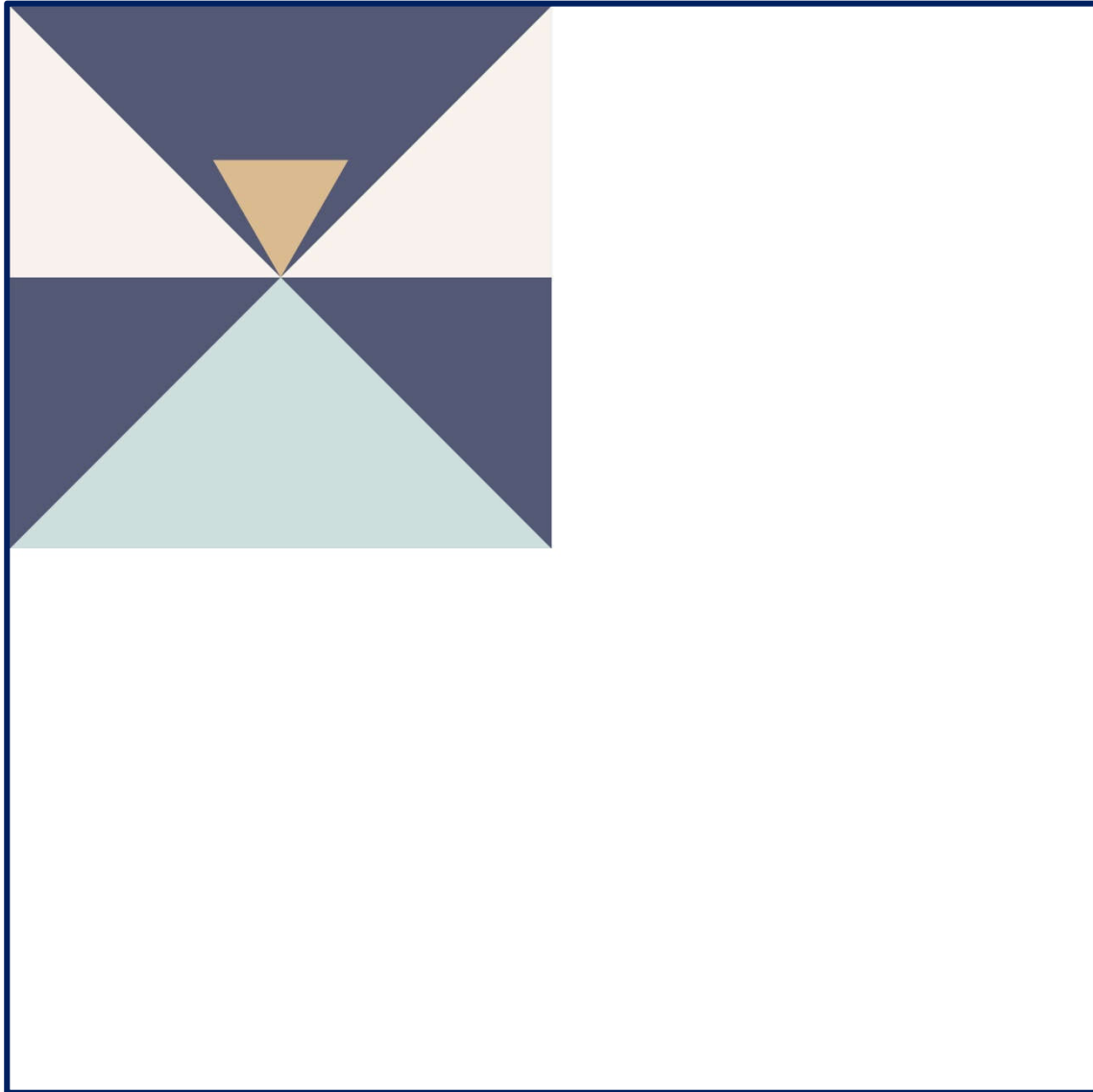


# WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)



## A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024

10:30 AM

### OUR MISSION

Westover Hills Presbyterian Church exists to worship & learn, welcome & celebrate, advocate & serve with people open to a faith shaped by practice to be a congregation recognized as a safe place and a resource for action, acceptance, and joy.

*Adopted May 2024*

## WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

*\*Those who are able are invited to stand. Bold text indicates unison readings.*

### WELCOME & INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

The Rev. Dr. Robert Wm Lowry

### PRELUDE

*“O Come, o Come Emmanuel”* arr. Gordon Young

David Austin, Director of Music

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Ballard and Ward Families

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?

### **Where do we start?**

Let us begin with the good news!

Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God.

Let us begin with music and singing!

Let us begin with warmth and welcome.

Let us begin with hope.

### **Yes, let us begin with hope.**

Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

May this be our foundation.

May this be our fresh start.

May this be our new beginning.

### **May hope flow forth from here. Amen!**

### SUNG RESPONSE

*“Awake! Awake”*

Purple #107 vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

John MacLeod, Liturgist

God says,

**“Do not be afraid.”**

God says,

**“I have called you by name.”**

God says,

**“I will be with you.”**

God says,

**“You are precious and honored in my sight.”**

At the beginning of this season,

**at the start of this week,**

at the top of this hour,

**may we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.**

Let us worship our Holy God!

+GATHERING HYMN *“Blest Be the God of Israel”*

Purple #106

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Affirming God, Your first words to creation were words of love.**

**You looked at this earth and said, “It is good.” You spoke affirmations through the prophets.**

**You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ.**

**At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love.**

**Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society’s measuring**

**stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

*“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”*

3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and".

voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was".

born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -".

lasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The fourth system concludes the hymn. The lyrics are: "lasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!". The piece ends with a double bar line.

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *"Thy Word"*

Purple #458

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:26-38

SERMON

"You Are A Blessing"

Dr. Lowry

# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE

*"In Case No One Ever Told You"*

In case no one ev - er told you or you have for - got - ten You are a  
You are the mas - ter-piece born of God's i - ma - gin - a - tion E - ven the  
You are u - nique - ly cre - a - ted for love and be - long - ing For - cing your -

7

bless - ing and have been since you were be - got - ten Fash - ioned from love  
parts that are cry - ing out for res - tor - a - tion All that you are  
self to be some - one you're not is ex - haus - ting You are a gift

14

Sent to the earth from a - bove You're no - thing short of a god - send  
Born out of star - dust and scars Re - flects God's per - fect cre - a - tion  
There is no box you must fit Let your be - lov - ed - ness blos - som

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved.**

**We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary,  
and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman,  
the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles,  
the faithful and the doubting.**

**So, in faith, we trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the  
water,  
forever reaches toward us.**

**And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing,  
we are covered in love.**

**We are more than enough. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY & ANTHEM      *“Advent Processional”*  
by Daniel Greig

## WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread. And forgive our debts as we  
forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

### +CLOSING HYMN

*"Love Has Come"*

Purple #110

### +CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### +POSTLUDE

## THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*Join Us on the Journey!*

*DEC. 1 – DEC. 7, 2024*

### **Welcome!**

We are so glad to be worshiping with you today. If this is your first visit, welcome! If you have been with us before, welcome back! Whether you are a life-long Presbyterian, a brand-new Christian, or someone who is just trying to make sense of this world we share, we hope you will feel at home at Westover Hills Presbyterian.



## **Thank You!**

A big thank you to all the hangers of the greens yesterday! It is a lot of work, but the results for the season in our beautiful worship space are well worth it!

## **December Events Calendars**

Calendars for all events during December for both Westover Hills and the Queer Collective are available in the Narthex. These are the same as the calendar included with your Advent devotional packets.

## **Stewardship Update**

The Stewardship and Finance Ministry is pleased to report that 54 households have turned in pledge cards for 2025. This represents 72% of our membership households. A BIG thank you to those who have made their commitment for the coming year.

If you have not returned your pledge card, please give prayerful thought to your commitment to our shared ministries for the coming year and return it to Tammy as soon as you are able. Having a good idea of our anticipated revenue is a great help to the committee in drafting the budget for the coming year.

If you have any questions about your current or future giving, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Treasurer, Tammy Pflug.

## **Mariners Christmas Party and White Elephant Gifts**

Mariners is a Westover Hills Social Group that is open to everyone. We had a great time last year and hope to have a larger crowd this year! One of the best white elephant gifts last year was the special hat taken home by Nancy Passani. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 on Friday, December 7th. Bring a hearty appetizer and a white elephant gift. Hosts (Friths, Callaways, and Jackie Oakes) will furnish dessert. Text Charlie at 501-425-9730 or email him [chfrith@mac.com](mailto:chfrith@mac.com) by Wednesday, December 4th.

## **WHPC Photo Calendar**

If you would like to purchase one, make a check out to WHPC and put Church Calendar in the memo section. Give the check to Charlie Frith on a church Sunday. All money received from the sale of the calendars goes to support the Vera Lloyd Pettus House.

Calendars will be ordered in early December 2024. Checks must be received by December 8th 2024.

## **TLC Poinsettia Delivery**

Calling all Deacons and TLC partners. The poinsettias for our TLC members at home will be in the Parlor ready for delivery following worship on December 8.

## **Westover Hills 2nd Wednesday Workgroup at Ferncliff**

Each fall through spring, Westover Hills serves in mission at Ferncliff checking Gifts of the Heart disaster kits for accuracy and packing them ready for shipment to survivors in need of assistance. More than ever, extra hands are needed for this task. Our first work date will be Wednesday, October 9th from 9am-12noon. No experience is necessary & everyone is welcome. Ferncliff's young adult volunteers handle the heavy lifting. We always have great conversation and a lot of laughter. The weather is cooler & Ferncliff is a delightful place to spend a morning serving in mission. Rides provided if needed.

## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

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### **Prayer and Meditation**

There are two important traditions at Westover Hills that join our voices in prayer every week. The first is *Prayer on the 9's*. Every day you are able, join us in taking a minute to pause at 9am and 9pm to offer a short prayer for the church, the world, or someone you know who needs comfort. Every Sunday in the bulletin and every Wednesday in the Careline e-newsletter, we share the list of pastoral care concerns known to the church. Members and friends are invited to pray for those people and world issues named on the list. Prayers of comfort, for healing, and for peace are always appropriate ways to remember our friends and neighbors. This week we remember:

**Liz Gath, awaiting surgery for colon cancer; Jim, Susan, and Robert Mauney following the death of Jim's sister Rosemary Steely on Thanksgiving day; Max**

Snowden, Baptist Hospital for tests;

Sam Highsmith, in hospice care at Presbyterian Village;

Beth Highsmith, in memory care in Alabama near her daughter;

Mary Henry's niece, Kellie Earls, has been in intensive care for an infected gallbladder;

Isatu Lebe continuing to recover from a stroke;

Ellen Dreyfuss, Nancy's friend, just had emergency brain surgery;  
Rene Thompson, friend of Joyce Smith, dealing with cancer treatments;  
Stacy Harter dealing with cancer;  
Lila Quinn (daughter-in-law of Bob and Alicia Quinn) surgery to remove cancer  
and recovery;  
Beth DuVall (Ann Patterson's cousin);  
Monroe Flucas, Jr., Julie Gaffney, Martin Gaffney, Richard Gaffney, Eunice  
Holdcroft as they deal with health issues (friends of Judi King);  
Jane Estes - dealing with multiple health issues;  
Our members and friends at Presbyterian Village;  
the residents and staff at Women and Children First;  
the clients and staff of Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services;  
Robin Appleton, kidney tumor (sister-in-law of Rosemary & Paul McGinnis);  
Jennifer Garlington (Shirley's niece) dealing with breast cancer;  
The WHPC Staff: Robert, Tammy, David, Ulysses, and Shawn

**Bold indicates new additions or updates.**

To include a person or group on the Prayer List, please contact the church office at  
[office.westoverhills@gmail.com](mailto:office.westoverhills@gmail.com) and Robert at [robertwilliamlowry@gmail.com](mailto:robertwilliamlowry@gmail.com)

### **Deacon's Ministry**

Deacons for December are Shirley Garlington and Marcey Berry

**Westover Hills Presbyterian Church**  
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