



WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP
DECEMBER 22, 2024 AT EIGHT FORTY-FIVE
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

Voluntary: Prelude on *Creator of the Stars of Night*Richard Warner
Prelude on *Of the Father's Love Begotten*.....Wilbur Held

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!

Lighting of the Advent Candle..... Sunny Day Club Volunteers

Introit: Of the Father's Love Begotten Divinum Mysterium

† Processional Hymn: God Almighty, We Are WaitingHyfrydol

**God Almighty, we are waiting
for a Savior to appear.
Meet us in our desert journey;
give a sign that you are near:
burning bushes, parted waters,
food aplenty in the wild.
As we look for signs and wonders,
help us see you in a child.**

**God Incarnate, we are waiting
for the feast day of your birth.
Looking back and looking forward
to the Christ's return to earth.
Help us to proclaim the gospel,
'til the world is reconciled.
Let us set your holy table
for each woman, man, and child.**

**God the Spirit, we are waiting
for your presence here and now.
Humbled by our sinful weakness,
at your mercy we will bow.
Search our hearts and make us ready,
speak in language strong and mild,
help each one of us, your people,
to receive you like a child.**

† Call to WorshipShannon Baxter

Liturgist: Like a faithful shepherd, God gathers us into the shelter of love.

People: We trust in God's provision and will not be afraid.

Liturgist: As dawn births the day with brilliant beams of light,

People: we will lean into God's resurrecting power to bring new life into and through us.

Liturgist: Indeed, God rejoices over us with the exuberance of a dancing choir lost in the music.

People: May we join the divine and lift every voice to sing!

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession

Comforting God,

the world's worries, life's challenges, and the anxieties of the present day so often consume us and steal our joy.

We confess that frequently, in seeking to create shelter and security, our response is to look for help beyond you and the loving hands of each other.

By your Spirit, forgive us our sins;

open our lives to share and receive gifts of grace, and ground us in the peace that passes all understanding, keeping our hearts and minds safe in Christ alone.

† 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 IlluminationRobb Bigelow

**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 Gospel..... Luke 1:39-55

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: Yes, She KnewCarol Cavin-Dillon

† Affirmation of FaithAimee Baxter

**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: Magnificat Charles V. Stanford

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced
in God my savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness
of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth, all generations
shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him,
throughout all generations. He hath shown strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted
the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy
hath holpen his servant Israel; as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed forever. 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.

† 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. 220: Angels from the Realms of Glory Regent Square

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain).....Veni Emmanuel
**Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Voluntary: Paeon on *Divinum Mysterium*.....John Cook
*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 this morning are given in celebration of the baptism of Greyson Wyatt Garrett by his grandparents, Vonde and Jim Caden.

The flowers in Reed Hall are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Michael Williams on his birthday by Margaret Williams and family.

Greyson Wyatt Garrett, son of Chad and Jordan Garrett, will be presented for baptism today at the late service.

Today's liturgy was written by Rev. Will McLeane.

Music Participants

Sanctuary Choir

Patricia Cullum: soloist, soprano

Andrew Risinger: Director / Organist

Today's Music

“God Almighty, We are Waiting” is from the Methodist hymnal supplement *Worship and Song*. The text is by Ann Bell Worley. She writes, “*God Almighty, We Are Waiting* was my first hymn. It started with the first line in my head during the season of Advent. I heard that line to Holy Manna and wrote the rest of the lyrics with that hymn tune in mind. At the time, I was on staff at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, and a fellow minister, who was also a gifted musician, played *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* on banjo, which struck a deep chord with me and fostered my love of the tune, Holy Manna. I remember writing down the first line of *God Almighty*, and keeping a notebook by my bedside that evening, tossing and turning, and writing a line at a time. In the morning, I had a full hymn.” Despite *Holy Manna* being the original tune, the Methodist supplement uses the familiar tune *Hyfrydol*, which is also the tune we are using today.

“God Almighty, We are Waiting” © 2005
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Bulletin Cover Art

“Our Lady of the Sign” is an unattributed icon showing Mary and, within her, a sphere with an image of the yet-to-be-born Jesus. This icon of Mary and Jesus is striking in its symmetry and use of vibrant colors as it illustrates a haloed Mary against a deeply-saturated blue backdrop. Mary wears an equally rich blue tunic with golden cuffs and a robe with shades of warm reds and pinks that depict the natural folds and draping of the garment. In the center of her figure, we find an icon of Jesus, who also has a halo around his head. Jesus is clothed in a vivid, golden robe. Within the sphere that surrounds him, varying degrees of turquoise form interior circles that begin dark in the center and become lighter as they reach the outer edges. Within each of these shades of turquoise, we find stars and beams of light surrounding the Christ-child. In his left hand, Jesus holds a scroll, and his right hand shows two fingers pointing toward the heavens.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

♦ **Prayer Requests:** The Brakefield Family; Kathy Osten; our unhoused neighbors looking for a warm place to sleep; those traveling over the holidays; those who are navigating the holidays in new ways this year; individuals in the hospital having procedures, recovering from illness, those in treatment, and the families that are caring for them; peace in Palestine/Israel, Haiti, Sudan, Syria, 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 23-29 will be Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon. To submit a prayer request, visit westendumc.org/prayerrequest.



Christmas Eve Services

3 p.m.
Child Led Service

5 p.m.
*Carols, Communion
and Candles*

10 p.m.
*Choirs, Communion
and Candles*

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

FINAL ADVENT MINISTRY MARKETS IN REED HALL TODAY

Don't miss the FINAL Advent Ministry Market today in Reed Hall, open from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Come purchase items that help support a social mission here and around the world!

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 or by check with "Advent Special Offering" in the memo line.

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.

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.

CHURCH CLOSED DECEMBER 25 AND JANUARY 1

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 as well as January 1 for the New Year's holiday. If you have an emergency, please call 615.321.8500 and you will be directed to the minister on call. Please note that Room in the Inn is still happening on our campus on both dates.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ON DECEMBER 29

On Sunday, December 29, there will be one worship service at 10 am with no Sunday School that morning. Childcare will be provided for ages 2 and under, but there will be no Children's Church during the service.

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.

NEW YEAR YOGA EVENT // JANUARY 5

Start the new year with peace, purpose, and mindful movement. This 2-hour workshop, from 2-4 p.m. in Room 324, is perfect for all levels—no 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.

FIRST WEDNESDAY: RENEWAL LEAVE DISCOVERIES WITH PASTOR CAROL // JANUARY 8

Join us on January 8 for a time of fellowship and learning around the table. The Rev. Dr. Carol Cavin-Dillon will lead our programming as she shares what she learned and discovered during her recent renewal leave. Supper starts at 5:15 pm, and the event begins at 6 pm. Register for dinner and the event at westendumc.org/firstwednesday.

CONFIRMATION KICKOFF // JANUARY 12

All 6th graders are invited to join us for Confirmation this spring as they learn about the United Methodist Church and explore their own beliefs. Confirmation begins January 12. For more information visit westendumc.org/confirmation.

WEST END FAMILY MEET UP // JANUARY 26

Families are invited to join us for pancakes and play time in the gym on Sunday, January 26 from 11 am to 1 pm.

ONE DAY NEW MEMBER CLASS // FEBRUARY 9

Anyone that has been interested in becoming a member of the church make plans to attend the one day membership class on February 9 at 9:45 am. We'll meet in the 4th Story Theater for about an hour and a half. Register at westendumc.org/membership.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THEOED NASHVILLE

February 23 at 4:30 pm at the Woolworth Theater

West End UMC is joining Emory's Candler School of Theology to host TheoEd in Nashville! TheoEd is a faith-based speaker series that brings together leading thinkers in the church and the academy to give the talk of their lives in 20 minutes or less. The speakers for TheoEd Nashville are Julian Davis Reed, Lanecia Rouse, Sam Wells, and Suzanne Stabile. Learn more about TheoEd at their website theoed.com.

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.

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 to turn in your estimate.



***As of December 18, we have received
295 Estimates of Giving for 2025 for a total of \$1,951,834***

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 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 McLeaneSpiritual Formation
Rev. Maggie Jarrell..... Children and Families
Rev. Stacey Harwell-Dye..... Mercy and Justice
Rev. Shannon BaxterCongregational Connection
Rev. Aimee Baxter.....Young Adults
Emily C. Robbins.....Minister of Youth
Dr. Matthew Phelps.....Minister of Music
Andrew RisingerAssociate 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 MeffertHR Generalist
Corye NelsonPreschool Executive Director
Christina ShoptawPreschool Operations Manager
Cheryl ReevesPreschool Curriculum Coordinator
Karina GurgenzidzeChildcare Coordinator
Cindy Siemer..... Senior Administrative Assistant
Andrew Callis..... Administrative Assistant
Tosha JacksonReceptionist
Kathryn WareReceptionist
Chase BencinMedia Coordinator
Ronnie Franklin..... Building Superintendent
Andy Ulm.....Safety and Security Coordinator
Richard Thomas Custodian



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