

Second Sunday of Christmas
Holy Communion
January 4, 2026



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.

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:

The art on the bulletin cover is from Scott Erikson's book, *Honest Advent: (Awakening to the Wonder of God-with-Us Then, Here, and Now.)* This image is called *Star Baby*. Used with permission from Scott Erickson. Find his work at scottericksonart.com or [@scottthepainter](https://www.instagram.com/scottthepainter)

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Paul Fey

"The First Noel"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

In the beginning was the Word,
**and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory.

(John 1:1, 14)

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**Giving God,
you have adopted us as your children,
sisters and brothers of your beloved, Jesus Christ.
Empower us to be holy and blameless witnesses
to your glorious reign of peace and love
now come into this world. 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 150

DIX

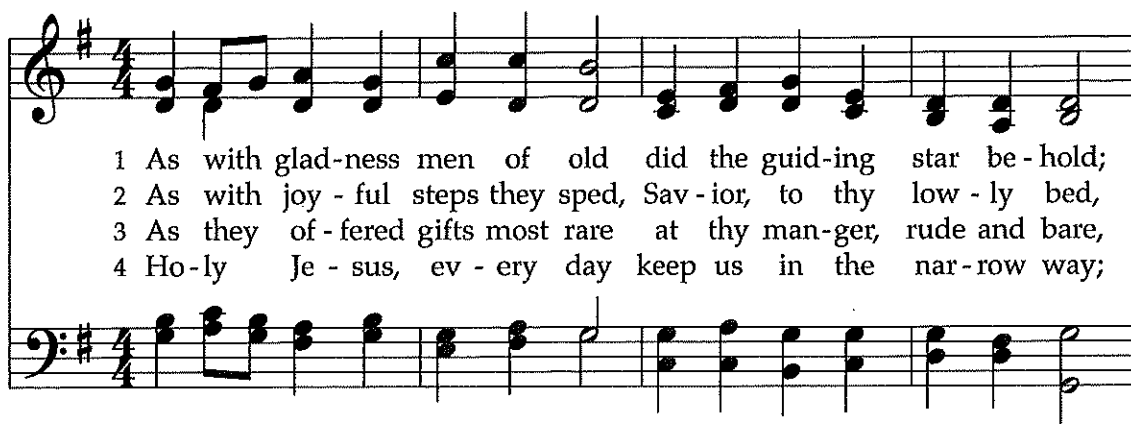
As with Gladness Men of Old

CALL TO CONFESSION

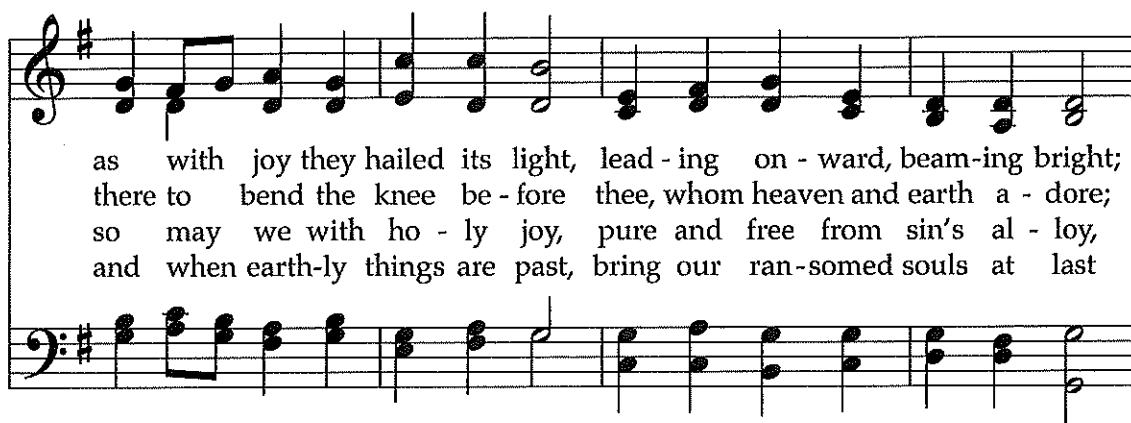
Let us draw near to God with sincerity of heart
and full assurance of faith,
**our guilty hearts sprinkled clean,
our bodies washed with pure water.**

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

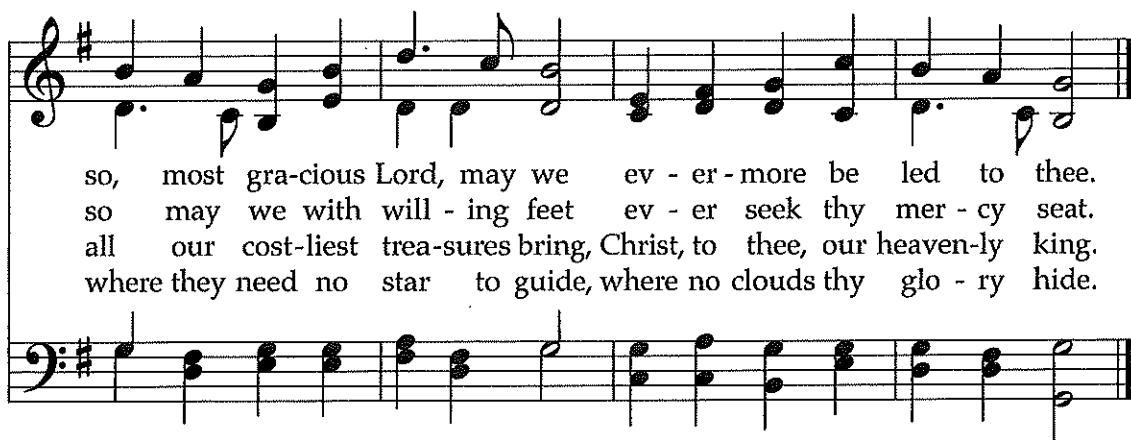
As with Gladness Men of Old 150



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God-with-us, we confess
that we have not embraced your love.
Christ has come into the world,
and yet we do not know him.
He has called us to be his own,
and yet we do not accept him.
Forgive us, loving God.
Show us your grace and truth
until we know in fullness
the good news of great joy
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silent confession)

Kyrie

James MacMillan

(Organ introduction) 4

1st-Choir/2nd-Congregation

Lord, have mer- cy, Lord,___have

1st-Choir/2nd-Congregation

mer- cy. Christ, have mer- cy, Christ,___have

All sing

mer- cy. Lord, have mer- cy, Lord,___have mer- cy.

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

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.")*

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.

Act of Praise

The Act of Praise brings together the choir and congregation to sing God's praise in response to the Assurance of Pardon as the last phrase.

The Interlude and Postlude are two organ settings of Hymn 111, "From Heaven Above."

Prayer for Illumination

A Prayer for Illumination calls on the Holy Spirit to empower the reading, understanding, proclaiming, and living of God's word. This sense of utter reliance on the illumination of the Spirit is an important and distinctive mark of the Reformed tradition.

*ACT OF PRAISE (Hymn 513)

FESTIVAL CANTICLE

This Is the Feast of Victory

(The congregation is invited to sing with the choir.)

**Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation. *Refrain.***

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

INTERLUDE

Johann Pachelbel

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her, verset 1

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

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

Jeremiah 31:7-14

(Old Testament, Page 734 in your pew Bible)

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

Psalms 147: 12-20 (Hymn 657)

GLENDON

All Sing

John 1:1-18

(New Testament, Pages 91-92 in your pew Bible)

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

SERMON

"On Grace and Truth"

Ashley Higgins

(A moment for meditation)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED (Ecumenical)

(Page 34 in the front of Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal)

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Anthem

The Glory of the Father

Egil Hovland

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.
In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God.
In Him was life; and the light was the light of all.
He came to his own, and they received Him not.
The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

*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!**

*PREPARATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE

*INVITATION

*GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

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

Holy God, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...
Your ways are just and true.

Therefore we lift our hearts in joyful praise,
joining our voices with choirs of angels,
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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:



The bread served in today's communion is gluten-free.

ALL:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of
pow - er and might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est! Bles - sed is
he who comes, he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

(The congregation may be seated.)

We praise you, most holy God...
...to live for him in joy and grateful praise.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...
...until we feast with him in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
forever and ever.

ALL:

[organ] A - men, A - men, A - men.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

(Singing together, see the inside back cover of your hymnal.)

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Music during Communion

In dulci jubilo, BuxWV 197 Dieterich Buxtehude

Anthem

J.S. Bach

Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring

Jesu, joy of our desiring,
Holy wisdom, Love most bright,
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring,
Soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashion'd.
With the fire of life impassion'd.
Striving still to Truth unknown,
Soaring, dying, round Thy throne.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

***HYMN 363**

DARWALL'S 148TH

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Johann Pachelbel

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her, verset 2

About the Postlude

The Postlude is
considered the final
Alleluia of worship.

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

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

363

Descant

4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

- 1 Re-joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a-dore!
 2 Our Sav-ior, Je-sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 His king-dom can-not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri-umph ev-er-more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a-bove.
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je-sus given.
 and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!

Each stanza of this enthronement text prepares for the final line of the refrain, based on Philippians 4:4. "Lord" is here a title of Christ rather than a reference to the undivided Trinity. The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) captures the mood well.

Today @ Westminster

Worship Leaders

Preaching

Rev. Ashley Higgins
Associate Pastor for Young Families

Liturgist

Rev. Dr. Guy D. Griffith
Associate Pastor for Adult Faith Formation

Communion Preparation

Anne Ridley

Music

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

John Semington
Director of Music Ministries

Dale Nickell
Organist and Associate Director of Music

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



**LIVING
OUT THE
WORD**

LOVE
RECONCILE
SHINE
TRANSFORM

What does "truth" mean to you?

Do you believe that God has moved into your neighborhood?

If not, what would it take for you to believe it? And how might you join in?

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.

Are you up-to-date on all the WPC news?

We send emails out to the congregation and community three plus times a week. On Monday, we send an email about our mission work. On Wednesdays, we send info about all the events we have going on throughout the month. On Fridays, the Sunday info is included in the email. We also have emails from our Children's, Youth and Young Families ministries.

Please scan the QR code to sign up for the emails you would like to receive.



Communion kits are available for seniors living in a residency or independently.

Please contact Sylvia Leins, srleins@yahoo.com to receive one or add someone you know to the list for the next Communion Sunday.



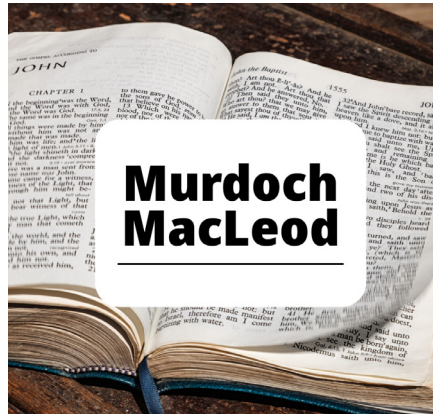
TODAY @ WESTMINSTER

Adult Education Classes start at 9:45 AM



Covenant Class • Fellowship Hall

Join us for a discussion with Carole Bucy.



Murdoch MacLeod • Library

We will discuss this week's gospel lesson.

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



Journeys • Overlook Room

Starting January 11
The Transforming Journey:
Learning to talk about our faith

Join us for a four-week series. Will Wellman, with Ashley assisting, will lead us into an exploration of what it means to talk about our faith. We'll help parents probe their own faith so they're more equipped to share and talk about it with their children.

Youth

Youth programming will resume January 11.

Children, Youth & Intergenerational Choirs

Choir rehearsals will resume January 11.



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.



QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES:

What is the "light" that came into the world?

What does darkness mean?

Does the light (Jesus) ever go away?

LIVING OUT THE WORD

John 1:1-18

WORD SEARCH

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

beginning	children
darkness	flesh
glory	God
John	life
light	shines
true	witness
word	world

L	N	E	Z	Q	B	R	F	L	E	S	H	F	P	L	Q	G	C
K	P	H	E	B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	J	B	G	J	M
C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	Y	H	D	F	V	W	W	O	K	W
R	Y	T	J	U	P	L	J	S	F	I	X	X	M	P	D	L	P
A	V	P	W	O	X	T	Q	Y	H	L	L	I	G	H	T	J	B
W	O	R	L	D	H	V	E	L	K	I	G	L	O	R	Y	L	W
L	J	P	C	K	U	N	I	V	O	G	N	Z	L	P	F	I	O
I	R	G	D	A	R	K	N	E	S	S	F	E	H	D	K	K	R
F	Q	E	L	R	B	A	E	B	T	J	C	V	S	F	O	Y	D
E	I	F	J	J	W	Y	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	H	N	Q	X
U	G	R	T	R	U	E	U	Q	S	C	Y	H	E	X	A	V	Q
R	F	G	J	E	W	C	V	Y	B	T	J	Q	T	Y	N	T	I



ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

930 AM • Overlook Room

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.

January 27
WPC Book Group
9:30 AM | Fellowship
10:00 AM | Presentation
Goodpasture Hall

Led by John Bailey

Jonathan Rauch, author of *Cross Purposes*, asserts that religion of mainline Christianity (the Presbyterian Church in the US and others) has become 'too thin to provide meaning and morals to the culture and thus to reliably support democratic society'. We will discuss Rauch's assertion and his suggestions as to what might be done to correct the apparent disfunction in our society and its present government. Rauch, a life-long atheist says: 'Don't be afraid. Imitate Jesus.'

January 12
Women's Covenant Group
11:30 AM • BYOLunch
12:00 PM • Presentation
Goodpasture Hall

January 14
Westminster Academy
6:30 PM
Overlook Room

Please join us as we read Daniel Mason's *North Woods*, with Sue Trout.

January 18
New Member & Inquirer Class
9:30 AM
Goodpasture Hall

Contact Sherri Givens, sgivens@nashvillewpc.org, to join.



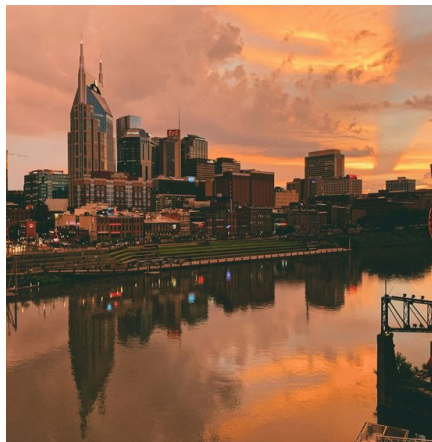
JOY IN LEARNING/CAFÉ NEWS

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.



Thursdays **Fill My Cup:** **A Post-Sermon** **Reflection Study**

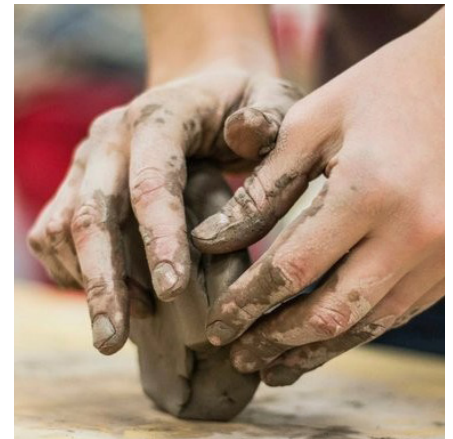
8:15 AM • Meet and Greet
8:30 AM • Percolating conversation. Come when you can. No sign up necessary. We will revisit the previous Sunday's scriptures, reflect on the sermon, and share thoughts about the probing questions in the bulletin.



Friday, January 16 **Tour: Martha O'Bryan** **Center**

Learn more about this mission organization.

Scan the QR code for more info and times.



Pottery Classes **Pottery 101:** **Foundation of Hand-** **Building with Clay** **(No wheel)**

Leaders: Nancy Quillman, Joan Coode and Sally Gracey

Scan the QR code for dates, times and costs.



1 Connect to the guest Wi-Fi: **Network: WPC** **Password: wpcnashville**

Open the Wi-Fi settings on your smart device and select WPC

2 Download the app: **SENNHEISER MOBILECONNECT** (App Store or GooglePlay)



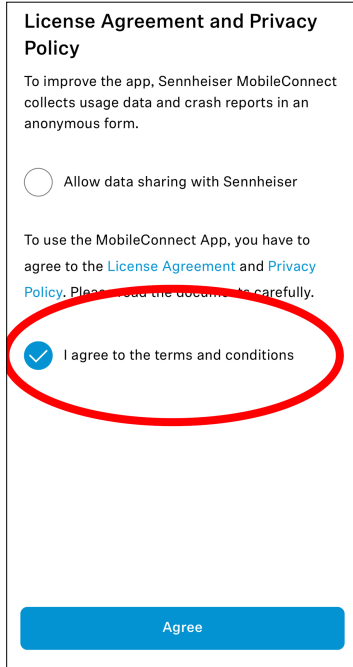
Sennheiser MobileConnect

Live audio streaming over WiFi

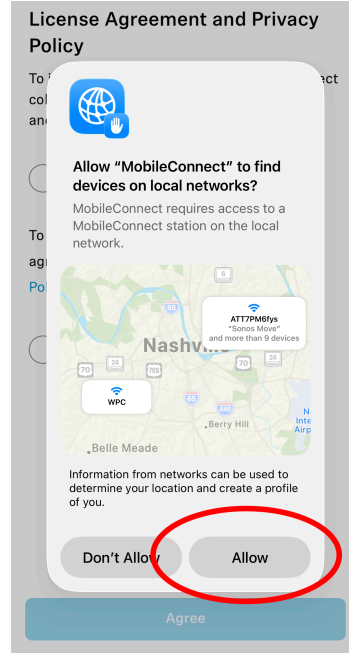
★★★★☆ 121

Open

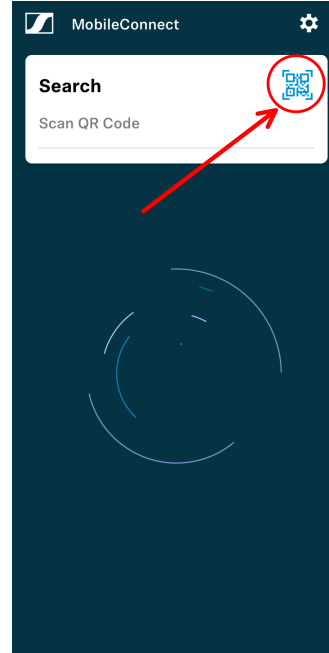
Health & Fitness | Education | Sennheiser electronic...



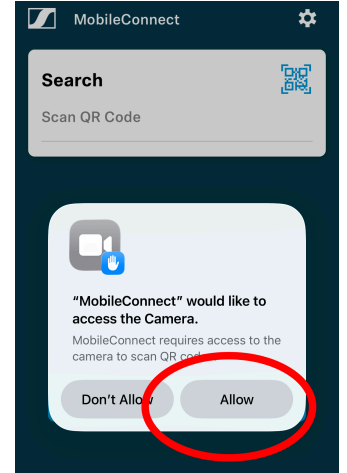
3 Open the app and tap **Agree** to the license and privacy policy.



4 Tap **Allow** permission when prompted to allow the app to find devices on the local network.



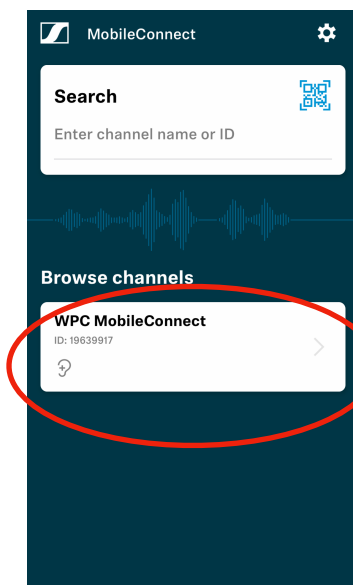
5 Tap the **QR code icon** (top right) and **scan the QR code** provided to the right.



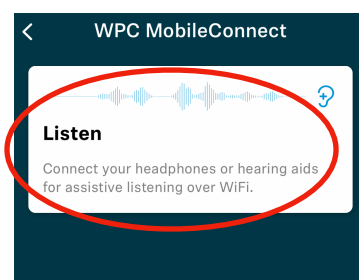
6 Tap **Allow** permission when prompted to allow MobileConnect to use your camera.



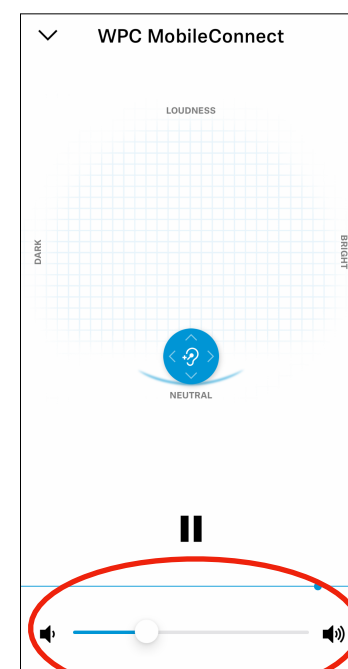
You can also use the Code: 19639917



7 Select **WPC MobileConnect**



8 Tap **Listen**



9 Adjust **volume and sound** on your screen. Audio will play through your hearing aids or headphones in real-time. You will need to connect your hearing aids or headphones to your smart phone via Bluetooth.

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 Semington
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



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

ENNEAGRAM *A N D*

P A R E N T I N G



REV. JOE STABILE
SUZANNE STABILE
JOEY SCHEWEE
DR. BILLY SCHEWEE

Enneagram and...Parenting

Two-Day Event • January 30 | 6:00 - 9:00 PM • January 31 | 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

What is the Enneagram? How is it helpful? How is it helpful in parenting? Parenting adult children and parenting the younger ones. Can you identify your kid's enneagram number? The weekend will be all about how to better understand and utilize your own personality to parent better, as well as better understand your children and opportunities to improve co-parenting. Learn more and register by scanning the QR code. Use code **WPC26** for discount.

