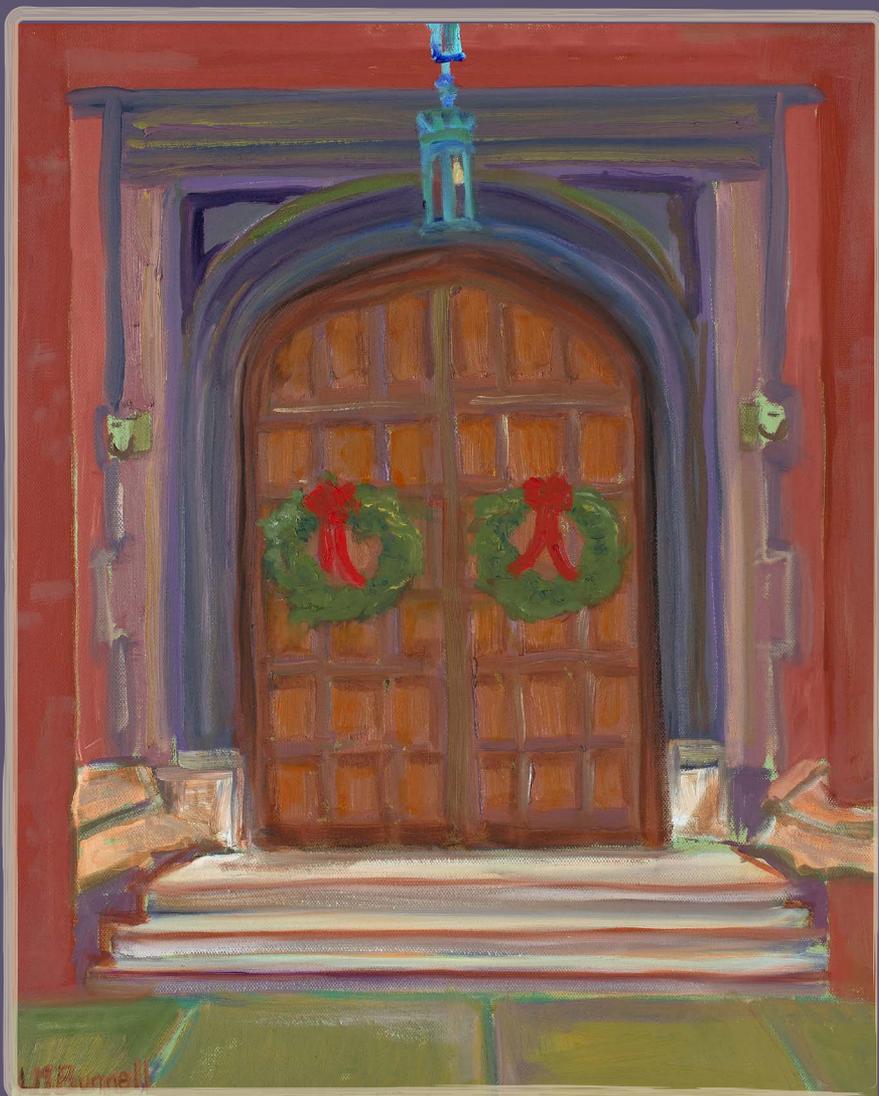


Welcome to Westminster



wovent**together**
Advent 2022

WORSHIP

First Sunday in Advent, November 27

Worship at 10:00 am, on Zoom ONLY.

Go to wpcalbany.org for the Zoom link.

Note: This Sunday there will be NO in-person worship service at Westminster!

“Agree and Build” (Scriptures: Isaiah 2:1-5 and Matthew 24:36-44)

Our reading from Matthew 24 paints a picture of a world on the edge of a massive change. What kinds of habits of mind and body put us in a position to respond to unexpected arrivals with a nimble, adaptive spirit?

Second Sunday in Advent, December 4

Whole Family Worship with Communion at 10:00 am, in-person ONLY

Note: This Sunday we will not be broadcasting our worship service on Zoom. A recording will be posted later in the day on our YouTube channel.

“Stumps” (Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12)

Where is new life coming into the world? Isaiah suggests we’ll find it in the stumps. Endings are the place where beginnings are born. How might that image help us to see our world, our church, our own lives with new eyes?

Third Sunday in Advent, December 11

Worship at 10:00 am, in-person or on Zoom

“Here Is Your God” (Scriptures: Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11)

The Christian story does not invite us into endless waiting. Our story includes an arrival, the announcement that God is here among us. How does that declaration change us? How does it shape the hope in our hearts?

Blue Christmas Service with the FOCUS Churches

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 7:00 pm. In-person and on Zoom.

Go to www.firstchurchinalbany.org for the Zoom link. Doors open at 6:30 pm. First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl Street, Albany

This special service is for those who are grieving a loss of a loved one during this season. Feel free to come and light a candle in remembrance of a loved one. This year we are also including a community lament for the deaths due to gun violence in Albany and the 13 in Buffalo, NY.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18

Performed in-person during our 10:00 am Worship Service

Join us as the children and youth of our congregation tell us the Christmas story in words, actions and songs. All children can have a role in our pageant—friends and neighbors are welcome to join in!

Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24. In-person and on Zoom

7:45 pm - Musical Prelude with organ, handbells and special guests

8:00 pm - Lessons and Carols and Candlelight

This is the night when we celebrate the arrival of God among us. We are bold to proclaim that the earth, with all of its brokenness and pain, still is the home for God. The Christmas story gives us the confidence to look for God's light throughout the world, and to allow it to shine forth from our lives.

Christmas Day Worship

December 25, 10:00 am on Zoom ONLY (no in-person service)

Please join us for this simple service of scripture, carols and stories.

Watch Night Service Online

December 31, 11:00 pm-Midnight on Zoom

Watch Night services are found in many Christian traditions throughout the world. We welcome you to join in fellowship and worship, reviewing the year past, and preparing in prayer and song for the year to come.

STUDY

The Poetry of Advent and Christmas with Rev. David McMillan

Sunday mornings in Advent, 9:00 am to 9:45 am

November 27 on Zoom

December 4 in the church library

December 11 and 18 - location to be determined by participants

Join David McMillan each Sunday morning to reflect on poems of the season by great poets. John Milton offers his poem as a present "to the infant God." W. B. Yeats sees a rough beast "slouching toward Bethlehem." Denise Levertov ponders as Mary, "Pushes out into air, a Man-child needing, like any other, milk and love." W. H. Auden writes words for an oratorio never to be composed. Advent and Christmas in poetry...richer, deeper, more satisfying.

Practicing HOPE

Thursday mornings in Advent, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

December 1, 8, 15, and 22. In-person in the Welles Room

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff and Rev. Paul Randall will take turns leading this study which challenges us to consider hope not as a mental attitude, but as a practice that Jesus modeled for his followers. Each week we'll look at a passage of scripture and discuss how to live into hope throughout the week.

CONNECT

Advent Bagel Brunch and the “Hanging of the Greens”

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 am to 12 noon

Adults, youth and kids are invited to join this informal gathering hosted by the Christian Life and Learning Team. We'll all help decorate our sanctuary with trees and garlands and nativity scenes. We'll have bagels, spreads and drinks so please plan to linger and connect with our community.

Sunday School Christmas Party

Sunday, December 18, 11:15 am (directly following our worship service)

After participating in (or appreciating!) our Christmas pageant, all children and youth are invited to gather in our Fellowship Hall to decorate (and eat!) Christmas cookies and play games.

Winter Solstice with the Westminster Commons*

Wednesday, December 21, 5:00 pm

Join neighbors and friends around a (small) bonfire in the Westminster Church parking lot. All ages are welcome. Warm drinks, warm wishes and glow sticks on the longest night of the year.

**Westminster Commons is an initiative of friends and neighbors that aims to grow a sense of connection and common purpose among our communities.*

TGIF Zoom Christmas Party with the Deacons

Friday, December 23, 11:00 am to 12 noon

All are welcome for this informal time of connecting with old friends. Festive attire is welcome!

PRAY

Prayer Line

Every Wednesday night, starting at 7:00 pm, on Zoom

A group of 4-8 members and friends of our congregation gather on Zoom each week to reflect on a passage of scripture, share prayer concerns, and pray together. Let us pray for you and with you! Anyone is welcome to drop in. See our website

SERVE

Schuyler Inn Winter Wear Giveaway

Monday, December 12, 4:15 pm to 6:00 pm

Join us in supporting families in need this season! The annual giveaway of winter hats, scarves, gloves and socks will happen at Schuyler Inn located at 575 Broadway in Menands. This shelter for seniors and families is full now with 87 adults and 150 children, so the need is great. Nancy Ost is coordinating the event and is seeking volunteers to help. If you can volunteer—or to give a donation to support this event—please feel free to contact Nancy Ost or the church office at office@wpcalbany.org with any questions.

Capital Area Council of Churches Emergency Overflow Shelter Every Sunday Evening (November through April)

Westminster volunteers take turns preparing and delivering nutritious meals for shelter guests. We welcome your help! Email Sheila Wrede (smwrede@wpcalbany.org) or Valerie Shanley (vshanley@nycap.rr.com) for more information.

FOCUS Breakfast Program

Westminster is proud to host the “Breakfast Club” program every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 7:00 am until 8:30 am. The FOCUS Churches of Albany runs this program which provides over 18,000 breakfasts and bag lunches to guests each year. Breakfast is staffed by volunteers who serve, clean, and provide hospitality to guests. Volunteers are needed for a range of times between 6:00 am and 9:30 am. If you’d like to help out, please call the FOCUS office at 518-443-0460 or email Belinda Quaye (belindaq@focuschurches.net).

FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry

Located in Emmanuel Baptist Church, across State Street from Westminster, The FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry provides families from the Capitol Hill, Center Square, Hudson, Washington and Park South neighborhoods, and beyond, with a 6-day supply of food. Volunteers are needed for a number of positions, including guest check-in and packing groceries. Please contact the FOCUS office at 518-443-0460 if you are interested in helping.

African Missions at Westminster

At Westminster, we are committed to vital mission partnerships in the West African countries of Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Through partnerships, we strive to transform the lives of children and families in Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone through projects addressing shared priorities, including education, computer literacy, health care, menstrual hygiene supplies & education, micro loans and more. We welcome your interest, support and participation! For more information, call the Westminster office (518-436-8599) and we'll connect you to the dynamic leaders of this ministry.

Christmas Memorial Poinsettias

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, December 14

Christmas is a time full of memories. We are again offering poinsettias which may be given in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an occasion or the season. The poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and donors are welcome to take them home with you after the service. The names of persons memorialized will be printed in the bulletin for our Christmas Eve service and also displayed on a slide for those who are gathering by Zoom. The suggested donation is \$20. Please call or email the church office with your request (include specific listing and spelling of names) no later than Wednesday, December 14: office@wpcalbany.org / 518-436-8747. Payment can be made online or by sending a check to the church office: wpcalbany.org/give or mail to 85 Chestnut St., Albany, NY 12210.

Cover art by Lynn Bunnell



WESTMINSTER
— Presbyterian Church —

Wesminster Presbyterian Church

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Minister

pastor@wpcalbany.org

Church office: 518-436-8544 • office@wpcalbany.org

85 Chestnut Street, Albany, NY 12210

wpcalbany.org