



Advent 2023

The Road To

JOY

WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 17, 2023 AT EIGHT FORTY-FIVE

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

Voluntary: Chorale Prelude on “Wachet auf” J. S. Bach

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: On Jordan’s Bank.....William Monk

Lighting the Advent Candle.....The Duncan Family

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

† Call to WorshipStacey Harwell-Dye
Liturgist: O God, on this third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate your joy!
People: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.
Liturgist: May our souls be lifted to you, for you have anointed us to preach good news.
People: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.
Liturgist: May our mourning turn to dancing through our worship of you.
People: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession **(in unison)**
God of disruption and order,
move in our lives to bring about the work of your anointing.
In our broken-heartedness, bind our souls in your love.
In our despair, deliver us with the oil of gladness.
Where we have imprisoned ourselves and others, set us free by your power.
Help us to be repairers of the breach and a people who bestow beauty for ashes.
Bring us into the fullness of your kin-dom where righteousness and praise sprout up before all the nations.

† 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.**

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 she may grow in service with others. We will pray for her 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 Anna Frances to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.
People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you, Anna Frances, 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 Response No. 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 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 joy to come into the world. Amen.

A Lesson from the Old Testament.....Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Response to the Lesson

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Moment

Sermon: Justice and Joy.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

† Affirmation of Faith, No. 883Shannon 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: Drop Down Dew, O Heavens.....Robert Twynman
Drop down dew, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down the just one. Let the earth be opened and bud forth a savior. On that day the mountains shall drop down sweetness, and the hills shall flow with milk and honey. Alleluia. All you who thirst, come to the waters. Seek the Lord while he may be found. Alleluia. Behold, the Lord shall come, and all his saints with him. And there shall be a great light on that day. Alleluia.

† 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.....Veni Emmanuel

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel!

Voluntary: Finale on *Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying* Wayne Wold

*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.

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

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.

Anna Frances Von Lunen, daughter of Carolyn and Matt Von Lunen, is presented for baptism today.

Today's liturgy was adapted from Isaiah 61 by Reverend Aimee Baxter.

Music Participants

The Sanctuary Choir
 Emma Jackson, soprano • Ben Troxler, bass
 Andrew Risinger: Director / Organist
 Matthew Phelps: Assisting at Organ

Today's Music

Merle's Tune, the tune for today's Processional Hymn, was written by Hal Hopson in 1983 for the text, "Blessed Be the God of Israel." It was first published in The Upper Room Worshipbook, 1985. The tune is named for Hopson's eldest sister Merle who was his first piano teacher. (Carlton Young)

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBER OF WEST END UMC!

Jennifer Birkmeyer



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 18

10:00 a

Sunny Day Club

McWhirter Hall

5:30 p

Trustees Meeting

310

Tuesday, December 19

7:30 a

Morning Bible Study

310

1:30 p

Creative Hands

305

Wednesday, December 20

6:30 p

Service of the Longest Night

Sanctuary

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 Gurgendize..... 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

PRAYER REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

♦ **Sympathies:** John Howel, Sr. mourns the death of his son, John Howell, Jr.; Service was held Friday, December 15th at the West Harpeth Funeral Home

♦ **Prayer Requests:** Gina Dixon, Adrienne Ames, Rev. Dr. Herbert Lester, John Howell and family, Hall Cook, Joshua Beckey, those affected by recent tornadoes, and the family of Ian Quillen, the Cohens, in Israel.

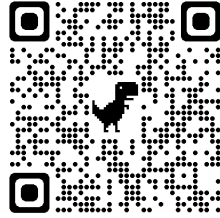
If you have an emergency and need to contact one of the Pastors after hours, please call 615.321.8500, Ext. 8853. The Pastor on Call for December 18-24 will be Reverend Will McLeane. To submit a prayer request, visit westendumc.org/prayerrequest.

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.



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/estimatetnow 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.

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 E.E. 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 this morning to pick up gifts that make a difference.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 ♦ 10 A.M. - We will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent in only one worship service the Sunday morning of Christmas Eve. There will be child care and Children's Church, but no Sunday School.

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.

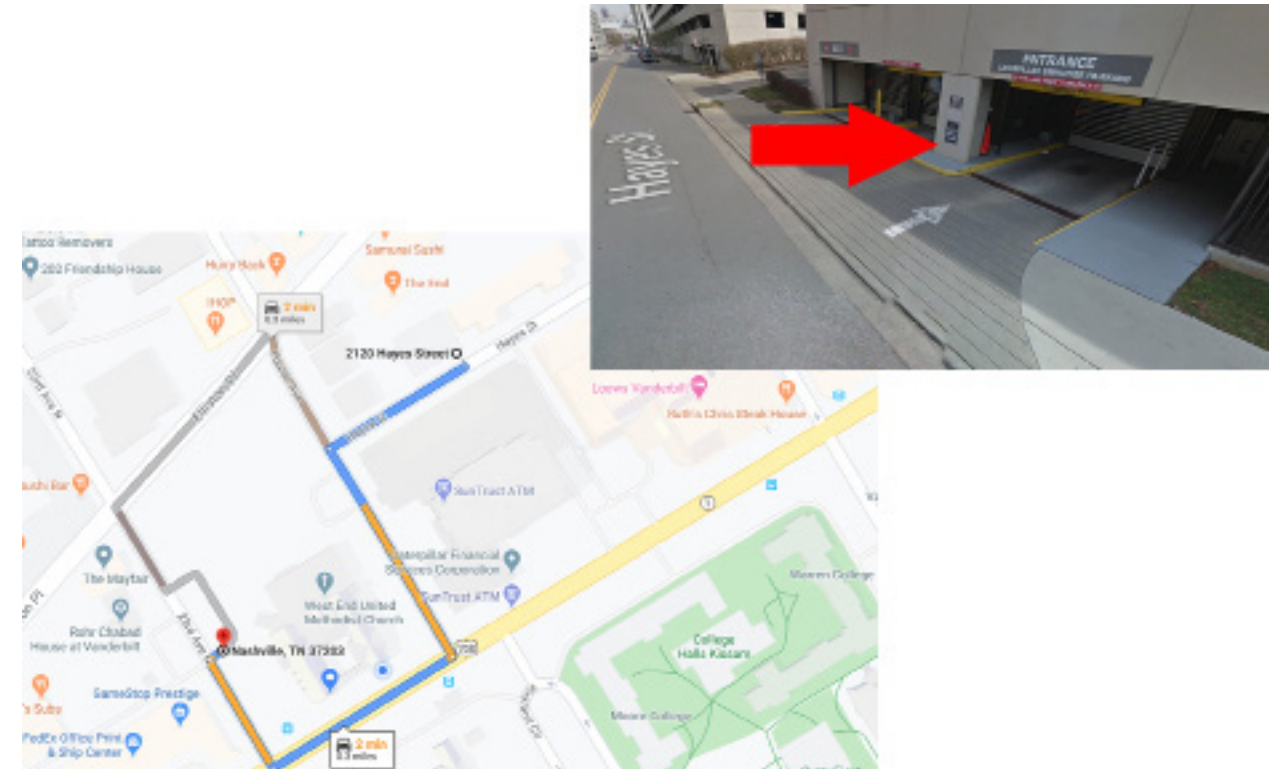
CHURCH CLOSED DECEMBER 25-26

The Church Offices and Preschool will be closed December 25 and 26 to allow our staff and clergy 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.

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



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615.321.8500 ♦ WESTENDUMC.ORG