

Advent 2023

The Road To
JOY

WEST END
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP
DECEMBER 10, 2023 AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

Voluntary: Partita on *Comfort, Comfort, O My People*.....Johann Pachelbel

WelcomeCarol 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: *Comfort, Comfort, O My People*.....Claude Goudimel

Lighting the Advent Candle.....Mercy and Justice

† Processional Hymn No. 203: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* Ellacombe

† Call to Worship Emily Robbins

Liturgist: Faithful love and truth have met; righteousness and peace have kissed.

People: Truth springs up from the ground; righteousness gazes down from heaven.

Liturgist: Yes, the Lord gives what is good, and our land yields its produce.

People: Righteousness walks before God, making a road for God's steps.

All: Let us gather along this way and abide in God's peace.

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Comforting God,

forgive us for the ways we have resisted the call of your prophets and so denied your way of justice and mercy in the world.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, raise up the valleys of our hearts, make low the mountains of our pride, and pave a path in the patterns of our lives that we might make room for the coming of our Lord and so become Christ's instruments of peace.

† 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.**

Anthem: The Call David Ashley White

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;
such a Way as gives us breath,
such a Truth as ends all strife,
such a Life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength;
such a Light as shows a Feast,
such a Feast as mends in length,
such a Strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart;
such a Joy as none can move,
such a Love as none can part,
such a Heart as joys in love.
(George Herbert)

The Sacrament of Baptism

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Liturgist: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care?

People: With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness that he may grow in service with others. We will pray for him to be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

† Commendation and Welcome

Liturgist: Members of the household of God, I commend Samuel Alexander to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you, Samuel Alexander and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to participate faithfully in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

† Musical ResponseNo. 611, St. 1
**Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for IlluminationMary Peacock
**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 joy to come into the world. Amen.**

A Lesson from the Old Testament.....Isaiah 40:1-11

Response to the Lesson
Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

† Hymn No. 730: O Day of God, Draw Nigh St. Michael

Children's Moment

Sermon: Tidings of Comfort and JoyCarol Cavin-Dillon

† Affirmation of Faith, No. 883 Aimee 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 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 (**in unison**)
**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: Expectans Expectavi..... Charles Wood
This sanctuary of my soul, unwitting
I keep pure and whole, unlatch'd and lit,
if thou should'st care to enter or to tarry there.
With parted lips and out stretch'd hands
and list'ning ears thy servant stands.
Call thou early, call thou late,
to thy great service dedicate my soul,
keep pure and whole.
(C. H. Sorley)

† 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. 196: Come, Thou Long-Expected JesusHyfrydol

† Benediction

† Benediction Response.....Veni Emmanuel
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Voluntary: Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661J. S. Bach

*The voluntary 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.
* *TFWS—The Faith We Sing (Pew Edition)*

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of the baptism of Raney Jean Schoen by her grandparents Nancy and Skipper Phipps.

Samuel Alexander Perdue, son of Jim and Mallory Perdue, is presented for baptism.

Raney Jean Schoen, daughter of Allie and Erich Schoen, was presented for baptism at the early service.

Today's liturgy was written by Reverend Will McLeane. The Call to Worship was adapted from Psalms 85:8-13.

Music Participants

The Chancel Choir
Matthew Phelps: Director / Assisting at Organ
Andrew Risinger: Organist

Today's Music

Charles Wesley's original text for "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" consisted of two stanzas of eight lines each. In some hymnals where the tune Stuttgart is used, those two stanzas are broken into four verses of four lines. The text is almost exactly the same in every hymnal that includes this hymn. Wesley used several slant rhymes, such as "Jesus-release us," "deliver-forever," and "Spirit-merit." He was quite clever with these – one generally doesn't notice them unless they're pointed out. Wesley also uses a lot of repetition to make some key themes more obvious. For example, in the second stanza, he repeats the word "born" at the beginning of three consecutive lines in order to focus on the nature of the incarnation.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 10

8:30 p	Advent Ministry Market	Reed Hall
8:45 a	Children's Church	Scales Chapel
8:45 a	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:45 a	Sunday School	
11:00 a	Children's Church	Scales Chapel
11:00 a	Worship Service	Sanctuary
5:30 p	Candlelight Service	Sanctuary

Monday, December 11

10:00 a	Sunny Day Club	McWhirter Hall
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Tuesday, December 12

7:30 a	Morning Bible Study	310
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Wednesday, December 13

6:15 p	Children's Choir Rehearsal	4th Floor
7:30 p	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Music Suite

Thursday, December 14

7:00 p	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Suite
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Thursday, December 15

5:00 p	Youth Progressive Dinner	
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WEST END STAFF

Rev. Dr. Carol Cavin-Dillon..... Senior Pastor
Rev. Will McLeane Pastor of Spiritual Formation
Rev. Maggie Jarrell..... Pastor of Children & Families
Rev. Stacey Harwell-Dye.....
..... Pastor of Mercy and Justice Ministries
Rev. Shannon Baxter.....
..... Pastor of Congregational Connection
Rev. Aimee Baxter..... Pastor of Young Adults
Molly Borneman..... Pastoral Fellow
Dr. Tammy Lewis Wilborn... Congregational Care Intern
Matthew Phelps..... Minister of Music
Andrew Risinger..... Associate Minister of Music
Nico Zavala..... Music Intern
Emily C. Robbins..... Minister of Youth
Melanie Paulson..... Director, HR & Operations
Shelley Kuhlmeier..... Communications Director

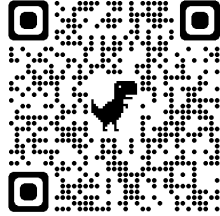
Lazaro Kapella..... Church Financial Officer
Jim Raver..... Property Operations Manager
Corye Nelson..... Preschool Executive Director
Christina Shoptaw..... Preschool Operations Manager
Cheryl Reeves..... Preschool Curriculum Coordinator
Karina Gurganidze..... Childcare Coordinator
Cindy Siemer..... Senior Administrative Assistant
Julie Catterton..... Assistant to Senior Pastor
Andrew Callis..... Administrative Assistant
Tosha Jackson..... Receptionist
Devon Bardo..... Receptionist
Chase Bencin..... Media Coordinator
Cin Tuang..... Media Assistant
Open..... Building Engineer
Richard Thomas..... Custodian

A WARM WELCOME TO WEST END

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.

We believe God loves everyone unconditionally!

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.



PRAYER REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

♦ **Prayer Requests:** Gina Dixon, Adrienne Ames, Karen McIntyre, Wallace LeStourgeon and family, Emily Dougherty and family, Dave Mennen, Rev. Dr. Herbert Lester.

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 11-17 will be Rev. Shannon Baxter. To submit a prayer request, visit westendumc.org/prayerrequest.

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

All are welcome to attend the annual Charge Conference, hosted by our District Superintendent Jerry Wallace, on Tuesday, December 12, at 5:30 p.m. We will gather in McWhirter Hall and over Zoom. If you'd like the Zoom link, please email jcatterton@westendumc.org.

YOUR 2024 ESTIMATE OF GIVING

Have you turned in your 2024 Estimate of Giving yet? 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. As of December 6, we have 289 estimates for \$1,766,338 for our 2024 revenue. Help our church plan for the coming year by visiting westendumc.org/estimatenow to let us know your estimated giving for the year.

TAIZÉ LABYRINTH SERVICE

Experience the beauty and peace of Taizé worship around the labyrinth in the 4th Story Theater. Our labyrinth service that usually happens on New Year's Eve will happen on Sunday, January 7 at 5 p.m. Opportunity is offered for individual prayers and anointing for healing. The Taizé team will welcome you with beautiful music and warm smiles. Come let go of the burdens of 2023 and enter 2024 with renewed hope and peace.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR KIDS IN FOSTER CARE

This year we are excited to continue to offer an opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for area kids in foster care. Gifts need to be at the church no later than Tuesday, December 12. You can make arrangements with Stacey at sharwellldye@westendumc.org. Visit westendumc.org/christmasgifts to find out more.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DELIVERY

Help us lift the spirits of members of West End by delivering poinsettias to them this week! Contact Shannon Baxter if you would like to pick up a plant from the church and deliver to someone on our list beginning Tuesday and going through the rest of the week. Delivery times are flexible to your schedule.

ADVENT RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP

This Advent season, we will have two resources available for you to pick up at the church or download online. The first is a guide that uses the poetry of EE Cummings to ground ourselves in the prophetic joy of the Advent season through embracing poetry as a spiritual practice, called *E.E. Cummings and The Joyful Poetry of Advent*. The second devotional is for those of all ages who are looking to simplify the Advent season, called *Less is More*. Pick up your copies at the church, or you can download a digital copy on our Advent page at westendumc.org/advent.

ADVENT SPECIAL OFFERING - OPEN TABLE NASHVILLE

This Advent, we invite you to give generously to the work of Open Table Nashville. Open Table Nashville is committed to relational outreach which involves journeying with un-housed and precariously housed individuals and families, being a consistent presence in the homeless community, advocating with the marginalized, and creatively networking available resources. You can give by check made out to West End marked "Open Table Nashville" in the memo line or online at westendumc.org/give with a designated gift to Open Table Nashville.

ADVENT MINISTRY MARKETS

This year we are excited to welcome back vendors to Reed Hall for an Advent Ministry Market. These vendors either give money to our partner organizations, like the beautiful stained glass from Chimes for Justice, or are themselves social entrepreneurship organizations that do good in our community through their hiring or fairtrade practices. We will also be selling beautiful handmade goods from Guatemala, and Creation Care will be selling recycled crayons that make great stocking stuffers. So stop by Reed Hall on December 10th and 17th to pick up gifts that make a difference.

2023 ADVENT EVENTS

CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

TONIGHT, DECEMBER 10 ♦ 4 P.M. - Join West End's choirs and handbell choirs in our annual tradition of lessons and carols. Early arrival is recommended. Handbells begin playing at 5:15 p.m.

YOUTH PROGRESSIVE DINNER ♦ FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

This is an evening for ALL of our 7th -12th graders to come together for fun, fellowship, yummy food and a lot of laughter. Please RSVP to Emily by Sunday, December 10 at erobbins@westendumc.org, so we have plenty of vehicles and food!

SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT ♦ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

The Christmas season is often advertised as a time of celebration and cheer, yet for many the holidays can heighten feelings of loneliness, grief, and pain. Events in our lives, such as illness, the death of a loved one, job loss, divorce, infertility and more can make the season feel particularly difficult.

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, a Service of the Longest Night 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 December 20 at 6:30 p.m., 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. Even if you are not experiencing a difficult season yourself, you are invited to attend and pray for those who are.

The word, “Immanuel,” means “God with us.” Our Immanuel is indeed with us, even in the midst of struggle. During West End's Service of the Longest Night, we will claim that promise for ourselves and our loved ones. We hope that you'll join us.

CHILD-LED CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 ♦ 4 P.M. - All ages of children and families are invited to participate in our Child-led Christmas Eve worship service on December 24 at 4 p.m. 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. We will have kids lead us in worship and any children who want to do so 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! If you want to volunteer to help or have questions, contact Maggie Jarrell, Pastor of Children and Families, mjarrell@westendumc.org.

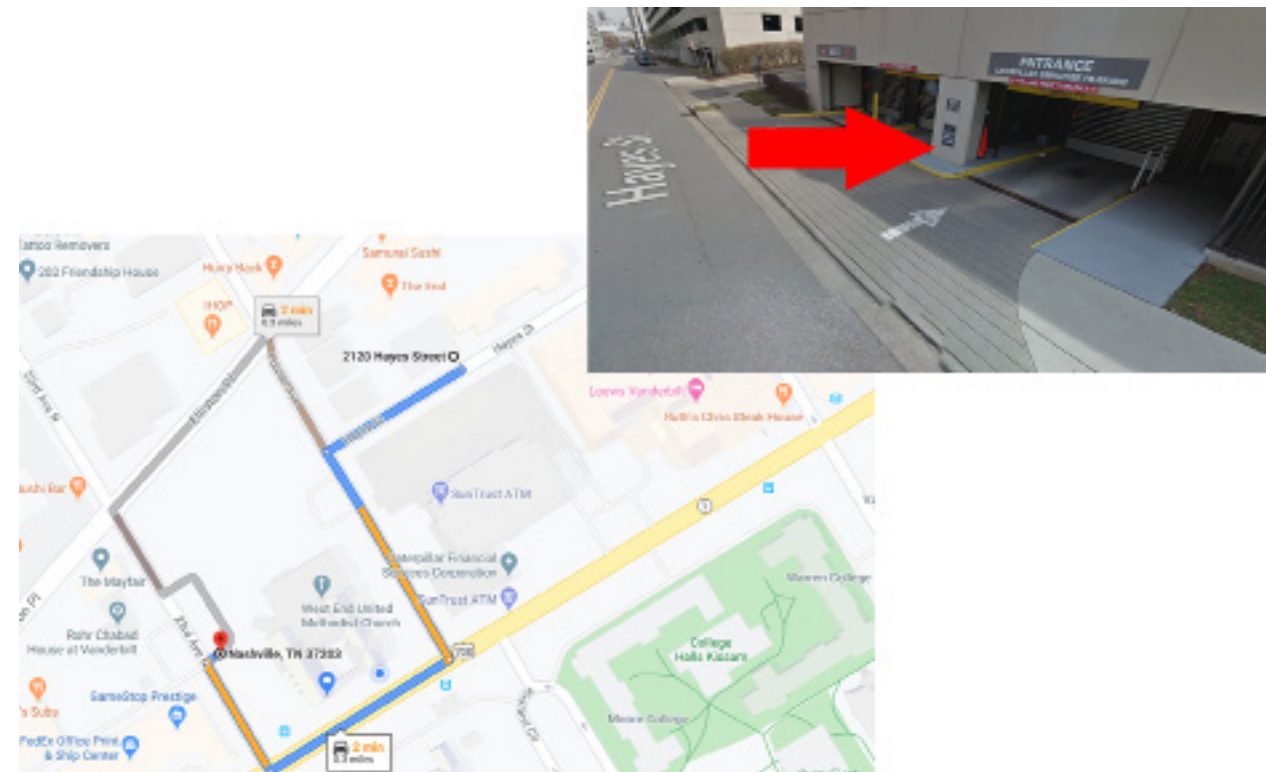
TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 ♦ 10:30 P.M. - With the sacrament of Holy Communion and music of the choirs, this traditional service is one of the highlights of our West End worship, celebrating Christ's birth as a gift for all time. An organ prelude of Christmas music begins at 10 p.m. and the service begins at 10:30 p.m.

OVERFLOW PARKING FOR ADVENT AT WEST END UMC

Since our parking lot can fill up quickly at times, there is a parking garage available free-of-charge in the Caterpillar Financial Garage where you can park and walk over to West End UMC. We encourage you to utilize this option when possible, especially for our Candelighting and Christmas Eve services.

- ♦ Head east (toward downtown) on West End Ave.
- ♦ Turn left on to Louise Ave.
- ♦ Turn right on to Hayes Street and the garage entrance will be on your right.
- ♦ Use the intercom to be buzzed in by telling the guard you are with West End.
- ♦ Following worship, you will be able to re-enter the garage via the pedestrian door on Hayes Street using the intercom.





WEST END
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



2200 WEST END AVENUE ♦ NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203
615.321.8500 ♦ WESTENDUMC.ORG