

WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 13, 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.

<u>Face Masks</u> 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.

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

<u>Visitors</u> 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, ADA Restroom is located in the Narthex.

<u>An Infant Changing Station and Quiet Room</u> 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.

<u>Gluten Free Cookies</u> will now be available during coffee hour. The tray of yummies will be marked – please save them for those with specific dietary restrictions.

<u>Chancel Flowers</u> 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, August 13

10:00 am- Young Disciples Sunday School

10:00 am- Worship

11:00 am- Coffee Hour

11:10 am- Sunday School Teacher's Meeting

Monday, August 14

10:00 am- Staff Meeting

7:30 pm- WPC Connections

Tuesday, August 15

4:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons

7:30 pm- Deacons

Wednesday, August 16

9:00 am- Breakfast Group - Court Diner

3:00 pm- Private Brass Lessons

3:30 pm- Private Flute Lessons

Thursday, August 17

Friday, August 18

Saturday, August 19

Sunday, August 20

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

"By grace you have been saved," he wrote to the Ephesians, and grace was his key word. *Grace*. Salvation was free, gratis. There was nothing you had to do to earn it and nothing you could do to earn it. "This is not your own doing, it is the gift of god-not the result of works, so that no one may boast," and God knows he'd worked, himself, and boasted too-worked as a Pharisee, boasting about the high marks he'd racked up in heaven till the sweat ran down and Christian heretics dropped like flies-only to find en route to Damascus that he'd been barking up the wrong tree from the start, trying to beat and kick his way through a door that had stood wide open the whole time. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works," he wrote; in other words, good works were part of it, all right, but after the fact, not before (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Frederick Buechner, excerpt ~originally published in *Peculiar Treasures* and later in *Beyond Words*,

GATHERING

WELCOME, RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Psalmist writes in Psalm 85, God speaks peace to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God.

Where God dwells, steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground and righteousness looks down from the sky.

God gives what is good and we respond with abundant praise!

Friends in Christ, the peace God speaks envelops us with wholeness, restores balance, and repairs all brokenness.

[Pulpit Side:] Steadfast love and faithfulness,

[Lectern Side:] Righteousness and peace,

[Pulpit Side:] meet,

[Lectern Side:] kiss,

[Pulpit Side:] spring up,

[Lectern Side:] gaze down,

[All:] encompassing all creation in goodness. Surely God's salvation is at hand!

*OPENING HYMN #388 Come All You People UYAI MOSE
HYMN #657 Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness GLENDON
HYMN #399 God Welcomes All THEMBA 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. Following A Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to the Reception Room to watch the video series "Friends and Heroes." 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, your word is very near, on our lips and in our hearts. As this Word is read and proclaimed, by the power of your Holy Spirit, make it become in us the word of faith. Then send us in joy to bring this word to others who also need the good news of salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GOSPEL READING Matthew 14:22-33 NRSV NT 16

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING Romans 10:5-15 NRSV NT 160

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION As The Deer (with My Faith Looks Up to Thee) M. Nystrom

Diane Gerlach, cello arr. S. Pethel

SERMON

MISSION AND MINISTRY

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

The Apostle Paul calls us "Stewards of God's Mysteries." We aren't called to be explainers, debunkers, or authors of God's mysteries. We just get to carry the mystery around offering it to others, so God can reveal whatever needs revealing.

We don't promise easy answers or simple platitudes, but we invite you to join us as we seek to steward God's mystery as best we can. There is room for you here with us to seek, to serve, to ponder and to share the Good News.

OFFERTORY Preludio Divertimento John. S. Dixon



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 AND THANKSGIVING

Generous God, we thank you for your call and claim upon our lives. Because there is so much more we can become, and so much more we can do, we pray that our faith will increase; that our practice of generosity will be enlarged; and that our joy in believing will encourage others as we share with them the good news of Jesus Christ; in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*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.

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

Thank you to Bob Kenworthy, and all who assisted with the worship service this morning.

^{*}Those who are able, please stand.

[&]quot;Words and music printed for the hymns, Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A71731."

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Come All You People



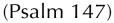
This short gathering song (based on a text adapted from Psalm 95:6) is a great favorite among children in Zimbabwe, and it is frequently used as a processional song for worship. The choir enters singing, the congregation picks up their excitement, and soon all are singing.



Matthew 14:22-33

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

657 Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness





The five songs of praise that conclude the biblical psalter (Psalms 146–150) all begin and end with "Hallelujah!" That ecstatic Hebrew word is expanded here into the refrain that opens and closes this paraphrase of Psalm 147, an appropriate frame for its theme of thanksgiving.





This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008

MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

Romans 10:5-15

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL Following A Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to the Reception Room to watch the video series "Friends and Heroes." **Begins this morning** and continues through Labor Day.

FALL PREVENTINON PROGRAM Falling is not a normal part of aging! Learn how to prevent falls by attending a seminar on doing the right exercises, making your home safer, getting regular health checkups and more. The free program, available to those aged 60 and over, will be held **12:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, August 16 and Friday, August 18**, at the PAC Center, 129 Park Avenue, Swarthmore.

To register, email Ellen Williams (williamse@co.delaware.pa.us) or call 610-499-1937.

CONTAINER WATERING Just two weeks available — **September 3 and September 10**. Register using the Church Center app.

CHANCEL CHOIR New and returning singers — come to the first rehearsal of the season, **7:30 p.m., Thursday, September 7**. No experience necessary.

SPROUTS BOWLING NIGHT Kids — **meet 6 p.m., Friday, September 8**, at Sproul Lanes (745 West Sproul Road, Springfield) for strikes, spares and pizza. Open to children grades K-5.

RALLY DAY Join **10 a.m., Sunday, September 10**, to kick-off an exciting year at WPC! The service will include a congregational meeting (elect Elders, Deacons and Trustees), first day of Sunday School and Bibles for children of all ages, blessing of the backpacks (kids — bring your backpacks for a blessing and goodies to put inside) and end with a food truck for a yummy lunch.

BELL CHOIR Join the ringers, **6:30 p.m., Thursday, September 21**, for the first rehearsal of the season. No experience necessary.

YOUTH GROUP URBAN AIR YGs — meet **4:30 p.m., Sunday, September 24**, at Urban Air Adventure Park (1260 East Woodland Avenue, Springfield) to kick off the season. Open to youth grades 6-12.

BOOKLOOK Join the discussion, **7:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 27**, about "The Soul of America" by Jon Meacham. The #1 New York Times bestseller helps readers understand the present moment in American politics and life by looking back at critical times in our history when hope overcame division and fear. Contact Walt Kaminski to order – the cost is \$6

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). Please contact Nathan in the church office with any questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FALL SCHEDULE FOR YOUTH GROUP (Last Sunday of every month outings!) + Extra offerings! **September 24th, 4:30pm**- Kick off outing at Urban Air!

October 29th, 4:30pm- TRUNK OR TREAT! Youth will decorate a trunk together and dress up!

November 19th (One Week early due to Thanksgiving!) Arcade and Mini Golf + Pizza Night!

December 3rd, 4:30pm- Advent Open House! Youth get to participate in crafts, music, and games!

December 13th, 7pm- Girls invited to come to Women of Wallingford Christmas Bash!

December 24th, 10am, 7:30pm and 11pm- Christmas Eve Services

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! FALL SCHEDULE FOR KIDS

Friday, September 8th, 6-8pm- Sprouts Bowling Night at Sproul Lanes

Sunday, September 10th, 10am- Rally Day – Food Truck Party!

Sunday, October 1st, 11am- Kid's Café – Sing and Play in the Choir Room!

Friday, October 6th, 6-8pm- Sprouts Night at WPC!

Sunday October 19th, 4:30pm- Trunk or Treat! Come dress up and get candy!

Tuesday, October 23rd- Christmas Pageant Sign-ups become LIVE!

Friday, November 3rd, 6-8pm- Sprouts Night at WPC!

Sunday, November 5th, 11am- Kid's Café Sing and Play in the Choir Room!

Sunday, November 19th, 11am- Christmas Pageant Practice

Sunday, November 26th,11am- Christmas Pageant Practice

Sunday, December 3rd, 11am-Christmas Pageant Practice

Sunday December 3rd, 4:30pm- Advent Open House! Fun for all ages: crafts, singing, & games!

Sunday, December 10th, 11am- Christmas Pageant Practice

Sunday, December 17th, 9am- Christmas Pageant PERFORMANCE!

Sunday, December 24th, 10am, 7:30pm and 11pm- Christmas Eve Services

RED WAGON WPC supports three food pantries - Chester Eastside, LifeWerks & 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