



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

Welcome to Wallingford Presbyterian Church

Members and friends gather here each Sunday morning (and lots of times during the week!) to celebrate and serve. We rejoice that you are here with us, and hope that you'll feel right at home. Please join us after worship for fellowship and light refreshments in our Fellowship Hall.

Visitors are always welcomed and encouraged to participate in any of our programs, activities and ministry opportunities.

A Nursery is available downstairs for preschool children.

Large print bulletins are available upon request.

If you need a little help hearing, portable listening devices are available.

Restrooms are located in the Narthex and throughout the church building.

An infant changing station and Quiet Room for nursing mothers is located off the Narthex.

Activity books for children are available in the Narthex.

Please ask an usher if you need help; we are here to assist you!

Sunday, September 16

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 am- Worship

10:00 am- Nursery Care

10:00 am- Sunday School

Pastor François Preaching

Monday, September 17

7:30 pm- Worship Council

7:30 pm- Education Council

Tuesday, September 18

7:30 pm- Deacons

Wednesday, September 19

8:45 am- Breakfast Group-Court Diner

10:00 am- Fellowship of Friends

6:00 pm- Youth Group

Thursday, September 20

6:00 pm- Yoga

7:30 pm- Boy Scouts

Friday, September 21

7:00 pm- WCNS Chili Cook-off

Saturday, September 22

Sunday, September 23

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am- Worship

10:00 am- Nursery Care

10:00 am- Sunday School

Pastor Taylor Preaching

A community where all who seek God are Welcome...



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

Order of Worship

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

WORDS OF MEDITATION

“The trouble with deep belief is that it costs something and there is something inside me, some selfish beast of a subtle thing that doesn't like the truth at all because it carries responsibility, and if I actually believe these things I have to do something about them. It is so, so cumbersome to believe anything. And it isn't cool.”

— Donald Miller, Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality

WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Look at the heavens!

The heavens are shouting the glory of God.

The days and the nights declare the magnificence of God's creative energy.

Their voice echoes through all the earth and their words reach through time and space.

Let us join in their song of praise.

Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

All children are invited to come forward at this time. Parents are encouraged to accompany their younger children and sit with them. After the message, Sunday School age children will be excused with their teachers. Visiting parents with children are welcome to escort their children along with the teachers to the Sunday School classes or the church nursery. On the first & third Sundays of the month, MS/HS Students are invited to sit together near the front of the sanctuary during the service.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Chorale Prelude

Johann Pachelbel

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sisters and brothers, let us use our voices to speak those things we have said and done that have separated us from God, and from each other, that we may experience God's loving mercy and receive God's forgiveness and grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You call us, O Lord,

But we refuse to listen.

You stretch out your hand,

But we refuse to take it.

The gifts you so freely give,

We squander foolishly or keep to ourselves for selfish motives.

We refuse to be informed by your wisdom.

We hurt others and defy you.

(Silent reflection)

Forgive our inability to recognize your grace and love in our lives and to live out the truth of your gospel.

Give us the insight we need to understand your living presence in our lives so that our words and actions reflect your love and understanding in the lives of others.

In the name of the Messiah we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The love of God is perfect and the wisdom of God revives the soul. God's forgiveness is real and life changing. In Jesus Christ, the living Word we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

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.

*RESPONSE

People of God, body of Christ, sisters and brothers, what shall we do in response to God's forgiveness?

As God's own people we will be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind. Always ready to forgive as freely as God has forgiven us. And, above everything else we will be loving and never forget to be thankful for what Christ has done for us. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord. Be our Rock and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

James 3:1-12

ANTHEM

All is Brought to Life

David Haas

All is brought to life in Jesus Christ.

Christ is our hope, be glad and rejoice.

The steadfast love of Christ will bring rest, by the cross of Christ we will rise with him.

Whoever believes in Christ, even if they die, they shall live.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:27-38

SERMON

How Offensive Is the Cross

Pastor François

*RESPONSIVE HYMN 737

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

LES PETITES SOUERS

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING IN MISSION AND MINISTRY

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

God has given us the sun and made us stewards of all creation. God has given us our lives and our very beings. Let us give to God, from what God has given us.

OFFERTORY

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

arr. Paul A. Tate

*DOXOLOGY

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of wisdom, may this offering serve as a powerful witness to this world in need. Guide us as we administer the gifts that you have given us for the building of your kingdom. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN 741

Guide My Feet

GUIDE MY FEET

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Exultemus

Noel Rawsthorne

****Those who are able, please stand.***

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The chancel flowers are to the Glory of God given by Mark and Lynne Morton in memory of Mark's father, David C. and brother, Scott.

Thank you to Jeni Albany and all who assisted with the worship service this morning, those volunteering to usher, and to those assisting with fellowship time today.

ADULT FORUM begins again this Sunday at 11:30 in the Reception Room. **Our first topic, led by Frank Noyes, is *Can the Catholic Church Survive?*** A look at the ongoing and recently revived abuse scandal in the Catholic Church: What is the church doing about this? What should it do? Is this just a bunch of isolated bad apples, or is there something deeper? How can the church maintain (or regain) its moral authority? Could this actually threaten the future of the Catholic Church, or is Frank being overly dramatic? Materials will be provided, so please join us for a thought provoking look at a challenging topic. Throughout the academic year, topics will be presented after worship by Pastor François, Pastor Taylor, Liz Braden, and the Peace-making and Social Justice Committee, with regular Adult Forum discussions with Frank Noyes in between. **Coming up on *September 23***, Pastor François will offer a discussion on Presbyterianism 101 – “Curious? Find out more... about being Presbyterian and WPC.” Pastor Taylor will lead a discussion (topic TBD) on *September 30*. October sessions will be announced shortly and the schedule will be posted on the online calendar on the website. **Every Sunday there will be an opportunity to linger after worship for a discussion on Bible study or topics concerning aspects of faith and faithful living**, generally running from 11:30 for approximately one hour. Plan to stick around on Sundays and join us whenever you can.

ISRAEL PALESTINE- THROUGH MY EYES Wednesday, September 26th, Join Pastor François as he shares his experience in Israel and Palestine. He will share his reflection of what it means to be a Christian in a land called Holy. Bring a dish to share at 6pm. The program will be from 6:30 to 8pm.

PLAY GROUP Join us for Children's Playgroup on Saturday October 6th at 10am. We'll welcome a special guest, Rhythm Babies! Rhythm Babies "enhances young children's auditory senses, cognitive and musical skills through singing, rhythm, and creative movement activities." We will meet at 10am in the Reception Room. This is a free event and is best for children 5 and under. Siblings are welcome! Contact Leah Hillemeier (484.832.1235) with any questions.

WANT AN EASY WAY TO GIVE BACK? We need you! If your own children or grandchildren are far away, you can share a little bit of your love for them with the children and youth of our church. We need volunteers to provide dinner for Youth Group and Sprouts, and would love your help making this happen. It is a one-time commitment, and it brings great joy to our kids. If you'd like to sign up, you can call the church office, call or email Pastor Taylor (pastortaylor@wallingfordpres.org) or sign up online through the links provided in the WPC Happenings emails.

THE NEXT BOOKLOOK will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday, October 17. The book chosen is *The Road to Character* by David Brooks. Books can be ordered individually, or by contacting Walt Kaminski (610-334-2025). Cost is approximately \$9.50. From Amazon: "Blending psychology, politics, spirituality, and confessional, *The Road to Character* provides an opportunity for us to rethink our priorities, and strive to build rich inner lives marked by humility and moral depth."

BLOODMOBILE SAVE THE DATE; SAVE A LIFE...OR TWO...OR THREE Wednesday, October 24th 2:00-7:00PM. You can sign up online at <https://www.redcrossblood.org> It's very easy to register. Need help booking your appointment or want someone to do it for you? Please call John Stauffer at 610-565-5094, or David Rudd at 717-644-5450. Thank you for your support.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY Smile! WPC is planning a new church directory (our most recent version dates to 2014) and hopefully all members and attendees will plan to pose. Greeting one another is so much easier when you can put a name to a face and everyone is encouraged to participate. Dates have been spread over two weeks to accommodate busy schedules. Sessions are 2 p.m.-8:40 p.m., Oct. 18, 19, 24 and 25 and 10 a.m.-4:40 p.m., Oct. 20. (If you are unable to attend, a limited number of self-provided photos may be used.) Sign-ups are available in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Tom Erickson at 610-565-8458 or Tom.Erickson@railcents.com

STAFF

Rev. François Lacroix, Pastor
Rev. Taylor Cornelius, Associate Pastor
Elizabeth Braden, Director of Music
Kate Callahan, Church Administrator
Judith Kenworthy, Clerk of Session
Andy Yost, Treasurer

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