

Advent 2023

The Road To  
**JOY**

WEST END  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

---

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 24, 2023 AT TEN O'CLOCK  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# GATHERING

Voluntary: In dulci jubilo ..... Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome..... Will McLeane

*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](http://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: Of the Father's Love Begotten ..... Plainchant

Lighting the Advent Candle ..... Lucy Majors, Sunny Day Club

† Processional Hymn No. 220: Angels from the Realms of Glory..... Regent Square

† Call to Worship ..... Aimee Baxter

*Liturgist: Let us glorify the Lord as we gather here today!*

**People: We rejoice in God who has done great things.**

*Liturgist: May we prepare ourselves as we remember God's love for all.*

**People: Holy God, we come to worship you!**

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession **(in unison)**

**God of mercy,**

**forgive us for the ways we have forgotten to love your people.**

**Lead us along your path of mercy and teach us that your love is for everyone.**

**May we be quick to lend a hand to those in need and lift a voice for those who are oppressed.**

**Loving God, remind us of your mercy and help us become fully alive in you.**

† 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 Illumination .....Laura Creekmore

**As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, the mother of Jesus, speak to us  
now through your Word that by hearing we, too, may receive faith and be  
strengthened to do your will. Amen.**

A Lesson from the Gospel.....Luke 1:46b-55

Response to the Lesson

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

† Hymn No. 215: To a Maid Engaged to Joseph.....Annunciation

Children’s Moment

Sermon: Surprising Joy ..... Will McLeane

† Apostles’ Creed, No. 881.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he  
rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of  
sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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: Mary’s Magnificat .....Andrew Carter

Softly a light is stealing, sweetly a maiden sings,  
ever wakeful, ever wistful, watching faithfully,  
thankfully, tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify the Lord; and  
my spirit hath rejoiced in God my savior.

Mary her song to Jesus softly, serenely sings:  
‘I will love you, I will serve you, may my  
lullaby glorify, magnify my King of kings.’

† 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. 238: Angels We Have Heard on High ..... Gloria

† Benediction

† Benediction Response.....Veni Emmanuel

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Voluntary: Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella .....arr. Keith Chapman

*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 this Christmas to the glory of God and in loving memory  
of their mothers, Emma Ashton O'Bryan and Carolyn Montgomery Smith,  
by Mark A. O'Bryan and Monty Smith.*

*Today's liturgy was written by Pastoral Fellow Molly Borneman.*

### Music Participants

Members of the Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs

Patricia Cullum, soprano

Andrew Risinger: Organist/Director

### Today's Music

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella” is a Christmas carol which originated from the Provence region of France in the 17th century. The carol was first published in France and was subsequently translated into English in the 18th century. The song was considered dance music for French nobility. The story of the song revolves around two characters, Jeanette and Isabella, who have found Jesus and Mary in the stable. Excited, they run to the nearest town and tell people who then run to the stable to greet the newborn King.

## 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 Gurgenzidze**..... 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](https://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, John Howell and family, Hall Cook, Joshua Beckey, those affected by recent tornadoes, Matt Phelps and family, those traveling over the holidays

♦ Sympathies to Matt Phelps and family as they mourn the death of his grandfather, Lou Knolle of Cincinnati, OH.

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 25 - 31 will be Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon.

To submit a prayer request, visit [westendumc.org/prayerrequest](https://westendumc.org/prayerrequest).

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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. Let go of the burdens of 2023 and enter 2024 with renewed hope and peace.

## 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](http://westendumc.org/give) with a designated gift to Open Table Nashville.

## NEW YOUNG ADULT STUDY BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

The Young Adult group will begin studying *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I’ve Loved* by Kate Bowler on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 317. The study will meet every Tuesday evening through February 6, and will culminate with attending an event with the author here in Nashville on February 10. Books are available at all major retailers. For more information, contact Rev. Aimee Baxter at [abaxter@westendumc.org](mailto:abaxter@westendumc.org).

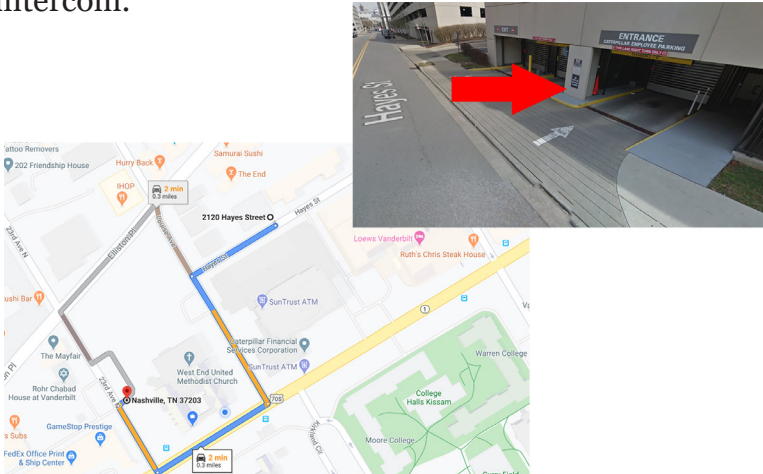
## YOUR 2024 ESTIMATE OF GIVING

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 18, we have 299 estimates for \$1,829,963 for our 2024 revenue. Help our church plan for the coming year by visiting [westendumc.org/estimatenow](http://westendumc.org/estimatenow) to let us know your estimated giving for the year.

## OVERFLOW PARKING FOR CHRISTMAS 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 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.





# You're (STILL) Invited



One of the phrases we often hear from Jesus in the Gospels is his invitation to “follow me.” Each one of us is called to follow Jesus and to live out his love in the world. During the season after Epiphany, we will consider what it means to be “called” as baptized Christians with unique spiritual gifts. During this season we will reaffirm our baptismal vows, hear the stories of the call of the first disciples, explore our spiritual gifts, and recommit ourselves to following Jesus in our everyday lives. Whether you have been a follower of Jesus for fifty years or fifty days, you are (still) invited to hear the call and respond with joy!

## **January 7 ♦ Call of The Magi ♦ Matthew 2: 1-12**

♦ **“Chalking In The Year”** - Receive bags of chalk in worship to mark your home and post a blessing over your home/doorway for the new year.

♦ **Taize Labyrinth/Prayer Path** - January 7 at 5 p.m.

## **January 10 ♦ First Wednesday ♦ Your Calling**

Join us for our First Wednesday together as we talk about how to discern our calling given to us by God over our life.

## **January 14 ♦ Baptism of the Lord**

Join us in worship as we remember our baptism and claim our worth in God

## **January 15 ♦ MLK Day Celebration**

Join others from West End as we participate in MLK Day events and claim the belovedness of God for all people.

## **January 21 ♦ Call of Philip and Nathanael ♦ John 1:43-51**

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

Invite a friend to “come and see” what West End UMC is all about!

## **January 28 ♦ A Call To Healing ♦ Mark 1:21-28**

## **February 4 ♦ Call To Prayer ♦ Mark 1:29-39**

## **February 7 ♦ First Wednesday ♦ Your Gifts**

## **February 11 ♦ Transfiguration ♦ Mark 9:2-9**



WEST END  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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