



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
FEBRUARY 12, 2023

# 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 take a moment to silence your cell phone.**

Face Masks for personal protection are optional for all activities on our campus

Visitors are encouraged to reach out about activities they may be interested in attending.

Visual Worship Schedules are available upon request.

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

If a fidget toy would be helpful for you, they are available at the Narthex entrance.

An All Gender Restroom is located in the Narthex.

An infant changing station and Quiet Room for parents with little ones is located off the Narthex.

A Parents' room is available downstairs for those with small children,

Activity packets are available for children to use during worship.

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

## **Sunday, February 12**

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Souper Bowl of Caring

9:30 am- Chancel Choir

10:00 am- Worship

Pastor François Preaching

10:00 am- Faith Formation

11:00 am- Fellowship Time

## **Monday, February 13**

10:00 am- Staff Meeting

10:00 am- Adult Bible Study

7:30 pm- WPC Connection

## **Tuesday, February 14**

12:00 pm- PrimeTime

4:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons

7:00 pm- Ballroom Dancing

7:30 pm- Worship Council

## **Wednesday, February 15**

9:00 am-Breakfast Group-Court Diner

10:00 am- Fellowship of Friends

12:00 pm- Staff Lunch

## **Wednesday (Continued)**

3:00 pm- Private Music Lessons

4:00 pm- Private Flute lessons

5:30 pm- Peacemaking and Social Justice

## **Thursday, February 16**

6:30 pm- Bell Choir Practice

7:30 pm- BSA 277/2019

7:30 pm- Choir Practice

## **Friday, February 17**

4:00 pm- Painting Class

## **Saturday, February 18**

## **Sunday, February 19**

Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

9:30 am- Chancel Choir

10:00 am- Worship

Pastor François Preaching

10:00 am- Faith Formation

11:00 am- Fellowship Time

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



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

#### WORDS OF MEDITATION

“The first ministers were the twelve disciples. There is no evidence that Jesus chose them because they are brighter or nicer than other people. Their sole qualification seems to have been their initial willingness to rise to their feet when Jesus said, ‘Follow me.’”

~Frederick Buechner, *Beyond Words*

#### WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Our loving God is ever present in our lives, forever seeking us and always teaching us.

**We come and open now our minds to the truth of God’s care.**

We come to this sanctuary and open our hearts to the gentle power of God’s love.

**We come to open our lips to share stories of faith.**

We come and open our hands to help create beauty, to do justice, and to show kindness.

**We come and open our souls to the breath of God’s Spirit.**

We come now and open our mouths to sing boldly our praises to God.

#### OPENING PRAYER

\*OPENING HYMN 18            Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator    NYANYIKANLAH NYANYIAN BARU

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, who brooded over the world when it was created, and broods over us now, until we are shaped in the image of Christ, we confess our daily sins:

**The word sharply spoken, the praise withheld, the embrace not shared, the hurt disguised, the envy felt, the self indulged, the need neglected.**

*(Silent confession)*

Receive us now, O Lord,

**Broken, penitent, wishing it were otherwise. Enfold us in the arms of love and forgiveness, and restore a new spirit within us. Make us one with ourselves, with each other, and most of all with You. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*RESPONSE 582                      Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me                      GLORY TO GOD (VASILE)  
***Glory to God whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen (x3)  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*All children are invited to come forward at this time. Parents are encouraged to accompany their younger children and sit with them on the chancel steps or in the front pews. Children are invited to Faith Formation classes (ages 18 months – 5 years and 6-11 years) or to stay with us in worship. There are activity packets at each entrance for children to enjoy during worship time.*

**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.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION                      My Faith Looks Up to Thee                      arr. R.J. Hughes

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, anoint us with your Holy Spirit, as we hear your Word this day.  
Fill us with your truth that we may walk in the ways of God and to the glory of your realm. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING                      Deuteronomy 30:15-20                      OT 186

SCRIPTURE READING                      Matthew 5:21-37                      NT 4-5

SERMON                      Further Thoughts on Discipleship                      Pastor François

ANTHEM                      Stand by Me                      arr. Moses Hogan

*When the storms of life are raging, stand by me. When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea, thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me. In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me. When I do the best I can, and my friends misunderstand, thou who knowest all about me, stand by me. In the midst of persecution, stand by me. When my foes in battle array, undertake to stop my way, thou who never lost a battle, thou who knowest all about me, thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

If you wish to give electronically from your smartphone or tablet, please scan the box at the right to go to the website where you can give to WPC via credit card, or give via the Church Center app.



OFFERTORY                      Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me                      arr. Christine Sullivan

\*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***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

**Holy God, we offer you these gifts with thanks, so that together we may plant and water the seeds of your new world. May we be your faithful servants as we cultivate your love, knowing that in all we accomplish, it is you who gives the growth. Amen.**

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

\*CLOSING HYMN 766

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

MCKEE

\*CHARGE, BLESSING AND TIME OF GREETING AND "PEACE"

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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

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*Thank you to Chris Darr and all who assisted with the worship service this morning.*

*This week's flowers were given to the Glory of God.*

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**WORSHIP** Just a reminder: If you aren't feeling your best (headache, fever, body ache), please consider staying at home until you feel like your old self again.

**MASK OPTIONAL** Mask wearing is optional for worship and all activities and groups using WPC's buildings or grounds. If you would like to wear one, we have KN-95 masks available for your use when you come to worship.

**IN-PERSON STAFF AND OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor François    Tuesday    11 am - 4:30 pm  
                                 Wednesday 10 am - 2 pm

Pastor Taylor      Monday     11 am - 4:30 pm  
                                 Thursday 10 am - 1 pm

Main Office        Monday - Thursday    2:00 - 4:30 pm

Feel free to call the church office (610-566-1644) or email staff members at other times.

**GLUTEN FREE COOKIES** will now be available during coffee hour. The tray of yummys will be marked – please save them for those with specific dietary restrictions.

**CHANCEL FLOWERS** Would you like to sponsor the chancel flowers a Sunday in 2023. To order, use the Church Center app, this link (<https://bit.ly/3Wzyj1l>) or the chart in Fellowship Hall. The suggested donation is \$50.

**VASES** Have any small vases you could give to the Deacons? They need them to deliver the Chancel flowers each Sunday to members and friends. Please leave them in the kitchen.

**PAINTING CLASS** Beginners and more experienced artists – explore different styles and techniques of acrylic painting with local artist Kathy Agostinelli. Classes will be held 4-6 p.m., Fridays (February 10, 17, 24 and March 3). Take one or more class – limit 12 participants per session. Cost – \$40 per class, with all supplies provided. Interested? Contact the office for sign up information.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** Bring a few cans of soup to church on TODAY, then settle in for the game. The donations will benefit WPC's Red Wagon ministry.

**PRIME TIME** Judith Giesberg, PhD, professor of history at Villanova University, will talk about Pennsylvania politics and the Civil War, Tuesday, February 14. Bring lunch and a friend – we will provide beverages and dessert. Lunch starts at noon; the talk at 12:30 p.m.

**THE SUPREMES 2022: NO LONGER THE LEAST DANGEROUS BRANCH?** Join the discussion, Wednesday, February 15, about the implications of recent Supreme Court decisions. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m.; the talk at 7:15 p.m.

**OUR PROGRESSIVE DINNER IS BACK!** It's a fun way to get to know or reconnect with other WPC adults! Appetizers will be at the church beginning at 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 25th, followed by dinner at different host homes and ending around 9 p.m. at another home for dessert. Each person will be asked to contribute \$10 and will be assigned a food item to bring. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall to attend (or to offer to host) by no later than Sunday, February 19 or at <https://bit.ly/progdinnerWPC> . If you are interested in childcare at the church or if you have questions, please contact Lisé Meloy, Chris Darr or Danielle Haury.

**CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE CHOIR** Join the choir performing Florence Price's "Communion Service in F" for the February 26 Concerts for a Cause. Use this URL to register [bit.ly/C4AC0226WPC](https://bit.ly/C4AC0226WPC)

**MIGHT YOU BE READY TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST BY JOINING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THIS CONGREGATION?** Our Book of Order states: God calls people to faith and to membership in the Church, the body of Christ. Baptism is the visible sign of that call and claim on a human life and of entrance into the membership of the church... A congregation shall welcome all persons who trust in God's grace in Jesus Christ and desire to become part of the fellowship and ministry of his Church. No person shall be denied membership for any reason not related to profession of faith. The Gospel leads members to extend the fellowship of Christ to all persons. Failure to do so constitutes a rejection of Christ himself and causes a scandal to the Gospel.

Persons may enter into active church membership in the following ways:

- a. Public profession of faith, if not already baptized, the person making profession of faith shall be baptized;
- b. Certificate of transfer, when a person is a member of another Christian church at the time of transfer;
- c. Reaffirmation of faith, for persons previously baptized in the name of the triune God and having publicly professed their faith.

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church.

# 18 Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator

(Psalm 148)

1 Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing praise to your Cre - a - tor, sun, moon, and  
 2 Praise the Lord, all moun-tains and o - ceans, roll - ing thun - der and  
 3 Give to God all glo - ry and hon - or. From the depths to the

stars and an - gels a - bove. Praise the Lord, whose word es -  
 wind and storm clouds on high. Praise the Lord, your Mak - er,  
 heights let prais - es re - sound to the Lord, the source of

tab - lished the heav - ens, who up - holds all the earth in pow - er and  
 all liv - ing crea - tures, all the beasts in the fields and birds in the  
 strength and sal - va - tion for all peo - ple on whom God's fa - vor is

love. God reigns on high, let the heav - ens re - joice! (O)  
 sky. Both young and old, come and join in the song! (O)  
 found. Praise God, you saints who are claimed as God's own! (O)

This recent paraphrase of Psalm 148 expands our awareness of the breadth of God's creation by being set to a traditional Indonesian melody that has become the basis for one of the most widely known worship songs from Asia. It needs to be sung joyfully and at a lively tempo.



God reigns on high, let the heavens rejoice!  
Both young and old, come and join in the song!  
Praise God, you saints who are claimed as God's own!

## Deuteronomy 30:15-20

15 “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

# 766 The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by  
 2 True faith will o - pen up the door and  
 3 True love will not sit i - dly by when  
 4 If what we have we free - ly share to  
 5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by

walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and  
 step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek  
 jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the  
 meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the  
 walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and

love are found, there can the church be known.  
 out the poor and ask to wash their feet.  
 home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.  
 Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.  
 love are found, there can the church be known.

This text was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

## **Matthew 5:21-37**

### **Concerning Anger**

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder,’ and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

### **Concerning Adultery**

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

### **Concerning Divorce**

31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

### **Concerning Oaths**

33 “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ 34 But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

## **STAFF**

Rev. François Lacroix, Pastor  
Rev. Taylor Cornelius, Associate Pastor  
Lee Hagon-Kerr, Director of Music  
Kate Callahan, Church Administrator  
Leslie Krowchenko, Communications Coordinator  
Christine Darr, Clerk of Session  
Ed Mattote and Todd Darr, Co-Treasurers  
Michelle Hall, Financial Secretary

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