

#### **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.

The Benedictus is the biblical Canticle of Zechariah from the Gospel of Luke: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David..." It was sung on the occasion of the birth of his son, John the Baptist, with its Advent themes of anticipation and preparation for the arrival of the savior.

PRELUDE Op. 59 Nr. 9, Benedictus

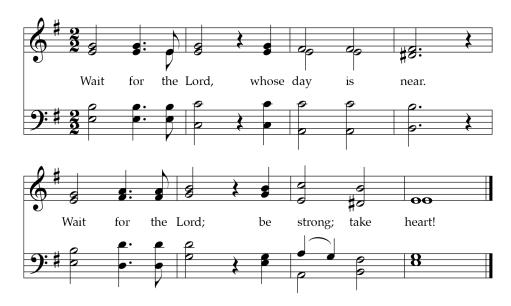
Max Reger

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the light is brought into the Sanctuary, and the candles on the Advent wreath are lighted, the congregation is invited to sing the following:

#### **HYMN 90**

#### WAIT FOR THE LORD



#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

You are the light of the world.

A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; Rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

#### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 348

**HELMSLEY** 

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

#### Presentation

Come, come to the waters, all who thirst.

Come, drink, there is no price.

Come, be cleansed and renewed.

Come to this water, ordinary and holy.

# 348 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending



Despite unclear musical origins, the result here is a characteristic early Methodist hymn tune, notable for its breadth and range. It effectively sets a text of similarly mixed sources, one that Charles Wesley regarded as related to "Thy kingdom come" in the Lord's Prayer.



Come to this font to remember, to imagine, to mark, to find courage, to find power.

God of all righteousness, we need the life and grace that you alone can give.

Open the heavens to us and pour out your Holy Spirit so that we may live as your beloved children, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Questions to the Parents, Congregation, and Children of the Church

#### \*Profession of Faith

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.

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.



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

#### Nell Owen Kirkpatrick

daughter of Emily and Mason Kirkpatrick

### Cooper Hill Long-Innes

son of Allie and Jack Long-Innes

#### 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.

#### **BIDDING PRAYER**

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go even to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against God until the glorious redemption brought to us by God's holy Child Jesus; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and justice on the earth; for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless; the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; as well as those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God, Mary, the pure and lowly Mother of Jesus, and that whole multitude which no one can number. whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Prayed in unison)

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5

ANTHEM Karen Marrolli

Walk in Light

And we shall study war no more. Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

And we shall walk the paths of peace. Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

The night is far spent; the day is at hand. And we shall study war no more. Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord. So let us cast off the works of night so we may wear a Shield of Day. Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

Evermore and evermore.

And we shall walk in paths of peace. Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

Dona nobis pacem.

#### SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-15

#### **ANTHEM**

Appalachian Carol/arr. Kyle Pedersen

I Wonder as I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky how Jesus the Savior had come for to die; for poor orn'ry people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

How I, a mere mortal, may look up in awe as Bethlehem's star beckons me through the dawn; it shines on the manger, the Prince of all peace and bids me to wonder, "Is this gift for me?"

Emmanuel.

The gift in the manger is given for all, the strong and heroic, the lost and the small. Christ bids to our stone hearts, "come soften and give," and offers his own heart, so others may live.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how the light of the heavens is born in this child.

The universe dances with glory and grace and I gaze in the manger and see love's face.

Emmanuel.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, I wonder under the sky.

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

Text: Thomas H. Troeger Music: Glenn L. Rudolph

#### The Dream Isaiah Saw

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play, wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will not darken the earth that God made.

> Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: Life redeemed from fang and claw.

Peace will pervade more than forest and field: God will transfigure the Violence concealed deep in the heart and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgement the Lord will ordain.

> Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: justice purifying law.

Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent, all of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

> Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

> Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

FOURTH LESSON Micah 5:2-4

Long ago, prophets knew

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew, Come to make all things new; Bear his People's burden, Freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man, This is God's timeless plan: He will come, as a man, Born himself of woman, God divinely human.

Ring, bells, ring...

Mary, hail! Though afraid, She believed, She obeyed. In her womb God is laid: Till the time expected, Nurtured and protected.

Ring, bells, ring...

Journey ends! Where afar Bethlem shines, like a star, Stable door stands a jar. Unborn Son of Mary, Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing! Jesus comes! Jesus comes! We will make him welcome!

#### 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:



#### Doxology

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

#### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

arr. Timothy Kile

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.

> Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!

O come, O Bright and Morning Star, And bring us comfort from afar! Dispel the shadows of the night And turn our darkness into light.

O Israel, rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanual shall come to Thee, O Israel!

God with us, Emmanuel.

#### \*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

FIFTH LESSON

Malachi 4

\*HYMN 373

O Day of Peace

**JERUSALEM** 

SIXTH LESSON

2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

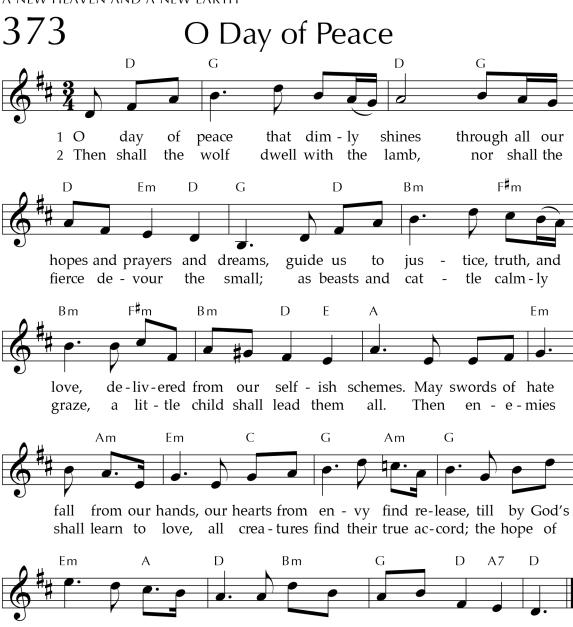
\*HYMN 144

In the Bleak Midwinter

**CRANHAM** 

SEVENTH LESSON

James 5:7-10



grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace. peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on peace was created to offer non-nationalistic words for a popular British tune. The first stanza depicts *pax*, a mode of peace focused on ending conflict, and the second (based on Isaiah 11:6–9) describes *shalom*, the condition of living in harmony and mutual good will.

Joy to the World! Congregation will sing verses 1 and 4, Choir will sing verses 2 and 3

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King;

Let ev'ry heart

prepare him room,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground,
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

#### \*BENEDICTION/BLESSING

**POSTLUDE** 

Max Reger

Op. 59 Nr. 8, Gloria in excelsis

The *Postlude* is considered the final Alleluia of worship.

"Glory in the highest" is a short hymn of praise to the Trinity. Its opening verse is based on the song of the angels to the shepherds at the time of Jesus' birth, as reported in Luke 2:14. Reger uses the Gregorian Chant Melody from Mass IV in this organ piece.

#### **Worship Leaders**

Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Stephanie Boaz

Associate Pastor of Congregational Care

#### **Advent Wreath Lighters**

8:30 AM Doug and Sylvia Leins

11:00 AM Zachery Fullerton and Zachery Passalacqua

#### **Beadle Acolyte**

11:00 AM Kate Cassetty

#### **Presenting Elder**

11:00 AM Keith Maddin

#### Music

Westminster Choir Sam Bacco & Lawson White, percussion Keith Nicholas, cello

John Semingson
Director of Music Ministries

Dale Nickell Organist and Associate Director of Music Ministries

#### **Readers**

8:30 AM Service

First Reading: Red Bradley
Second Reading: Maggie Bernstein
Third Reading: Caroline Keiper
Fourth Reading: Tom Wilson
Fifth Reading: Shelby Bailey
Sixth Reading: Jim Cooper

11:00 AM Service

First Reading: Charlotte Munson
Second Reading: Rachel Gilmore
Third Reading: Jarron Springer
Fourth Reading: Lynne Trost
Fifth Reading: Patrick Warfield
Sixth Reading: Melinda Coles

#### **Mask Policy**

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville is mask optional.

#### **Hearing Assistance**

We offer personal FM Receivers with an earpiece, 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

#### 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 one of the pastors on staff by calling 615.292.5526, the church office.



Generosity Chairs

Cullen Douglass cullen.douglass@nm.com

Bob Hines hine7742@bellsouth.net

#### **Generosity 2026**

We are so thankful for the families who have already made a pledge for 2026, many of whom increased their pledges. We are making good progress toward reaching our goal.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2026 and for those that have not paid their pledge for this year, we invite you to complete your 2025 pledge.

Please note that to add your contribution to your 2025 taxes, your pledge payment must be postmarked by December 31, 2025.



#### **Baptisms**

Baptism Sunday is the second and fifth Sundays of each month except during Lent.

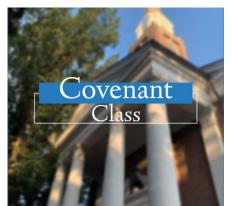
If you would like more information about baptisms at Westminster, please contact Sophie Maness, 615.292.5526, smaness@nashvillewpc.org.

If you would like to schedule a baptism, please contact Hannah Boles, 615.292.5526, hboles@nashvillewpc.org.



## TODAY @ WESTMINSTER

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



#### **Covenant Class**

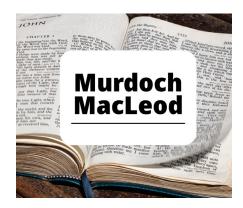
#### Advent, Incarnation, and the Call to Community

Advent is often spoke of in multiple tenses—past, present, & future. It is a season when the church looks backward to celebrate the birth of Christ, looks to the present for signs of Christ among us, and, lastly, looks forward in anticipation of Christ's return.

This class will explore these various "tenses" of Advent through a theological and Biblical examination of incarnation and community. We'll discuss the meanings of Advent and

how this season calls us to a new, shared life in Christ. All are welcome!

Led by Will Wellman.



#### Murdoch MacLeod • Library

We will discuss this week's gospel lesson.

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



#### Faith & Fellowship • 214

The Bible and Justice -From Amos, Adam & Eve, through Jesus; How does the Bible handle Justice?

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



#### Journeys • **Overlook Room**

Join us in Fellowship Hall for Covenant Class.

For more info, please contact Krissie Self, krissiebself@gmail.com.

#### **Children, Youth & Intergenerational Choirs**

4:00 PM Rehearsals: Tintinnabulation, Gloria, Alleluia, Jubilate Choirs

5:00 PM Rehearsals: Laudate Choir, Chiming Children

## KOINONIA YOUTH MINISTRY





#### **YOUTH TEAM**

**Adam DeVries Parish Associate** for Youth adevries@ nashvillewpc.org

**Hannah Norris Youth & Missions Program Coordinator** hnorris@ nashvillewpc.org

Jessie King Youth & Pastoral **Care Fellow** jking@ nashvillewpc.org

Julius Hooper **MLC Youth Ministry** Resident **WPCKoinonia** staff@gmail.com

**Nathan Scott Youth Ministry** Intern **WPCKoinonia** staff@gmail.com



9:45 AM • Sunday School • Koinonia Youth Café

Sunday School for sixth, seventh graders and high schoolers.



5:00 PM ● Middle School **Holiday Party** 

Middle School holiday party at the Lee residence.



#### **Small Groups Throughout the Week**

We have groups for girls and guys ninth - twelfth grades.

Please contact Hannah Norris, hnorris@ nashvillewpc.org, for more info.

#### 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

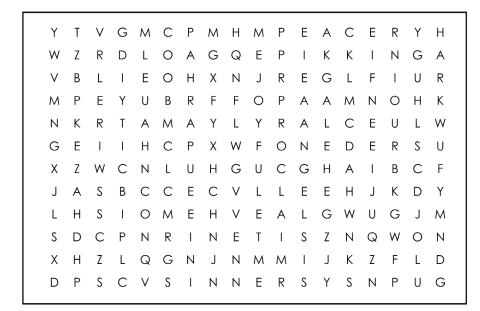
2s are in room 149 3s are in room 161 4s are in room 163

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.

#### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



#### Word Search

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

Angels Bethlehem Glory God Herald Hark Joyful Kina Mercy Newborn Prince Peace Proclaim Sing Sinners Triumph

## TODAY @ WESTMINSTER

#### **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.

November 2025

Year to Date

Income: \$ 3,609,134 Expense: \$ 3,557,415

Net Income (loss):

Parlor

\$ 51,719



## **December 14,21 Alternative Christmas Gift Market**

Give Christmas gifts to friends and family while also giving to those in need – visit us at the market or from the comfort of your own home. The Alternative Christmas Gift Market offers a different way to give gifts to friends and family while also giving to those in need.



#### **Second Sunday Celebration**

Need a little boost to stay awake for the 11:00 AM service? Grab a cappuccino, latte macchiato or flat white plus a pastry in the Parlor from 9:30 - 11:00 AM.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



The **Thursday Morning Theology Group** is starting a new book on January 8th!

We will be reading through Jaroslav Pelikan's *The Christian Tradition*, Volume I. This book traces the historical development of Christian doctrine from the Church's beginnings in 100AD up to 600AD when an Orthodox consensus is achieved. The Christian Tradition is an accessible but detailed account of this important period in Christian history and a great introduction for folks interested in learning more about the early Church and our theological origins.

Books are available for purchase in the office. Contact Will Wellman, wwellman@nashvillewpc.org, to get on the class email list.

# **EXECUTE** CAFÉ NEWS

Café Hours Tuesday - Friday 8:00 AM - Noon

Be our guest! Park in the north entrance parking lot by the blue outdoor umbrella. Enjoy specialized coffees, various teas, and cold drinks along with homemade yummies.





Friday, January 16 Tour: Martha O'Bryan Center

Learn more about this mission organizatation.

Scan the QR code for more info and times.





Needed: Knitted and crocheters to make dishcloths and scrubbys.

For many years, a bag with a bottle of Palmolive dish soap, a knitted dishcloth, and a crocheted/knitted scrubby have been given to homes that Westminster Home Connection has worked on. The thank you notes have been heartwarming! If you can help, please let Beth Drake, beth@ westminsterjoy.org, know you can!

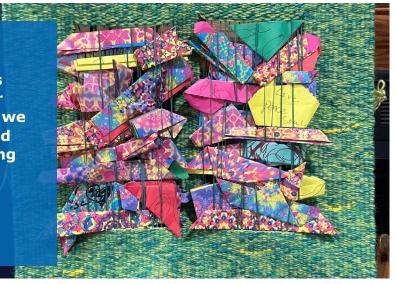


Thursdays
Fill My Cup:
A Post-Sermon
Reflection Study

8:15 AM • Meet and Greet 8:30 AM • Percolating conversation. Come when you can. No sign up necessary. We will revisit the previous Sunday's scriptures, reflect on the sermon, and share thoughts about the probing questions in the bulletin.

## **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.





Oil Painting Classes Tuesdays & Wednesdays with René Poe

For intermediate and advanced

#### Thursdays with Jillian Morse and Vivian Bauman

For beginning painters

Scan the QR code for dates, times and costs.



# Pottery Classes Pottery 101: Foundation of HandBuilding with Clay (No wheel)

Leaders: Nancy Quillman, Joan Coode and Sally Gracey

Scan the QR code for dates, times and costs.



# Watercolor Classes New: Thursday Session Beginner & Novice Watercolor Class

Instructor: Missy Perry

Scan the QR code for dates, times and costs.







### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

As we reach the close of another meaningful year, our Property Committee is deeply grateful for the steady generosity and care shown by our congregation. Your support keeps our church home vibrant, welcoming, and ready to serve all who gather here for worship, fellowship, learning, and community.



#### Looking back at 2025, we have much to celebrate.

Thanks to your gifts, the entire exterior of the church — steeple included — has been carefully repaired and painted, giving our campus a fresh, renewed presence. We were able to help fund some of the refreshment of the Westminster School classrooms. All class rooms received new paint and updates that brighten the spaces where children learn and grow. The North playground is now safely enclosed with a new fence. We addressed collapsed storm sewer lines that had contributed to periodic basement flooding. Each of these improvements

strengthens our ability to care for the people and ministries that rely on our facilities every day.



## Looking ahead, 2026 brings exciting opportunities to continue this good work.

Work will soon begin on replacing the church's shingled roof to resolve persistent leaking. We will also replace the roof at our rental house on Wilson. We will be tackling needed repairs in basement areas affected by this year's flooding. Our organ chambers require temperature controls to reduce seasonal tuning challenges. We hope to construct a portico over the Café entrance so members and guests can enter without braving the elements. Alongside these major projects, we have

several smaller but important needs involving general upkeep, IT improvements, and security upgrades.



#### Your support makes all of this possible.

Property Committee projects are funded through the Property Reserve Fund and by the generous donations of church members who believe in maintaining a strong and welcoming campus. Our committee takes care to prioritize needs thoughtfully and steward resources wisely.

If you would like to learn more about our ongoing work — or wish to support these projects financially — we would love to talk with you. Please reach out to Greg Cornish or Jo Ann McFarlin at the Church at

615-292-5526.

Your support truly helps preserve and enrich the place we call our church home.

# **Alternative Gifts**

Here are a few missions will be in the Parlor this Sunday for the Alternative Gift Christmas Market.



#### **Heart for Africa**

The mission of Heart for Africa is: to fight hunger, care for orphans, reduce poverty, and provide education in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland).



#### James Lawson High School & Cockrill Elementary

Westminster provides tutors, office assistants, school uniforms, school supplies, books for school-to-home reading program and emergency needs for families in crisis.



#### **Nations Ministry Center**

Nations Ministry Center, as an instrument of God's grace, helps refugee and immigrant families become generationally successful.



#### Nueva Vida Food Project

Nueva Vida (New Life) food bank provides food to families and individuals experiencing food insecurity through the USDA commodity program. Non-edible grocery items like diapers and baby products are provided through donations to the program. Please use the QR code to the right for more information!



#### **Rooftop Nashville**

Rooftop provides rent or mortgage assistance to individuals and families in Davidson County with the goal of restoring housing stability, preventing homelessness, and providing hope.



#### **Westminster Home Connection**

Westminster Home Connection repairs and modifies homes to empower older adults and persons with disabilities to age in place safely and with dignity. Our repairs improve lives and preserve affordable housing.

## **MINISTRY TEAM**



Donovan Drake Pastor ddrake@nashvillewpc.org



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



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



Adam DeVries Parish Associate for Youth adevries@nashvillewpc.org



Guy D. Griffith Associate Pastor for Adult Faith Formation ggriffith@nashvillewpc.org



Hannah Norris Youth & Missions Program Coordinator hnorris@nashvillewpc.org



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



John Semingson Director of Music Ministries johns@nashvillewpc.org



Will Wellman
Director of Theology and
Community Initiatives
wwellman@nashvillewpc.org



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

