



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 3, 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, and hope that you'll feel right at home.

Please take a moment to silence your cell phone.

Face Masks for are optional for all activities on our campus, and are available upon request.

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, ADA Restroom is located in the Narthex.

An Infant Changing Station and Quiet Room for parents of little ones is located in the Narthex.

Activity Packets are available for children to use during worship.

Gluten Free Cookies will now be available during coffee hour.

The tray will be marked – please save them for those with specific dietary restrictions.

WPC Directory Our church uses the online directory feature of Planning Center.

Find it online or on the Church Center app. Contact the church office with any questions.

WPC Happenings Stay informed! Physical copies available out in the Narthex.

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

Sunday, September 3

10:00 am- Young Disciples Sunday School

10:00 am- Worship

11:00 am- Coffee Hour

Monday, September 4

Office closed - Labor Day

Tuesday, September 5

4:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons

Wednesday, September 6

9:00 am- Breakfast Group - Court Diner

3:00 pm- Private Brass Lessons

3:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons

7:00pm- Valley Voices

7:30pm- Peacemaking and Social Justice

Thursday, September 7

8:00 am- CPR Training

7:30 pm- Chancel Choir

7:30 pm- BSA 277/2019

Friday, September 8

Saturday, September 9

6:00 pm- Sprouts

Sunday, September 10

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

GATHERING

WELCOME, BIRTHDAY WISHES, RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Happy Birthday to you; we give thanks for your life;
We give thanks for your presence here; we give thanks to God for you.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

Praise the Lord!

Sing a song of thanksgiving.

Declare God's wondrous deeds.

For the Lord dwells among the people;

the glory of God abides with us.

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Let us worship God with joy!

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN

There Shall Be Showers of Blessing

CALL TO CONFESSION

Refrain Hymn #48 (Refrain is sung after leader says, "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer")

Rain Down

48

Capo 3: (D) (F#7) (Bm) (D7) (G)
F A7 Dm F7 B^b

Rain down; rain down; rain down your
love on your peo - ple. Rain down; rain
down; rain down your love, God of life.

(D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D) (F#7) (Bm)
F/A Gm7 C7 F A7 Dm

(D7) (G) (Em) (A7) (G) (D)
F7 B^b Gm C7 B^b F

This refrain comes from a longer song based on Psalm 33, but the striking image of God's love falling like rain is not actually present in that psalm. That image may be based on Ezekiel 34:26, where God promises to send showers of blessing upon the people of the covenant.

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.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Holy Sabbath

Michael Shea

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

By the power of your Spirit, O Lord, make your Word become a joy to us and the delight of our hearts. **Amen.**

EPISTLE READING

Romans 12:9-21

NRSV NT 162

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28

NRSV NT 18

SERMON

MISSION AND MINISTRY

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Just as he called his disciples, so Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow.

Will you take the time to discern what is precious from what is worthless? Will you do so in a way that embodies mutual affection for others and honors the image of God within you?

Will you join us as we follow of Jesus Christ? If you are ready and willing, we are here to receive you.

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY

Fanfare pour la Suite de la Diane

F. Couperin



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

Almighty God, receive these gifts that we offer with grateful hearts and use us for your ministry in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation to baptismal preparation and Baptism is graciously extended. Worshipers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord's Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ. W-3.0409 Directory for Worship, Book of Order, PCUSA)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

God is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Today we commune by intinction. Please come forward to the table, using the center aisle, where you will receive the bread and cup. Dip the bread into the cup and eat. Those who are unable to come to the table and want to receive communion should make their intention known to the ushers. The bread and cup will be brought to you. Individual cups of juice are also available.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

*BENEDICTION AND PEACE

*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.)

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

"Words and music printed for the hymns, Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A71731."

Thank you to Cyndi Lacroix, and all who assisted with the worship service this morning.

*This week's flowers were given to the Glory of God by Dave and Shirley Rudd
in honor of our 58th anniversary & all the people who prayed for Shirley at the New Year*

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

INVOCATION

*HYMN

“There Shall Be Showers of Blessing”

SHOWERS OF BLESSING

1. "There shall be show - ers of bless - ing:" this is the prom - ise of love;
 2. "There shall be show - ers of bless - ing:" pre - cious re - viv - ing a - gain;
 3. "There shall be show - ers of bless - ing:" send them u - pon us, O Lord;
 4. "There shall be show - ers of bless - ing:" O that to - day they might fall,

there shall be sea - sons re - fresh - ing, sent from the Sav - ior a - bove.
 o - ver the hills and the val - leys sound of a - bun - dance of rain.
 grant to us now a re - fresh - ing, come and now hon - or thy Word.
 now as to God we're con - fess - ing, now as on Je - sus we call!

Show - ers of
 Show - ers, show - ers of bless - ing, show - ers of bless - ing we need:

mer - cy drops round us are fall - ing, but for the show - ers we plead.

Text: Daniel W. Whittle, public domain

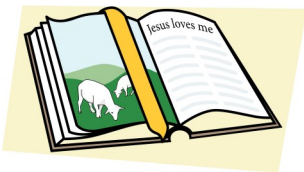
Music: SHOWERS OF BLESSING with refrain, James McGlanahan, public domain

RALLY DAY

Kick off an exciting year at WPC!
Sunday, September 10, 10 a.m.

Congregational Meeting

Elect Elders, Deacons and Trustees



Bibles

For kids of all ages

First Day of Sunday School

Toddler Room (18 months – pre-K)

Early Elementary (grades K-2)

Older Elementary (grades 3-5)



Sunday School Registration

Register before worship in the Narthex or Sunday School hallway

Blessing of the Backpacks

Kids – bring your backpack or receive one from Pastor Taylor



Food Truck
Yummy lunch!

Red Wagon

Please bring non-perishables for the Red Wagon



LABOR DAY The church office will be closed **Monday, September 4**, in honor of Labor Day.

CONTAINER WATERING We have a waterer for every week! Thanks to everyone who volunteered!

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

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. Use this url to register: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545ABAC28A5F94-sprouts2>

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 and proceeds will benefit its Deacons. Register online (<http://www.chamberschurch.org>); call 610-544-1493 or email chambersmemorialchurch@gmail.com for additional information.

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.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY The group will begin the season, **10 a.m., Monday, September 11**, with a study of First, Second and Third John. All are welcome – no Bible knowledge required. Meets weekly.

FELLOWSHIP OF FRIENDS Discuss a variety of topics, some political, in a non-threatening atmosphere, beginning **10 a.m., Wednesday, September 13**. Meets weekly.

W.O.W. (WOMEN OF WALLINGFORD) Meet, greet and eat, **7 p.m., Wednesday, September 13**. All women of our community of faith are welcome to participate in this ministry – we all have something to contribute to this amazing gathering.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE Did you know Parkinson's disease is the fastest growing neurological disorder and will soon surpass Alzheimer's disease in prevalence? WPC member Gwyn M. Vernon, MSN, RN, CRNP, a co-founder of the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorder Center at the University of Pennsylvania, will describe Parkinson's disease (PD) and briefly address treatments, **11:30 p.m., Sunday, September 17**. Her talk will highlight how we as a community can help those in our church and neighborhoods who suffer with PD. **Presented as part of WPC's Abilities Initiative.**

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.

"WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?" The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee will open its fall series, **6:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 27**, with "Who is our Neighbor," an open discussion with Pastor François regarding his September 24 sermon of the same title. Begin with a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m., followed by the program at 7:15 p.m.

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.

SUPPORT PDA'S RESPONSE TO HAWAII WILDFIRES Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), in collaboration with the Presbytery of the Pacific, has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent community needs and provide immediate care. The magnitude of the event will require developing long-term projects and assistance. As people of God, once again we are called to stand with our siblings in the "GAP" – Give, Act and Pray.

To give:

Phone (800) 872-3283

Make checks payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

write DR000165-Hawaii on the memo line

Mail to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

PO Box 643700,

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Or give online:

