



WCC UPDATE

JANUARY 2025



THANK YOU FROM YOUR CHURCH STAFF

Our heartfelt thanks to you for the wonderful Christmas greetings and blessings you shared with us!

PERSONALLY FROM THE PASTOR

We're kicking off 2025 by reflecting on the gifts that the magi brought to Jesus following His birth. Their gold, frankincense, and myrrh were costly gifts, each symbolizing a particular aspect of Jesus' person and work. As one contemporary Christmas song puts it:

“From the east came men of wisdom
Bringing treasures prized of old
Tributes to the greater wisdom
Gifts of incense, myrrh, and gold
Solemn gifts of mystic meaning
Incense shows that God has come
Gold proclaims him King of nations
Myrrh foretells his saving death”

As we consider the example of the magi, you and I are challenged to bring our own gifts to Jesus. Our obedience. Our worship. Our acceptance. And, as we'll be talking about in depth for the first three weeks of January, our time, talents, and treasures.

Now, whenever we talk about the gifts that we give to God, we can easily fall into the trap of thinking that our gifts somehow earn us favor with God or contribute to our salvation. Let me be clear: that isn't the Gospel. The good news of Jesus Christ is that we are saved by grace through faith, not by anything we can do or offer (Ephesians 2:8-9). Our salvation is a gift from God, freely and fully given because of His love and mercy, not because we deserve it or have earned it.

This means that the gifts we bring to God aren't a payment or a way to secure His approval—they are a response to the amazing grace we have already received through Christ! We give all of ourselves to God precisely because He has already given all of Himself to us. Our gifts come from a posture of gratitude and humility rather than obligation. To be sure, when we truly grasp the depth of God's grace and the gift of His Son, our natural response can be nothing other than full surrender to Him.

Matt Stiveson



Thank you to **Dr. Teresa Crane and the WCC choir** for their hard work in preparation for the annual Christmas cantata. The performance was excellent and very much appreciated!

Our Advent service project was a resounding success! **Thank you for your contributions to our Food Pantry.** By your generosity we are able to continue serving our community.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to serve as Worship volunteers for the next six months!

From Donna Ainsburg:

To all at Westminster Christian Church—

Thank you for your love, condolences and prayers in the passing of Danny. It is comforting to know I have many friends. Thank you all. Donna

From Kathy and Ron Purviance:

Thanks to all WCC for your support of Kathy through her cancer journey this year. May God bless all of WCC today and in the coming year. Love, Ron and Kathy

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

Happy New Year, Church Family!

Another beautiful Christmas season has come and gone once again. It seems to fly by faster and faster every year. It will of course be back again before we know it!

I am so pleased with the choir's Christmas cantata. We had more rehearsals this year than we ever had, and I believe it paid off! I am grateful for the hard work of our volunteers who show up consistently to each rehearsal ready to get to work. I hope you were all blessed by the message and the music.

The choir will be taking a break until closer to the end of January when the Wednesday evening activities resume (on January 22).

I want to thank all of you who gave so much to the church and to me personally this season. I am amazed at the generosity of our congregation. I am so proud to still be a part of this wonderful family after six years. We have all been through a lot together, and I know we still have a lot more to go through, but we will get through it with the help of God and each other.

Thank you for a beautiful year, and may God bless each one of you!

Teresa

Dr. Teresa Crane, D.M.A.

LIST OF 2025 BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDING NEW OFFICERS

Elders

Ellen Cancino
Sara Cissell (Chair)
Judy Clay
Linda Flaherty
Heather Gonzales
Greg Kahler (Vice Chair)
Janine Kahler
Jon Schuessler
Vicki Schuessler (Treasurer // Board Secretary)
Kay Stevens
Linda Stocker
Stacey Walters (Financial Secretary)
Ross Wasserman

Deacons

Bonnie Ashton
Steve Cancino
Crystal Carr
Jacquelyn Dennis
Paul Gannon
Bobbie Harris
Jim Harris
Nancy Lawshe
Debbie Martin
Jean Skinner
Judy Warhola

GET INVOLVED IN 2025!

There are many ways for you to get involved at Westminster Christian Church! For starters, we always need volunteers to help with various duties during worship on Sundays. Our church also has six ministry teams, which all carry out the mission and vision of our congregation in various ways throughout the year. Our online prayer team could always use more dedicated members to lift up the needs of our church family and community. Whatever your talents and interests, there's a place for you to serve and make a difference at Westminster Christian Church! Keep your eyes open for more information/signup forms in next week's bulletin.

2024 GIVING STATEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who made charitable contributions to the church in 2024—your generosity makes a difference, and we couldn't do what we do without your ongoing support!

Giving statements for 2024 will be **available in the narthex beginning on Sunday, January 19**. Please let us know if you notice any discrepancies.

WCC CHURCH DIRECTORY

Did you know that we have a church pictorial directory? We will be updating our directory to include changes and to capture our newer participants.

This is a good time to make sure we have your birthdates and anniversaries if you haven't submitted them to the church office previously and would like to be remembered during the weekly announcements during worship. **There are contact information forms available in this Sunday's bulletin and also in the Narthex.**

WCC WOMEN'S GROUP

Women's Group workshop, Saturday, January 11, 10:00 am – Noon. Dr. Melissa Luzzi will be facilitating a conversation about "the lies we often tell ourselves that interfere with us living in God's truth." Please bring a drink and snack for yourself if you wish.

FIRST STEPS

Are you need to WCC? Do you want to learn more about our community? Have you been considering becoming a member of the church, but don't know what membership entails? Have you been thinking about getting baptized?

If you answered, "Yes!" to any of these questions, then we would encourage you to join us for First Steps. Lunch will be provided for those who attend. **Please use the signup form in the bulletin to let us know if you plan to attend.**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

All Wednesday activities will resume on January 22, including potluck, adult study, youth group, and choir practice. Adults, we will spend a few weeks reading through *The Didache*, an early Christian instruction manual about worship.

PREACHING AND TEACHING SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY

Sunday, January 5: Give God Your Time (Psalm 90)

Sunday, January 12: Give God Your Talents (1 Peter 4:7-11)

Sunday, January 19: Give God Treasures (Luke 16:1-13)

Sunday, January 26: John 1

January

Sunday, January 5	We collect Pocket Change offerings on the first Sunday of every month and use the money given to this program to promote and purchase materials for the church.	
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Bible Study for All Ages
	11:30 am	General Board Meeting
Tuesday mornings	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study —meeting at IHOP at 221 W. 104 th Ave., Northglenn. See Steve Cancino for information.
Thursday afternoons Resuming on January 9	12:00 – 2:00 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday Evenings Resuming on January 22	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Potluck dinner (bring main, side, or dessert dish to share) Adult Bible Study and Youth Group Choir
Saturday, January 11	10:00 am – Noon	WCC Women's Group —Dr. Melissa Luzzi will be facilitating a conversation about “the lies we often tell ourselves that interfere with us living in God's truth.” Please bring a drink and snack for yourself if you wish.
Sunday, January 12	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Bible Study for All Ages
Sunday, January 19	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Bible Study for All Ages
	11:45 am	First Steps Class
Saturday, January 25	12:00	Lessons in Grief Group —please bring a sack lunch with you. Contact Sharon Keel or Kay Stevens for more information.
Sunday, January 26	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Bible Study for All Ages