



# WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024

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### PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophets' message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

#### PASTORAL GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Tom Bozek

#### PRELUDE

Carol of the Bells  
Joyful Ringers

arr. Alex Guebert

#### LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

Eaton Family

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\* Please rise in body or spirit.

**Bold typeface** indicates that the congregation participates in word or song.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Peace is knowing that all things that matter will return. Peace is knowing when we feel alone that we will not be that way forever. Peace is knowing that love is bending to get closer to you, peace is what connects our hearts together, it is what keeps us with others when the stresses of life make us want to isolate and escape. Peace is not going through life alone. Thus, we light this candle of peace, to show that the light of hope is not alone, for peace is here, and when it feels it has left, we know it will be back.

## CANDLE LIGHTING RESPONSE

### Light One Candle

Mark Patterson



Light one can-dle for peace, peace that the whole world needs.

Light one can-dle for peace, peace that the sav-ior will bring.

Peace that the sav - ior will bring.

## PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

**Precious Savior, we praise you because you are near. You have walked among us—living as we live, knowing our pain, experiencing our joy. You chose to come close, to see us face to face. May we spend this season sharing this blessed message of hope with all we meet. Thank you for coming to us. Amen.**

\*HYMN 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

## \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.

## 96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On    Jor - dan's bank    the    Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then   cleansed be   ev - ery   life from sin; make  
 3 We     hail you   as   our   Sav - ior, Lord, our  
 4 Stretch forth your hand;   our   health re - store, and

nounce - es that the   Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,  
 straight the way for   God with - in, and let us all our  
 ref - uge and our   great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 make us rise to   fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad   ti - dings of the   King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for   Christ to come and   en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like   flowers that with - er   and de - cay.  
 on us shine and   fill the world with   love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

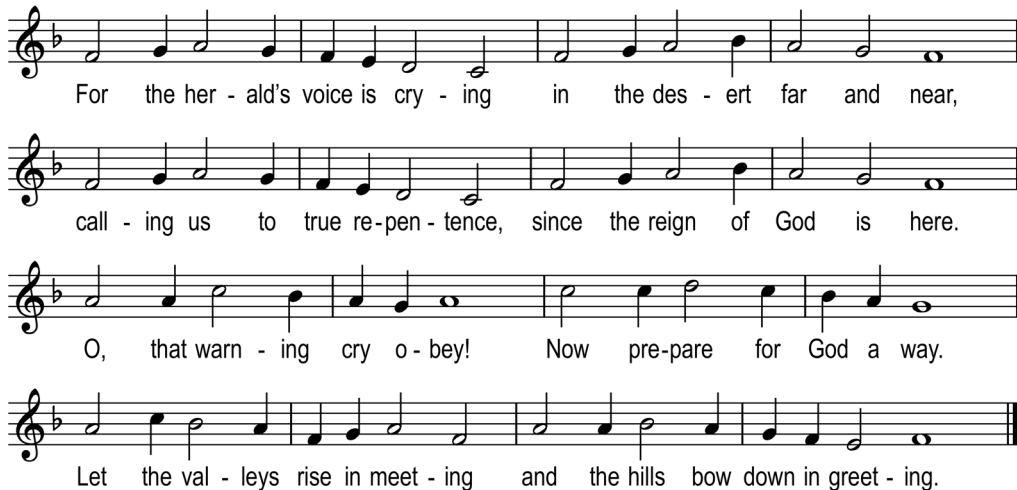
**\*A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER**

**\*KYRIE**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

(stanza 2)



For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tence, since the reign of God is here.  
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**GLORIA**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

arr. Strepka

Westminster Ringers

**(11:00) At this time any and all children through the 5th grade are invited to come forward for Sharing Faith with Children.**

**(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN**

Laura Bechtler

# THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Luke 3:1–6

Tom Bozek

This is the Word of the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**LUKE 1:68–79**

Leader: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

**All: He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his child David,**

Leader: as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

**All: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors  
and has remembered his holy covenant,**

Leader: the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

**All: might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness  
in his presence all our days.**

Leader: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

**All: to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

Leader: Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**All: to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

SECOND LESSON: Micah 5:2–5a

This is the Word of the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**\*HYMN 100**

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** From *A Brief Statement of Faith*, 72–76 (unison)

In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** (unison)

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

# 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

## Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

*Refrain*

G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.



## OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ all over the world. Offering envelopes can be found inside the friendship register book. We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:

- Place your offering into the plates as you exit the sanctuary.
- Visit [mywpc.org/offering](http://mywpc.org/offering) or scan the QR code at the right to give online
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
Westminster Ringers

arr. Garree

## \*DOXOLOGY

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Musical notation for the Doxology, consisting of four staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come one and all\_\_ to own him.  
The King of kings\_ sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.  
Raise, raise\_ the song on high.\_\_ The vir - gin sings\_ her lul - la - by.  
Joy, joy,\_\_ for Christ is born,\_\_ the babe,\_\_ the son\_\_ of Mar - y!

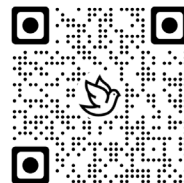
## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

# GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

## \*INVITATION AND THE LORD'S DAY GREETING

We are glad you are worshiping with us today! If you are joining us online, please remember to “sign” our online friendship register:

- Click on the “Welcome to WPC! Click here to sign the Friendship Register” banner at the top of the website page
- Visit [mywpc.org/friendship](http://mywpc.org/friendship) or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



## \*HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen  
Westminster Ringers

arr. Sherman

*The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer. You may remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly and without disturbing those who choose to stay.*

## ✿ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ✿

The Chancel Flowers are given today to the glory of God by Freda Atkins and family in loving memory of Marshall, husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, on his birthday, December 8.

# 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

∞ THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ∞

**PASTORS**

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff  
Pam Hrcir, Associate Pastor

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Chris Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries  
Norman Elton, Organist  
Joyful Ringers directed by Chris Bechtler  
Westminster Ringers directed by Norman Elton

**GREETERS**

9:30 a.m. Cheryl Roettger  
11:00 a.m. Elizabeth Padgett and Walter Schmid

**USHERS**

9:30 a.m. Shanna Due, J. D. Due, Rebecca Caprio  
11:00 a.m. Bob Bolstad, Rick Murray, Pat Murray, and Maxine Cunningham

**LITURGIST**

Tom Bozek

**SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN**

Laura Bechtler

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS**

Jim Carey and Jennifer LaDow

**\*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Jerry and Martha Jean Howell

**\*WINDSORMEADE USHERS**

Ray Whitney

**AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS**

Dave McLain and John Schoenberger

\*Satellite campuses

## ☞ CHILDREN'S STATEMENT ☞

**Children are welcome at WPC!** We have Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 a.m. and a nursery for children ages 3 and below during both services. We also have children's worship bags and sensory objects available to be borrowed while in the building. Please ask an usher if you need assistance in locating anything.

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in this house of worship. Parents, feel free to sit near the front where children can see, explain the parts of the service to them, and invite them to learn by watching and copying. And relax, God put the wiggle in children, so don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

## ☞ SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ☞

- **Stephen Ministers.** In need of one-on-one prayer? Please look for a Stephen Minister in the Fellowship Hall or the church foyer after the morning services. They will find a private place to talk and pray with you. Just look for the blue Stephen Ministry name tags.
- **Monthly grief support group meets the first Wednesday of the month** at 10:00 a.m. in room 220 on the second level. During this meeting we check in with one another and occasionally watch videos about a specific grief topic. All are welcome to attend.

## ☞ PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ☞

To share a joy or concern, please visit [www.mywpc.org](http://www.mywpc.org), select "Get Care" on the menu bar, then "Prayer Request" from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click "Send Request" on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will be shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office at (757) 229-4235 with your request. The Prayer Chain Coordinator is Jo Ann Youhas ([handbellringer2@gmail.com](mailto:handbellringer2@gmail.com)). Please notify Jo Ann when you would like to remove your name from the prayer chain.

**If you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request, please contact the Pastor-on-Call listed below for this week. To reach a Pastor during the week, please call the church office.**

**Sunday, December 8 – Saturday, December 14**

Pastor John Morgan • [jmorgan@mywpc.org](mailto:jmorgan@mywpc.org) • 757-908-7800

**The WPC Family extends its deepest Christian sympathy and prayers to:**

- The families of WPC who have lost beloved family members or friends recently.
- Vanessa Gamble, WPC Secretary, who is recovering from an accident.

**Please pray for our sick and homebound:**

- Denny Yeingst, Bob Siclari, Carol Sorensen, George Harris, Lee Beach, Clara Crumbly, Wolf Koenig, Nell Stowe, and Carole McNeel
- Lynne and Mike Savidis as Lynne recovers from neck surgery in Richmond.
- Sherry Volk's nephew and his family as they recover from a car accident.

**Please pray for those:**

- Recovering from various surgeries and our sick and shut-ins who are at home or facility bound, who have family and friend concerns, affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, attending and serving in the school systems, serving our country in the military services and their families, affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel, Sudan, Lebanon and Ukraine.

## ❧ ANNOUNCEMENTS ❧

- **The Longest Night: A Service of Comfort and Hope.** With much of the focus of Christmas on preparation and celebration, we often forget that the first Christmas began with a long, difficult journey. Mary and Joseph wrestled with fear, questions, doubt, and uncertainty as they made their way to Bethlehem. It was not an easy road for them to birth new life into the world. As we make our way to Christmas, join us for a meaningful Taizé service to experience comfort and hope as we acknowledge our own loss, disappointment, and uncertainty on our journey to Bethlehem. **Join us on Dec 17th (note this is a date change)** at 3:00 PM in Stevenson Hall.
- **Christmas Joy Offering.** Each year at Christmas time, we share in the special offering called “Christmas Joy.” Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering provide life-giving assistance to pastors and church workers who are facing unexpected and critical financial need. It also funds schools that equip communities of color to pursue higher education and to grow in faith. In this season of hope, please prayerfully consider giving generously to this special offering. Envelopes will be available at December services. Checks may be made out to WPC with “Christmas Joy” on the memo line. You will also be able to give online at the WPC website. Thank you for your continued support of this caring mission.
- **Gift of Christmas 2024.** The Gift of Christmas is a wonderful way to experience the true spirit of Christmas giving by supporting one of the listed programs helping folks in need in our communities. When you donate to one of these programs you can receive an Angel Ornament and a card that you can give to the family member or friend you are honoring. Look for the 19 different helping programs and their details in the bulletin.  
You can visit the Gift of Christmas table that will be set up in the parking lot entrance hallway each Sunday in December or call Karen Annoni\* for more information.
- **New Member Orientation Luncheon** is scheduled for Sunday, February 23, immediately after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Come and enjoy great food and great conversation with members and staff as you get to know the people and ministries of WPC. If the Holy Spirit is nudging you to become a part of this church community, reach out to Pastor Pam (phr@mywpc.org) after the service.
- **Volunteers are needed for COFM Homeless Shelter December 23, 2024.** The Life Church on Longhill Road is hosting the homeless shelter from December 22–29. WPC will staff the shelter on Monday, December 23, starting at 5:30 p.m. and ending the following day, December 24, at 7:00 a.m. We need volunteers for the following tasks and times:
  - Shift 1, check in crew from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on December 23.
  - Shift 2, dinner crew from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on December 23.
  - Shift 3 overnight crew from 8:45 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. on December 23/24.If you can help or have any questions, please contact Jim Winthrop\* or Joe Avellar.\*
- **The Flower Calendar for 2025 has 4 Openings.** They are February 16, July 6, August 3 and November 30. The Master Flower Calendar for 2025 is in the back of Stevenson Hall. Please fill in the required information by the date of your choice. Please contact Ruth Cobb\* if you require further information.
- **Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign:** Join your fellow WPC members by ringing bells to spread comfort and joy to our neighbors in need. Volunteer to be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign on December 11, 14, 18 or 21. Sign up for a one-hour shift at [mywpc.org/advent](http://mywpc.org/advent). Questions? Please contact Tom Moul.\*

- **Please gather in Stevenson Hall today after the 11:00 a.m. service** to bid farewell to “A” Williams and express our deep gratitude for his years of service.
- **Harold McKeithen’s “I Love to Tell the Story” sermon compilation** has been reprinted, thanks to the continuing stewardship of WPC member and editor Wilford Kale. The book is available for \$15 through the church office.
- **Help share God’s gift of love through the Salvation Army Angel Tree program.** The Outreach Ministry invites you to adopt a child or senior for the 2024 Angel Tree program. In Stevenson Hall, you will find a Christmas tree decorated with angels and instructions for the program. Plan to stop by and take one of the angels. **Gifts should be returned to the Salvation Army or to WPC by December 9.** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Margie Ambrose,\* Ellen D’Orsogna,\* or Sarah Avellar.\* Thank you for your generous and loving support.
- **Open Door Concert Series presents the Virginia Handbell Consort on December 15 at 4:00 p.m.** Join the Virginia Handbell Consort to ring in the holiday season! A premier handbell ensemble in Virginia, VHC consists of auditioned musicians from across the area. They advance the art of handbell ringing through engaging performances of original compositions and Christmas favorites.
- **Family Christmas Workshop and Parade Hospitality Tent - Today, December 8.** We continue our annual and long-standing tradition with a Christmas Craft Workshop for children in our WPC family and in the community. Crafts for children pre-school through elementary, teens, and adults will be set up in Stevenson Hall beginning at 3:30 this afternoon. Join us for hot chocolate, coffee, and treats at our hospitality tent before and during the annual City of Williamsburg Christmas Parade! The tent will be in place by 4pm. The church courtyard is on the parade route and a great place to socialize and watch the creative floats go by!
- **Help Feed our UKirk Students!** We are looking for people or groups willing to help feed our UKirk Students on Tuesday Nights at 6:30 p.m. We have a group of around 15 students who would love to meet you, and share in a home cooked meal.  
Can’t be there or don’t cook? Sign up to have food delivered or to give a gift card to a favorite restaurant. <https://mealtrain.com/oy3qgn>.
- **Attention All WPC Staff and Kitchen Event Volunteers:** Food Storage in the Kitchen Refrigerator and Freezer. Please remember to label any food left in the refrigerator or freezer with your name and the date. Labels and a pen are attached to the refrigerator for your use. Too much food is left inside, and the Kitchen Committee often has no idea who it belongs to or how long it has been stored. In the future, if items are not labeled we will be making a concerted effort to discard food each week. Thank you from the WPC Kitchen Committee.
- **Cleaning of the sanctuary takes place weekly on Thursday morning by the Church Sexton.** Lately coffee cups, plastic cups, food wrapping, and lots of crumbs have been found in the sanctuary. We ask that you refrain from eating and drinking in the sanctuary during worship services. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**\*Contact information can be found in our online directory.**

**You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.**

**More information about the events and announcements listed above can be found on our website at [mywpc.org/news](http://mywpc.org/news) or on the church calendar at [mywpc.org/calendar](http://mywpc.org/calendar).**

## ✧ THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ✧

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

- 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Nursery open during both worship services  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School / Christian Education Wing  
9:30 a.m. In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access  
11:00 a.m. In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or wmbgradio.com  
12:00 p.m. Reception for “A” Williams / Stevenson Hall  
3:30 p.m. Family Christmas Workshop and Parade Hospitality Tent

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9**

- 1:00 p.m. Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123  
5:00 p.m. Hunger and Homeless Meeting / Rm LL010  
5:30 p.m. Christian Education Ministry Meeting / Rm 220  
6:30 p.m. Williamsburg Choral Guild Rehearsal / Sanctuary

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

- 8:00 a.m. Organ Tuning / Sanctuary  
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting / Zoom  
2:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting / Rm 220  
5:30 p.m. Resources Ministry Meeting / Zoom  
6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting and Training / Rm 220  
6:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women Circle 5 Meeting / Rm 222  
6:30 p.m. UKirk Dinner and Dialogue / Rm LL012  
7:00 p.m. AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / Rm LL009 and LL049

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible and Bacon Study / Stevenson Hall  
10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle 14 Meeting / Rm 220  
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Wonders - Music and Art / LL012  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir room

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Cleaning  
10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle 7 / Rm 220  
4:30 p.m. Carol Choir and Junior Choir Rehearsals / Children's music room  
7:30 p.m. Westminster Ringers Rehearsal / Bell room

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13**

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**

## ✧ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ✧

### **December 15, 2024 • The Third Sunday of Advent**

Pastor John's sermon, "The Prophets of Advent: Joy," will be based on Isaiah 12:2–6.