



## *Musings from Mark . . .*

As Christmas approaches our anxiety can rise. In a time filled with words of joy and peace, the reality is that most of us are pulled in many different directions, physically and emotionally. The season can mean cards to write, gifts to purchase, concerts to attend, meals to prepare, volunteer opportunities, and even travel. These activities can be a gift to help our celebration of the season. However, they can also be a burden or even a hindrance in celebration of the birth of Jesus.

For those who celebrate the birth of Jesus there can also be another stress. As our society celebrates the Christmas Season, Christians celebrate Advent. As we wait for the coming Christ, the Christmas season counts the number of shopping days left. In the malls and on the radio, we hear Christmas songs, but in church we sing songs about waiting. This, often unnamed, disconnect can lead us to feel a bit out of step everywhere we go. This year, we want to acknowledge these disconnected feelings and seek ways to find peace in the season.

Advent is about remembering the waiting of those who first waited for Christ to come. But it is also about us waiting for Christ to make all things new. In other words, by our waiting we are calling for the end of unjust arrangements in the world. When angels speak and prophets proclaim that the kingdom comes, it was and is a moment of crisis. The crisis comes because the announcement of the season is that the current arrangement of things, our lives, our society, our world, is going to change. When read scripture, which says the poor will be lifted up and the wars will end, it is not a pie in the sky hope but a call to live those words out. This is the message of Advent.

This year, as in years past, we prepare to remember and to wait again for God to lift up the lowly. Here is a list of activities which we hope will help in your preparations for the coming of Christ.

December 17<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Pageant – Congregational Dinner

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Forth Sunday of Advent at 11 am and /Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m.

May this season be one of true peace and understanding.

Peace and Grace,  
Mark

# *Session Meeting Highlights*

## November 19, 2023

Call to Order and Opening Devotional

The Session meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Mark Miller, Moderator at 1:21pm. Six of Seven of Elders were in attendance.

Adoption of the Agenda -The agenda was adopted.

### **2024 PLANNING**

#### **BUDGET**

It is recommended to carry over the 2023 budget to 2024 with a few adjustments which will be presented in December.

TERMS OF CALL - No changes

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The committee will schedule a meeting soon.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

CONGREGATION MEETING (Terms of Call, Budget, Nominating Committee). This meeting was approved for December 31, 2023.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING - It was approved to devote this offering to the Joy Offering.

### **TRANSITION PLANNING**

PLAN FOR DISCERNMENT – Three gatherings goal and straw poll concept – display of the result will organize for review.

LEGACY PLANNING – Humans of St. Louis - Katie Kaufmann will bring information to the Session in December.

INVENTORY: Kitchen, Library, Historic items, Paraments/decorations – open invitation for people to visit and take books from the library.

**CONSENT AGENDA** – these reports were presented and approved.

#### **REPORT OF THE CLERK OF SESSION**

Approval of the Minutes

Stated Meeting – grammatical errors noted and corrected.

Rolls and Registers

Correspondences

#### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Statement of Accounts

### **BUILDING MANAGER REPORT**

### **WORSHIP MUSIC AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE**

PASTORS REPORT – vacation approved for November 21 – 25<sup>th</sup> (For Thanksgiving in Knoxville)

### **CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT**

Prayer by Mark Miller, Moderator, and adjournment at 1:58pm.

Next Stated Meeting of the Session: Sunday December 17, 2023, at 12:30pm.

Lawson Calhoun, Clerk of Session

## **WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Via Zoom

Wednesdays at 12:00 noon.

The Authentic Letters of Paul  
The Book of Romans

[https://zoom.us/j/94739016002?](https://zoom.us/j/94739016002?pwd=YWYwa0R6cUUxeEJYaUhSV0tSQjZ4Zz09)  
pwd=YWYwa0R6cUUxeEJYaUhSV0tSQjZ4Zz09

or call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 947 3901 6002

Password: 843849



**December 1 - Eva Dickerson**

**December 9 - Brittany Liddell**

**December 10 - Josephine Tolles**

**December 11 - Ashleigh Moffitt**

**December 11 - Stacy Clay**

**December 12—Frederick Fairbanks**

**December 28—Sandra Browder**

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Presbyterian Women will meet  
on Tuesday, December 5 at 10:00.

If your birthday is in Deember and does not appear on this list, please contact the church administrative assistant by email at [lisamack@westminsterstl.org](mailto:lisamack@westminsterstl.org).



## December Sermons

### **December 3**

First Sunday of Advent

*Congregational visits to Trinity,  
First, and Second Presbyterian  
Churches*

### **December 10**

Second Sunday of Advent

*Congregational visits to Trinity,  
First, and Second Presbyterian  
Churches*

### **December 17**

Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Title: "Good News for the Poor"

### **December 24**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38,  
Luke 1:46b-55

Title: "Revolutionary Poet"

### **December 31**

Epiphany Observed

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12  
Title: "In a Time of Terror"

## ADULT STUDY Group

Via Zoom

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

*American Idolatry: How Christian Na-  
tionalism Betrays the Gospel and  
Threatens the Church*

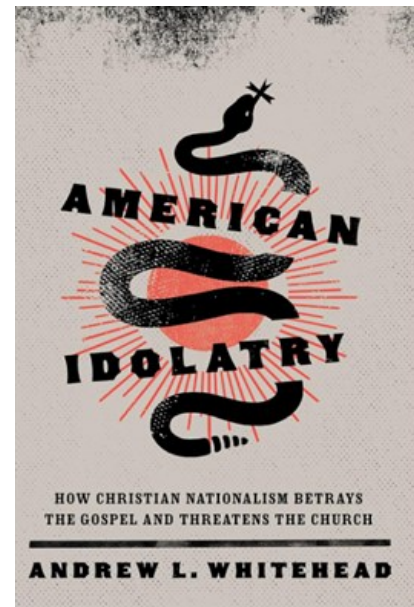
*By Andrew L. Whitehead*

[https://zoom.us/j/99195541873?  
pwd=c3lIa2hSRIRZQU12VzNhdm9sVmFUdz09](https://zoom.us/j/99195541873?pwd=c3lIa2hSRIRZQU12VzNhdm9sVmFUdz09)

or call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 991 9554 1873

Password: 485781



## STAFF

Westminster Congregation  
Ministers

Rev. Dr. Mark R. Miller  
Pastor  
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Mark Brooks  
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markbrooks@westminsterstl.org

Fred Fairbanks  
Building Manager  
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Lisa Mack  
Financial Services  
Church Office Assistant  
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## OUR MISSION

*Westminster Presbyterian Church seeks  
to know Christ and to make Christ known.  
We are a diverse congregation, crossing cultural,  
racial, age, and class boundaries.  
We support each other in our journey of faith  
with joyful worship, engaging education,  
and caring fellowship.  
We strive to partner with our neighbors  
in this urban community  
through ministries of justice and compassion.*

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Please contact the office to  
make an appointment.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

To see the most current information, take a look at the calendar online at our website. Go to [www.westminsterstl.org](http://www.westminsterstl.org). In the upper right corner, click "More" and then "Our Calendar." You will then be able to scroll to whichever month you choose. For more detailed information on an event, simply click on the calendar entry and the details will appear. This calendar is updated frequently, so it is the best source for current and correct information.

## 2023 MEMBERS & FRIENDS

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

*If you have changes in your listing,  
please notify the church office.*

## SERMONS

Sermons from Sunday are now online!  
<http://goo.gl/FDfYO4>

## PASTORAL CARE

If you or a family member goes into the hospital or has other pastoral care concerns, please contact Pastor Mark directly at 314-255-5598. Thank you.

## Westminster Presbyterian Church

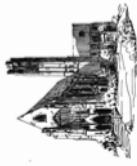
Phone: 314-367-0900

Church Office E-mail:  
[lisamack@westminsterstl.org](mailto:lisamack@westminsterstl.org)

Facebook:  
WestminsterPresbyterianChurchInStLouis

Website:  
[www.westminsterstl.org](http://www.westminsterstl.org)

Twitter:  
Westminster Church (@5300delmar)



# December 2023 Westminster Happenings

Check the calendar on the church website for the most current information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> First Sunday of Advent 12:30p.m. - Congregational Gathering	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 a.m. - Presbyterian Women 1:00 p.m. - Admin Team	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Second Sunday of Advent 12:30p.m. - Congregational Gathering	<b>11</b>  <b>Session Packet Information Due</b>	<b>12</b> 1:00 p.m. - Admin Team	<b>13</b> 12:00 p.m. - Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Third Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:30 a.m. - Adult Study 11:00 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. - Fellowship 12:30 p.m. - Session Mtg	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1:00 p.m. - Admin Team	<b>20</b> 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. - Worship, Music & the Arts Committee	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:30 a.m. - Adult Study 11:00 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. - Fellowship	<b>25</b>  <b>Christmas Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b> 1:00 p.m. Admin Team  <b>Newsletter Information Due</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:30 a.m. - Adult Study 11:00 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. - Fellowship						





5300 DELMAR BLVD.  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63112-3102

## *A Glimpse of God's Love on the Delmar Divide*



God saw  
the great  
needs of  
the world  
and offered  
a perfect  
gift.

