



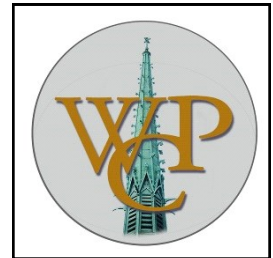
CHIMES - December 2025

Westminister Presbyterian Church

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

e-mail: wpclynchburg@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska



“But you, Bethlehem, David's country, the runt of the litter - From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule Israel. He'll be no upstart, no pretender. His family tree is ancient and distinguished.” – Micah 5:2 (The Message Translation – by Rev. Eugene Peterson)

We may be about to Rock Around the Christmas Tree, or Have Ourselves a Merry little Christmas, but out of all the Christmas songs and hymns we will listen and very likely

sing-along to, my favorite is the carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. The music is just flat out beautiful, it's a tune that grabs you at the heart, takes you on a ride, and seems to reach deep down in your soul. The hymn was written by the Rector at The Church of the Holy Trinity in Philadelphia in the 1800s after he spent time in the Holy Land itself.

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.*

As silently as a mouse runs across the floor undetected to the human ear; as silently as Santa Clause is supposed to slip down the chimney of the house of every good boy and girl on Christmas Eve night, as silently as the night is holy with anticipation of God doing something great where all is calm and all is bright, God enters our lives unexpectedly. It's like when you are surprised by someone who “snuck” up behind you (some of you hate this!) and you jump out of your shoes because you didn't see them coming. In our darkest of moments when we feel lost, there God is, silently giving us strength and guidance. In our most joyful moments, there God is, celebrating with us. Everywhere we turn, God is not far from us; the gift given to us, the gift of Jesus Christ and his desire to enter our frail humanity to show us the way to true love, grace and peace in the world.

As you prepare to celebrate the joy of our Lord again this Christmas, pay even more close attention to those silent moments in our lives; it's here where we allow Christ to enter, it's here where we hear him loud and clear.

I hope to see you at our annual Lessons and Carols service or at our Christmas Eve service (or at both!).

May God's peace fill your lives this Advent and Christmas season.

Pastor Shawn



December Birthdays

- 1 Tristan Thulin
- 5 Donna Goldenberg
- 5 Rachel Harris
- 6 Nancy Duncan
- 17 Mary Ellen Sydnor
- 20 Eloise Peters
- 21 Maymie Keys
- 22 Mark Reed
- 30 Sylvia Viar

Please remember our homebound members.

* * * * *

<p>* Kathleen Smith * Westminster Canterbury * 501 VES Rd, H-429 * Lynchburg, VA 24503</p>	<p>* Queen Webb * C/O The Summit * 1300 Enterprise Dr. * Lynchburg, VA 24502</p>
<p>* Maymie Keys * R&P at Liberty Ridge * 30 Monica Blvd. Unit 35 * Lynchburg, VA 24502</p>	<p>* Doris Hailey * 209 Woodland Avenue * Lynchburg, VA * 24501-2127</p>
<p>* Eloise Peters * Westminster Canterbury * 501 VES Rd, B-706 * Lynchburg VA 24503</p>	<p>* Barbara Taylor * R&P at Liberty Ridge * 30 Monica Blvd. Unit 344 * Lynchburg, Va. 24502</p>
<p>* Sylvia Viar * 15 John Rucker Drive * Ruckersville, VA 22968</p>	<p>* Becky Maxey * 57 Beech Avenue * Hamilton, NJ 08610</p>
<p>* Please pray for Nancy Duncan and Joe Slette. *</p>	

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Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be for sale again this year. The sign-up sheet is outside the office. Please indicate the number of plants you would like to take home after Christmas Eve service, and pay for the plants you order prior to Lessons and Carols to ensure we order the appropriate number.



100 Years of Westminster at 11th & Floyd!

In spring of 2026, we will celebrate Westminster Presbyterian Church being here, in Lynchburg, Va, at 11th & Floyd, for 100 years!

In preparation for that incredible event, Angela Hart, our congregation Historian, is working on refurbishing the Legacy History room. It has been moved upstairs into what was once the Ladies Bible Study Room, behind the Fellowship Hall, for ease of access and enjoyment. There is still much to do to catalogue and artfully display all the incredible pieces of history we have hidden away here at WPC.

If you would care to donate to this cause, please write checks to WPC with "Legacy Room Refurbishment" on the MEMO line of your check.

Hanging of the Greens



Here they're just gathering the pieces and fluffing each layer of our massive tree. Thanks again, Nancy, for gifting it to us last year!



Jeff looks toward the Narthex to help in centering the garland, wreath, and bows which decorate the back balcony. So much of the hanging of the greens comes down to, "a little more left," and "slightly more to the right."



Mary Sue's daughter-in-law and granddaughters came to help decorate as well. They were a HUGE help with putting up the tree and the garlands. Thank you all for your help!



Revelation Bible Study at Westminster Presbyterian Church

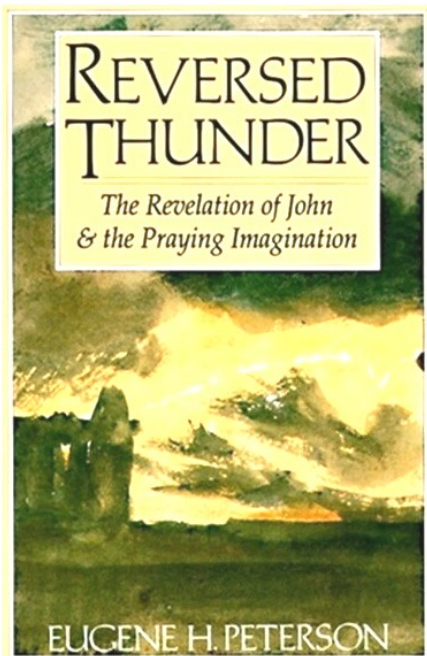
Continuing through November

Over the course of the next year, we will dive deep into the Revelation of John, the last book of the Bible, a book too often misquoted, mis-interpreted to invoke fear—judgement with wild imagery. Rev. Eugene Peterson, the Presbyterian minister who wrote The Message translation of the Bible, saw the Book of Revelation, not as a literal text meant to predict the future, but rather a Biblical text that invoked one's imagination of the previous sixty-five books read in the Bible.

Join us this year as we delve into the Revelation and expand our imagination. During the study we will read the Biblical text itself alongside Peterson's book Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John & the Praying Imagination. The Study will begin in October, and the group will meet for one hour each week— **Tuesday nights, 5.15 to 6.15 PM**. There will also be a Zoom option for those who cannot make it in person to the church.

Hope to see you there!

Tuesday Nights 5:15 PM —6:15 PM



- ✓ **October 14**—Introduction & Chapter 1—Famous Last Words
- ✓ **October 21**—Revelation 1:1-11/Chapter 2—The Last Word on Scripture
- ✓ **October 28**—Revelation 1:12-20/Chapter 3—The Last Word on Christ
- ✓ **November 4**—Revelation 2 & 3/Chapter 4—The Last Word on the Church
- ✓ **November 11**—Revelation 4 & 5/Chapter 5—The Last Word on Worship
- ✓ **November 18**—Revelation 6 & 7/Chapter 6—The Last Word on Evil
- ✓ **December 2**—Revelation 8 & 9/Chapter 7—The Last Word on Prayer
- December 9**—Revelation 10 & 11/Chapter 8—The Last Word on Witness
- December 16**—Revelation 12,13,14/Chapter 9—The Last Word on Politics

January 20—Revelation 17
& 18/Chapter 10—The Last Word on Judgement

January 27—Revelation 19 & 20/Chapter 11—The Last Word on Salvation

February 3—Revelation 21:1-22:5/Chapter 12—The Last Word on Heaven

February 10—Conclusion/Chapter 13—The Last Words

December 2025

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Tristan's 7th Birthday! Lunch Bunch	2 Bible Study 5:15-6:15 PM Rev. 8-9 & Chapter 7 of Reversed Thunder	3	4	5	6
7 December 7th 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion Scripture: Isa 11:1-10 and Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12 Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson Ushers: Jeff Evans, Joe Slette Counters: Hoc Hughes, Charlie Ross Liturgist: Val Harris Communion Prep.: Pix Mahler Communion Servers: Sharee Evans, Joe Slette, Ashley Thulin Advent Readers: Carter & Kyle Miller	8 PW Circle at 11AM in the Fellowship Hall	9 Bible Study 5:15-6:15 PM Rev. 10 & 11/ Chapter 8 of Reversed Thunder	10	11	12	13
14 December 14th 3rd Sunday of Advent Scripture: Isa. 35:1-10 and Ps.146: 5-10, or Luke: 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11 Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska Acolyte: Pix Mahler Ushers: Joe Slette & TBD Counters: Hoc Hughes, Joe Slette Liturgist: Pix Mahler Advent Readers: Mary Sue Childress & Family	15	16 Bible Study 5:15-6:15 PM Rev. 12, 13, & 14/ Chapter 9 of Reversed Thunder	17	18	19	20
21 December 21st Lessons & Carols, 4th Sunday of Advent Scripture: Isa. 7:10-16 and Ps.80:1-7, 17-19; Rom. 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25. Advent Readers: Wilbur & Nancy Duncan & Jimmy Reed Luncheon after service. Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska Acolyte: Angela Hart Ushers: Jimmy Reed, Wilbur Duncan Counters: Hoc Hughes, Charlie Ross	22	23 NO BIBLE STUDY	24 Christmas Eve Candlelit Service 4p.m. Ushers: Chris & Val Harris Liturgist : Mike Harris Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson Rachel	25 Merry Christmas Day!	26	27
28 December 28th 1st Sunday of Christmas Scripture: Isa. 63 7-9 and Ps.148; Heb.2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23 Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson Ushers: Chris & Val Harris Counters: Hoc Hughes, Pix Mahler Liturgist: Ashley Thulin	29	30 NO BIBLE STUDY	31			

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1022 FLOYD STREET

LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24501

December 7th 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion

Scripture: Isa 11:1-10 *and* Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19;
Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12
Advent Readers: Carter & Kyle Miller
Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska
Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson
Ushers: Jeff Evans, Joe Slette
Counters: Hoc Hughes, Charlie Ross
Liturgist: Val Harris
Communion Prep.: Pix Mahler
Communion Servers: Sharee Evans, Joe
Slette, Ashley Thulin

December 14th 3rd Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Isa. 35:1-10 *and* Ps. 146: 5-10, or
Luke: 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11
Advent Readers: Mary Sue Childress & Family
Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska
Acolyte: Pix Mahler
Ushers: Joe Slette & TBD
Counters: Hoc Hughes, Joe Slette
Liturgist: Pix Mahler



Wednesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelit Service at 4:00 p.m.

Ushers: Chris & Val Harris

Liturgist : Mike Harris

Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson/Rachel Harris



December 21st Lessons & Carols, 4th Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Isa. 7:10-16 *and* Ps.80:1-7, 17-19;
Rom. 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25.
Advent Readers: Nancy & Wilbur Duncan & Jim-
my Reed
Luncheon after service.
Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska
Acolyte: Angela Hart
Ushers: Jimmy Reed, Wilbur Duncan
Counters: Hoc Hughes, Charlie Ross

December 28th 1st Sunday of Christmas

Scripture: Isa. 63 7-9 *and* Ps. 148; Heb.2:10-18;
Matt. 2:13-23
Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska
Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson
Ushers: Chris & Val Harris
Counters: Hoc Hughes, Pix Mahler
Liturgist: Ashley Thulin