



First Westminster Presbyterian Church
 235 N. Fourth St., PO Box 580, Steubenville, OH 43952
 Phone: (740) 282-4591 Fax: (740) 282-4592
 10:45AM Rev. Jason Elliott December 15, 2024

Building relationships and connecting with others is important to us! We want to stay connected with those who virtually stay connected with us and also those who we see on a regular basis! If you could please scan the QR code above and complete the quick form, it would greatly help us as we update our contact information. Even if you believe we may have your information, please complete as we are cross checking what we have in Power Church. We thank you for all of your time, commitment, and support to First West!

We are so excited to share that we are now streaming our 10:45AM service in multiple locations of the church. For those of you with little ones, you can always catch the service LIVE on the television in the nursery located on the first floor. Also, the service is LIVE in the fellowship hall downstairs on the big screen. Also, our youth leaders have access to the service on a television in our Christian Education wing upstairs.

To give to First Westminster online,
 scan this QR code or go to
easytithethe.com/firstwest



The Church service is archived to our website
www.firstwestminster.org under the “watch” tab.
 Stay connected with us on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram!

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

3rd SUNDAY ADVENT READING/CANDLE LIGHTING Linn Family

HYMN “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” See insert/#29

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Loving God, we humbly ask for your forgiveness. Open our eyes and soften our hearts that we may faithfully serve you as we should. Fill us with the gift of love that we may love others.

MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Friends, believe the Good News
RESPONSE: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Mary, Did You Know?” Kayla Renner

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (Traditional) I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

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.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" ⁸ Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

SERMON "What's in Your Fruit Basket?" Rev. Jason Elliott

SPECIAL MUSIC "The Christmas Blessing" David Meyer

***BENEDICTION/ DISMISSAL**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S GREETERS: The Pietro Family & The Hilty Family

CHANCEL FLOWERS this morning are in loving memory of all of our Loved Ones who have passed. If you would like to sponsor flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please call the office for available dates. Flowers are \$25 a vase.

MISSION CANS- This week's mission cans will go to Church Youth Groups.

THE OHIO VALLEY CHORALE will present "Christmas Traditions" here today, Dec. 15th at 3 pm. The concert is free and open to the public. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. A free-will offering will be collected.

CANDLE LIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE We hope you will join us Tuesday, December 24th, at 7:00 pm for our Christmas Eve Service.

THANK YOU EVERYONE! *Operation Christmas Child* was another First West success! Thank you to all – whether you filled a box, made a donation or shared your prayers for the children, the volunteers, or for Samaritan's Purse. This year over 120 boxes were filled, an increase of some 20% from last year. Ours is a very generous congregation in this and the number of ways that we help others in the name of Christ Jesus.

Our Marian Wintringer Christmas Tree was fully decorated with items to help keep our community youth warm this winter. We collected 8 scarves, 35 pairs of gloves, 69 hats, 60 pairs of socks and sock packs and 20 sets of hats & gloves/hats & scarves.

Thank you so much for your generous love and support!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK - *Birthdays:* Linda Ashton (12/16), Kelly Leasure (12/17), Dan Ford (12/18), Linda Stead (12/20), Colton Davis (12/21) and Jamie Spencer (12/21).

Love God Love Others