We have received pledges for \$3,373,666 from 438 households. Every gift is a testament to our shared faith and commitment to being the hands and

feet of Christ in our community and beyond. Your generosity allows us to witness and participate in the many ways God is moving through Westminster—changing lives, moving our hearts, removing boundaries, building a legacy, and spreading love and hope to those in need. What a privilege it is to join together in this sacred work. Generosity Committee



Winter New Member & Inquirer Class To Begin Please join us in the Overlook Room.

The winter New Member and Inquirer Class will begin Sunday, January 19, 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.org. For questions or more information please contact co-chairs Kathleen Simcoe (kathleenmsimcoe@gmail.com) and Ken Larish (klarish@mainlandcompanies.com), or pastoral staff Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org).

# TODAY @ WESTMINSTER

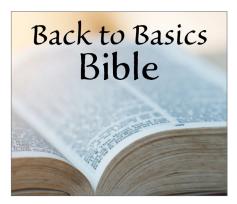
### Adult Education Classes start at 9:45 AM

### **Covenant Class • Fellowship Hall**



Hebrew Words We All Need to Know: Deepening Your Relationship with the Old Testament. Did you know that the Hebrew word for "mercy" is also the word for "womb"? How about that the word "repentance" has less to do with feeling guilty than with "changing course"? The Hebrew and Aramaic languages spoken by Jesus and his contemporaries were steeped in a rich tradition dating back millennia. That tradition is filled with concepts that can radically deepen your understanding of key Christian principles. And you don't have to become proficient in Biblical Hebrew to profit from this blessing of the church. In these classes, Dr. Spencer Klavan will present a few key Hebrew

words and concepts that can draw you closer into relationship with God's word in its historical context and today.



## **Back to Basics: Christian Belief Goodpasture Hall**

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.



## TODAY @ WESTMINSTER

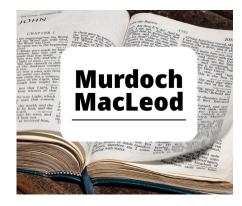
### Adult Education Classes start at 9:45 AM



### Faith & Fellowship • 214

Fellowship Sunday. Please join Covenant Class.

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**

This class will be joining the Back to Basics class starting on January 19 in Goodpasture Hall.



### 🔡 YOUNG ADULTS





January 21 Theology on Tap 7:00 PM • Loacation TBD

For more info, please contact: Michael Drake, drakerduck@gmail.com Lane Russell, Irussell7942@yahoo.com

### February 2 11:00 AM ● Goodpasture Hall

Light lunch meeting. Upcoming events will be scheduled during lunch.

For info or to RSVP contact Stephanie Boaz, sboaz@nashvillewpc.org.



## TODAY @ WESTMINSTER



### Youth

### Sunday School ● 9:45 AM

Gather in the Koinonia Youth Café for donuts and fellowship before class. There will be one class this Sunday.

Youth Group will begin January 26.

Please be in prayer for our 35 youth and leaders on the ski trip this weekend.



### **Children & Youth Choirs**

4:00 рм Rehearsals

Gloria Alleluia Jubilate Tintinnabulation 5:00 PM Rehearsals

Laudate Choir Chiming Children

### 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.

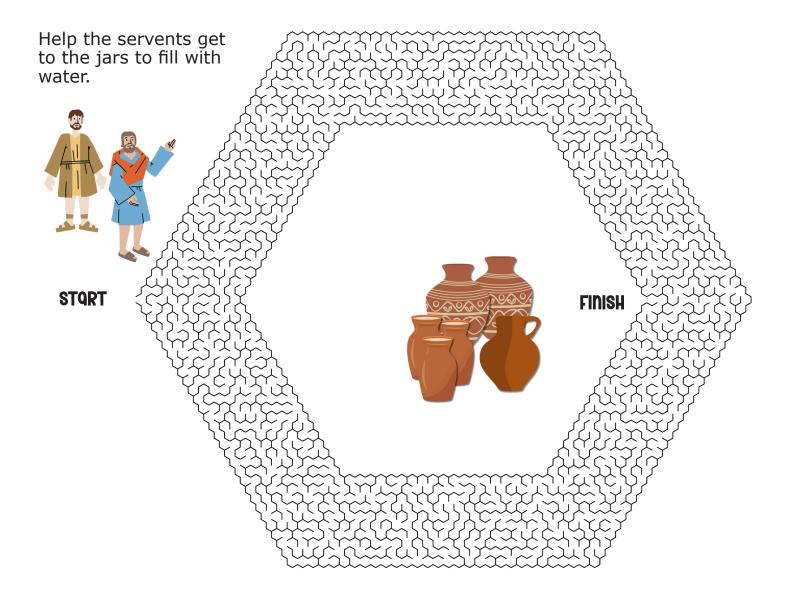
### 9:45 AM • Sunday School

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

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



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## June 2-8 Music Camp

Registrations for Summer Music Camp are open! Rising 1st-6th graders are welcome to participate in the Staged Musical Play June 2-8, 2025. Throughout the week, they work on singing, speaking lines, staging with costumes, choreography, arts & crafts, and Bible stories with a performance at the end. The registration link and more information can be found on the church website, with registrations open until February 1. Scan the QR code to register.



All children that would like a solo singing and/or speaking role must attend the Music Camp Audition Rehearsals (Sundays 4:00-4:50 PM): April 27, May 4, May 11, May 18

Music Camp Daily Schedule Monday-Friday, June 2-6 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Saturday, June 7 (Dress Rehearsal) 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Sunday, June 8: 9:00 AM Warm-up 9:45 AM Performance

### **Financials**

Each month, the Finance Committee provides a summary of the church operating income and expenses.

If any members wish to have more information about church finances, please contact:

Mike Koban, Finance Committee Chair mkoban@prodigy.net

Suzanne McLemore, Treasurer suzannegm58@gmail.com

Jo Ann McFarlin, Administrator jmcfarlin@nashvillewpc.org or 615.292.5526 x231.

December 2024	
Month	Year to Date
Income: \$789,625 Expense: \$692,071	\$ 4,227,174 \$ 3,983,715
Net Income (loss): \$ 97,454	\$ 243,460

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



February
Wednesday Night Dinner
5:30 PM ● Westminster Café

**February 5: Coco's Italian** (pastas, salads, fruit, dessert)

**February 12: Taziki's** (chicken, sides, fruit, dessert, chicken roll-ups for kids)

**February 19: Martin's** (bbq, sides, chicken tenders for kids, dessert)

**February 26: Moe's** (taco bar, fruit, dessert)

Scan the QR code to make reservations for February 5.



### **Starts February 6**

M.E. Moms (Mary & Elizabeth) 9:45 AM

We will meet together to share life, learn from one another AND learn new things. Childcare provided. Scan QR code to register.



January 28, 2025
Westminster Book Group
9:30 AM ● Social time & light
refreshments
10:00 AM ● Presentation
Goodpasture Hall

The Moviegoer
by Walker Percy
Presenter: Will Wellman

**Book Description:** Binx Bolling, a young New Orleans stockbroker, fills his days with movies and casual sex. His life offers him nothing worth retaining, not the kind of personal experiences he knows that other people cherish. **Treasurable moments for Binx** are dallying with his secretaries and going to movies, which provide him with 'treasurable moments' that he does not find in daily life real life, About to turn 30, "something changes: At Mardi Gras, Binx embarks on a quest for authentic experience that has consequences for both himself and his unstable cousin **Kate.**" His search for authenticity outrages his family and "sends him reeling through the gaudy chaos of the French Quarter.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



# February 23 TheoEd Nashville 4:30 PM ● Woolworth Theater

Westminster is co-sponsoring an exciting new speaker series hosted by West End Methodist and the Candler Foundry at Emory University. This unique initiative seeks to bring in-depth theological learning to churches and communities outside of seminary degree programs through TED-like, theologically focused talks. TheoEd Nashville features a lineup of four dynamic speakers:

**Sam Wells**, former Dean of Duke University Chapel and one of today's leading theologians.

**Julian Davis Reid**, a jazz musician who writes about faith, music, Blackness, and rest.

**Suzanne Stabile**, an internationally recognized Enneagram teacher and author.

**Lanecia Rouse**, an artist-theologian who works at the intersection of creativity, beauty, and theology.

Scan the QR code to learn more and to register.

### **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**



**Looking Ahead:** 

February 2, 9 Congregational Care Class 9:45 AM ● Fellowship Hall

"In Life and in Death We Belong to God" Sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee

**February 2:** "Blessed Are Those Who Mourn? Practicing Christian Faith in a Death-Denying Culture"

Dr. Bruce Rogers-Vaughn will present and lead us in discussion drawing upon theological, psychological, and cultural perspectives. The culture that shapes our lives today displays a "toxic positivity" that suppresses awareness of mortality. What if, instead, we embraced early Christians' experience of Jesus as the embodiment of the "Suffering Servant" of Second Isaiah – "a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief"?

Join us as we explore how reconnecting with the deep historical roots of our faith might transform our beliefs and attitudes about death and grief, empower us to push back against the soul-killing positivity of our time, and equip us to live more fully in God's gift of life, secure in our belonging to God as we live and as we die.

February 9: "Spiritual Engagement with Life and Death, Belonging to God"

Three topics will be addressed by a panel, and then in class discussion: 1.) Faithfully engaging end-of-life discussions and decisions from a medical and faith perspective – Dr. Tiffany Hines, Westminster member and Vanderbilt internist and palliative care physician; 2.) Faithfully Reflecting on Our Lives, and Telling Our Stories – Mary Lou Redding, author of *God Was with Me All Along: A Guide for Capturing Your Memories and Telling Your Story*; and 3.) Faithfully Grieving, Celebrating Life, and Witnessing to the Resurrection – Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care. The hope is to provide resources to further equip us in living the truth of our faith: In life and in death we belong to God.

## 🔡 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.





**Painting Open Studio** 

9:00 AM - Noon Coordinator: Jackie Shrago

Wednesdays January 15 - February 26 9:00 AM - Noon Coordinator: Susan Holt

Scan QR code for more info and to register.





**Fridays** February 7, 14, 21, 28 **New Pottery Workshop** 12:00 - 3:00 PM No fee

Create Café Coffee Mugs! Free workshop, come and go, choose what day(s) you would like to come! Beginners and experienced potters welcome! Mugs are hand built (not on the wheel).

Scan QR code to register.



### Wednesdays February 5, 12, 19, 26 4:00-5:30 рм We have a few spots left!

Each group will attend two weeks of pottery and two weeks of recreation in the gym! Classes are for K through 4th graders, church members and community friends. Grandparents, bring your grandchildren. Scan QR code to register.





### **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, & GETconnected hhudnutbeumler@ nashvillewpc.org



John Semingson on sabbatical 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

## THIS WEEK @ WESTMINSTER

### Sunday, January 19

8:30 AM Worship

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 ам Worship

4:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal

Tintinnabulation

5:00 рм Laudate Choir Rehearsal

Chiming Children

### Monday, January 20

-campus closed-

### Tuesday, January 21

7:00 AM Daybreak Believers

7:30 AM Bible Study

8:00 AM Westminster Café

11:30 AM Tuesday Lunch Bunch

### Wednesday, January 22

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study

8:00 AM Westminster Café

9:30 AM Westminster Bells

10:00 ам Таі Chi

6:00 PM RITI

6:30 PM Westminster Academy

7:00 PM Men's Basketball

WPC Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, January 23

8:00 AM Westminster Café

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study

Thurs Morning Theological Group

10:00 AM Knitting & Crocheting

### Friday, January 24

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study

8:00 AM Westminster Café

10:00 ам Таі Chi

5:00 PM Pickleball

### Saturday, January 25

11:30 AM AA

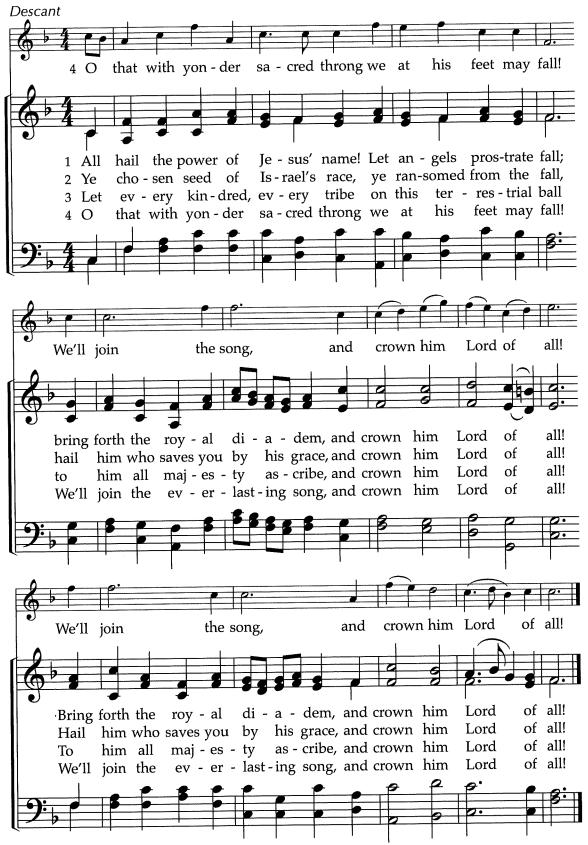


# Starts January 22 Westminster Academy 6:30 PM ● Overlook Room

Join Sue Tully Trout as she discusses The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride.

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows.

### 263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



This 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.

### For the Fruit of All Creation



Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

## 850 In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness



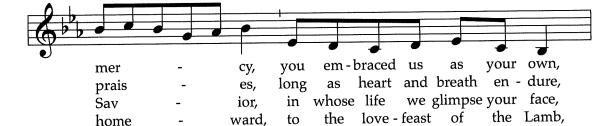
- 1 In a deep, un-bound-ed dark ness, long be fore the first
- 2 Though our world is ev er chang-ing, you are con-stant, firm,
- 3 Joy trans-forms our lips to boast ing on ly in your match -
- 4 God of Ha gar, God of Sa rah, God of no mad A



God, be - yond all it worked a O mer light shone, you, Trust - ing ise. sure, faith - ful to your cov-enant prom and grace, send - ing Christ to dwell mong Word made us, Fi - ery bra - ham; God of Mir-yam, God Mo ses,



your in mer - cy, won - der faith makes known: in your sing - ing prais - es, cure: sing - ing live, se you, we Friend and Sav - ior, Friend and flesh in time and space: home - ward, lead lead us I AM: Pil - lar, great





Setting this translation of a Chinese hymn to Western plainsong enhances the universal context of the opening stanza. The familiar pattern of creation, covenant, and incarnation in the first three stanzas leads to a far-reaching final stanza that looks both backward and forward.

### We All Are One in Mission



A Lutheran pastor wrote this text in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require the denial of diversity but are enriched by it.

