

GATHERING

(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)

About the Prelude

The Prelude is a musical offering to help move the hearts and minds of the gathering community from the daily strugales of life to the worship of God.

From the Schübler Chorale collection, Bach transcribed this organ piece from the fourth movement of his Cantata, BWV 140, which is commonly performed during Advent.

About Advent

"Advent" means "coming" or "arrival." The season of Advent begins with an emphasis on final things (eschatology). We watch and pray with expectant hope for the establishment of God's justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come - Jesus Christ our Savior. The primary symbolism of the Advent candles has to do with light growing in darkness - leading up to the coming of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

PRELUDE J.S. Bach

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Hymn 349) BWV 645

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00 AM)

Jody Lindh Lift Up Your Heads

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, Be lifted up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory shall come in. Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Who is the King of glory? Tis the Lord, strong and mighty!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the light is brought into the Sanctuary, and the candle on the Advent wreath is lighted, the congregation is invited to sing the following:

HYMN 90

WAIT FOR THE LORD



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

A voice cries out; a prophet speaks: In the wilderness, prepare the way.

The valleys are filled: the mountains are made low.

The winding roads are made level, the rough ways made smooth.

God's salvation has come and even now it is on its way.

Blessed is the Lord God, who has come to save us!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

God of the wilderness, you have always sent your prophets to lead us to repentance, to make a way for your salvation to arrive. Help us this day to receive your presence, removing every hindrance and obstacle to your Spirit's work.

Make your salvation known from every segment of our lives to every corner of this earth. Amen.

(The Cross and Bible lead the procession, symbolic of the centrality in worship of Jesus Christ - the Living Word, and the Bible - the written Word.)

*HYMN 104

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CALL TO CONFESSION

We, who have stood in the refreshing waters of baptism, often forget our need to be cleansed.
We, who have heard the voice of love, often speak with anger and meanness to others.
God calls us to be wise enough to change our ways.
In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Call to and Prayer of Confession

A call to confession expresses God's initiative in calling for repentance and promising forgiveness in Christ. As members of Christ's body, we confess the reality of sin, captivity, and brokenness in personal and common life and ask for God's saving grace.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

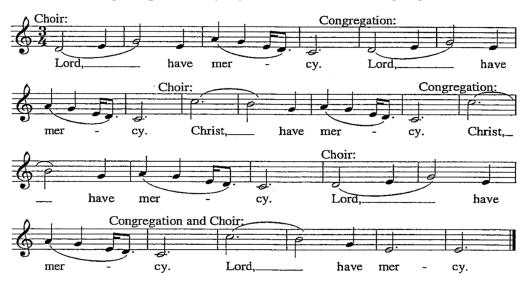
God of all creation, your vision of peace is beyond our knowing. We have been hurt and we have seen destruction, so we turn around and hurt others, destroying what you have called good. Forgive us, and fill us with your knowledge, so we may help bring forth your peaceful kingdom. Amen.

(Silent confession)

Kyrie

James MacMillan

(Sung responsively by the choir and congregation)



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*The Peace

Since God in Christ has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

(Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

About the Kyrie The Kyrie (Greek "kyrios" [Lord]) is a corporate musical prayer for grace.

Assurance of Pardon

A declaration of forgiveness proclaims the good news of God's mercy and offers the assurance of pardon in Jesus' name. The liturgist pours water into the font, which reminds us of the grace and cleansing of our Baptism, and the baptismal call to new life in Christ.

All praise to You, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won, Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

(Everyone is asked to sign the Friendship pad, which is located on the center aisle end of each pew.)

INTERLUDE

Max Reger

Valet will ich dir geben, Opus 135a

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Hear the Word of God! Our ears are open.

Isaiah 11:1-10

(Old Testament, page 640 in your pew Bible)

Choir: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Congregation: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Psalm 72, Hymn 149

ROCKPORT

All Hail to God's Anointed

Matthew 3:1-12

(New Testament, page 2 in your pew Bible)

Choir: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Congregation: Lord Jesus, come soon!

SERMON

"You better watch out!"

Donovan Drake

(A moment for meditation)

Scripture

The scriptures bear witness to the word of God, revealed most fully in Jesus Christ, the Word who "became flesh and lived among us." (John 1:14) Where the word is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the living Word is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, reading, hearing, preaching, and affirming the word are central to Christian worship and essential to the Service for the Lord's Day.

149 All Hail to God's Anointed



Originally a celebration of God's sovereignty, Psalm 72 has often been given a Christological interpretation, notably in Isaac Watts's "Jesus Shall Reign" (see no. 265). The references to rulers here probably influenced the view that the Magi of Matthew 2 were kings (see no. 151).

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Anthem (8:30 AM)

William Rowan

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way! Make straight his path.

Every valley shall be exalted, every hill made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it together.

Prepare...

(11:00 AM) G.F. Handel

And the Glory of the Lord ((from *Messiah*)

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Offering

The collection of tithes and offerings takes place as a response to the Word. These actions are signs of our gratitude for the grace of God proclaimed in the gospel.

To give, please scan the QR code below:



*PREPARATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE

*INVITATION

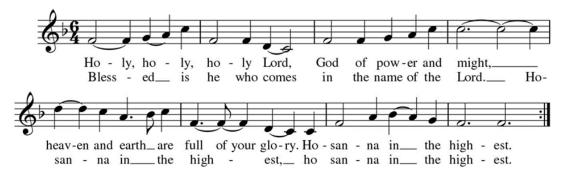
*GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of Wonder: your Spirit did not rest... the very nearness of your kingdom.

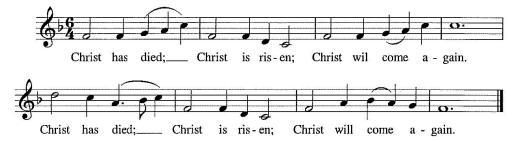
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:



(The congregation may be seated.)

Holy are you, God of all creation... so we might dance in your life forever.

Even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, and ache for his return, great is the mystery of faith:



Come to us in these moments, God of Advent... from the violence of war and fear.

Then, when all time has ended, all pain and hurt is gone, you will welcome everyone to your Table, where we can sing, "Glory!" with one voice to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Singing together, see the inside back cover of your hymnal.)

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Music during Communion Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott (Hymn 84) BWV 602

Anthem (8:30 AM) DIVINUM MYSTERIUM Of the Father's Love Begotten Hymn 108

Anthem (11:00 AM)

Karen Marrolli

Walk in Light

And we shall study war no more. Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

And we shall walk the paths of peace. Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

The night is far spent; the day is at hand.

And we shall study ware no more. Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

So let us cast off the works of night so we may wear a Shield of Day. Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

The bread used in today's service is gluten free.

Music During Communion

This setting is from the Orgelbüchlein collection. A translation of verse one reads: "I have hoped in you, Lord. Help that I am not put to shame or mocked eternally. This I ask you: uphold me in your faithfulness, Lord God."

Evermore and evermore.
And we shall walk in paths of peace.
Come, O people, O come and walk
in the light of the Lord.

Dona nobis pacem.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

*HYMN 106

 $\begin{array}{c} \operatorname{BEREDEN} \operatorname{V\ddot{A}G} \operatorname{F\ddot{O}R} \operatorname{HERRAN} \\ \operatorname{Prepare} \operatorname{the} \operatorname{Way}, \operatorname{O} \operatorname{Zion} \end{array}$

*BENEDICTION

Choir: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Congregation: Lord Jesus, come soon!

POSTLUDE J.G. Walther

Gottes Sohn ist kommen, versets 3&4

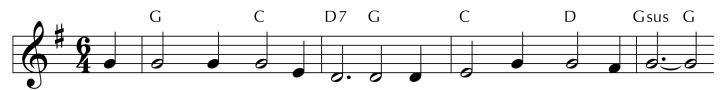
*(Those who are able may stand.)

The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of worship.

Finishing the settings from the postlude last week, versets 3&4 present chorale phrases in imitative counterpoint and canons.

Prepare the Way, O Zion





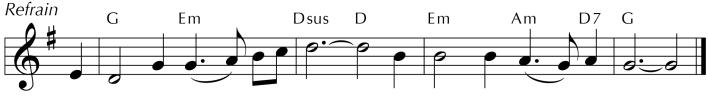
- 1 Pre pare way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near! the
- Zi on; he comes from heaven a bove. 2 He brings God's rule, O
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley lev - el a wav ap - pear. and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and His rule is peace love. sal - va - tion pro-claim ti - dings of in and ev - erv place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing. All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



Christ O blest is who came in God's most ho ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

Welcome

Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes you to share our common journey to become more faithful disciples of Christ. Any who are interested in joining us in this journey are invited to contact one of the pastors on staff by calling 615.292.5526, the church office.

Worship Leaders

Preaching

Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake Pastor and Head of Staff

Liturgist

Rev. Stephanie Boaz Associate Pastor of Congregational Care

Lay Liturgists

8:30 AM Linda Koon 11:00 AM Lisa Atkinson

Advent Wreath Lighters

8:30 AM The Hildebrand Family 11:00 AM The Bradley Family

Beadle Acolyte

11:00 ам Ben Deerkoski

Music

8:30 AM Laudate Choir
11:00 AM Westminster Choir
Children's Choirs
Ally Hard, Conductor

Gloria | First, Second Grades Roberta Rodgers & John Semingson, Directors

Jubilate | Third - Fifth Grades Ally Hard & Dale Nickell, Directors

John Semingson
Director of Music Ministries

Dale Nickell Organist and Associate Director of Music Ministries

Mask Policy

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville is mask optional.

Hearing Assistance

We offer personal FM Receivers with an earpiece, located in the Narthex and in the Parlor on the Welsh dresser. Instructions can be found at each location.

Large Print Hymns

Looking for large-print hymns?
They can be found in the Narthex at the Sanctuary entrance or in the Parlor on the Welsh dresser.

Recorded Worship Services

To watch a service at a later time, go to www.nashvillewpc.church and scroll down to the Worship Service Archive. Click on the service you would like to view.

Dial-a-Sermon

Dial 629.206.1073 after 10:15 AM each Sunday morning to listen to the sermon. The sermon will be available all week.

Childcare

Childcare is available on Sundays from 8:15 AM to 12:00 PM.

Nursery - Room 146

Toddlers - Room 152

2s and 3s - Room 151

Copyright Information

The music used in the service this morning is copyrighted under Christian Copyright Licensing International, Inc., No. 1121525.

Our Mission

Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."

(2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

"Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance...
Matthew 3:8



How would you describe a fruitful life in Christ Jesus?

John wants us to stop doing things that do not bear fruit for the kingdom. Where can you start?

When was the last time you experienced the "fruit" of the gospel?



Generosity Chairs

Cullen Douglass cullen.douglass@nm.com

Bob Hines hine7742@bellsouth.net

Generosity 2026

Advent Season is upon us, a season of Hope and Wonder and Waiting. As we try to stay awake and alert to the coming of Jesus, we are so easily distracted by the litany of things on our "to do" lists and overwhelmed by a very weary world, indeed. In the midst of it all, at Westminster we come together to focus on the birth of our Savior, Emmanuel, God with us.

We sing "Lord Jesus Come Soon" and know that our joy and hope is bound to the truth that we belong to God. We turn that Light outward, spreading the Gospel, serving others, sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure with our community and our world.

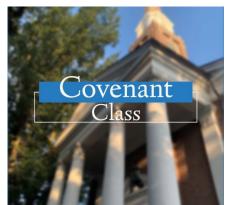
We are so thankful for the families who have already made a pledge for 2026, many of whom increased their pledges. We are making good progress toward reaching our goal.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2026 and for those that have not paid their pledge for this year, we invite you to complete your 2025 pledge.

Please note that to add your contribution to your 2025 taxes, your pledge payment must be postmarked by December 31, 2025.

TODAY @ WESTMINSTER

Adult Education Classes start at 9:45 AM



Covenant Class

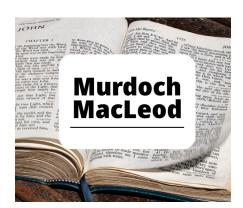
Advent, Incarnation, and the Call to Community

Advent is often spoke of in multiple tenses—past, present, & future. It is a season when the church looks backward to celebrate the birth of Christ, looks to the present for signs of Christ among us, and, lastly, looks forward in anticipation of Christ's return.

This class will explore these various "tenses" of Advent through a theological and Biblical examination of incarnation and community. We'll discuss the meanings of Advent and

how this season calls us to a new, shared life in Christ. All are welcome!

Led by Will Wellman.



Murdoch MacLeod • Library

We will discuss this week's gospel lesson.

For more info, please contact Paul DeWitt, pdewitt@comcast.net.



Faith & Fellowship • 214

The Bible and Justice -From Amos, Adam & Eve, through Jesus; How does the Bible handle Justice?

For more info, please contact Donna Schwaber, dkschwaber@gmail.com.



Journeys • **Overlook Room**

Join us in Fellowship Hall for Covenant Class.

For more info, please contact Krissie Self, krissiebself@gmail.com.

Children, Youth & Intergenerational Choirs

4:00 PM Rehearsals: Tintinnabulation | Gloria, Alleluia, Jubilate and Chiming Children

will have rehearsal and a party.

5:00 pm Rehearsals: Laudate Choir

KOINONIA YOUTH MINISTRY





YOUTH TEAM

Adam DeVries Parish Associate for Youth adevries@ nashvillewpc.org

Hannah Norris Youth & Missions Program Coordinator hnorris@ nashvillewpc.org

Jessie King Youth & Pastoral Care Fellow ikina@ nashvillewpc.org

Julius Hooper **MLC Youth** Ministry Resident **WPCKoinonia** staff@gmail.com

Nathan Scott Youth Ministry Intern **WPCKoinonia**











9:45 AM ● Sunday School • Koinonia Youth Café

Sunday School for sixth, seventh graders and high schoolers.

Confirmation Class for eighth graders. 12:00 рм | Christmas Party for Confirmands and Mentors.

5:00 PM ● Middle School **Christmas Caroling**

Middle Schoolers will sing Christmas Carols at Abe's Garden for the residents.

5:30 PM ● High School Christmas Party Lyman residence

Small Groups Throughout the Week

We have groups for girls and guys ninth - twelfth grades.

Please contact Hannah Norris, hnorris@ nashvillewpc.org, for more info.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

8:30 & 11:00 AM ● Worship Services

Children and Worship

Childcare is available for children who are infants through kindergarten during both services. While childcare is available, children are always welcome in worship. There are quiet toys and worship bags for children. They may be found in baskets in the Parlor and in the back of the Sanctuary. The bags have plain paper, crayons, a pencil and a children's bulletin.

9:45 AM ◆ Sunday School

2s are in room 149 3s are in room 161 4s are in room 163

Godly Play/Kindergarten in 183

4th & 5th Grade in room 292

1st - 3rd Chapel first and then will be picked up in rooms.

Questions for children and their families:



The Bible story is about hope today.

What do you think hope feels like? What do you think hope looks like?

What do you hope for your family?

LIVING OUT THE WORD

John the Baptist

R 0 U D Z Ε Ε F Н Q U Ζ Ε R M M O W DEAOHNTLOCUST

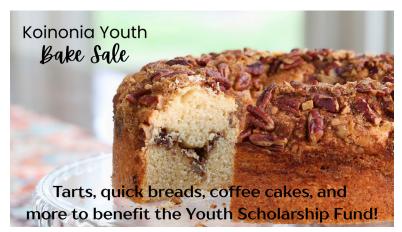
Word Search

See if you can find these words in the puzzle on the left.

Abraham Baptist
Clothes Fruit
Holy Spirit Isaiah
John Jordan River
Judea Kingdom
Locusts Prophet

Wilderness

🔡 TODAY @ WESTMINSTER



Youth Bake Sale Parlor

Looking for homemade holiday breads and your favorite Christmas treats? Come to the Parlor and stop at the Youth Bake Sale! Your support will fund SCHOLARSHIPS for upcoming Youth trips and outreach opportunities.



December 7,14,21 Alternative Christmas Gift Market Parlor

Give Christmas gifts to friends and family while also giving to those in need - visit us at the market or from the comfort of your own home. The Alternative Christmas Gift Market offers a different way to give gifts to friends and family while also giving to those in need.



Service of Hope and Healing 7:00 PM ● Sanctuary

Many feelings well up in us during the Advent season. Joyful Christmas carols seek to bring good cheer, yet for many experiences of grief and loss, anxiety and health concerns, depression and painful relationships are on our hearts. Join us as we claim the promises of God in Emmanuel, God-with-us, and pray for Christ's peace to make us whole.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The *Thursday Morning Theology Group* is starting a new book on January 8th!

We will be reading through Jaroslav Pelikan's *The Christian Tradition*, Volume I. This book traces the historical development of Christian doctrine from the Church's beginnings in 100AD up to 600AD when an Orthodox consensus is achieved. The Christian Tradition is an accessible but detailed account of this important period in Christian history and a great introduction for folks interested in learning more about the early Church and our theological origins.

Books are available for purchase in the office. Contact Will Wellman, wwellman@nashvillewpc.org, to get on the class email list.

Upcoming Events

Sunday December 148:30 & 11:00 AM

Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday December 14

5:00 рм | North Entry

Caroling in the neighborhood & dinner afterwards.

December 8
Women's Covenant Group
11:30 AM
Goodpasture Hall

Join us for a festive Christmas Luncheon. Please come at 11:30 and mingle before lunch, which will start at 12 noon. We will have a buffet of a variety of sandwich wraps (including several vegetarian and gluten-free), chicken and rice soup, and a festive salad. You are invited to bring a dessert to share if you would like. Contributions of \$5 -\$10 for lunch expenses are appreciated.

Following our program last month with the USO, we received feedback expressing interest in organizing Bye-Bye Bags for service members as our Christmas service project.

We are excited to break bread together and celebrate Christmas. We look forward to seeing everyone! Please let us know if you are coming.

Blessings, Lisa Atkinson, Frances Baird, and Suzanne Allen

EXECUTE CAFÉ NEWS

Café Hours Tuesday - Friday 8:00 AM - Noon

Be our guest! Park in the north entrance parking lot by the blue outdoor umbrella. Enjoy specialized coffees, various teas, and cold drinks along with homemade yummies.





Friday, January 16 Tour: Martha O'Bryan Center

Learn more about this mission organizatation.

Scan the QR code for more info and times.





Needed: Knitted and crocheters to make dishcloths and scrubbys.

For many years, a bag with a bottle of Palmolive dish soap, a knitted dishcloth, and a crocheted/knitted scrubby have been given to homes that Westminster Home Connection has worked on. The thank you notes have been heartwarming! If you can help, please let Beth Drake, beth@ westminsterjoy.org, know you can!

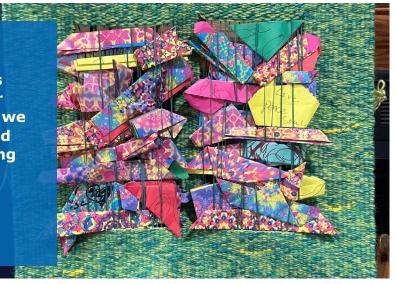


Thursdays
Fill My Cup:
A Post-Sermon
Reflection Study

8:15 AM • Meet and Greet 8:30 AM • Percolating conversation. Come when you can. No sign up necessary. We will revisit the previous Sunday's scriptures, reflect on the sermon, and share thoughts about the probing questions in the bulletin.

JOY IN LEARNING

Joy in Learning creatively shares God's gifts of play through the arts and other activities. As we gather in community, we promote connection, understanding and caring relationships. This is a welcoming environment for all ages as well as those from diverse cultural, ethnic and economic backgrounds.





Oil Painting Classes Tuesdays & Wednesdays with René Poe

For intermediate and advanced

Thursdays with Jillian Morse and Vivian Bauman

For beginning painters

Scan the QR code for dates, times and costs.



Pottery Classes Pottery 101: Foundation of HandBuilding with Clay (No wheel)

Leaders: Nancy Quillman, Joan Coode and Sally Gracey

Scan the QR code for dates, times and costs.



Watercolor Classes New: Thursday Session Beginner & Novice Watercolor Class

Instructor: Missy Perry

Scan the QR code for dates, times and costs.







Alternative Gifts

Here are a few missions will be in the Parlor this Sunday for the Alternative Gift Christmas Market.



Heart for Africa

The mission of Heart for Africa is: to fight hunger, care for orphans, reduce poverty, and provide education in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland).



James Lawson High School & Cockrill Elementary

Westminster provides tutors, office assistants, school uniforms, school supplies, books for school-to-home reading program and emergency needs for families in crisis.



Nations Ministry Center

Nations Ministry Center, as an instrument of God's grace, helps refugee and immigrant families become generationally successful.



Nueva Vida Food Project

Nueva Vida (New Life) food bank provides food to families and individuals experiencing food insecurity through the USDA commodity program. Non-edible grocery items like diapers and baby products are provided through donations to the program. Please use the QR code to the right for more information!



Rooftop Nashville

Rooftop provides rent or mortgage assistance to individuals and families in Davidson County with the goal of restoring housing stability, preventing homelessness, and providing hope.



Westminster Home Connection

Westminster Home Connection repairs and modifies homes to empower older adults and persons with disabilities to age in place safely and with dignity. Our repairs improve lives and preserve affordable housing.

MINISTRY TEAM



Donovan Drake Pastor ddrake@nashvillewpc.org



Sophie Maness Executive Director of Children's & Community Life Ministries smaness@nashvillewpc.org



Stephanie Boaz Associate Pastor for Congregational Care sboaz@nashvillewpc.org



Adam DeVries Parish Associate for Youth adevries@nashvillewpc.org



Guy D. Griffith Associate Pastor for Adult Faith Formation ggriffith@nashvillewpc.org



Hannah Norris Youth & Missions Program Coordinator hnorris@nashvillewpc.org



Ashley Higgins Associate Pastor for Young Families ahiggins@nashvillewpc.org



John Semingson Director of Music Ministries johns@nashvillewpc.org



Will Wellman
Director of Theology and
Community Initiatives
wwellman@nashvillewpc.org



Dale Nickell Associate Director of Music Ministries and Organist dnickell@nashvillewpc.org



