



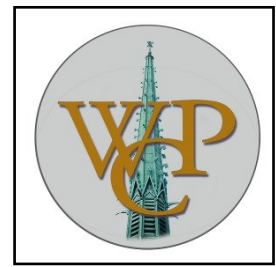
# CHIMES - January 2025

Westminister Presbyterian Church

<http://www.wpclynchburg.org> (434) 847-6655

e-mail: [wpclynchburg@gmail.com](mailto:wpclynchburg@gmail.com)

Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska



## A Prayer for 2025.

This prayer was written by the Rev. Karen Rohrer, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Princeton Theological Seminary. Rev. Rohrer was also a seminary colleague and former pastor colleague of Pastor Shawn during his time in Philadelphia. It was originally published in the Presbyterian Outlook on December 17, 2024.

### Holy God,

As we look out on the horizons of a new year, it is hard to see your promise with fresh eyes. The memories we carry in our bodies, the patterns we know from the lives we have lived, and the stories we have told cloud our vision. We are weighed down by the fears of all the years, the old fables, the generational wounds, the trusty and cautious hopes that got us through this far.

But God, you are not the slowly bending arc of history. You are not the past warmed up to meet us yet again in infinite and gently looping cycles. You are not likelihood and probability, plausible outcomes and logical conclusions. You do not come to us in the slow march of progress or the incremental degradation of structures and institutions.

Your story is the deeper magic from before the drums of history, before our forming stories and earthen bodies set us here to walk this particular, human road – and yet you walk with us even here in this in-between space.

As we look to a new year, we ask that you dispel the ghosts we conjure and fear. Meet us again with genuine newness. We are so tired of what has been, so afraid of what may come again. Stay with us as we wait for what will be.

Spirit of new life, give us eyes to see what feels implausible. Grant us the hope and the diligence to follow the seeds of revolution and revelation already planted. Point us again to the surprise and delight of nature and neighbor. Reintroduce us to the people you have made and the communities to which you have called us. Grant us the presence and good sense to look up and out, to seek eyes that might meet our own and sun to touch our skin. Remind us that the past we drag with us does not govern your future, that the future you bring is broader and wider and newer than all we have ever known.

As we look out on the horizon of a new year, give us the courage and trust to see you even there. Join us as we walk into your new morning.

**Amen.**

Birthdays

- 7 Gabriela Maria Canelon
- 12 Hollie Harris Stobaugh
- 17 Mary Beth McCall
- 22 Val Harris
- 23 Valentine O'Brien
- 24 Otto Vallastro
- 24 Jeffrey Reed
- 28 Doris Hailey

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* *Please remember our homebound* \*  
 \* *members.* \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* Kathleen Smith \*  
 \* Westminster Canterbury \*  
 \* 501 VES Rd, H-429 \*  
 \* Lynchburg, VA 24503 \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* Maymie Keys \*  
 \* R&P at Liberty Ridge \*  
 \* 30 Monica Blvd. Unit 35 \*  
 \* Lynchburg, VA 24502 \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* Eloise Peters \*  
 \* Westminster Canterbury \*  
 \* 501 VES Rd, B-706 \*  
 \* Lynchburg VA 24503 \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* Sylvia Viar \*  
 \* 15 John Rucker Drive \*  
 \* Ruckersville, VA 22968 \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* Becky Maxey \*  
 \* 57 Beech Avenue \*  
 \* Hamilton, NJ 08610 \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* Queen Webb \*  
 \* 2209 Yorktown Ave. \*  
 \* Apt. C-3 \*  
 \* Lynchburg, VA 24501 \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* Doris Hailey \*  
 \* 209 Woodland Avenue \*  
 \* Lynchburg, VA \*  
 \* 24501-2127 \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

**Hurricane Relief**



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is in communication with affected presbyteries and National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster) to share information and coordinate resources as damage is assessed. PDA has deployed a National Response Team to Tampa Bay Presbytery, Presbytery of Western North Carolina and Northeast Georgia Presbytery. Please join us in praying for everyone affected by Hurricane Helene.

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE RESPONSE, designate gifts to DR000169**

**Israel/Palestine**

As violence escalates in and around Israel/Palestine, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance. PDA has approved solidarity grants and will continue supporting our partners providing humanitarian assistance. Our response efforts will encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions, including but not limited to medical supplies, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and non-food items and delivering crucial psychosocial support to individuals.

**To support our response, designate gifts to DR000081-Israel/Palestine**

**Epiphany**

We have Epiphany devotional materials! Though we have been handing out Epiphany Stars for almost two decades (since Bill Russel was pastor), there are many in the congregation who still do not understand this tradition. Please take an Epiphany devotional to help with understanding and appreciation of these "12 Days of Christmas!"

**Unhanging of the Greens**

We are celebrating Epiphany Sunday on January 5th, the day before Epiphany. We will take down our sanctuary decorations on the Saturday following Epiphany, January 11th. We will still have coffee and pastries for all those who help!

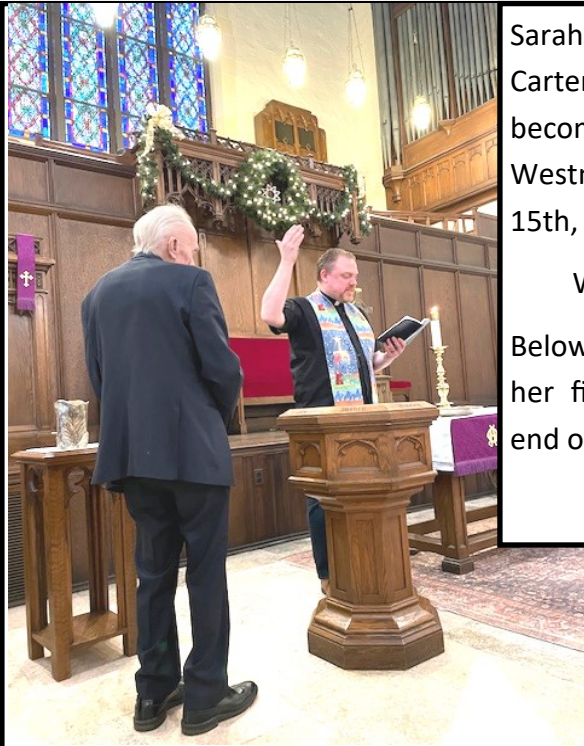
# Baptism and New Members!

Below:

Wilbur Duncan, husband of Nancy Booth Duncan, is Baptized at the age of 87 prior to becoming a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church on Dec. 15th, 2024. A day full of celebration and praise for our Good Lord and his perfect timing!



Left: Nancy and Wilbur share an emotional embrace at the conclusion of the service. Their faith and love is an inspiration to our WPC family and their family, of whom, many were present to join in this momentous occasion!



Sarah Hyska stands with Carter Brooks as they become new members of Westminster on Dec. 15th, 2024!

Welcome Home!

Below: Carter poses with her fiance, Kyle, at the end of the service.



Aidan was our liturgist on Sunday, December 8th, the second Sunday in Advent. You did a great job, Aidan!



# Lessons and Carols 2024



So many family members we don't get to see often during the year blessed us by being here for Lessons and Carols, joining in fellowship after the service.



Along with scripture readings, we enjoyed many carols and beautiful anthems sung by the choir and congregation.



Special flowers given by his father, Jimmy Reed, in memory and honor of his son, Mark, who passed this last year.

Ever the creative and fun Nanny Pix, this cheerful Santa greeted adults and children alike on the Fellowship Hall Luncheon table. HO! HO! HO!



The Hyska family, joined by Sarah's mother, lit the fourth Advent Candle of LOVE on December 22nd.



# Christmas Eve Service 2024



Pastor Shawn passes the Light to each congregant at the end of the service.

This stubborn candle was a struggle to extinguish after every service during Advent. Hopefully, the Light of the Lord is just as zealous within us this year.



**Our new Christmas Flag announced our Christmas Eve service, and many visitors came! We had to print more bulletins. What a blessing!**

## **Epiphany Stars**

On Epiphany Sunday, January 5th, we will again be offering Epiphany Stars for each person to take and use throughout the year. Each star will have a word or small phrase taken at random from the Bible, and each person is encouraged to think and pray about what God is guiding you to with that star. Each year, we always have some amazing connections made through these stars! We will take down the greens on Saturday, January 11, 2025.







*May Joy, Health and Love be with you  
throughout the new year.*

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1022 FLOYD STREET

LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24501

## **Jan. 5th Epiphany Sunday Communion**

Scripture: Jer. 31:7-14 *and* Ps. 147:12-20; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18

Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska

Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson

Ushers: Ashley & Byron Thulin

Counters: Hoc Hughes, Charlie Ross

Liturgist: Byron Thulin

Communion: Sharee Evans, Ashley Thulin, Greg Hoag

Communion Prep: Martha Wilson

## **Jan. 12th**

Scripture: Isa 43-1-7 *and* Ps. 29; Acts 8:14-17, 21-22

Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska

Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson

Ushers: Jimmy Reed & Wilbur Duncan

Counters: Hoc Hughes, Joe Slette

Liturgist: Joe Slette

## **Jan. 19th**

Scripture: Isa. 62:1-5 *and* Ps. 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska

Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson

Ushers: Ann Allen & Charlie Ross

Counters: Hoc Hughes, Charlie Ross

Liturgist: Cary Roberts

## **Jan. 26th**

Scripture: Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 *and* Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska

Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson

Ushers: Joe & Lucy Slette

Counters: Hoc Hughes, Otto Vallastro

Liturgist: Greg Hoag

