

Advent 2023

The Road To
JOY

WEST END
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP
DECEMBER 17, 2023 AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK
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 Mueller Evans Family

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

† Call to Worship Stacey 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.**

Anthem: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns George Mabry
The King shall come when morning dawns, and light triumphant breaks;
When beauty gilds the eastern hills, and life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child to bear, and fight, and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

The King shall come when morning dawns, and earth’s dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn, that day that aye shall last.

And let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,
when right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven’s eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.

The King shall come when morning dawns, and light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people, pray come quickly King of Kings.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination Frank Clement
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.

† Hymn No. 213: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates.....Truro

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: And the Glory of the Lord (from *Messiah*) G. F. Handel

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.
(Isaiah 40:5)

† 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

Welcoming of New Members

Commendation and Welcome

Liturgist: Family of God, Jennifer Birkmeyer is now entrusted 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, 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.

† 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 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 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, was presented for baptism at our early service today.

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

Music Participants

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

Today's Music

Dr. George Mabry, director of The Nashville Symphony Chorus from 1997 to 2012, is professor of music emeritus at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. He retired from full time teaching in 2003 after thirty-three years as Director of Choral Activities and director of the Center for the Creative Arts. He is an accomplished composer and arranger with many of his works published by Roger Dean, Sacred Music Press, St. James Press and Hinshaw Music. In 2003, Dr. Mabry was the recipient of the Tennessee Arts Commission Governor's Award in the Arts for Arts Leadership and the Tennessee Arts Academy Spirit of Tennessee award for his creative leadership in arts education.

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

| | | |
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| 7:30 a | Morning Bible Study | 310 |
| 1:30 p | Creative Hands | 305 |

Wednesday, December 20

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|--------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 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.

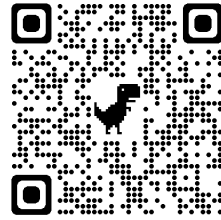
If you have an emergency and need to contact one of the Pastors after hours, please call 615.321.8500, Ext. 8853. The Pastor on Call for December 18-24 will be Reverend Will McLeane. To submit a prayer request, visit westendumc.org/prayerrequest.

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



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