



# WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 15, 2024 AT EIGHT FORTY-FIVE

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## GATHERING

Voluntary: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ..... arr. Gilbert R. Martin

Welcome.....Carol Cavin-Dillon  
*Please take a moment to let us know you are here today by either filling out the attendance form in the pew or by visiting westendumc.org/attendance. If you are a first-time guest with us today, please share a way to connect so that we can share more information about West End UMC with you!*

Introit: Creator of the Stars of Night..... Plainsong

Lighting of the Advent Candle..... Jonathan and Lucas Littrell-Garlit

† Processional Hymn No. 209: Blessed Be the God of Israel ..... Merle's Tune

† Call to Worship ..... Maggie Jarrell

Liturgist: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!

**People: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!**

Liturgist: Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice!

**People: Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice!**

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession

**God of joy,  
we give thanks today for that infectious spirit that you pour into each  
of us.**

**In this season, as we anticipate that you are not only coming, but that  
you are near, our hearts leap!**

**Yet, we realize that at times your joy doesn't flow out of us toward those  
who hunger for it.**

**We receive yet fail to give.**

**Forgive us for the ways we stifle your Spirit by keeping it to ourselves.**

**May our hearts be so filled with you that we can't help but proclaim your  
joy to the world through acts of kindness, mercy, and self-giving love.**

† Silent Confession

† Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that  
proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are  
forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

† Passing the Peace

Liturgist: As a forgiven and reconciled people, let us exchange signs of  
reconciliation and love. The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

† Gloria Patri..... No. 71

**Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination ..... Claudia Nygaard

**As your Holy Spirit spoke to the prophets of old, speak to us now through  
your Word, that by listening to your voice, we too will make a way for  
your hope to come into the world. Amen.**

A Lesson from the Old Testament..... Zephaniah 3:14-20

Response to the Lesson

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Moment

*Children's church is located in Scales Chapel, which is down the hall from the sanctuary.  
If it's your first time, a grown-up should please follow us after the children's moment to drop off.  
Pick up will at the same location immediately following the service.*

Sermon: The Joy of the Lord..... Carol Cavin-Dillon

† Affirmation of Faith ..... Will McLeane

**We are not alone, we live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made Flesh, to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church:**

**to celebrate God’s presence, *to live with respect in Creation,*  
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns of the Church

Salutation

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Liturgist: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

**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 trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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

Offertory: O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort .....Johann Wolfgang Franck

O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort;

O let me ne’er in sorrow pine,

my heart and soul, yea, all my being,

O Jesus, trust alone in Thee.

Thou Prince of Peace, thou pearl from heaven,

true God, true man, my morning star!

O come, thou precious sun most radiant,

thy beams illumine my heart and soul.

O Jesus, with thy advent

quiet my restless soul and anxious mind.

In true humility I welcome Thee,

Jesus Christ, my joy divine.

My thoughts, desires, and all my longings

I dedicate, O Christ, to Thee.

O come, thou precious sun most radiant,

thy beams illumine my heart and soul.

*(W. Osterwald)*

† Doxology ..... No. 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**SENDING FORTH**

† Recessional Hymn No. 202: People, Look East ..... Besancon

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain).....Veni Emmanuel

**Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel**

**shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Voluntary: On Jordan’s Banks .....Aaron David Miller

*The postlude is the final Alleluia of our worship.*

*All are invited to remain for a time of joyful prayer.*

† *The congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.*



## ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

*The altar flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Carolyn Bass and George Harrison Cate, Jr. and Emmie Jackson and Hunter McDonald, Jr. by Cathy Cate Sullivan and Hunter McDonald III.*

*A rose on the table celebrates the birth of Walker Catherine Harris, born Dec. 3, 2024 to Andrew and Meryl McVicker Harris. She is also welcomed by her grandparents, West End members Dan and Susan McVicker, and by her aunt, Morgan McVicker.*

*Today's liturgy was written by Rev. Shannon Baxter.*

### Music Participants

*Sanctuary Choir*

Andrew Risinger: Director / Organist

Matthew Phelps: Assisting at Organ

### Today's Music

The processional hymn is a lyrical paraphrase of the "Canticle of Zechariah" in which Zechariah, the father of John of Baptist, prophesied that his son would prepare the way for God's "mighty Savior." *Merle's Tune* was written by Hal Hopson, a prolific composer, educator, and church musician, who served as Minister of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville.

### Bulletin Cover Art

*The Prophet Zephaniah* is a Russian icon created by an unknown iconographer in the 17th century. Typical of Orthodox iconography in its style, Zephaniah appears against a turquoise backdrop wearing a tunic of deep red with an ornate, golden collar and a rust-colored robe. With a golden halo around his head, the painting depicts a younger, light-skinned prophet with reddish-brown hair and beard. In his left arm, he holds a scroll, and his right hand is pointing upward toward the top of the scroll.

## PRAYER REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

♦ **Prayer Requests:** Babs White; Kathy Osten; our unhoused neighbors looking for a warm place to sleep; those who are navigating the holidays in new ways this year; individuals in the hospital having procedures, recovering from illness or injury, those in treatment, and the families that are caring for them; peace in Palestine/Israel, Haiti, Sudan, and Ukraine.

If you have an emergency and need to contact one of the pastors after hours, please call 615.321.8500, Ext. 8853. The Pastor-on-Call for December 16-22 will be Rev. Will McLeane. To submit a prayer request, visit [westendumc.org/prayerrequest](http://westendumc.org/prayerrequest).

## FAITHFUL GIVING 2025

Help our church thrive and grow in 2025. Our church depends on the financial support of its members to carry out the ministries and programs that allow West End United Methodist Church to be the loving light of Christ, connecting, transforming. By turning in your 2025 Estimate of Giving, you help our church staff and leaders plan and budget for the coming year. You can find an estimate card in the pew back, scan the QR code, or visit [westendumc.org/estimatetnow](http://westendumc.org/estimatetnow) to turn in your estimate.

***As of December 11, we have received  
291 Estimates of Giving for 2025 for a total of \$1,924,784***

## DECEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING

Our December offering will go toward the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which is one pot of money we use to help people with their mortgage, rent, utilities, and bus fare to get back home. Your generosity to this fund in December is what we use to budget for the upcoming year.

## CLOTHING AND OTHER SUPPLIES NEEDED

Our RITI and Quiet Place guests have access to our clothing closet, and we can always use your gently used men's clothing, shoes, and sock donations. New donations of underwear and undershirts are always needed. Our Amazon wishlist with our top needs on it at [westendumc.org/clothingcloset](http://westendumc.org/clothingcloset).

## CHURCH CLOSED DECEMBER 25

The Church Offices and Preschool will be closed the afternoon of December 24 and all day on December 25 to allow our staff and clergy to celebrate the Christmas holiday with their families. If you have an emergency, please call 615.321.8500 and you will be directed to the minister on call.

## ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ON DECEMBER 29

On Sunday, December 29, there will be one worship service at 10 a.m. with no Sunday School that morning. Childcare will be provided for ages 3 and under.

## TAIZÉ LABYRINTH SERVICE // JANUARY 5

Experience the beauty and peace of Taizé worship around the labyrinth in the 4th Story Theater. Our labyrinth service that is usually on New Year's Eve will take place on Sunday, January 5 at 5:30 pm. Opportunity is offered for individual prayers and anointing for healing. The Taizé team will welcome you with beautiful music and warm smiles. Let go of the burdens of 2024 and enter 2025 with renewed hope and peace.



*West End UMC's Annual  
Candlelighting Service*

*Sunday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m.*

**ADVENT SPECIAL OFFERING - LUNCHES FOR HOPE**

This year's Advent Offering will go to the Lunches for Hope Program in the Dassa-Zoume region of Benin, Africa. The funds will be used by former West End member Hilarion Vegba who worshiped and studied with us when he was enrolled in a program at Vanderbilt. Thirty girls will receive lunch five days a week for nine months of school. Before this program, girls without this lunch money asked for the money from men who took advantage of their situation. West End funded this program last year and there was a dramatic decrease in girls dropping out of school, early pregnancy and trafficking. Our goal is \$10,800 which will fully fund lunches for two years. You can give online at [westendumc.org/give](http://westendumc.org/give) or by check with "Advent Special Offering" in the memo line.

**ADVENT MINISTRY MARKETS  
IN REED HALL TODAY**

Don't miss the last two Sundays of our annual Advent Ministry Market today in Reed Hall! Markets will be from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Come purchase items that help support a social mission here and around the world!



Services of the Longest Night, traditionally held on the longest night of the year, are meant to hold space for those who may need a quiet place for reflection, prayer, and tears. In the midst of the darkest time of the year, this service draws people into a community of those who "get it," where candles are lit as a reminder that even in the midst of darkness, the Light of Christ is coming into the world.

On Wednesday, December 18, at 6 pm, West End will hold a Service of the Longest Night, both in-person and online. We will gather to hear words from Scripture, light candles, hear comforting music, receive Communion, and pray. Those joining us online will be able to submit prayer requests, and someone in the Sanctuary will light candles on your behalf. Even if you are not experiencing a difficult season yourself, you are invited to attend and pray for those who are.

**CHILD LED CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE // DECEMBER 24 AT 3 PM**

All ages of children and families are invited to participate in our Child Led Christmas Eve Worship Service on Tuesday, December 24 at 3 pm. We are excited to have our children lead us in worship and participate in bringing the story of Jesus' birth to life for us on Christmas Eve. Any children who want to be included are invited to dress in costume to provide a visual image of the scripture. Children can choose to be a shepherd, a Wise One, one of the animals, or an angel. This service is lots of fun for all ages, and we hope you will join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ!



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES // DECEMBER 24 AT 5 AND 10 PM

Join us at 5 or 10 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24 for our Christmas Eve services that will include carols, communion, and candles. For our 10 p.m. service, we will have the choirs, communion, and candles. An Organ Prelude begins at 9:30 p.m. These traditional services are highlights of our West End worship, celebrating Christ's birth as a gift for all time.

## PARKING FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

We expect parking to be limited for our special services this Advent season. To help us make room for everyone who would like to worship with us, we ask that you make plans to carpool or use a rideshare if possible. Early arrival is recommended.

## NEW YEAR YOGA EVENT

Start the new year with peace, purpose, and mindful movement. This 2-hour workshop is perfect for all levels—no yoga or meditation experience is needed. You'll enjoy a gentle yoga flow, a calming guided meditation, and space to reflect and set meaningful intentions for the year ahead. Register at [westendumc.org/yogaevent](https://westendumc.org/yogaevent).

## ACCESSIBILITY IN WORSHIP

♦ **Service Dogs** - On Sundays, we may have congregants with service or guide dogs in worship with us. Please warmly welcome them both but refrain from petting the dog because it is a distraction to the animal while its working.

♦ **Braille Bulletins** - Also, we are now able to offer braille bulletins for those who may need it to fully participate in our worship service. Please email Andrew Callis at [acallis@westendumc.org](mailto:acallis@westendumc.org) so we can make those arrangements and have it available.

♦ **Adult and Youth Sensory Bags** - We have sensory bags at each sanctuary entrance for adults and youth. If this is a need of yours, feel free to grab a bag and return it to the cart at the end of the service. Our intention is to make our service welcoming for all individuals with the hope that you feel best equipped for a fulfilling worship experience.

♦ **Assistive Listening Devices** - There are assisted listening devices available for anyone who may need them. They can be found in the Narthex or in Reed Hall.

## 2024 ADVENT EVENTS

Candlelighting Service // December 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Longest Night Service // Wednesday, December 18 at 6 p.m.

Child Led Christmas Eve Service // December 24 at 3 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services // December 24 at 5 and 10 p.m.

# Christmas Eve Services

3 p.m.

Child Led Service

5 p.m.

Carols, Communion  
and Candles

10 p.m.

Choirs, Communion  
and Candles



# A Warm Welcome

**Welcome to West End United Methodist Church!**  
*We seek to be the loving light of Christ in Nashville and beyond.*

We gather as the people of God with a wide range of religious backgrounds, education levels, political, and theological perspectives, and we value that diversity. We welcome and celebrate the gifts God has given to all without regard to gender identity, race, sexual orientation, economic or family status, ethnicity, or mental or physical ability.

Scan this QR Code or visit [westendumc.org/links](http://westendumc.org/links) to register your attendance with us, find out more about our Sunday Morning Classes, sign up for our weekly email, and learn more about the different ways to give at West End.



We believe that God loves everyone unconditionally!

## West End Staff

### Members of West End UMC ..... Ministers

**Rev. Dr. Carol Cavin-Dillon**.....*Senior Pastor*  
**Rev. Will McLeane** .....*Spiritual Formation*  
**Rev. Maggie Jarrell**..... *Children and Families*  
**Rev. Stacey Harwell-Dye**..... *Mercy and Justice*  
**Rev. Shannon Baxter** .....*Congregational Connection*  
**Rev. Aimee Baxter**.....*Young Adults*  
**Emily C. Robbins**.....*Minister of Youth*  
**Dr. Matthew Phelps**.....*Minister of Music*  
**Andrew Risinger** .....*Associate Minister of Music*  
**Dr. Tammy Lewis Wilborn**..... *Congregational Care Intern*  
**Rea Green**..... *Pastoral Intern*  
**Hampton Randall**..... *Youth Ministry Intern*  
**Nico Zavala**.....*Music Intern*  
**Shelley Kuhlmeier**.....*Communications Director*  
**Lazaro Kapella**.....*Church Financial Officer*

**Jim Raver**.....*Property Operations Manager*  
**Shannon Meffert** .....*HR Generalist*  
**Corye Nelson** .....*Preschool Executive Director*  
**Christina Shoptaw** .....*Preschool Operations Manager*  
**Cheryl Reeves** .....*Preschool Curriculum Coordinator*  
**Karina Gurgenzidze** .....*Childcare Coordinator*  
**Cindy Siemer**..... *Senior Administrative Assistant*  
**Andrew Callis**..... *Administrative Assistant*  
**Tosha Jackson** .....*Receptionist*  
**Kathryn Ware** .....*Receptionist*  
**Chase Bencin** .....*Media Coordinator*  
**Ronnie Franklin**..... *Building Superintendent*  
**Andy Ulm**.....*Safety and Security Coordinator*  
**Richard Thomas** ..... *Custodian*



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