



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 23, 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. If you would like to wear one, we have KN-95 masks available for your use when you come to worship.

Friendship Pew Pads can be found at the end of each pew. Please fill them out and pass along to your neighbors.

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.

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 are sponsored under a suggested donation of \$50. To order, use the Church Center App, the chart in the Fellowship Hall, or visit <https://bit.ly/3Wzyj1l>

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

Sunday, July 23

10:00 am- Young Disciples Sunday School

10:00 am- Worship

11:00 am- Coffee Hour

Monday, July 24

Tuesday, July 25

4:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons

7:30 pm- Trustees

Wednesday, July 26

9:00 am- Breakfast Group - Court Diner

3:00 pm- Private Brass Lessons

Wednesday, July 26 (cont.)

3:30 pm- Private Flute Lessons

7:30 pm- BookLook

Thursday, July 27

Friday, July 28

Saturday, July 29

Sunday, July 30

9:30 am- Pick-up Choir

10:00 am- Young Disciples Sunday School

10:00 am- Worship

11:00 am- Coffee Hour

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



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“All the natural movements of the soul are controlled by laws analogous to those of physical gravity. Grace is the only exception. Grace fills empty spaces, but it can only enter where there is a void to receive it, and it is grace itself which makes this void. The imagination is continually at work filling up all the fissures through which grace might pass.”
— Simone Weil, *Gravity and Grace*

GATHERING

WELCOME, RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Psalmist writes, I give thanks to you, O God, with my whole heart. I will glorify your name forever!

For great is your steadfast love for me. You have delivered my soul from the depths.

God says, “Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.”

People of God, let us gather to worship and praise God’s name.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Rock of Israel and cornerstone of our common life, you are not bound by our visions, our structures, our doctrine. We cannot predict your coming or going, yet you have given us your story, your family, your work to do. Meet us here we pray. Shape us for service in your world, for we carry the name of Jesus and live by the power of your breath.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #360

Christ Is Coming!

UNSER HERRSCHER

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, your creatures cry—creation groans—but we turn away; we surround ourselves with noise.

We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility: we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy. It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.

(Silent Confession)

Life-giving God, wash us clean.

Restore our imaginations and our hearts. Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins until we love with abandon and our hands reach out in blessing, for the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sisters and brothers, hear the word of the Lord. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God says unequivocally, irrevocably: you are my own; you are forgiven; and I need you to be about my business in the world. Do not fear, for our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. God's hand shall lead us and hold us fast. So be reconciled with God and at peace with one another.

*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. The Young Disciples Room (ages 18 months - 5 years) is open during the duration of worship time. Our Junior Disciples (ages 6-12) are invited to either stay and worship or be a "shepherd" to the toddlers downstairs. 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

NRSV OT 673

MUSICAL OFFERING

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:12-25

NRSV NT 158

SERMON

HYMN 647

Give Thanks

GIVE THANKS

MISSION AND MINISTRY

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Scripture teaches us that there is no condemnation in Jesus Christ. Wherever you have been and wherever you are headed, you are not far from God's liberating grace through Jesus Christ.

Will you receive this gift today? How will you let it transform your very being so that others might know the same restorative grace?

As followers of Jesus Christ, we want to welcome you into this community of faith. If you are ready and willing, we are here to receive you.

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

God blesses us that we might carry that blessing into the world. Let us give with grateful hearts.

OFFERTORY



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

*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

God of mystery and grace, you have met us and blessed us with such abundant promise. In gratitude we offer what we carry in our hearts and our pockets. As we bring these worn and freighted offerings, we pray that you would use us, for we come in the name of Jesus and by the movement of your Spirit in this place. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

*BENEDICTION AND PEACE

(Please exchange with one another, by words and gestures, signs of peace and reconciliation.)

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

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Thank you to Julia Anderson, and all who assisted with the worship service this morning.

*This week's flowers were given to the Glory of God by the Sawyer Family,
in treasured memory of loved ones.*

*This morning we welcome back and give a special thank you to pianist/organist Liz Braden
who is subbing for Lee while she is away.*

360

Christ Is Coming!

1 Christ is com - ing! Let cre - a - tion from its groans and
 2 Earth can now but tell the sto - ry of your bit - ter
 3 With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, flutes are tuned and
 4 Long your ex - iles have been pin - ing for your prom - ised

la - bor cease; let the glo - rious proc - la - ma - tion
 cross and pain; we shall yet be - hold your glo - ry,
 harps are strung; let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus
 rest and home, but in heav - en - ly glo - ry shin - ing,

hope re - store and faith in - crease: Christ is com - ing!
 Lord, when you re - turn to reign: Christ is com - ing!
 on - ward roll from tongue to tongue: Christ is com - ing!
 soon the ris - en Christ shall come. Christ is com - ing!

Christ is com - ing! Come, O bless - ed Prince of peace.
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the strain.
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the song.
 Christ is com - ing! Joy - ful, shout the vic - tory psalm.

This hymn by a 19th-century Scottish pastor is specifically based on Revelation 1:7 and 22:20, with allusions to several other New Testament passages. Unlike medieval hymns that focused on judgment, this text understands the Second Coming as an occasion of triumph and joy.

647

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

Drawing on language from 2 Corinthians 6:10 and 12:10 as well as Psalm 126:3, this short and repetitive song can be easily memorized. The simple vocabulary makes it suitable for multigenerational use, reminding all ages how gratitude for God's goodness changes our perspective.

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

*Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is pi yukpalashke.*

CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.*

NAVAHO

*Nizhónígo joobá diits' a'
 yisdáshítinígí,
 lah yóóiiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh'ít' da nt'ée.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Romans 8:12-25

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

RED WAGON WPC supports three food pantries – Chester Eastside, LifeWerks and Media Food Bank.

Chester Eastside is requesting:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Soup (condensed or ready to serve)
- Canned tuna, salmon, mackerel, chicken
- Canned vegetables
- Salad dressing
- Pasta sauce
- Pasta
- Boxed mac & cheese
- Stuffing
- Rice
- Packaged cookies and snacks
- Bottled water



BOOKLOOK Join the discussion, **7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 26**, of *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman, which “takes readers to a world where humans have animal familiars and parallel universes are within reach.” (Amazon). Contact Walt Kaminski to order; the cost is \$8.

OUT OF THE OFFICE Nathan will be working out of the office **Thursday, July 27**, and can be reached by phone and email.

PICK-UP CHOIR Like to do a little singing this summer – join the Pick-Up Choir. Arrive in the choir room **9:30 a.m., Sunday, July 30** to learn the hymn, then perform it in worship that morning.

YARD SALE Have some items to sell? Set up a table, **September 9**, at the Rutledge Borough Wide Yard Sale. The event will be held at Chambers Memorial Presbyterian Church and proceeds will benefit its Deacons. Register online (<http://www.chamberschurch.org>); call 610-544-1493 or email chambersmemorialchurch@gmail.com for additional information.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PROCEEDS The numbers are in! The Strawberry Festival netted \$7,278, which will be divided among:

Chester Eastside	(75%)	\$5,458
WPC Scouts	(15%)	\$1,092
Future SF needs	(10%)	\$728

Thanks again to everyone for such a successful event!

SUMMER SUNDAYS FOR KIDS Following A Time with Young Disciples, choose the best option for your children:

- Young Disciples (18 months – four years)
 - Sunday School open downstairs with lessons and crafts
- Junior Disciples (K-fifth grade)
 - be a shepherd for the younger children downstairs
 - remain in the service (activity bags available)

The programs continue through Labor Day.

OUR ONLINE WPC DIRECTORY Our church is starting to use the online Directory feature of our Planning Center membership software so that members can view contact information for those who have “joined” the directory. It’s easiest to use from the Church Center app on a smartphone (available from Apple App Store or from Google Play). If you have not yet joined, click the QR code below. Please contact Nathan in the church office with any questions.

Church Center -



PIN A pin with three butterflies was found on a pew after a recent worship service. Is it yours? Contact Nathan in the church office.

FINDING GOD IN EVERY SEASON Many of us appreciated this year's Lenten Reflections, especially the writings by those in the congregation, and additional entries will make the 2024 edition even more meaningful.



Why wait until next year to put pen to paper (or keyboard to screen).

How does God communicate with you in every season?

Use the link in this week's WPC Happenings or scan the QR code to learn more.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR Dates are filling up!

Mark these on your calendar:

- Rally Day
-Sunday, Sept. 10
- World Communion
-Sunday, Oct. 1
- Blessing of the Animals
-Sunday, Oct. 8
- Blood Drive
-Wednesday, Oct. 18
- Reformation Sunday
-Sunday, Oct. 29
- Trunk or Treat
-Sunday, Oct. 29
- All Saints' Sunday
-Sunday, Nov. 5
- Pledge Sunday
-Sunday, Nov. 12
- Christmas Pageant Rehearsals
-begin Sunday, Nov. 19
- First Sunday of Advent
-Sunday, Dec. 3
- Advent Open House
-Sunday, Dec. 3
- Handel's Messiah
-Sunday, Dec. 10
- Christmas Pageant
-Sunday, Dec. 17
- Christmas Eve Services (10am, 7:30pm & 10pm)
-Sunday, Dec. 24
- Christmas Day (no worship service)
-Monday, Dec. 25
- Prime Time (second Tuesday of the month)
-begins Tuesday, Sept. 12
- WOW (second Wednesday of the month)
-begins Wednesday, Sept. 13
- Sprouts (first Friday of the month)
-begins Friday, Sept. 8
- Youth Group (last Sunday of the month)
-begins Sunday, Sept. 24
- Kids Café (first Sunday of the month)
-begins Sunday, Oct. 1