

WPC FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

"Advent" is a Latin Word that means "arrival" or coming. It is the season we set aside to prepare for the wonderful day of Christmas when God came in human flesh to dwell among us and save us. (John Chapter 1).

Advent also provides us an opportunity to reclaim Christmas from the secular and commercial celebration of our society. It is a time for us to prepare our homes and our hearts and our church for the coming of our Savior.

This year's Season of Advent begins on the first Sunday in December, and we will be embarking on the exercise of writing the WPC Advent devotional. Each day from Sunday to Wednesday will feature a Bible text for you to sign up and write a devotion. Thursdays will present an opportunity to write a poem of choice, and Fridays will offer the chance to write a prayer on any theme of your choice. Saturdays will provide an opportunity to write a commentary on a favorite hymn. The deadline for submission is November 15th and the sign up sheet is on the board in the Koinonia room.

This is a wonderful opportunity to put your faith and beliefs on paper and share them with your church family and the world. I encourage you to participate in this exercise. Below are the directions and instructions to help you take part. As you prepare to celebrate this year's Advent season, let us ring the clarion bells of joy, hope, and faith from our homes to the homes of our neighbors. May God bless you.

Rev. Bernard Nti Pastor/Head of Staff Westmont Presbyterian Church

WPC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2024

STRUCTURE

- A. Brief Scripture (Spotlight: 2 3 Verses)
- B. Devotional
- C. Prayer (2 to 3 Sentences)

DEVOTIONAL FORMAT

- 1. Devotionals are to be 100 to 200 words.
- 2. You can use any Bible translations. The NRSV which is the WPC Pew Bible version is however preferred.
- 3. No scholarly research needed. Consider the text in light of the following...
 - a. How has the text spoken to you in the past, present or the future?
 - b. What is the heart of the message?
 - c. What are your thoughts on the message?
- 4. If you choose to write a poem, please indicate the author.
- 5. You can also write a prayer based on any theme.
- 6. There is also the opportunity to write a commentary on a hymn of your choice.

Timeline Submissions

- 1. Deadline is November 15th
- 2. Proofread, Print and Publish November 27
- 3. Available December 3rd. First Sunday of Advent
- 4. Please send your submissions to <u>info@westmontpc.org</u> and copy <u>pastorben@westmontpc.org</u>
- 5. All scripts are recommended to be written in word. No pdf.

WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

<u>2024</u>

DAYS	REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY DAILY READINGS (YEAR C)	VOLUNTEERS				
Sunday, December 1st First Sunday of Advent	Luke 21: 25 - 36	Rev. Bernard Nti				
Monday, December 2nd	Psalm 25: 1 - 10					
Tuesday, December 3rd	1 Thessalonians 3: 9 - 13					
Wednesday, December 4th	Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16	777				
Thursday December 5th	Poem					
Friday, December 6th	Prayer					
Saturday, December 7th	Write a commentary on your favorite Hymn					
Sunday, December 8th Second Sunday of Advent	Luke 3: 1 - 6	Rev. Carole Corey				
Monday, December 9th	Philippians 1: 3 - 11					
Tuesday, December 10th	Luke 1: 68 - 79					
Wednesday, December 11th	Malachi 3: 1 - 4					
Thursday, December 12th	Poem					
Friday, December 13th	Prayer					
Saturday, December 14th	Write a commentary on your favorite Hymn					

Sunday, December 15th	Luke 3: 7 - 18	Rev. Bernard Nti
Monday, December 16th	Philippians 4: 4 - 7	
Tuesday December 17th	Isaiah 12: 2 - 6	
Wednesday December 18th	Zephaniah 3: 14 - 20	
Thursday December 19th	Poem	
Friday, December 20th	Prayer	
Saturday, December 21st	Write a commentary on your favorite Hymn	
Sunday, December 22nd	Luke 1: 39 - 45	Priests Family
Fourth Sunday of Advent		
Monday, Dec. 23rd	Hebrew 10: 5 - 10	
Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9: 2 - 7	
Wednesday, December 25th Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day	John 1: 1 - 14	WPC Bible Study Group
Thursday, December 26th	Poem	
Friday, December 27th	Prayer	Prayer Warriors
Saturday, December 28th	Write a commentary on your favorite Hymn	
Sunday, December 29th	Luke 2: 41 - 52	Rev. Carole Corey
1st Sunday of Christmas		

Those Who Serva

ACOLYTES

11/3 Brennley Riffle

11/10 Danny Maciorowski

11/17 Kamdyn Riffle

11/24 Maliyah Priest

LAY READERS

11/3 Jonathan and Shelby Esch

11/10 Jerry Hudson

11/17 Joshua Hinson

11/24 Kevin Priest

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

11/3 The Ellenberger Family

11/10 John and Joyce Norris and

Monica Black

11/17 The Priest Family

11/27 Kevin and Ien Priest

OPENERS

11/3 Ron Good

11/10 Jim McCann

11/17 Bill Harris

11/24 Kevin Howell

CHANCEL FLOWERS

11/3 The Parseghian Family

11/10 open

11/17 The Priest Family

11/24 open

NURSERY

11/3 Help Needed

11/10 Shelby Esch and Izzy

11/17 Brittant Priest and Geonna

11/24 Ashley Stufft

CHILDREN'S CHAT

11/3 Communion—No chat

11/10 Jen Priest

11/17 Sarah Riffle

11/24 Mark Parseghian

USHERS: Sally King

Jeanne Strunk

Tom Young

Anita Faas

HOST GREETING ELDERS

11/3 -

11/10 -

11/17 -

11/24 -

General Giving for the month of **October**

October 2024

2024 YTD Budget \$ 270,000

The Flower Calendar and Fellowship Hour sign-up sheets are posted in the Koinonia Room.



Deadline for the December Thread is Wednesday November 20, 2024

2024 Mission Payments

through September

Donation of Bibles to

Prospect Church \$214.38

Austin Theological

Seminary \$100.00

Bible 2 School \$200.00

Hope In a Stocking \$200.00

Jov Media/Roland Maust \$1000.00

Prayers & Squares \$250.00

Ghana Mission Network \$100.00

Sudan Presbyterian Church

\$300.00

Westmont Hilltop Baccalaureate

Committee \$100.00

Johnstown Christian Home \$100.00

Young Life \$500.00

Geneva Pre-School \$1000.00

Good News Club \$500.00

Johnstown Free Clinic \$500.00

New Day \$500.00

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

\$500.00

Westmont Family Counseling

Ministries \$1500.00

Pine Springs Camp \$ 1500.00

Sudan Mission Conf. \$ 205.00

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

\$1500.00

Saturday's Kitchen \$150.00

Blessed to be a Blessing





November

the literature of the last of the last		and the second s	
1 Joyce Murtha	1 Ryan Lauf	4 Cynde Wharton	
7 Alice Hillard	9 Owen Mor- gan	9 John Bingler	
3 Thomas Dingler	10 Abgail Miller	12 Mary Arm Robinson	
19 Tammy	19 Mark Miller	19 William	
Germana		Wissinger	
20 Mark	21 Janice	22 Barbara	
Parseghian	Wescott	Chase	
22 Mary-Esther	22 Deborah	24 Dr Thomas	
Patrik	Wylie	Ellenberger	
25 Hibby Price	26 John Patrick	30 Jack Moll	
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October Session Recap

Session Recap

Stewardship Sunday is November 10, 2024

"Hope in a Christmas Bag" by Mission Team

Pastor Ben will be a delegate for CANAAC Oct. 22 thru Oct. 27th

Christian Ed News



Our annual Trunk-or-Treat was held October 19th and was a HUGE success thanks to many of our church members: Melissa & Josh Hinson Donna Prothero Shelley & Jeff Boback Jen & Kevin Priest Sarah & Tom Riffle Briana & Gretchen Lohr Deb & Gary Lichtenfels Lana & Barney Custer Shelby & Jonathan Esch Joyce & John Norris Elisa & Tom Ellenberger Monica Black & Sally King Brittain & Sam Silver Carole & Ted Corev Cindi Cort & Jeanne Strunk Carolyn Casey & Misty Stephens Charlie & Daniel Maciorowski We offered fun, safe trick-or-treating in the church parking lot, outdoor games. "Spookley the Square Pumpkin," hot dogs & other refreshments.

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO DONATED TREATS FOR THE APPROX. 200 KIDS THERE!



HELPERS NEEDED

On November 9th, WPC is hosting a turkey dinner to honor our veterans. Come and help serve a delicious meal to those who have truly served this church, community, and our country.

Generations will come together in fellowship and celebration!

Advent Pageant 2024

This year's Advent Pageant will be a traditional telling of the Christmas Story and some Christmas Carols. We are looking for adults and youth of all ages to participate!
There are speaking AND non-speaking parts.

The schedule is:
PRACTICES Nov. 10 & 17,
& Dec. 1 during the

December 8th Advent Pageant during worship.

service.

Contact Elisa or Briana for more information or contact the church office (814-536-0796).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING

All are welcome to join the
Christian Education Committee
for their monthly meeting on
November 3rd after church in UL4.
New & fresh ideas are always welcome
as we discuss upcoming events!



Volunteer Opportunities

The Bell Choir will be starting the seasonal session and is in need of ringers. Anyone interested in joining or in need of additional information please contact Hutch.

We are in need of a few more men or women to volunteer as openers. No longer do you need to come to the church Saturday night to turn up the heat so it is warm by Sunday morning or shovel the front steps when it snows. Nor do you need to stop for 2 dozen donuts and then make coffee.

It's mostly turning on the lights when you arrive and turning them out after every-

one leaves and making sure the doors are locked.



HEAR BETTER!

I am hearing challenged. Sitting in our beautiful Sanctuary, I confess I have difficulty hearing the sermon on Sunday as well as the other spoken elements of the service. Sometime go Kevin Howell reiterated that we have headphones. Even though I was only hearing 70-80 % of the words, my stubbornness prevented me from trying them. But that changed. I tried them and was amazed. I could hear the spoken word almost perfectly. If you are not hearing the service as well as you like, I encourage you to try the headphones.

Barney Custer

Illuminating Advent

Beginning in December, the Adult Sunday School will be following a course from the PCUSA titled "Illuminating Advent". Through the blessed themes of Advent-hope, love, joy, and peace--Illuminating Advent invites you to connect with this sacred season. The meaning and mystery of Christmas and Epiphany are also explored. Each member attending will be provided with a participants workbook. Please email or call the church office if you would like to have a book ordered. Thanks You.

Prayers and Squares Can you touch a prayer?

You can if it is tied into a prayer quilt made by our Prayers and Squares group. If you know someone who is in need of prayer support and would like to have a prayer quilt made.....or if you want to be part of this ministry, please call Joyce Norris at 243-2659 or you can email her at joyceanorris@gmail.com.

The Deacons' Christmas Community Outreach Program is in full swing! This year we are helping 21 families consisting of 113 people, which includes 74 children. This is a huge undertaking, and we need your help! As in the past, we are asking members of our congregation to purchase a gift for one or more of the children that we are helping. We will have stars available for you to pick up in the Koinonia Room after church on November 10, 17, and 24. Each star has a child's name on it and one or more gift suggestions. We are asking you to take a star or two and purchase one of the gifts listed. You don't have to purchase all the gifts written on the star. The most we want you to spend is \$40 per child. Once you purchase your gift, please wrap it and place the star on it. Please return it to the church no later than Sunday, December 1, place it in the front of the Sanctuary, and we will take it from there. If you want to provide a gift but don't like to shop or can't get to the store, no problem! Select a star and give it to a Deacon along with your money, and we will be happy to shop for you! We also need cash donations to help defray the cost of this program. In addition to the gifts, we will be providing our families with a gift card to a local grocery store, clothes from St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Shop, and a brunch catered by our kitchen ladies here at our church where we can get to know them on a more personal level. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Priest at 814-241-1908. Thank you for helping us to be God's hands, feet, and voice in our community.



From your Stewardship Committee

THEME FOR 2025 - "From Sunday to Everyday, Serving as God's, Hands and Feet and Voice"

2025 PLEDGE DRIVE

We are sure that you are aware that the 2025 Pledge drive is in full swing! It started with a **minute for Mission during the Worship Service on September 15, 2024!** On Sunday's 9/29/04 and 10/6/24 the Pledge Packets were available in the Koinia Room. The week of 10/6/24 the remaining Pledge Packets, that were not picked up, were sent out by mail to members! If you have not received the Pledge Packets please notify the Church Office or any member pf the Stewardship Committee and we will be sure you receive them. We are asking that your pledges be returned to the Church on or before November 17,2024 which has been approved as Stewardship Sunday by your Session. You have also noted that each weeks bulletin will have an accounting of the Pledge Drive Pledge Cards. **As Pastor Ben Has Stated Giving IS part of Worshipping. Give Freely Your Three T'S (Time, Talent & Treasure).**

2024 First Fruits Offering (Per Capitate Offering)! All Churches are encouraged to Pledge a Commitment to the Presbytery and to the Larger Church1 The 2024 unified budget represents \$44.00 per person. As this is not an item that directly affects the operation and Mission of our Church, your Stewardship committee would like you to consider sending a separate check to cover your individual First Fruits. Your Church has already made a yearly pledge commitment to the Presbytery & the Larger Church. With each individual paying for their own First Fruits, your full pledge amount may be used by our Church where needed! A Minute for Mission, of First Fruits, was given also on Sunday September 10. 2024. Thank you for considering this.

Thank You and God Bless You.

Stewardship committee

Gary Lichtenfels (Chair), Co-Chair)Bill Uhlig, Rev. Bernard Nti - Ex officio.

Prayers and Squares

Prayers and Squares is in need of financial aid. We are not funded by the church, only by donations or fundraisers.

Many people ask what is costs to make a quilt, so here is an estimate:

1 quilt	2 yards of flannel	\$ 18.00
	2 yards of cotton fabric	\$ 20.00
	2 yards of batting	\$ 4.00
	Miscellaneous	\$ 3.00
	Total	\$45.00

Pocket quilts - approximately \$1.00 each

53 quilts were requested and made in 2024

17 NICU quilts

8 foster quilts

8 mission quilt

3,892 pocket quilts

This equals roughly \$ 3,870 for quilts and \$ 3,892 for pocket quilts for a total of \$7762.00. That is what we would pay if we didn't use coupons and shop sales. Our sock of donated fabric is helpful but much of it is outdated.

Other expenses in 2024: Sewing machine repair 10-12, Sergers 2-3

Batting 3 rolls of 60 yards each. Replaced damaged cutting table.

Thread, Computer fabric sheets, card stock, copy paper, crochette card for strings, canned air for cleaning sergers.

We accept donations, JoAnns coupons, your prayers for our ministry, and willing helpers to be part of our fund raising efforts.

As we are getting older and more limited health wise, we cannot do it alone. It will take a village to keep Prayers and Squares being the hands, feet and voice of our church.

Thank you, Prayers and Squares



Safety Committee Update

Please use the main entrance (door A) or the front entrance (door E) to enter for Sunday service. Starting in December, these will be the only 2 doors available for entrance and they will remain open during the entire service. Safety committee members will be at these doors to greet you and provide any assistance needed.

Please remember that during inclement weather, door E may be closed due to the steps being unsafe. If that occurs, signage will direct everyone to use the main entrance (door A) or Fisk Avenue entrance (door D).

Cameras have been installed for safety in common areas. The safety committee will use these cameras for live video streaming (audio to be disabled) only during the service, to monitor those entering the church. Recorded video will only be accessed by Kevin if there is a safety incident where footage needs to be reviewed.

Please reach out to Melissa Hinson or Jeff Boback with any questions. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



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WPC Mission Committee:

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS KETTLE MINISTRY

Join in the fun ringing Salvation Army Christmas Bells!!!

When: Tuesday December 3.

Where: Inside Galleria near Boscov's / food court.
Time: 10A to 6P. Time slots can be 1 or 2 hours.
Contact Person: Tammy Germana @ 814.659.9044

Don your Santa Hat and join us!!!

Community Events

FARMER'S MARKET (16th SEASON)

WHAT A WONDERFUL YEAR WE HAVE HAD. The weather was great, small amount of rain, some wind issues, but a great and productive time everybody had! Highlights were;

1. A LARGE NEW SIGN AT THE TOP OF THE HILL OF MILLCREEK ROAD

Beside Eliza Organics Greenhouse.

2. Increased our Vendors to 15!

- 3. P.E.O. Organization, with Session approval, Joined us about every other week with Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, Assorted Chip type snacks and Drinks. This was a fundraiser for them.
- 4. Music was back with our own Dr. Rodney Eatman on his Keyboard.
- Gretchen Lohr and her faithful Group had a Community Pancake Breakfast with no charge (free will offering). Be sure to thank her!

6. John Norris's weekly brownies, which we ALL love.

- This years last Saturday of each months Ice Cream Sundaes were a huge success. This is the first year we have used up ALL of the ice cream.
- 8. Enhancement of our market with Christian Ed activities including Vacation Bible school, etc..
- 9. Also enhancement with a quarterly Men's Breakfast. And a Johnstown Flower Club Garden Show.
- 10. A great interview with Channel 6 WJAC news about the market.
- 11. Finally Showcasing our Vendors. With their home grown, vegetable, fruits, flowers, meats, eggs, and other goodies produced on their own farms.

As a community outreach of our Church, our volunteers truly practice our Motto - FROM SUNDAT TO EVERYDAY BEING THE HANDS, FEET, AND VOICE OF GOD!

See you next year Your Farmers Market Committee



The Westmont Presbyterian Church

An excerpt from *Presbyterians in the Upper Conemaugh Valley* written for the 125th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church by Donald H. Matthews, Jr in 1957

Continued from the October 2024 *Thread.....*Of this number, 173 were from First Church, 81 were from the Vine Street congregation, and 54 were from other churches or were received on confession of faith.

Dr. Hays noted that "few churches in our denomination have started out so well equipped in numbers and ability." Two of the first fifteen elders elected by the new congregation later returned to the mother church. One has since died and the other is still a member.

In accordance with the original understanding, the Rev. Mr. Roberts, a Welshman, became the pastor of the new church. The arrangement worked satisfactorily and the congregation had grown to more than to more 400 members when he resigned in 1935.

After a concerted search for a new pastor, The Rev. John Hubert Stanton was called from Scranton's Washburn Presbyterian Church. He is still serving the Hilltop group, which now has one of the most complete and comprehensive programs to be found in operation in any congregation. The youngest daughter commands respect and is looked upon with pride by the mother church of Johnstown Presbyterianism. The Westmont church is the fourth and by far the longest pastorate of Dr. Stanton.

The church, which has experienced a phenomenal growth since the close of World War II, a growth consistent with that of the Westmont-Southmont-Upper Yoder area which is its primary area of service, called its first assistant pastor in 1946. He was the Rev. William T. Doncaster, Jr., who served until 1948. A short time later he became pastor of St. Paul's Church in Somerset.

The Rev. David C. Newquist was called as associate pastor in the spring of 1957. He had been pastor at Shawnee-on-the-Delaware. The three years prior to Mr. Newquist's arrival Warren D. (Brook) Pfost served as administrative assistant. He came from Chambersburg Community House, Trenton, N.J., and left in the fall of 1956 to become community recreation director at Monroeville, near Pittsburgh.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew L. Flanigan are the ministers of music at the church and have aided greatly with youth work through the organization of seven choirs. These are the Chancel, Westminster, Cathedral, Chapel, Crusaders, Carol and Celeste.

100 Years Ago

During the winter of 1924-25, plans were laid for a building "which shall be creditable to the Presbyterian name and worthy of Westmont".

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 9:00am Adult Sunday School (K) 10:15am Worship - Communion (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4) 11:15am Fellowship Hour 11:30am CE Meeting (UL4)	11:00am Prayer Group	5 5:00pm WCFM (P)	6 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax)	7 11:00am Staff Meeting (K) 6:00pm Bible Study (K) 7:00pm Prayer Warriors (K)	8	2 2:00pm Johnstown Concert Ballet Teas & Tutus (F) 5:00pm Veterans Day Dinner (F)
10	9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:00am Prayer Group	12 10:00am Spiritual Direction (P)	7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 5:30pm Leader Wise Training Social 5:30 - 6PM (F) 6:00pm Leader Wise Training 6-8 PM (K)	7:30am Finance Committee (Eat 'n Park) 11:00am Staff Meeting (K) 6:00pm Bible Study (K) 7:00pm Prayer Warriors (K)	15 Quil er's Soup Prep Day (F)	16 Quilter's Soup Prep Day (F)
9:00am Adult Sunday School (K) 10:15am Advent Pageant Practice 10:15am Worship (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4) 11:15am Fellowship Hour	18 9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:00am Prayer Group 3:00pm Good News (K) 6:00pm Deacons meeting (K)	19	20 THREAD DEADLINE 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 7:30pm Session	21 11:00am Staff Meeting (K) 4:00pm Worship & Music 6:00pm Bible Study (K) 7:00pm Prayer Warriors (K)	22	23
9:00am Adult Sunday School (K) 10:15am Worship - Christ the Kimg (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4) 11:15am Fellowship Hour	11:00am Prayer Group	26 Sanctuary Tree Set Up 10:00am Spiritual Direction (P) 10:30am Geneva Pre School Thanksgiving Feast (F)	27 THREAD ASSEMBLY 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax)	28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Office Closed	29	30

THE THREAD
Westmont Presbyterian Church
601 Luzerne St.
Johnstown PA 15905-2397

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MISSIONAL INTENTIONS TO BE:
Christ Centered
Biblically Based
Servant Led
Blessed to be a Blessing

Worship 10:15 a.m.

Fellowship Hour 11:15 a.m.

PASTOR Rev. Bernard Nti

SEXTON / BUSINESS MANAGER Kevin Howell

GENEVA PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR Kristen Kane

OFFICE HOURS: M-Fri, 9:00-3:00 Telephone: 814-536-0796 E-mail: info@westmontpc.org WEBSITE: westmontpc.org MINISTER OF MUSIC/ORGANIST Jim Hutchinson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Jane Bennese

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Search in progress