

WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
A United Church of Christ
(708) 865-1282

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s
journey, you are welcome here!”**

December 22, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Welcome on behalf of our pastoral staff

Rev. Joseph E. Mills, III, Pastor 708/562-0759

Jeremiah Fleming, Choir and Music Director

Joyce Kelstrom, Bell Choir Director

Pastor Vinod Wesley, Chicago Tamil Church Pastor

Thank you for joining us this morning! If you would like a pastoral visit, or want to learn about membership at Westchester Community, please make note of it on the green visitor cards in the red folders in each pew.

PASTOR: Pastor Mills

**USHERS: Ed Monahan, Dorothy Randle, Minnie Rice,
Marge Nelson, Sandy Tavernier**

LITURGIST: Sue Becerra

GREETER: Kathy Marinier

ALTAR FLOWERS: The Scharlach Family

INTERNET ACCESS You can access us, and our latest newsletter, at www.westchesterucc.com

Any questions? Email Carl Lindstrom at CarlJohnJr@yahoo.com

At The End Of Each Pew Is A Red Folder – please sign your name, and let us know if you are a visitor, or a member. We respond to all pastoral needs, and would love to have you on our newsletter list. Leave your address, phone number, or update. There are also touch cards and prayer request cards in this folder. You may send well wishes to shut-ins and those hospitalized, please fill the cards out and place them in the offering plate.

Westchester Community Church, United Church of Christ
1840 Westchester Boulevard
Westchester, IL 60154
708/865-1282

www.westchesterucc.org

Email: westcomchurch@hotmail.com

Reverend Joseph E. Mills, III

Carol Hoppe

Noreen Love

Susan Becerra

Jeremiah Fleming

Joyce Kelstrom

Wayne Miller

Carl Lindstrom

Pastor

Church Moderator

Asst. Church Moderator

Church Secretary

Music/Choir Director

Bell Choir Director

Custodian

Website Manager

Pastoral Staff Serving Next Week, December 29, 2019

PASTOR: Pastor Mills

**USHERS: Hans Straube, Mary Straube, Betty Koenig,
Kathy Marinier, Mary Linville**

LITURGIST: Marge Nelson

GREETER: Carol Hoppe

USHERS: Christmas Eve Early Service—Team 4

Christmas Eve Late Service—Team 5

LITURGIST: Christmas Eve Early Service—Kathy Marinier

Christmas Eve Late Service—Carl Lindstrom

GREETERS: Christmas Eve Early Service—Barb Mills

Christmas Eve Late Service—Denice

Kaminski and Wayne Scharlach

Advent Schedule

12/24 Christmas Eve Early Service—7:00 pm

12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—10:30 pm

12/29 Christmas Time Worship—10:00 am

12/31 Tamil Watchnight Service—11 pm

We have carefully reviewed the activity, worship, and financial giving of our membership, and recommended to you the following names to be considered for removal from church membership:

Sharon Allen, Ted Biberstein, Erv Brautigam, Felicia Frazier, Ba and Ron Lapka, Paul Loesch, David Moore, Carlos & Rose Ortiz, Jessica Torres, Bryan & Jenny Voegtle.

If you know of any reason these members should not be removed, please contact the Board of Parish Fellowship or call the church office. Thanks for your help!

A Note From Your Trustees Board

1. We have received a request to circulate a list of issues and repairs needed for our church property. First, Thank you for your concern and love for your church. There are several critical and costly repairs that we must address in the upcoming year. We are prioritizing the list, getting quotes, and will get that information to you in the next few weeks.
2. As you are aware, at the annual meetings, you approve a spending budget that exceeds our projected income. Through faith, special gifts and your generosity, we are happy to report that year to date we are current on all financial obligations and our spending is below budget projections. Your continued support is much appreciated.
3. To All Boards:
We are grateful for your conscience and responsible budget spending during the year. Your continued support is greatly appreciated

Thanks to all who donated rummage to Treasures and Trinkets, we will accept donations again in the fall. We do not have room to store items at the moment.

WORSHIP SERVICE

“The earth has grown old with its burden of care, but at Christmas it always is young, the heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair, and its soul full of music breaks the air, when the song of angels is sung.” - Phillips Brooks

PRELUDE

Jeremiah Fleming

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Our Nursery is in the building connected to the front of our Sanctuary off the front left door)

*WE PREPARE FOR HIS ADVENT

#225

“I Wonder as I Wander”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Mills

Leader: It is not for truth that we trust You.

People: It is in hope that You will rescue our world from any evil, and bring life to the places which suffer and hurt

Leader: We trust You to be at work in this moment,

People: Speaking clearly to those who would listen; directing paths to those who would follow

Leader: And we trust You to be at work in every moment,

People: Guiding us to mangers of Grace and pillars of Light; Filling us with Spirit an dreams of salvation which are real in Your making.

ALL: YOU ARE NEAR.

NOW IS THE TIME. NOW IS YOUR TIME. PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR YOUR COMING, AND OUR LIVES FOR FAITHFUL RESPONDING, IN THE NAME OF THE ONE WHO COMES, IMMANUEL. AMEN.

A SPECIAL GIFT OF MUSIC

“Ding Dong Merrily on High!”

Sofia Perry, Shannen McGinn, Larysa Krueger, Brianna Murray, Lisa Geothe-McGinn

**TODAY WE LIGHT THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE
ON THE ADVENT WREATH—LOVE**

Scripture Text: Matthew 1 : 18—25

Lighting the Candles this Sunday

Sandy Tavernier and Joe Augello

A Reading from God's Holy Word Sue Becerra
From the Pastorals: Isaiah 7: 10—17 p. 605, OT, Pew Bible
P. 963, OT, Large Print Bible

*THE GLORIA PATRI #734

*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.*

A SPECIAL GIFT OF MUSIC

“What Child Is This?”

Emma & Isabelle Kostal

*“While Shepherds Watched Mary's Little Lamb”
Handel/arr Myers”*

Sofia Perry, Shannen McGinn, Larysa Krueger, Brianna Murray,
Emma Kostal, Isabelle Kostal, Lisa Geothe-McGinn

A TIME FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE Pastor Mills

“What is Trust?”

(Think about what Truth might mean?)

PRAYER HYMN #489

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Mills

THE LORDS PRAYER (Please Use Debts/Debtors)

THE MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY WCC Chancel Choir

“Ride On, King Jesus“

Please place these items in our **Mission Collection Center** in the narthex,

- 2020 Calendars for the resident servicemen and women of Hines Hospital
- liquid hand soap for the Fisher House (home for families visiting Veterans at Hines)
- Pop Tops for Ronald McDonald House

Pajamas are warm and cozy and so will be the feeling in your heart when you share pajamas with those in need! **The Mission Board's Christmas collection** is pajamas for the children and adults at the Constance Morris House (shelter for abused women and children) all sizes are welcome. If you are unable to shop but would like to donate, we can do that task for you. Please clearly label your envelope and donation for the Mission Pajama Proj4ct and place it in the offering basket.

If you or a friend need a **Pocket Prayer Cloth.....**find them in the narthex in a basket on the table by the greeters. A special thank you to Hedy Kniesel for her handiwork making them.

COME, LEARN, AND GROW WITH US!!!

The Wednesday Bible Study meets each Wednesday, 9:30 am, at Mariner Health (in the front Conference room)

Faith Conversations meets the first and third Sunday of the month. Its easy to join in—each session stands on its own!!

Confirmation meets today

Several members have already received **“SCAM”** calls, asking for sensitive information. Please pay attention, especially if you have an older family member or neighbor, so that you are not hurt. If you ever have a question, do not be afraid to call our church office. We deal with these issues all the time.

Birthdays through December 29

12/25 Rochelle Stanley, Terry Samonds, Diane Gati

12/27 Thomas Pomrening

12/28 Develyn Goodloe

12/29 Paul Loresch, Jason Boyd

Anniversaries through December 29

12/29 Dorothy & Otis Randle, 47 years

Note cards for sale, featuring a drawing of our church designed by Hedy Kniesel. They are in bundles of 10 cards with envelopes. The cost is \$4.00, please drop your check or cash in the offering plate marked note cards. Thanks

***THE DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS (In Unison)**

Imagine what our community will look like when our church puts all of our efforts into sharing the Good News and all of our resources to make others healthy in spirit and in flesh. We thank You that, that is what You do every day for us. And that is why we devote our gifts to You this day, because we trust You to complete Your work and do that with us. Thank You, O Lord. Amen

A SPECIAL GIFT OF MUSIC

Shannen McGinn,
Larysa Krueger, Brianna Murray, Sofia Perry
“In Dulci Jubilo”

THE MEDITATION

Pastor Mills
“Before You Know It..”

***WE CELEBRATE WHO HE IS & WHAT IS TO COME #426**

“Blessed Assurance”

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Mills

***WE ARE SENT OUT IN PRAISE**

***POSTLUDE**

+Large print Bibles, bulletins and hymnals available

***Please Rise where this is marked.**

+ + + + + +

Our next Fish Fry is Friday, January 3—4:30—7:00 pm.

Please invite friends and get the word out!!!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES: Harriet Lucas, Lou Bender, Shirley Felske, Howie Linville, Diane Gati, Hank Luebeck, Sue McCulloch, Pastor Godwin Raj, Horst Kniesel, Walt & Lil Suva, Pat Von Laven, Dave and Sandy Shea; Lulling Savage, Serena Ivers & Chris, Delores Patak, Sean Tavernier, Kim Powers, Gloria Dearmore, Elayne Dalheim, Milton and Patricia Ladner, Michael Kelstrom, Eva Poulos

PEOPLE SERVING OUR COUNTRY OVERSEAS: Scott Johnson

PEOPLE AT LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES: Ann Stvan—Bridgeway, Steve Tomporowski – Wisconsin; Terry Samonds - Sturgeon Bay; Grace Duhasek—Lexington Lake Zurich, 900 S. Rand Rd., Lake Zurich, IL 60047 Room 334

FRIENDS TO KEEP IN PRAYERS: Andrew, Sue Brown, Beverly Cobb, Jane Parker-Conrad (sister to Caroline Long in hospice Catrambone, Rev. Dr. Sharon Ellis Davis, Sharon Eckstein, Lee Ellis, LeVander Ellis, Judy Farley, Thomas Fritz, Rev. Bruce Gillette, Rev. Justo Gonzalez, Mason Hauhe, Arlean Johnson, Deborah Kaminski, Melody Keppeler, Brian King, Alvin Klein, Velta Kopacek, Janice Kostka, Ellie Merritt's sister and brother-in-law; Diane Otters, Ping Ping, Kaleb Ramirez, Angela Rice, Alena Sanders, Sherrie Simpson, Howie VanBevern, Sharon Weinberg, Erin Wier, Cam Wright

PEOPLE HOSPITALIZED: Walt Suva—Adventist Bolingbrook; Dick Smith—LaGrange Hospital; Tom Heuss—Palos Memorial

Westchester Community Church could not function without the support of **all** members and friends. Please consider giving of your time and talent to serve on one of the many boards and committees in need of members for 1, 2, or 3 year terms. For a list of the boards with vacancies and an explanation of each board's duties, please refer to the poster boards in the Narthex, or see a Nominating Committee Member. Also, if approached by a Committee Member, please be open to serving. Thank you!

Your **Nominating Committee**

EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK THROUGH December 29

Today: **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
8:30 am Choir Practice
10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Confirmation
12:30 pm Chicago Tamil Church
4:00 pm Special Retirement Service—Rev. Vertie Powers
Monday:
6:00 pm Zumba—FFH
Tuesday:
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
10:30 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
Wednesday:
Christmas Day—Celebrate His Birth!!!
Thursday:
7:00 pm Pranic Healing
Friday
8:30 pm AA—Library
Saturday:
8:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (new ringers welcome)
Sunday: **Fifth Sunday of Advent**
8:30 am Choir Practice
10:00 am Worship

2020 WCC and Conboy Funeral Home **Calendars** are available in the Narthex on the front table.

Our Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 26, 2020 right after worship. We need 50 members in order to hold the meeting. Please stay that day!