



THE THREAD

WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

By way of introduction, I am Ken Foust (please call me "Ken"), honorably retired by Redstone Presbytery in 2021 after a 38-year pastoral career. During my ministry I served 3 churches, the last being Grace Community Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell, where I spent 25 years. I have been married for 40 years to the love of my life, Barb. Barb is a retired elementary teacher. Our son Will and daughter-in-law Jada live in Arkansas where he is a high school special education teacher and she is an operator of a nuclear power plant. They are expecting their first child (our first grandchild!) in February. Our daughter Carrie passed away from AML leukemia in 2011 at the age of 20.

This month you and I will begin a new journey together as I assume pastoral responsibilities at Westmont. It is my privilege and pleasure to do so. I come to you as a "covenant" pastor, a Book of Order designation that emphasizes the temporary nature of our relationship. I will be with you for 6 months, during which time I will strive to provide the best pastoral leadership and care I possibly can. As one who has comfortably settled into retirement the past 4 plus years, I anticipate having to knock some rust off and reestablish some old semi-forgotten routines but, with God's help and yours as well, I am confident this can be done. Old dogs can relearn old tricks.

We are doing this, not out of a sense of boredom with our lives, but because we believe this is what God is calling us to do. Barb and I truly enjoy our life as retirees and are especially looking forward to the blessing of new life coming to our family in February. But, during our recent times with you as I guest-preached and in subsequent conversations with some of you and folks at presbytery, it became clear to us that God was calling us to Johnstown (even in the winter) and ministry with you at WPC. Barb and I are excited about this and eagerly look forward to establishing meaningful relationships with you, which is what church and ministry are all about. To this end we ask a favor-for a little while please introduce yourselves to us whenever and wherever you see us. It's been a long time since we had to put a multitude of names and faces together all at once. We want to do this quickly and well. If we mess up, we ask that grace would prevail and you would both correct us and forgive us.

We will be moving into the beautiful manse next door to the church on December 1. Our first Sunday with you is December 7. We are looking forward to beginning this new adventure God has laid before us. May God bless you and all of Westmont.

Dear Fellow Church Member,

Westmont Presbyterian Church is pleased to welcome Rev. Ken Foust and his wife Barb to WPC to serve as it's Covenant (Transitional) Pastor. Many of you already know Ken and Barb from their three earlier visits to WPC in August, September and November of this year. Rev. Foust's three earlier visits to WPC were inspirational for the Church. We are all still talking about how meaningful his sermons are. Ken and Barb are very warm and gracious people and you will enjoy getting to know them. The Session believes we are so blessed to have Ken and Barb join us at WPC as we move forward into the next chapter of our Church's history.

As Ken stated in his letter to the members of WPC, "it became clear to us that God was calling us to Johnstown (even in the winter) and ministry with you at WPC". When the Interim Pastor Search Committee (IPSC) first met with Ken and Barb, we all were sitting in the Parlor discussing the possibility of them coming to WPC and for Ken to serve as our Covenant Pastor. As the conversation progressed it became clear to all of us on the IPSC, both individually and collectively, that Ken and Barb were supposed to come to WPC to help WPC move forward and that this was God's will. Every question, issue or possible hurdle that arose was effortlessly and immediately resolved. Everything fell into place, and we remarked to one another that this was just what was supposed to happen, and fortunately it did.

Ken and Barb will move into the Manse on Monday, December 1, and Ken will be in the pulpit on Sunday, December 7. Following the Worship Service on Sunday, December 7, we will be hosting a Welcome Reception for Ken and Barb in Fellowship Hall. This would be a great opportunity to meet and greet Ken and Barb. There will be plenty of food and delectable holiday treats available for this occasion.

Lastly, the December 7 service would be an opportune time for any member who has not been at church in a while, for whatever reason, to join us for this service. It would be a chance to hear a thought provoking sermon, meet Ken and Barb, see old friends and acquaintances, and have good food and fellowship. You will be glad you came. If you cannot come on December 7th, come on the 14th or 21st. There are a lot of good things happening at the Church this Christmas season, please come to any or all events. You will be welcomed, and your participation appreciated. Again, we feel confident that you will feel renewed. It is the beginning of Advent and a new church year. Speaking on behalf of the committee, your spirit will feel lifted when you hear one of Ken's sermons.

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this letter and if you have any questions or concerns about anything regarding the Church, please feel free to contact any Session member and we will respond quickly and professionally to your concerns.

Blessings to All

Interim Pastor Search Committee of WPC Session.

Those Who Serve

Lay Readers

12/7 Monica Black *
12/14 Greg Suppes *
12/21 Mark Parseghian *
12/24 Bernice Adams *
12/28 Dave Thompson *

*Second Reading Barb Foust

Children's Chat

12/7 No Children's Chat
12/14 Advent Pageant
12/21 Betsy Suppes
12/28 Gretchen Lohr

Chancel Flowers

12/7 Joan Rush
12/14 Chiz & Hibby Price
12/21 The Parseghians
12/24 Pointsettas
12/28 Pointsettas

Openers & Closers

12/7 Kevin Howell & Jim McCann
12/14 Kevin Howell & Jim McCann
12/21 Kevin Howell & Jim McCann
12/24 Kevin Howell & Chiz Price
12/28 Kevin Howell & Jim McCann

Fellowship Hour

12/7 Christine Wiegman & Session
12/14 CE Committee
12/21 TBD

Acolyte

12/7 WPC Chancel Choir
12/14 WPC Chancel Choir
12/21 WPC Chancel Choir
12/24 WPC Chancel Choir
12/28 WPC Chancel Choir



Ariana Cort 12/01	Richard Hess 12/15
Jonathan Esch 12/02	Steven Maciorowski 12/15
William Krupa 12/03	Rex Brown 12/18
Kevin Priest 12/06	Noah Marsinko 12/19
Maame Appiah 12/06	Nathan Marsinko 12/19
Darlene Holtzman 12/07	David Price 12/27
Dianne Weigle 12/09	Donna J. Davis 12/28
Joan Rush 12/11	Carolyn Casey 12/28
Marian Allen 12/11	Kim Betz 12/29
Patty Dewar 12/12	Thomas Brownlee 12/30
Olivia Waddell 12/12	Linda Krupa 12/30
Mackenzie Kendig 12/13	Jerry Moll 12/30

From the Swanson Music Suite

Our Christmas Concert this year will be on Sunday, December 21 at 7:00PM. We will be doing works by Rutter, Forrester, Hill and two major works by Hal Hopson and Craig Courtney.

The Hopson work, "Come, Ye Faithful", tells the complete Advent story with songs/carols and narrations. It calls for a lot of congregational participation so bring your singing voices.

The Courtney work is a parody of The Twelve Days of Christmas utilizing music from different periods of classical music – 17th century Italy, 18th century Germany, 19th century Russia, etc. Craig was Carl Miller's favorite composer and wrote "The Whisper", the anthem dedicated in honor of Carl and commissioned by the Choir.

As I write this, the memory of last night's program (Nov 23) is still resonating in my mind, and ears. John Dixon was just wonderful, and on display was his amazing, creative genius. His playing was perfect, and his warm, meaningful words just added to the evening. The work dedicated to the church, "Fantasia", will be in one of his future publications and, as with his previous music books, will be circulated throughout the sacred music industry. Thus, our church's name, which appears at the top of the music as a dedication, will be seen possibly world-wide. John is well-respected internationally, and likewise, his music and writings. It was another fitting part of our church's on-going 100-year anniversary events. The next one is January 4 with acclaimed organist and Western Pennsylvania native, Paul Jacobs.

Special thanks to the Committee, Betsy Suppes – Chair, and to all who made last night such a success. And most certainly to Gretchen for the post-concert reception.

Hutch

Session Update

Advent wreath candle lighters scheduled for Sundays and Christmas Eve.

Luzerne Street Manse and Pastor's office prepared and ready for Rev. Ken and Mrs. Barb Foust.

Advent Program speaking parts all assigned and plans proceeding for Sunday, December 14th during the worship service.

Music Performance will be held with WPC Chancel Choir and orchestra, directed by Jim Hutchinson, Sunday evening, December 21st at 7:00 PM.

Approved - District 4 Enrichment Day for Saturday, February 7, 2026 at WPC.

Annual Committee reports are due Dec. 31st. The Annual meeting will be held in January, to go over the 2025 yearly committee reports and the 2026 budget.

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Mission Committee:

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE HAS BEEN VERY BUSY! WE PROVIDED AGE APPROPRIATE BIBLES FOR THE DEACONS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, THE GENEVA PRESCHOOL STUDENTS AND THE FERNDAL GOOD NEWS CLUB THAT MEETS AT W.P.C. ON MONDAYS AFTER SCHOOL.

OUR HOPE IN A BAG MISSION IS IN FULL SWING. WE WILL PRESENT CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS TO APPROXIMATELY 50 CLIENTS IN AN ADDITION RECOVERY PROGRAM AT SPIRIT LIFE ON DECEMBER 18 COMPLETE WITH SANTA, ELVES, COOKIES AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS. WE ARE COLLECTING FULLSIZE SHAMPOO, BODY LOTION, CHAPSTICK AND LIP BALM, CANDY, JOURNALS AND PENS UNTIL DEC. 14.

WE ARE RINGING BELLS FOR SALVATION ARMY ON DEC. 5 AT THE GALLERIA.

WE DONATED \$1500 TO PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER AID TO RESPOND TO THE HURRICANE IN JAMAICA.

PLEASE KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS.

PRAYER LIST: WPC, LAURA & NATE, TRACY, JAMES, ANGELA, LYN, LYNN, CINDY H., MIKE R., EVAN, CHRIS S., RODNEY EATMAN, LAUREL EATMAN, DOUG MYERS, PAUL BARIBAULT, STEPHEN MECK, DAN KOVACS, SHARON PLETCHER, VIRGINIA, TED NYLAND, TINA, MARGE TARSOVICH, JIM DARR, DEBORAH DEGOL, JOHN NORRIS, JEAN LIVINGSTON, DAVE LIVINGSTON, LESLIE WINTERS, JEANNE STRUNK, JASMINE CONNOR, TED & CAROLE COREY, GRETYL LAUF, ANNE BRADFORD, KATHY J., NANCY C., ALAN BURNOSKY, KAY, LYNN, MATTHEW, LOUISE & JIM ABRAMS, RICK & DENISE MEZYK, SKIP & ADELLE PICKING, THE FLEEGLE FAMILY, PASTOR ROLAND, MIKE & ANGIE HALE.

Prayers & Squares

Can you touch a prayer?
YOU CAN!!! ... if it is tied into a prayer quilt made by our Prayers & Squares group. Know someone in need of prayer support who would like a prayer quilt? Would you like to join the quilters?

Please contact:
Linda Capp: 814.241.6963
lcapp@atlanticbb.net
Holly Capp: 814.270.0509
hollyhock11@gmail.com

Deacon's Corner

We are wrapping up our Christmas Program. The gifts will be handed out to the families on Dec. 13th. This year there are 19 families with 74 kids that we helped. We would like to thank everyone who took a star and bought gifts, we wouldn't be able to do this without your help. A big thank you to the Mission Committee for purchasing age-appropriate Bibles for the kids.

December Ushers

Monica Black
Josh Hinson
Christine Wiegman
John Norris

WPC Christian Ed December News



Upcoming Events

- December: Advent Pageant-14th ;
Sunday School Christmas Party- 21st
- January: Return to Sunday School- 11th ;



Youth News

GND will meet on December 13th to help distribute items for the Deacon's Christmas Program. Following the distribution, we will have food and a movie in Fellowship Hall. Times will be sent out to parents the Monday before the event.

CE Announcements

In December there will be one week of Sunday School. Due to the special services and the holiday, the Sunday School classes will only meet on Dec 21 for a Christmas party in fellowship hall during the Sunday School time. There will be a movie, crafts, and snacks.

Sunday School will return on January 11th.

Stewardship

2026 Financial Pledge Cards

Although the Annual Stewardship Campaign has ended, it's still not too late to turn in your 2026 Financial Stewardship Commitment (pledge) card. Please complete and turn in your pledge card as soon as possible

As part of this year's Annual Stewardship Campaign, Writing the Next Chapter: Growing Together in Faith and Generosity, members who are not yet tithing are asked to consider increasing their giving by just 1% of their annual income. This small step can make a big difference in supporting our worship, outreach and ministries that bless our community.

The Perfect Gift: Sharing the Joy of Christmas

When Jesus was born among us, He came as a helpless baby bringing joy, peace and salvation to His people. Fully human and fully God, Jesus became one of us. He entered into our world and shared in our vulnerabilities, our struggles and our triumphs. Through Him, we are led, known and forever connected — to God and to one another.

At Christmas, we celebrate the perfect gift — the gift of God's own Son. In response, we have the opportunity to reflect that same generous love through the Christmas Joy Offering.

This special offering supports two important ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA):

•**Caring for church leaders and their families:** Half of the offering provides critical financial assistance to current and retired pastors, missionaries and other church workers who are facing challenging circumstances. These gifts help meet urgent needs and remind our leaders that they are not alone — the church stands beside them in love and gratitude.

•**Supporting education and leadership in communities of color:** The other half of the offering helps sustain Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that equip students from communities of color for leadership and service. For more than 140 years, this commitment has helped nurture and empower future leaders of faith, character, and compassion.

Your generosity makes a real difference. You can give using the Christmas Joy Offering envelope in your envelope packet or pew rack, or simply mark your gift "Christmas Joy."

Together, let's celebrate the perfect gift — Jesus Christ — by sharing joy, hope and love with others.

Finance Committee

Two ways to make gifts to Westmont Presbyterian Church on a tax efficient basis.

1. Qualified charitable distribution (QCD): This is a direct transfer of IRA funds to the church. It is not subject to tax and can be used to satisfy your minimum required distribution (RMD). To be eligible you must be 70 ½ years old and the maximum you can donate is \$ 108,000 per person per year (2025). This can be a beneficial strategy for reducing taxable income. Before executing a tax strategy, check with your tax advisor

2.Appreciated Stock – Gifting: Appreciated stock can be tax efficient because you can avoid paying capital gains tax on the stock's increase in value and potentially receive a charitable distribution for its full fair market value. This strategy involves transferring shares from your brokerage account to the charity (church). You will need to contact Kevin Howell so your brokerage firm will have the information necessary to transfer your shares to the church's account with Fidelity. Check with your tax advisor to see how this strategy works for you.

October General Giving	\$16,075
October General Giving Budget	\$30,000
Year to date General Giving	\$276,094
Year to date General Giving Budget	\$300,000

What's Happening

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Christmas Grief Service

Westmont Presbyterian Church will be having a Christmas Grief Service for the congregation and will also open to the community. The service will be on Saturday, Dec 20th at 4:00 PM. Rev. Ken Foust will be leading the service. This will be a healing service for those grieving during the Christmas season. The service will feature a healing message, scripture, and music. All are welcome.

Christmas Concert

On Dec 21 our chancel choir will be performing "Come Ye Faithful". The program will start at 7:00 PM with a reception to follow. This concert is free to attend with a free will offering.

Christmas Eve Service

This year we will be combining our two Christmas Eve Services into one. It will start at 7:30 PM.

Advent Pageant

On December 14th our children and youth will be performing "A Christmas to Believe In" during the Children's Chat time of the service. There is still room for those who don't want a speaking part or any adult that would like to participate.

Centennial Events

The Centennial Committee has two events happening in January. On the 4th we will have an organ concert from Paul Jacobs and on the 17th we are having a Trivia Afternoon. Be on the lookout for more info soon.

December

7: Communion
Sunday

14: Advent
Pageant

20: Christmas
Grief Service
@ 4PM

21: Christmas
Concert @
7PM

24: Christmas
Eve Service @
7:30PM

**Thread
Articles Due
Dec. 19th
2025**

Articles must be
submitted via email to
both
info@westmontpc.org
and
blohr@westmontpc.org



WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

*“COME YE
FAITHFUL”*

DECEMBER 21, 2025 AT
7:00 PM

*A CHRISTMAS CONCERT FEATURING
WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN'S
CHANCEL CHOIR*



601 LUZERNE ST, JOHNSTOWN PA 15905

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM | THIS PROGRAM IS FREE TO
ATTEND WITH A RECEPTION AFTER.





As a member of the Tribute to Women committee, I am asking you to speak to the clubs and committees you are involved with to bring attention to the YWCA's Tribute to Women program. A potential nominee may work with you or serve on committees and boards with you.

Please encourage people you know to honor such a woman by submitting a nomination form for them to be considered for the Award. **All nominations must be received by February 2, 2026. We need your help!**

The YWCA Tribute to Women, established in 1987, publicly recognizes and honors women who make significant contributions to Cambria and /or Somerset County. The Tribute to Women Awards are given to one woman in eight Categories (Arts & Letters, Business, Community Service, Education, Lady Liberty, Non-Profit Services, Professionals and S.T.E.M).

The YWCA Greater Johnstown Tribute to Women Awards promotes the YWCA's emphasis on empowerment, personal growth, and leadership for all women. All nominations must be received by February 14, 2025.

Nomination forms can be obtained at the YWCA, The Tribune Democrat, and online at TTW2025@gmail.com.

Thank you for your help!

FEELING SMART? JOIN WPC CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
FOR AN AFTERNOON OF

TRIVIA

January

17th from

1:00-3:00

pm

FELLOWSHIP HALL

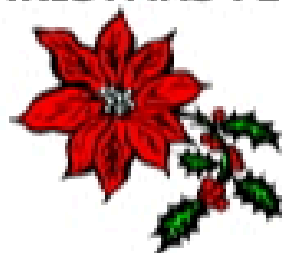
PRIZES AWAIT OUR
WINNERS!

This is a team event,
either make a team
before you arrive or
form one here!

WE WOULD LIKE INVITE THE CONGREGATION TO SUBMIT
THE QUESTIONS. THESE QUESTIONS CAN BE ABOUT THE
CHURCH, JOHNSTOWN COMMUNITY, THE BIBLE, OR ANY
GENERAL SUBJECT EXCLUDING POP CULTURE. IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A QUESTION WITH THE ANSWER
PLEASE CONTACT DONNA PROTHERO EITHER BY PHONE AT
(814)659-7272 OR BY EMAIL AT
BANDDPROTHERO@GMAIL.COM BY JANUARY 10TH.

WE ALSO ASK IF YOU HAVE ANY CHURCH MEMORABILIA
THAT YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO BRING SO ALL WHO
ATTEND CAN SEE IT.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER(S) AND MEMORIAL GIFTS



Deadline – December 14th, 2025

The time to decorate our Chancel for Christmas has once again arrived! If you would like to provide flowers in memory/honor of a loved one or make a donation to the Memorial Fund, please use this form. The flowers always enhance our sanctuary at this beautiful time of the church season.

Please use separate checks for the Christmas Flowers, Memorial Fund and your regular offering. Thank you.

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

\$11.00 for each red poinsettia(s) #_____ Amount enclosed \$_____

\$11.00 for each white poinsettia(s) #_____ Amount enclosed \$_____

Total Amount enclosed for poinsettia(s) \$_____

=====

MEMORIAL FUND GIFT



Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Total Amount enclosed for memorial(s) \$_____

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K) 3:00pm Good News Club (F)	2 9:00am Garden Club Mary Jo Gardill (F) 11:00am Spiritual Direction	3 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 9:00am Thread Mailing (K) 10:00am Building & Grounds (K) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchanko	4 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K) 6:00pm Centennial Committee (K)	5 9:00am Garden Club Set Up (F)	6 11:00am Garden Club (F)
7 NO Childrens Chat 9:00am Adult Bible Study 9:00am Confirmation Class (C) 10:15am Worship - Advent 2 - Communion (S) 11:30am Fish Hr (F)	8 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K) 3:00pm Good News Club (F)	9	10 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 5:00pm WFCM (K) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchanko	11 7:30am Finance (E&P) 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	12 Session Reports Due	13 10:30am Deacon's Christmas Program Distribution
14 NO Childrens Chat 9:00am Confirmation Class (C) 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship - Pageant - Advent 3 (S) 11:30am CE Fellowship Hour (F)	15 8:00am Garden Club 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K)	16 11:00am Spiritual Direction	17 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 9:00am GPS Christmas (F) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchanko 7:00pm Session	18 9:00am GPS Christmas (F) 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	19 Thread Articles Due	20 4:00pm Christmas Grief Service
21 Childrens Chat - Betsy 9:00am Confirmation Class (C) 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship - Advent 4 (S) 10:30am Youth Christmas Party 11:30am Fish Hr (F) 7:30pm Christmas Concert (S)	22 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K)	23	24 Christmas Eve - Office closes at 12:00 PM 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 7:30pm Christmas Eve Worship (S)	25 Christmas - Office Closed	26	27
28 Childrens Chat - Gretchen 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 11:30am Music/Worship (P) 11:30am Fish Hr (F)	29 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K)	30 11:00am Spiritual Direction	31 Annual Committee Reports Due 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 9:00am Thread Mailing (K) 10:00am Building & Grounds			