

# Westminster Window

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As a new year begins, the story of Gideon invites us to step honestly into the place where faith and real life meet. When the angel of the Lord finds Gideon, he is not in a sanctuary or a moment of spiritual triumph, but hiding in a winepress, doing his best to survive. Yet it is there—right in the middle of fear, fatigue, and uncertainty—that God speaks the surprising words, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” Gideon’s life reminds us that God does not wait for perfect circumstances or perfect people before showing up. God meets us in the middle of our weariness and calls forth strength we didn’t know we had. As we enter this new year, we are reminded that God’s presence is not reserved for our best days, but is especially near in our hardest ones.

What makes Gideon’s story so compelling is his honesty. He does not hide his disappointment or pretend to understand God’s ways; instead, he voices his doubt, his frustration, and his confusion. Rather than rebuking him, God listens. This exchange reminds us that true spirituality is not about pretending everything is fine, but about bringing our full, unfiltered selves before God. Faith grows not through denial, but through honest conversation, prayer, and even struggle. As we begin a new year, God invites us to come as we are—questions, fears, and all—trusting that genuine dialogue with God is the soil where faith takes root.

Finally, God’s call to Gideon is not to remain in his frustration, but to rise and act: “Go in this might of yours.” The strength God names in Gideon is not perfection, but perseverance—the courage to keep going despite uncertainty. In the same way, God calls each of us to move forward, carrying what we have learned through hardship into lives of purpose and service. The new year is not about erasing the past, but about letting God redeem it for something meaningful. As we step into the days ahead, may we trust that God is still calling, still commissioning, and still working through ordinary people to bring hope into the world.

With love and anticipation for the year ahead together,

Pastor Trey

## January

<b>Aegan Marquardt</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Katie Shea</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Nick Winn</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Tanner Crosslin</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>John Bruninga</b>	<b>23</b>









MAGICAL  
CHRISTMAS  
TREE'S



Charles Anderson's very special Christmas tree!

John Offutt's beautiful "Magic Tree"!



"THE CHRISTMAS TREE IS A SYMBOL OF LOVE, NOT MONEY. THERE'S A KIND OF GLORY TO THEM WHEN THEY'RE ALL LIT UP THAT EXCEEDS ANYTHING ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD COULD BUY."

ANDY ROONEY



John Offutt provided a patriotic flower arrangement to honor & memorialize long-term member Bob Graves. Bob was only 19 yrs old when he was on the USS Nevada in Pearl Harbor when it was bombed. He was also serving in Normandy, France on D Day. Well done Sir!

Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941): The Nevada was the only battleship to get underway during the attack, earning it the nickname "The Unsinkable Nevada". It was hit by torpedoes and bombs but its crew managed to steer it aground to prevent it from blocking the harbor channel, providing a crucial morale boost for other American forces. 



Susan & Paul Parker and Brad Moody were treated to a great show, "Sweeney Todd" with Avery Guinn!

# Christmas Storytime

Our WPC ladies read Christmas stories for our Facebook viewers during the Advent Season!



Story Time with Westminster



Thank you:  
Marlee Suey  
Barb Hendricks  
Connie Ramsey



Twas the Night Before Christmas with Westminster



Twas the Night Before Christmas with Westminster

# Moser Family Spotlight

John and Kris Moser moved to the area from Michigan in 2007 with their children, Cory, Melanie, Gary (who is deceased), and Grace. John spent many years working as a machinist and is now retired, having most recently served on outage assignments for TVA. Kris has over 30 years of experience as an Administrative Assistant and now works part-time. Their daughter Grace is a daycare teacher who feels called to serve children and families.

They are grateful for the opportunity to bring Melanie's children, J.J. and Lyndie, to Westminster and cherish being part of a loving church community where they can grow in faith and fellowship together.





# Children's Christmas Program



# SO WE CAN KNOW AND SHOW WE CARE PRAYER LIST

**IMMEDIATE NEEDS:** Charles Anderson, John Bruninga, Grace Carter, Warren & Shirley Chambers & Ray Haner (close relatives of the Seme's), Kim Eckl, John & Ann Freeman, Brenda Gray, Carole James, Leonard McClure, Tom Moser (brother of John), Paula Stone (sister of Marsha Bullock), Dot Solomon, Hayley Sylvester, Jeremy Sylvester, and unnamed prayer request.

## And God Said, "No"

I asked God to take away my grief,  
And God Said "No".

He said it was not for him to take away,  
But for me to work through.

I asked God to make my broken heart whole,  
And God Said "No".

He said your spirit is whole,  
Your pain is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience,  
And God Said "No".

He said that patience is a by-product of tribulation,  
It isn't granted, it's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness,  
And God Said "No".

He said He gives blessings,  
Happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain,  
And God Said "No".

He said, "Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares  
and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow,  
And God Said "No".

He said I must grow on my own,  
But He will prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God if He loves me,  
And God said "yes".

He gave His only Son who died for me,  
and I will be in Heaven someday because I believe.

I asked God to help me love others,  
As much as He loves me,  
And God said,

"Ah, finally, you have the idea."



**The Suey's enjoyed their visit with John & Ann Freeman family**



**2025 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**  
Given in joyous celebration of Jesus' Birth!

<u>BY:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>	<u>IN HONOR OF:</u>
Stan & Marsha Bullock		Our Children and grandchildren
Alonda Crosslin	Sue McClure, Mother Greg McClure, Brother	
Brad Moody	Frances Moody, Mother	
The Mosers	Greg Moser	
Lacy Offutt	Katherine C. Yarbrough	
M. Q. & Sally Parker	Our parents	Our Family
Billie Sylvester	Rev. John McKell	
Bailey S. White	Bradley D. White William Greer	

**2025 CHOIR SCHOLARSHIP FUND**  
Given with Holy Praise Celebrating Jesus' Birth!

<u>BY:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>	<u>IN HONOR OF:</u>
Elaine Brooks	Bob Brooks	
Larry & Connie Ramsey		
Lud & Linda Seme		Avery Guinn Paula Offutt Bailey White



# The Twelve Days of Christmas

**One Partridge in a Pear Tree**  
Jesus Christ, who shelters his people  
under his wing.

**Two Turtle Doves**  
The Old and the New Testament.

**Three French Hens**  
The Theological Virtues of  
Faith, Hope, & Charity.

**Four Calling Birds**  
The four Gospels & Evangelists:  
Matthew, Luke, John, & Mark

**Five Golden Rings**  
The first five books of the Old  
Testament, often referred to as the law.

**Six Geese A-Laying**  
The six days of creation.

**Seven Swans A-Swimming**  
The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, and  
the seven Sacraments of the Church.

**Eight Maids A-Milking**  
The eight Beatitudes.

**Nine Ladies Dancing**  
The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

**Ten Lords A-Leaping**  
The Ten Commandments.

**Eleven Pipers Piping**  
The eleven *faithful* apostles.

**Twelve Drummers Drumming**  
The twelve points of doctrine in the  
Apostle's Creed.



Happy Birthday to

**Melissa Winn!**

Her dad, Nick salutes her:

“She is my fishing, hiking, zip lining, kayaking, and flower arranging buddy! She is multi-talented and we are so proud to call her our daughter!”







**10 years ago, the African Children's Choir performed at Westminster.**

**The children and their hosts stayed at several WPC members' homes. The church fundraised and provided each one of them with a suitcase full of new clothes, shoes, etc. One of these hosts, Jenny Kirk, traveled earlier this month to Uganda to visit her kids from the 44th choir. She is thrilled to report that they are mature, smart, kind, funny and really forming into amazing young adults!**



**Nick Winn IV attended the 50th anniversary commemorative Vietnam Veterans pinning ceremony. He recently received these pictures of the pinning ceremony, commemoration certificate and letter signed by Congressman Robert B. Aderholt.**

# WESTMINSTER HEAD START



2025 Christmas Program was a success! Thank you to our CEO for being Santa & to Trey Suey/WPC for all of your support!



EDEN



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

IRA



THE SUEY FAMILY



## John & Ann Freeman Family



**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, REMEMBER.**  
IT'S NOT OUR JOB TO CONVINCING.  
IT'S NOT OUR JOB TO CONVICT.  
IT'S NOT OUR JOB TO SAVE.  
**IT'S OUR JOB TO LOVE.**  
CONVINCING, CONVICTING AND  
SAVING IS THE WORK  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

