

¡La Luz!

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe



Advent at Westminster!

“Advent’ means coming or arrival. This word has a double significance, as in Advent we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and look with longing for his coming again. The season of Advent begins with an emphasis on final things (eschatology). We watch and pray with expectant hope for the establishment of God’s justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come – Jesus Christ our Savior.” *(From the Book of Common Worship)*

We will journey toward Christmas together in a variety of ways - worship, study, and art. Please join us for any or all of these activities! (See pg 4 for details!)

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Prayers for Our Congregation

Joe Dudziak
Jim Elliott
Elizabeth O. Ethelbah
Carol and Richard Fallis
Lawrence, Julie, Isabel,
and Carmen Gallegos
Gerald and Gabriella
Garcia

Over the course of the year, all members and friends of Westminster will appear on this list. Please hold them in prayer.

Joys & Concerns

Jim Williams
The Ibrahimi family
Consuelo’s niece
Donna O.s’ daughter
Cindy
Robert McDonald’s son
Jason

Birthdays!

12/10: Eric Ytuarte

QUERIDO WESTMINSTER:

Welcome to Advent!

I invite you to make space for quiet and reflection this Advent season. It's all too easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle and yet this time of preparation is deeply important. We wait with expectation and hope for the Christ Child's arrival – and we also reckon with the brokenness of the world, a world where our Christ was born in a stable with the animals because there was no room for him or his parents in the inn.

And each week in our worship we will look forward to Christmas and reflect on the past. We'll sing *Come, Come, Emmanuel* each week, reminding us that our prayers are a cry for revolution long denied – and we'll also sing *"Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King... Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King."* We'll use the words of poet-theologian Jan Richardson as we gather, simple words that remind us of the complexities of this season. We began the First Sunday of Advent with her "Blessing for when the world is ending," and as we enter Advent, I invite you to reflect on these words from that blessing:



"But, listen, this blessing means to be anything but morose. It has not come to cause despair.

"It is here simply because there is nothing a blessing is better suited for than an ending, nothing that cries out more for a blessing than when a world is falling apart.

"This blessing will not fix you, will not mend you, will not give you false comfort; it will not talk to you about one door opening when another one closes.

It will simply sit itself beside you among the shards and gently turn your face toward the direction from which the light will come, gathering itself about you as the world begins again."

Bendiciones,
Rev. Madeline

MADELINE'S SCHEDULE:

December 27-Jan 1: Vacation

Love for Others Stewardship 2023

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

The 2023 Stewardship campaign concluded with Stewardship Sunday worship on November 13. Thank you to everyone who made a commitment to our congregation!

As of this writing, we have received 32 pledges for a total of \$117,595. We are so grateful for your support and commitment! Though we were not able to gather after worship on the 13th for a luncheon, we hope to do so early in the new year.

The Stewardship Committee, the Money Cares Committee, the Session, and Rev. Madeline are all deeply grateful for your support and commitment to Westminster, which will allow us to continue to share our "Love for Others" with our congregation, with Santa Fe, and with the world.

If you have not yet pledged your support and commitment to Westminster, you can still do so! Pledge cards are still available at the church - and we would also be happy to send you a pledge card if you need! You can also give online, where you can set up a recurring gift. If you use our online giving, please consider giving an additional 2%, to cover the administrative fee for our online giving portal.

We know that if we love others, God will remain in us!

In Christ,

Sylvia Graft and Kathleen Watson Nadler

'LOVE FOR OTHERS' ART PROJECT



On the wall in the sanctuary hangs our "Love for Others" artwork. Though our Stewardship season ended with Stewardship Sunday on November 13, this poster remains in the sanctuary, showing Westminster's love for others through images of our loved ones and our mission work. This poster is a testament to the work Westminster already does to share our love of God, and we encourage you to continue to bring in your photos, newspaper articles, or other mementos so we can fill in our heart! Supplies for adding to the poster can be found in the nearest sideways pew.

What's Happening at Westminster During Advent?

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday worship: 11am, Dec. 4, 11, and 18

We gather for worship each Sunday of Advent, celebrating the Lord's Supper on December 4 and 18! All are welcome to join us, in person or via the livestream on YouTube.

The Longest Night: Space for Grief, 5:30pm Dec. 21

The holiday season can be hard for many of us, reminding us of lost loved ones and broken relationships. On the longest night of the year, we will gather for a quiet, contemplative service that holds both our grief and our hope.

Christmas Eve Worship, 4pm Dec. 24

Come join us on Christmas Eve, as we hear familiar words from John's gospel.

Christmas Day Lessons, Carols, and Hot Cocoa, 11am

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, and we'll gather for an informal Lessons and Carols, with hot cocoa and coffee for all! Wear your pajamas if you want, and come sing your way through Luke's version of the story.

Sunday Jan. 1, 11am, New Years Day worship

We welcome Revs. Kaarin and Wes Granberg-Michaelson, who will lead worship on New Years Day. Wes is a global ecumenical leader whose work has highlighted the intersection of faith with public life. Kaarin is a retired hospital chaplain for elderly and brain injured patients. They are ordained in the Reformed Church of America.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Advent Devotional Gatherings: 7pm via Zoom, Tuesdays
Dec. 6, 13, and 20

We'll gather together to read scripture through text and art, offering our prayers as we journey through Advent.

Quiet Space Gathering, 10am Saturday Dec. 10

Calling all artists! Come and join us for a creative project we'll see displayed on Christmas Eve. We'll be using fabric paint and dye to create banners for our sanctuary together.

Epiphany Celebration January 8 following worship

We'll gather to celebrate the Magi's visit to the Christ Child, reading the story, bringing gifts of our own, and singing *We Three Kings*.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



When we gather with friends and family at Christmas, we celebrate the many gifts that we have both given and received. Looking toward the Star of Bethlehem, we give thanks for the blessings of the past year and anticipate a future filled with hope and possibility.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us – past, present and future – who have pointed us to God.

Westminster will dedicate the Christmas Joy Offering Sunday December 18. You can use the special envelopes, or put "Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo line of your check.

Updates from the October Session Meeting

WPC Committee Meetings

Session: 6:30pm; 4th Thursdays

Deacons: as needed

Nominating: as needed, beginning in summer

Building and Grounds: 6:30pm; 1st Thursdays

Money Cares: 6:30pm; 1st Wednesdays

Creation Care: 7pm; 3rd Wednesdays

Mission Dei: 9:45am; 2nd Sunday

Worship: 12pm; 2nd Sunday

Personnel: as needed

Westminster's Session meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. We met on October 27 at 6:30pm via Zoom. These are some highlights from that meeting; full meeting minutes are available in a binder in the church library.

Committee Updates:

- B&G: New drop box safe in the office; Roof leaks repaired; Drip system turned off for the season; Will look into rain barrels
- Money Cares: Total pledged income through September was \$108,912; 81% of annual budget; Total expenses through September were \$103,917; 63% of annual budget; Investment losses through September were \$14,282.
- Missio Dei: Pre-service coffee hour starting on 11/6/22; Meals for Pete's Place on 11/16/22 and 1/11/23; volunteers from WPC are needed; Agape Fast resuming on 11/20/22.
- Creation Care: Recommending folks sign up for "Water Watch" through the City of Santa Fe; Conducting carbon footprint follow-up; Staffed an information table at the October Presbytery meeting; Work continuing on the mini-library.
- Personnel: Revision of Pastor and Office Assistant job descriptions; Update of Vickie's employment agreement to reflect current situation (i.e. sick leave provisions); Madeline's pastoral review in November.

Presbytery of Santa Fe met Oct. 15; Keri Brinegar was WPC's ruling elder commissioner; no major actions taken

WPC's Session will have a Triennial Visit from COM on November 3

(For full minutes, check the church library!)

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another” - Romans 13:8

The Presbytery of Santa Fe has joined with Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation (PHF) in an exciting new partnership to ease a crisis facing many New Mexicans: crushing medical debt.



Medical debt is not usually the result of unwise decisions but of unforeseen circumstances. It can be devastating to those living on the margins, and is especially hard on the elderly, on veterans, and on the poor. New Mexico is the third poorest state in the U.S. Recent data cited by the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty shows the following:

- Nearly one in four New Mexicans have medical debt in collections.
- 59% of all negative items on consumer credit reports are due to medical debt.
- 37% of adults who have a problem with medical bills used up all of their savings to pay these bills.
- Patients with medical bill problems are three times more likely to postpone needed care.

We now have a wonderful opportunity to lighten the burden of medical debt for many New Mexicans. The partnership between the Presbytery of Santa Fe and PHF will allow donations collected by the Presbytery to purchase uncollectible medical debt owed to Presbyterian Healthcare Services (PHS) at the rate of \$0.07 on the dollar. PHS will write off the remaining \$0.93. Patients who receive debt forgiveness will be randomly selected using an algorithm based on Federal Poverty Guidelines, with a focus on those who work, sometimes at multiple jobs, but do not earn enough to live on. PHS provides 100% financial assistance to all patients with incomes at or below

200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline, so the program will aim to help those that do not qualify for total assistance. Every patient whose debt is forgiven will be notified by PHS that a financial contribution from the churches of the Presbytery of Santa Fe has covered their debt.

Our goal as a Presbytery is to raise \$30,000.00 by 12/31/2022, which will fund approximately \$420,000.00 of medical debt relief. The potential benefits and blessings to the people of New Mexico are enormous, as PHS operates nine hospitals and serves one in three New Mexicans with healthcare or coverage. Following is how your congregation can be a part of this exciting partnership.

All donations should be made through the Presbytery of Santa Fe:

- Electronic payment (debit, credit, or PayPal) can be made by clicking [Donate](#) on the Presbytery's website, santafepresbytery.org and selecting *Use this donation for Medical Debt Relief*.
- Checks can be mailed to Presbytery of Santa Fe, 217 Locust St NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87102. Indicate *Medical Debt Relief* in the memo.

Slate of Officers for the Classes of 2025

The Nominating Committee is delighted to announce the culmination of our work! Throughout the fall, we spent time identifying potential leaders at Westminster and sharing current leaders' experiences with the congregation. We hope that this helps lay the groundwork for new people to explore leadership at Westminster.

We nominate the following people for the classes of 2025:

- Jim Williams, Deacon (1st Term)
- Jackie Tway, Elder (2nd Term)
- Kent DeYoung, Elder (2nd Term)

It is also the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to nominate the following year's Nominating Committee. We nominate the following persons to serve for 2023:

- Sylvia Graft, Deacon (2nd Year)
- Michael Brinegar, Deacon (2nd Year)
- Elizabeth Roghair, (2nd Year)
- Margi Coxwell, Elder (1st Year)

We will gather for a congregational meeting on December 11, immediately following worship, where we will elect the officers and Nominating Committee. If you or someone you know is interested in serving, we will call for nominations from the floor. Please check with your nominee prior to nominating them!

With Gratitude,

The Nominating Committee of 2022

Kent DeYoung (chair), Sylvia Graft, Michael Brinegar, Elizabeth Roghair, and Rev. Madeline Hart- Andersen (ex officio)

Contemplative Worship

Taizé: A brief prayer service in the style of the Taizé Brothers in France is held the first Thursday of each month 5:30 - 6:00 by Zoom only. It is a time of scripture, prayer, chants and silence. To receive the link to join this prayer service, please contact the church office at wpcsantafe@gmail.com.

Second Saturday Quiet Space: On the second Saturday of the month, we gather at 10am for a creative, contemplative gathering. We will read Scripture, pray together, and hold a time of silence. Within that structure, Quiet Space is a time for creativity and contemplation; every month will be a different experience.



WESTMINSTER'S ANGEL TREE: GIFTS FOR THE SANTA FE YOUTH AND FAMILY SHELTER

Westminster is partnering this year with First Presbyterian to provide Angel Tree gifts to the **Youth Shelter and Family Services** here in Santa Fe. First Presbyterian has provided the names of 15 children, youth and, in some cases, a parent who needs Christmas gifts this year. There is a sign-up sheet for the wish-list in the back of the sanctuary, along with instructions. If you would like to participate but are not able to get to the sanctuary to sign up for a gift, please email the church office and we will pick someone for you! All gifts must be brought to the church no later than Sunday, 18 December. Let's bring some smiles to our community's youth and families this holiday season!



[Brought a tag home and need a refresher on how to participate?](#)

1. Select your gift from the "wish list"
2. Write your name on the list next to the gift you've selected
3. Take a gift card from the angel tree and write the family number and name of the person you have selected. For example, "301 Anna". Plan to attach this card to your gift bag.
4. Use a post-it note to jot a written reminder to yourself of the gift(s) you are purchasing
5. Do NOT wrap your gift. Instead, put it in a Christmas gift bag, attach your gift card to the bag, and deliver it to Westminster NO LATER THAN December 18
6. There is no set limit to the cost of your purchase. It is your choice to determine the amount you would like to spend!

COVID-19 AND WESTMINSTER

CDC Levels

The CDC Community Level for Santa Fe County is posted on our website every Friday. Please check our website or [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) on Friday or Saturday to learn the current level!

Masking

CDC Community Level

High: **Masks required**

Medium: **Masks required**

Low: **Masks encouraged; required if not vaccinated**

Vaccination

At all levels, we encourage members, friends, and visitors to get vaccinated and boosted!

CDC Community Level

High: **Proof required**

Medium: –

Low: **Vaccination status asked; if not vaccinated, masking is required.**

During this season of pandemic, we continue to be the church, worshiping God together even though we are not all together in one space. In God, we are made one church, bigger than any building might contain. Our [COVID-19 Safe Protocols](#) are part of our response to God's call to care for the vulnerable among us. As Christians, we believe it is important to live out our care for one another and the wider community by following our protocols.

Our matrix is an easy-to-use guideline for where we are in our COVID-19 restrictions. You will find an announcement bar on our website, updated weekly, with the current CDC Community Levels. Our COVID-19 Safe Protocols will be communicated to the congregation on the website, in *El Semanario*, and via signage.

If you have previously downloaded a copy of our guidelines, and are unsure if it is the most recent version, you can check the "approval" date directly below the title. The current version, [accessible here](#), has an approval date of 7/28/22. If substantive changes are made to the guidelines or matrix, we will notify the congregation via email. In addition, an email will go out on any Friday when we are moving from one level to another so that worship attendees can be prepared for any changes to Sunday's worship!

If you cannot abide by our protocols, you do not feel safe attending in-person worship at this time, you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or have tested positive for COVID-19, (or if you don't feel up to coming in to church this Sunday!) you are welcome to join our online congregation! Every Sunday at 11am, as people are gathering in person at the church building, we are also streaming via YouTube. A bulletin can be accessed in the comments of the Live video so that you can participate fully with us!

All are welcome to worship with us, whichever way feels most appropriate for you!

December Calendar

1: Small Group, 12pm
 Building and Grounds, 6:30pm
 3: Small Group, 2pm
 4: Coffee Hour, 10am
 Worship, 11am
 Worship Committee, 12pm
 6: Advent Study Gathering, 7pm
 7: Money Cares, 6:30pm
 8: Small Group, 6:30
 9: Bible Study, 9am
 10: Quiet Space Gathering, 10am
 11: Coffee Hour, 10am
 Worship, 11am
 Congregational Meeting, 12pm
 13: Advent Study Gathering, 7pm

18: Coffee Hour, 10am
 Worship, 11am
 20: Advent Study Gathering, 7pm
 21: Longest Night: Space for Grief,
 5:30pm
 24: Christmas Eve Worship, 4pm
 25: Christmas Day Lessons, Carols,
 and Cocoa, 11am



WESTMINSTER'S STAFF AND LEADERS

Pastor: Rev. Madeline Hart-Andersen: rev.madeline.wpcsantafe@gmail.com
 Office Administrator: Vickie Ortega: wpc.santafe@gmail.com
 Clerk of Session: Keri Brinegar: clerk.wpcsantafe@gmail.com
 Moderator of Deacons: Sylvia Graft: sylviadgraft@gmail.com
 Chair, Nominating Committee: Kent DeYoung: DeMiracle@comcast.net
 Chair, Building & Grounds: Michael Brinegar: mkbrinegar@netzero.net
 Chair, Money Cares: Jackie Tway: moneycares.wpcsantafe@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Elizabeth Roghair: churchtreas.wpcsantafe@gmail.com
 Chair, Creation Care: Consuelo Walker: conejitalinda1@comcast.net
 Chair, Missio Dei: Jenny Lasley: jlasleywpcsf@gmail.com
 Chair, Worship: Keri Brinegar: mkbrinegar@netzero.net
 Chair, Personnel: Margi Coxwell: mokeysan@outlook.com