

## What's in a Name?

*"And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus."*

*Luke 1:31*

Hello, Church!

Imagine that we, together, are Mary. We are a people with plans. Commitments that have been made. Traditions to uphold.

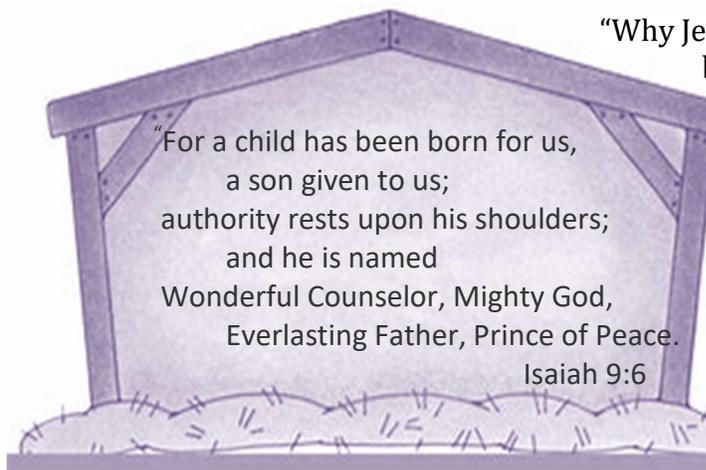
And then, an angel comes. And *everything* changes.

The angle says, "you will be *Theotokos*; that is, the bearers of God."

You will name this child that is growing in you—who will change all your plans, and all your commitments, and all your traditions—you will name this child *Jesus*.



"Why Jesus?" we wonder. And the angel replies, because he will save his people."



And you remember a word from long ago, "For a child has been born for **us**. A son given to **us**. He wears authority like a mantle across his shoulders and **his** name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Parent, Prince of Peace." What big names these are for a little child!

In this year, our plans, our commitments, our traditions have been upturned. Perhaps in this, there is the voice of an angel saying, "Put all that down, so that you can let this child grow within you, and contemplate the names you will call him."

These purple days of Advent are days of growing light. As we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we have the opportunity to take the time to meditate on the names for the One who is the light that is within us and around us, before us and behind us.

In our Wednesday study, we are focusing on the four names for the Messiah from Isaiah's prophecy. In our daily Advent devotions, *Naming Jesus*, a family friendly Advent Devotional from the SALT Project, we are invited to contemplate the many names we have come to know for Jesus.

I pray that these devotions will shape each of us and all of us, into *Theotokos*, as we, like an expectant mother, contemplate the name of the One who is to be born for us.

Your Pastor and Friend,

*Caroline*

## Expecting

In Advent, we are an expectant people. We are expecting that the One Who Has Come, will come again. During this season, we contemplate the people from “of old,” who waited expectantly for the coming Messiah and lay their expectation alongside ours. We have biblical testimony that while they were expecting one thing, God delivered another. With this biblical testimony as our guide, will our expectations be better informed, or will we be equally surprised by God? Each week in Advent, we will light one candle, to illuminate the fulfillment of our expectation. Join us, as we circle around the light that is coming into the world.



Sermon topics and lectionary readings:

**November 29: Expecting Hope**

***First Sunday in Advent***

- † Isaiah 64: 1-9
- † Mark 13:24-37

**December 6: Expecting Peace**

***Second Sunday in Advent/Communion***

- † Isaiah 40:1-11
- † Mark 1:1-8

**December 13: Expecting Joy**

***Third Sunday in Advent***

- † Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- † John 1:6-8, 19-28

**December 20: Expecting Love**

***Fourth Sunday in Advent***

- † Luke 1:26-38
- † Luke 1:47-55

**December 24: Expecting a King**

***Christmas Eve***

- † Isaiah 9:2-7
- † Luke 2:1-20

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom  
his favor rests.”*

*Luke 2:14*

## Why Do We Light Candles During Advent?

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter’s season and to pray for the return of the light. The church

has Christianized that practice in lighting the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ’s coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.



***I Will Light Candles This Christmas***

***By Howard Thurman***

I will light candles this Christmas,  
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that will burn all year long.

*From pcusa.org*

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## Westminster Happenings

**Wednesday  
December 2**

**Westminster Chimes Bell Choir Rehearsal**

Meet from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. for music and fellowship.

**Wednesday Evening Study Group**

Facilitated discussion at 7:00 P.M. in person or via Zoom.  
Prepare for the coming of the “Mighty God.”

**Thursday  
December 3**

**Pop Up Prayers in the Portal**

Join fellow prayer warriors for prayer and devotionals at 8:30 A.M.

**Note:** popping up in the narthex (a *portal*) due to chilly weather.

**Sunday  
December 6**

**Advent: *Expecting Peace***

*Communion*

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming on our website.

Expect your heart to be filled with peace through worship and music.

**Quest: Youth**

Lunch, leisure, and learning at Noon.

**Wednesday  
December 9**

**Westminster Chimes Bell Choir Rehearsal**

Meet from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. to make friends and make music.

**Wednesday Evening Study Group**

Facilitated discussion at 7:00 P.M. in person or via Zoom.

Continue your Advent studies by considering the “Everlasting Father.”

**Thursday  
December 10**

**Pop Up Prayers in the Portal**

Join fellow prayer warriors for prayer and devotionals at 8:30 A.M.

Get the day off to a powerful start with your Westminster family.

**Lessons & Carols Musicians Rehearsal**

Meet in the sanctuary at 6:30 P.M. for run-through and sound check.

**Sunday  
December 13**

**Advent: *Expecting Joy—Festival of Lessons & Carols***

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming on our website.

Share in the joy of making music to God’s glory with our talented and generous friends from Ware Shoals.

**Wednesday  
December 16**

**Westminster Chimes Bell Choir Rehearsal**

Meet from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. to make friends and make music.

**Wednesday Evening Study Group**

Facilitated discussion at 7:00 P.M. in person or via Zoom.

Conclude this series by focusing on the “Prince of Peace.”

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## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

**Thursday  
December 17**

### **Pop Up Prayers in the Portal**

Share socially distanced prayer and devotional time at 8:30 A.M.  
Start your day by connecting with God and your Westminster family.

### **Advent: *Expecting Love***

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming on our website.  
Remember once again that love came down at Christmas.

### **Quest: Youth—Winter Solstice Edition**

Kick off a celebration of the shortest day/longest night of the year immediately following worship. Plan to stay until 7:00 P.M., with fellowship time, Christmas activities, and movie time in between.

**Sunday  
December 20**

### **Meg's House: Blessing of the Gifts**

Bring your Angel Tree gifts to the narthex at 3:30 P.M. so that they, and you, can be blessed by the pastors of New Faith and Westminster. Masks and social distancing required.

### **Disney's *Inside Out* Viewing Party—hosted by Quest: Youth**

View the movie in the Fellowship Hall or via Live-Stream at 4:00 P.M.  
After the movie, engage in discussion of its message, and at 5:30 P.M., light a candle to commemorate the longest night of the year (*page 7*).

**Wednesday  
December 23**

**No Bell Choir Rehearsal**

**No Wednesday Evening Study Group**

**Thursday  
December 24**

### **Pop Up Prayers in the Portal**

Share socially distanced prayer and devotional time at 8:30 A.M.  
Prayerfully anticipate the arrival of the greatest Gift.

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

Worship at 5:30 P.M. in person or via live streaming on our website.  
Gather to welcome the newborn King!

**Friday  
December 25**

### **Christmas Day**

Celebrate with your family the coming of our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!

***Church Office closed for the holiday.***

**Sunday  
December 27**

### **First Sunday After Christmas Day**

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming on our website.  
Be nourished by a message from our good friend, Dr. Brad Christie.

**December 31  
January 1**

**Church office closed**

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## New Member Spotlight: Bill and Nancy Hogan

On Sunday, November 22, the Westminster family grew by two! We are blessed to welcome Bill and Nancy Hogan as new members. Among many other gifts, they are both talented musicians. (Yes, they have already been recruited for Lessons & Carols and for being our “choir” during worship!) Bill and Nancy took a moment to answer our Five Important Questions and to share a bit of their history with us.



### 1. What gives you joy?

**Bill:** Singing and sharing music. Hiking.

**Nancy:** Spending time with Bill. Singing, baking, and walking in the woods.

### 2. What drives you crazy?

**Bill:** Not being able to participate with friends and making music during the pandemic.

**Nancy:** Riding through Atlanta. Poor Bill has new bruises every time we come through that place. However, as the saying goes, I do all the driving, and Bill just holds the steering wheel.

### 3. What's your favorite piece of music?

**Bill:** *Joy in the Morning*, by Natalie Sleethe.

**Nancy:** Loves gospel music. Favorite gospel tune is *The Blind Man*, by the Booth Brothers.

### 4. What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?

**Bill:** Walking in the woods with Nancy.

**Nancy:** Being in the mountains and enjoying their beauty, especially in the Fall.

### 5. What's your favorite meal?

**Bill:** Spaghetti and spinach quiche.

**Nancy:** You can't beat a good rib eye steak on the grill with a salad and baked potato.

## Hogan Biography

Bill and Nancy met through music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Mobile, Alabama. Nancy was playing with a recorder consort, The Westminster Winds, when the director decided to add Celtic music to spice up the repertory. To play Celtic music, you need a guitar player, so Bill was invited to join the ensemble. We were married in 2004 and moved to Wetumpka, Alabama, where we were active in the music ministry of First Presbyterian Church. We adopted a cat, Mystery (*above right*), who remains an only “child.” Bill retired from Alabama Environmental Management in 2019, and Nancy from Medical Outreach Ministries in June of the same year. Bill was raised in North Alabama, and Nancy was raised in Laurens. They decided to return to South Carolina to be close to her brother and sisters. They are pleased to find a warm, caring, church near their new home in Beech Lake.



## Celebrating the Perfect Gift: December 20<sup>th</sup> Special Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

Westminster has proudly participated in this worthy work for many years. Thank you for your continued generosity.



## Time to Celebrate!

Best wishes and sincere prayers for these members and friends with December birthdays:

- ❖ 7<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Gillespie
- ❖ 16<sup>th</sup> – Bill Jacobs
- ❖ 26<sup>th</sup> – Licia Duncan

Congratulations are also in order for these loving couples celebrating their wedding anniversary:

- ❖ 28<sup>th</sup> – Larry & Nancy Dozier
- ❖ 28<sup>th</sup> – Tommy & René Wilson

*If you haven't already done so, please send your family's special dates to the church office (wpcgwd1@gmail.com) or call 864.229.3595.*

## YOU Make It Possible!

Thanks to the many generous BOGO for God donations you made, we were able to deliver an astounding pile of paper products and cleaning supplies to our ministry partners at **Beyond Abuse**.



Also, your faithful food gifts in our One Can ministry made it possible for Westminster to help feed the hungry at Greenwood's **Food Bank**, to the tune of 92 pounds in November. That makes 594 pounds this year!!



## Your Pledge Matters!

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

*Luke 6:38*

We are a small church with a BIG vision—your gifts of time, talent, and, yes, treasure are essential if we are to be the church we *aspire* to be.

If you forgot to send in your pledge card for 2021, it's not too late. And if you have not yet fulfilled your pledge for 2020, please consider making your gift before the end of the month, either online or by mail:

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2330 Cokesbury Road  
Greenwood, SC 29649



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## Blue Christmas?

*Part of a series on mental health issues*

For many of us, Christmas and the season leading up to it is full of mixed emotions. There is the joy and expectation, wonder and hope that linger from childhood. But there is also the weight of responsibility, fear of the unknown, and grief over losses of one kind or another.



Sometimes Christmas celebrations leave little room for the “less bright” emotions of fear, anxiety, anger, and sadness. It is good to know that there is someone with a keen view into our hearts, and that there is a place where we can share this part of our hearts.



*This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)*

Many churches and even secular groups of friends celebrate a “Blue Christmas.” A Blue Christmas is a service where people are invited to bring these blue emotions and to rest in comfort of the one who put these words into the prophet’s mouth, “Comfort, comfort my people.” Usually, such a service falls on or near the shortest day of the year and the longest night, December 21. What is wonderful about this night, is that it is a turning point. The point where the darkness is the greatest, is the point at which the light begins to grow.

This has been a year of incredible loss. We are a people of hope who know that the dawn is coming. In the meantime, we hold one another’s grief as surely as we share one another’s joy.

If you are experiencing any of these blue emotions, please know that you do not do it alone. Please reach out to your pastor or another friend. You do not have to put on a happy face just because it is Christmas. Who knows—perhaps sharing your feelings with a friend will make a way for the joy to break through again. And perhaps you will give them a chance to share the blue feelings they have been experiencing.

Finally, be encouraged to check on folks you know who are isolated or who have experienced a particular loss this year. Give them the gift of your time and your listening ear. Often we need a receptacle for our disappointments, memories, and delayed hopes, so that there might be space for a little joy. We can be that receptacle for one another.

If you personally need support or know someone who does, beyond the care of a friend or pastor, reach out to professional hotlines and resources including, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline: <tel:1-800-273-8255> or NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) <tel:1-800-273-8255>.

*Stay Tuned! On **Sunday, December 20**, our youth will host a hybrid screening of **INSIDE OUT**, the 2015 Disney Film about 11-year-old Riley, who is uprooted from her home and discovers all kinds of new emotions that help her move into a new understanding of herself and others. You can join us in person or online for the movie screening and discussion. More details coming soon!*



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## “We are Bound Together by a Common Concern for Each Other”

“If we believe that we, as Americans, are bound together by a common concern for each other, then an urgent national priority is upon us. We must begin to end the disgrace of this other America.



“And this is one of the great tasks of leadership for us, as individuals and citizens this year. But even if we act to erase material poverty, there is another greater task, it is to confront the poverty of satisfaction - purpose and dignity - that afflicts us all. Too much and for too long, we seemed to have surrendered personal excellence and community values in the mere accumulation of material things.

“Our Gross National Product, now, is over \$800 billion dollars a year, but that Gross National Product - if we judge the United States of America by that - that Gross National Product counts air pollution and cigarette advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage. It counts special locks for our doors and the jails for the people who break them. It counts the destruction of the redwood and the loss of our natural wonder in chaotic sprawl. It counts napalm and counts nuclear warheads and armored cars for the police to fight the riots in our cities. It counts Whitman's rifle and Speck's knife, and the television programs which glorify violence in order to sell toys to our children.

“Yet the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country, it measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile. And it can tell us everything about America except why we are proud that we are Americans.”

*Robert F. Kennedy  
University of Kansas  
March 18, 1968*



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## Hebrews 13:8

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”

The world keeps changing, but Christ never does! Many thanks to the Nurture & Education Committee for purchasing a new, updated globe for our youth to use as they are learning about the world and their place in it.

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## Let Us Pray...



### **For Those in Our Church**

*We lift our prayers for those dealing with health and other issues, including especially these friends, families, and caregivers:*

- The family of T.K. Alexander, Spears' brother
- Lynn Bornemann
- Mary Corley
- Arthur Gillespie's sister, Becky Carithers, and aunt, Vincie Boatwright
- Kathy Gillespie's sister, Betty Gossam
- Laine Horowitz
- Mac Hubbard
- Tracy Rainey's family, Jane and Charles Wendell Green

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances..."*  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-17*

*We pray daily for our prayer partners and the special concerns on their heart. We pray always for our friends at our sister churches, New Faith, Ware Shoals, First Presbyterian, Abbeville Presbyterian, and many others.*

*We pray for the ministries of our church, especially:*

- BOGO and Angel Tree
- Westminster Chimes Bell Choir
- Quest: Youth
- Prison Ministry
- Thornwell Home
- Greenwood Place
- NAMI
- Food Pantry
- Beyond Abuse
- Greater Greenwood United Ministries
- Camp Fellowship
- Imani Choir as they head home this week



### **For Those in Our Hearts**

*We pray for these members of our wider community:*

- Charles Alexander
- Tom & Lucia Bryson
- Ashlyn Buchanan
- Scott Crandall
- Debbie Dill
- Alberta Eichelberg
- Charlotte Gero
- Susan Hamersley's brother, John
- Dee Greene
- Lois & Bob Grice
- Jo Heron
- Lucia Horowitz extended family and friends
- Jimmy Hughes
- Norma Hoviss
- Twin friends of Kathy Felder
- Family of Ashley Mahon
- Bill & Suzy Mitchell
- Chris Murphy
- Margaret Rada and son
- Terrance Reece
- Howard Thomas
- Jack Waldrup
- Ed Watkins
- Jeff Williams
- Sarah Willis

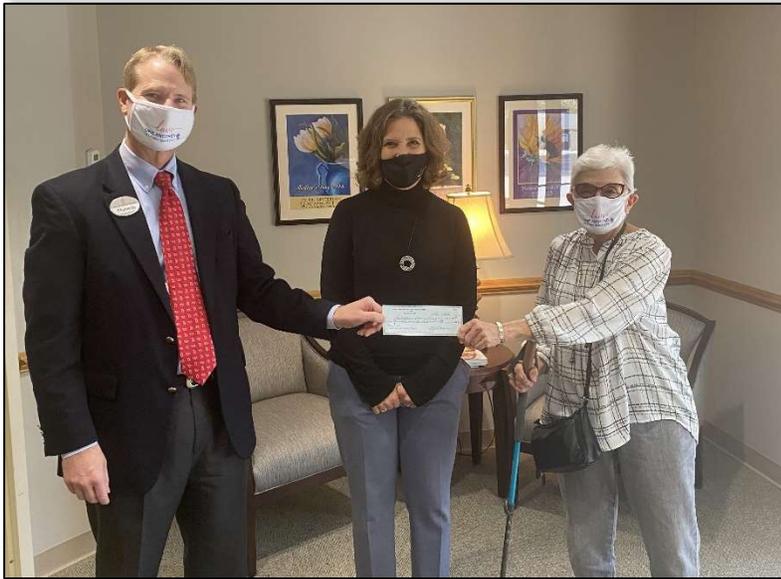


### **For the World**

*We pray for all our neighbors everywhere who we are called to love as we love ourselves:*

- For peace and wisdom in our community, country, & among world and local leaders
- For the Door of Hope ministry, saving children in South Africa
- For all those affected by the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic, for doctors, nurses, and health care professionals, parents, students, and school faculty and staff.
- For those who are hurt and hurting, and who strive to be their helpers and healers
- For those living with mental illness
- For our enemies

## And God Saw That It Was Good...



*Lucia and Caroline delivered a check for \$1,700 and 20 imprinted masks to the staff of Presbyterian Communities of SC at their headquarters in Columbia. They will use the funds to purchase PPE needed to protect their staff and residents.*



*Lynn Bornemann reads from the Bible during our hybrid Wednesday Night Study. Join us online or in the narthex at 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays.*



*Mary Corley joined us for in-person worship and modeled prudent behavior of mask-wearing and social distance. Lots of air hugs, though!*



*Flora and Rick Hobson hosted Caroline in their new mountain home. They managed to enjoy some quality time together even while giving Caroline peace and quiet for her study, reflection, and preparation retreat.*

## Quest: Youth in Action



*Can you dig it? Our youth planted bulbs near the upper parking lot. We can all look forward to a glorious spring display!*



*Many thanks to the many hands that helped decorate our church for Advent and Christmas. Gemma Sholar, Jacob Dennis, Dashe Case, Rashad, and Savannah Britt took care of hanging Chrismon ornaments on the big tree in the sanctuary.*

# Election Prayer Vigil Station



*Westminster was open on election day as an oasis of peace and a place to pray for our country. Prayers for elected leaders are valuable every day. Ask God to grant His wisdom and compassion to all local, national, and global leaders. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with us.*



## Enjoy Christmas at Presbyterian College— *Virtually!*



Even a pandemic cannot keep the PC Music Department from hosting its phenomenal Christmas concert. Instead of gathering on campus, the theme this year is "Home for Christmas," and you'll be able to enjoy the program at home via Facebook. Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 5 at 7:30 P.M. or Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 P.M. You do not have to have a Facebook account to join in the fun: Go to [www.facebook.com/PCDeptOfMusic](http://www.facebook.com/PCDeptOfMusic).

