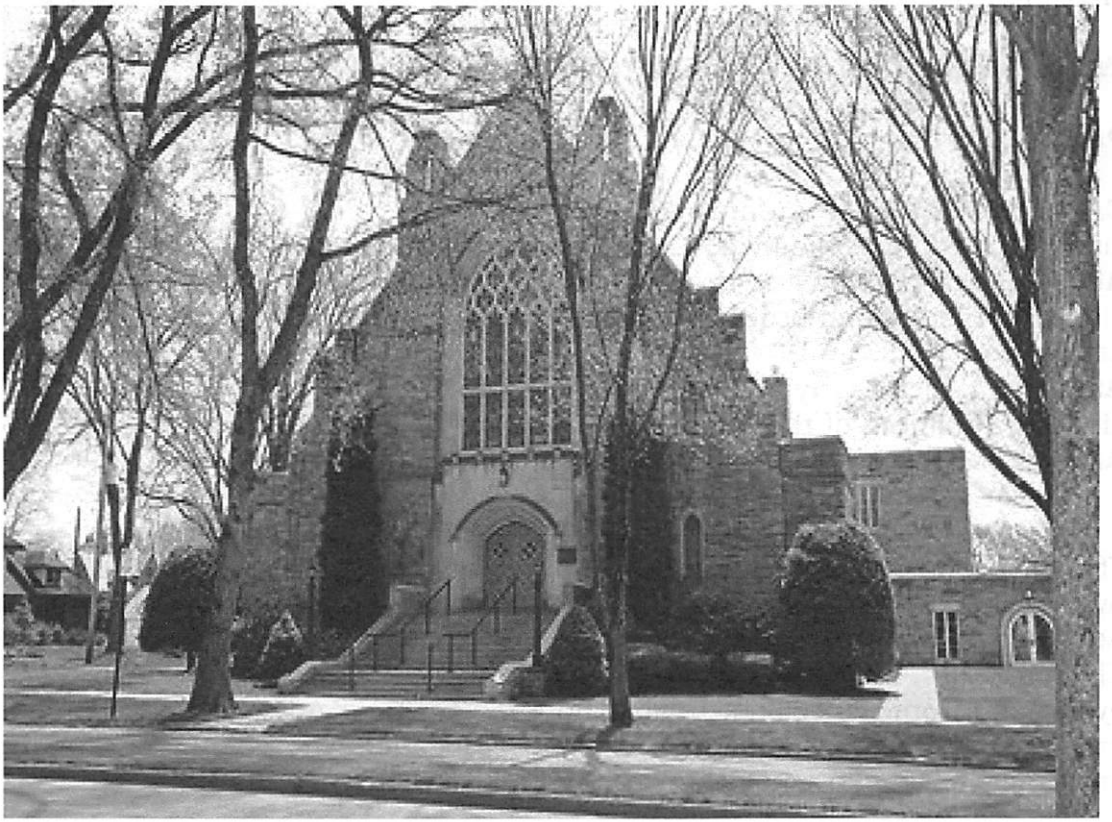
WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
JOHNSTOWN, PA
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27TH 2022 **10:15 AM**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE **"We've a Story to Tell"** Ernest Nichol

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 2) Bernice Adams
Liturgist: People of the living God, come to the mountain of God.
All: Prepare the way of the Lord.
Liturgist: Sisters and brothers in Christ, prepare your hearts to hear the word of God.
All: Prepare the way of the Lord.
Liturgist: Children of the Holy Spirit, walk in the light of God.
All: Prepare the way of the Lord. Come! Let us worship.

ADVENT SPOTLIGHT (ADVENT WREATH)

The Advent wreath is a centuries-old Christian tradition. Potentially overlooked by the candles it holds to light the way for the birth of Jesus, the Advent wreath symbolizes many themes and beliefs which are central to the Christian faith. Advent wreaths can be placed on the altar, on a side table, or even hung from the ceiling. In your home, place your Advent wreath on your entry door, on your dining table, or another location where you, your family, and your guests can enjoy the wreath during the Advent season.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE
(The Alberter Family)
THE CANDLE OF HOPE

The first candle of Advent is the "Candle of Hope". The hope of God's people, according to Israel's prophets, was to be in the Messiah, who was to be sent by God. The prophet Jeremiah proclaimed, "Blessed is the one who believes *and* trusts in *and* relies on the LORD and whose hope *and* confident expectation is the LORD."
For the certain gift of grace we have in God through Jesus Christ, **we light the "Candle of Hope".**

PRAYER
Ignite in us Your light of hope to dim the despair in our homes and in our communities. May the world know that there is a hope in us that is not our doing, but by the power of the One who was born as the hope of the world, the same Jesus who taught us to say:
All: O Come, God of all hope, bind all people in one heart and mind. Amen.

***HYMN #2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"** HYFRODOL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Bernice Adams
Liturgist: Let us together confess our sins
We need You to forgive us, O God, because we have each in our own way forgotten Your Law. We compromise our faith and desire our freedom more than our obedience to you. We are in need of Your salvation. Too often, we have given ourselves to powers and practices that destroy us. Forgive us and teach us to forgive others as we silently confess our sins...
(Time of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Bernice Adams
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

GLORIA PATRI:** ***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHILDREN'S CHAT Sarah Riffle

ANTHEM "Folk Hymn Suite" Mary McDonald

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 24: 36 - 44
L: The Word of the Lord
P: Thanks be to God

SERMON THEME: **"WHAT IF?"** Pastor Ben Nti

***HYMN #452** **"O Day of God, Draw Nigh"** ST. MICHAEL

STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION Elder Gary Lichtenfels

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY **"The Gift to Be Simple"** Shaker Melody

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Holy God of new beginnings, as we share our gifts and offerings with You, we are filled with Your hope. In this season of Advent, we give from our hearts and from all Your countless blessings we have received. May our gifts be dedicated to help heal the brokenness of our world as we welcome our Savior Jesus Christ in hope. Amen.

***HYMN #487** **"When Morning Gilds the Skies"** LAUDES DOMINI

***CHARGE/BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

"Lord, Make Us More Holy"
Lord, make us more holy; Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy, until we meet again:
Holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.

***POSTLUDE**

PASTOR
Rev. Bernard (Ben) Nti
CHILDREN'S MUSIC DIRECTOR
Kristen Kane
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Jim McCann
MINISTER OF MUSIC / ORGANIST
Jim Hutchinson
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Danielle Kendig
SEXTON
Kevin Howell
OFFICE HOURS: Tue -Fri . 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **TEL:** (814) 536 0796 Fax: (814) 536-1239
E-MAIL: info@westmontpc.org **WEBSITE:** westmontpc.org

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 2022

WE WELCOME ALL who join us in worship today. We are a Presbyterian congregation in the Reformed tradition, seeking to glorify God in our worship, our nurture and support of one another, and our service to the world, near and far. We are strengthened by your presence! We invite all guests into our fellowship and ministry. Those who wish to learn more about the church and/or are considering membership are encouraged to call the church office.

Sunday, November 27

9:00 a.m. ..... Adult Education Class - K
10:15 a.m. ..... Sunday Worship – First Week of Advent – S
11:15 a.m. ..... Fellowship Hour – F
5:00 p.m. ..... Girl Scouts #46641 – F

Monday, November 28

9:00 a.m. ..... Prayers & Squares
12:30 p.m. ..... Bridge Club – K
7:00 p.m. ..... Channel 9 – Cablevision Broadcast

Tuesday, November 29

10:00 a.m. ..... Bible Study – P
6:00 p.m. ..... Daisy Troop #16712 - F
6:30 p.m. ..... Evening Bible Study – P

Wednesday, November 30

7:30 a.m. ..... Men's Breakfast - Eat 'n Park
12:30 p.m. ..... Bridge Group – K

Thursday, December 1

11:00 a.m. ..... Memorial Committee Meeting – K
1:30 p.m. ..... Staff Meeting - K

Sunday, December 4

10:15 a.m. ..... Sunday Worship – Second Week of Advent – S
11:15 a.m. ..... Fellowship Hour – F
5:00 p.m. ..... Girl Scouts #46641 - F

S–Sanctuary F–Fellowship Hall K–Koinonia Room
C–Chapel P–Parlor MR-Music Room

All services can be viewed on our Church's Website – www.westmontpc.org

OFFICE HOURS Tue.-Fri. 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. Telephone: 814-536-0796 Fax: 814-536-1239
E-mail: info@westmontpc.org WEBSITE: westmontpc.org

SERVING THIS MORNING

Liturgist..... Bernice Adams
Ushers..... Deacons (M. Stephens, J. Strunk, J. Priest & G. Riffle)
Acolyte..... Elsie Alberter
Opener..... Betsy Suppes
Chancel Flowers..... In honor of William Black, from Monica Black
Fellowship Hour ..... Greg & Betsy Suppes
Audio/Video ..... Kevin Howell

DEACONS' CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

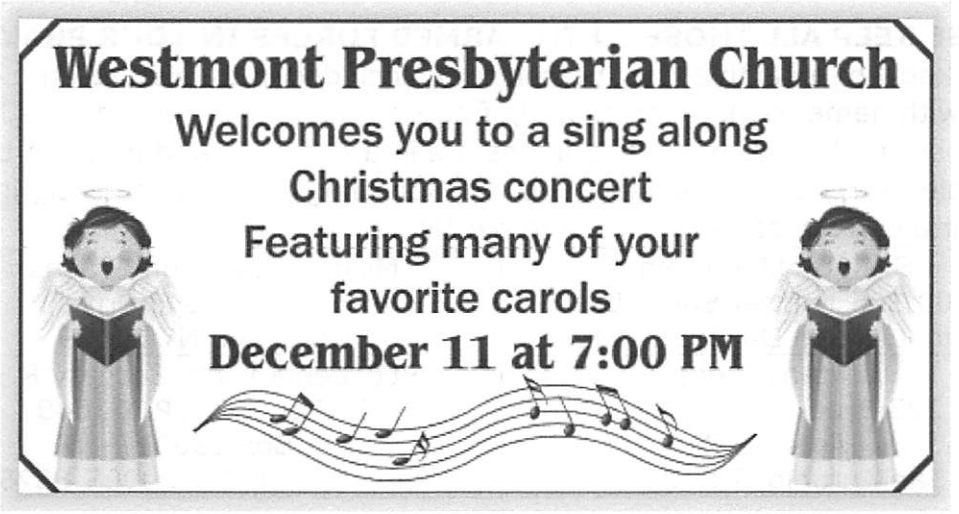
The Deacons' Christmas Community Outreach Program is in full swing! This year we are helping 25 families consisting of 117 people. This is a huge undertaking, and we need your help! As in the past, we are asking members of our congregation to purchase a gift for one or more of the children that we are helping. We will have stars available for you to pick up in the Koinonia Room after church on November 13th, 20th, and 27th. 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. The most we want you to spend is $25-$30 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 4, place it under the tree, 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 your star to a Deacon along with your money, and we will be happy to shop for you! We will also gladly accept any cash donations to help defray the cost of this program. 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.

110TH BIRTHDAY! WPC would like to have a card shower for Sara Ashman for her 110th (that's right 1-1-0) birthday on November 23rd! She is WPC's oldest member (although perhaps not the longest-time member) and is now living with her daughter, Sally, in Idaho. She loves to hear about Johnstown history and was born at home at the site of the old "Surf and Turf" restaurant, located along the Valley Pike.
Her address is: 290 Sunny Heights, Idaho Falls, ID 83402

DO YOU LIKE TO KEEP THINGS CLEAN? The Personnel Committee is searching for a part-time (six hours per week) helper to assist with general cleaning throughout the church. If you are interested, or know of someone who would be, please contact Kevin Priest at 814-341-0937. More details of the job will be provided to interested individuals.
Thank you, Personnel Committee.

FAMILY SOUP KITCHEN We would like to highlight our Family Soup Kitchen that our church has donated to for many years. We are grateful that every week, Tom & Elsa Apetz pick up and deliver our donations to this organization. In addition to the usual items, the kitchen has expressed a need for healthy snacks as well as dog & cat food. When you are doing your weekly grocery shopping, please think of these families. The collection cart is in the church basement near the elevator. Thank you!

WPC LADIES LUNCH The next WPC Ladies Lunch will be Wednesday, December 7th at noon at Sunnehanna. The cost will be $25.00. We'll have an optional White Elephant gift exchange for those that would like to participate. The gift can be something funny, useful, a re-gift, or something you just want to get out of your house, with a value of $10.00 or less. Come join us for a time of fun & fellowship to begin the holidays. Please contact Sally King (304 561-4158) or Donna Prothero (814 659-7272) for your reservation.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE! Our Theme for 2023 is **"A Rediscovered Gift, Being the Hands and Feet of God"**. It is that time of year when we ask for a commitment (Pledge) from you for our 2023 Budget. Listen to our Minute for Mission & read about this in our upcoming Thread. Thank You!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

There are several different advent devotionals available for pickup in the lobby, outside of the office.

In Advent, we prepare our homes and churches as we anticipate the arrival of the Light of the World. WPC has made available, for your use, the following devotionals for self-reflection and spiritual formation

- Prophets & Promises – Devotions for Advent and Christmas.
- Reflections in the Season of Advent – Austin Presbyterian Seminary
- WPC Advent Devotional – 2021 version
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Advent Devotional – www.pts.edu/devotional

Need to Request a Prayer Quilt? Interested in Quilting?

Just call or text Linda Capp at 814-241-6963/home 535-3263 or email at lcapp@atlanticbb.net or Joyce Norris at 814-243-2659 and joyceanorris@gmail.com. Check out the new PRAYERS AND SQUARES photo album on the www.westmontpc.org website!

PLEASE KEEP ALL THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES IN YOUR PRAYERS.

If you know of an active-duty person to be included in the list, call the church office with name, rank, address and, if appropriate, an e-mail address. We remember that some of these persons are in a war zone and may not be available for regular communication. The following person is on assignment without a current address: SPC Andrew Medley.

S. Sgt. Mitch Stein 5500 125th Street South East Minot, North Dakota 58701	Michael & Allyson Grados 9428 Hawkeye Drive Brewerton, NY 13029
Brittany Clegg 223 Brackenridge Ave. Apt. 4312 San Antonio, TX 78209	Rct. Zentkovich, Zachary R. 1st RTBN CO A PLT 1049 Box 19001 Paris Island, SC 29905-6325