



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 24, 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 24

9:30 am- Chancel Choir

10:00 am- Worship

11:00 am- Coffee Hour

4:30 pm- Youth Group: Urban Air

Monday, September 25

10:00 am- Staff Meeting

10:00 am- Adult Bible Class

Tuesday, September 26

4:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons

7:00 pm- Ballroom Dancing

7:30 pm- Trustees

Wednesday, September 27

9:00 am- Breakfast Group - Court Diner

10:00 am- Fellowship of Friends

Wednesday, September 27 (cont.)

3:00 pm- Private Brass Lessons

3:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons

5:30 pm- Peacemaking & Social Justice

7:00pm- Valley Voices

Thursday, September 28

6:30 pm- Bell Choir

7:00 pm- Chancel Choir

7:30 pm- BSA 277/2019

Friday, September 29

Saturday, September 30

Sunday, October 1

9:30 am- Chancel Choir

10:00 am- Worship

11:00 am- Coffee Hour

11:00 am- Kids Café

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



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

*When Jesus said to love your neighbor, a lawyer who was present asked him to clarify what he meant by neighbor. He wanted a legal definition he could refer to in case the question of loving one ever happened to come up. He presumably wanted something on the order of: "A neighbor (hereinafter referred to as the party of the first part) is to be construed as meaning a person of Jewish descent whose legal residence is within a radius of no more than three statute miles from one's own legal residence unless there is another person of Jewish descent (hereinafter to be referred to as the party of the second part) living closer to the party of the first part than one is oneself, in which case the party of the second part is to be construed as neighbor to the party of the first part and one is oneself relieved of all responsibility of any sort or kind whatsoever." Instead, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), the point of which seems to be that your neighbor is to be construed as meaning anybody who needs you. The lawyer's response is left unrecorded. Frederick Buechner ~ originally published in *Wishful Thinking* and later in *Beyond Words**

GATHERING

WELCOME, RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-29

NRSV NT 71

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends in Christ, what is written in the law?

Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind! Love your neighbor as yourself, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind!

Do this and you will live!

Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN #612

We Praise You, O God
(verses 1 and 3)

KREMSER

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 younger children and sit with them on the chancel steps or in the front seats. Then, children (18 months –11 years) are invited to Sunday School classes or to stay with us in worship.

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

Esurientes Implevit Bonis
Corinna Brueckner, Alto

J.S. Bach

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we are your sons and daughters, descendants of the God most high, yet we do not behave to honor you and our actions belittle the love you have for us.

We do not defend the weak or those without fathers or mothers.

We do not uphold the poor or the oppressed.

We do not commit to efforts to rescue the weak and the needy; we sometimes deliver them into solitude and neglect.

(Silent Confession)

Rise up to judge us, O God.

We prefer your merciful justice, than living with guilt and fear.

Straighten our path, so that we can be guided as a mother or a father guides beloved children. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God's unconditional love does not seek appearances or conditions, but loves in such a way, that we are restored to health and to wholeness. Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Leviticus 19:13-23

NRSV OT 106

MEDITATION ON THE WORD – Neighbor as Tribe

EPISTLE READING

Romans 13:8-10

NRSV NT 162

MEDITATION ON THE WORD – Neighbor as Disciples

ANTHEM

Fount of Every Blessing

arr. L. Larson

David Haury, trumpet

God of ev'ry gift and blessing, we gather this day to give you glory, to give you honor, our worship and praise! Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise his name, I'm fixed upon it, name of God's redeeming love. Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wan'dring from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above. God of ev'ry gift and blessing, we gather this day to give you honor, our worship and praise!

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 10:25-29

NRSV NT 71

MEDITATION ON THE WORD – Jesus as Neighbor

MISSION AND MINISTRY

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

We are called to live our lives in a manner that is worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ. But we can't do this on our own. We rely on the gifts of the Spirit and the support of this community, striving side by side in faith.

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

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
featuring Gwyn Vernon, piano

arr. J. Carter



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

Receive these gifts, O God. May our lives be an offering that is pleasing to you, good gifts that come from the knowledge of life in Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Holy God, your people come to pray for the world and all that is in it.

God of justice, work your will in our world.

Free us, O God, to speak your word in a world that needs to listen to you. Greed has overtaken the land and ambition has taken the place of the values you expect from us. Iniquity has taken hold, making the rich richer and the poor poorer. Give us your voice, that your church can serve as shepherd, guiding your people to your will for the world.

God of compassion, work your will in our world.

Free us, O God, to tend to those who are weak and needy. You always care especially for those abandoned or rejected; for the sick, women, children, widows. Give us eyes to recognize them in our midst: people living with HIV/AIDS; people without legal immigration documents; people in abusive relationships; those who live in the shadows of fear and indifference; use us to deliver them, with your guiding help, from all that would harm or oppress.

God of impartiality, work your will in our world.

Free us, O God, from asking, "Who is our neighbor?" Take pity on us, that we might show compassion; anoint us and bandage our wounds, that we might do the same for those in need. Carry us, and give us strength to carry others.

Heal your aching world, we pray, and use us to work out your will. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN OF CHALLENGE

If We Eat Our Lavish Banquet

EBENEZER

*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 Shirley Rudd and all who assisted with the worship service this morning.

This week's flowers were given to the Glory of God by Helen Picher

in honor of Helen and Ver's 37th anniversary

Leviticus 19:13-18

¹³You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling-block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Romans 13:8-10

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Luke 10:25-29

²⁵... a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

We Praise You, O God

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1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

The author wrote this text when only nineteen years old in response to a request from the organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, who wanted another Thanksgiving text to sing to this Dutch tune. He regarded the usual text (see no. 336) as too full of conflict.

1. If we eat our lav - ish ban - quet while the hun - gry cry for bread,
 2. If our ser - mons soothe the might - y but bring hum - ble peo - ple shame,
 3. If the rit - u - als in chap - els are di - vorced from acts of care,

if our ta - bles feed the pi - ous while the out - cast goes un - fed,
 if the rich hear on - ly com - fort but the poor hear on - ly blame,
 if the words we preach in church - es are not good news ev - 'ry - where,

if the strong hoard wealth and pow - er while the weak a - mong them die,
 if the smug grow still more cer - tain but the doubt - er runs from God,
 if op - pres - sion grows a - round us and we do not give a damn,

is the meal we share in - de - cent, is our eu - cha - rist a lie?
 is the word we preach in - sult - ing, is our gos - pel then a fraud?
 is our lit - ur - gy of - fen - sive, is our wor - ship just a sham?



ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN Hopefully you have received our 2024 Annual Giving Campaign letter, including a pledge card and selected verses from Psalm 100 (“serve the Lord with gladness”). Pledges represent approximately two-thirds of our annual budget and provide the confidence that we as a church will be like a beehive – always humming with activity.

Register your pledge using the pledge card, Church Center app or QR code.



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. Use the QR code to register, or find the registration on Church Center.

“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.

SIXTH ANNUAL SOCKTOBER Start sock shopping, then watch for Sock Drive containers in the Narthex and near the main office. We will be collecting new, wrapped (original packaging) men’s and women’s socks for Savage Sisters, and children’s socks for Chester Eastside, **from October 1-31**. Sponsored by the Education Council and Mission and Service Committee.

TRUNK OR TREAT CANDY Donations of wrapped candy for Trunk or Treat may be placed in the tubs in the narthex and Fellowship Hall beginning **Sunday, October 1**. The event will be held 3 p.m., Sunday, October 29.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY Celebrate our oneness in Christ, **10 a.m., Sunday, October 1**, with our siblings throughout the world.

KIDS CAFÉ Kids – meet Miss Lee and Miss Sally in the choir room, **11 a.m., Sunday, October 1**, for songs, games and refreshments. Open to children ages 4-11.



FUSE COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS Come together for a light supper and conversation, **6:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 3**, about “Hospitality in Different Cultures/Communities,” looking at how all communities practice hospitality, but in different ways. The event will be held at Congregation Beth Israel, 542 S. New Middletown Road, Media, during Sukkot, the Jewish holiday that celebrates the fall harvest and brings families, friends and communities together. Use the QR code to register.

TAIZÉ SERVICE Rest in God **7:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 4**, with a meditative service of liturgical readings, sung prayer and silent reflection.



SPROUTS PUMPKIN PAINTING Kids – start the evening, **6 p.m., Friday, October 6**, with pumpkin painting, leaf rubbing, sidewalk chalk, playground fun and dinner, ending with a YouTube video, popcorn and apple cider. Open to children grades K-5. Use the QR to register (registration closes noon, Tuesday, October 3).

CHAPEL CHOIR Kids – like to sing as part of the service? Meet Miss Lee in the choir room to rehearse, **9 a.m., Sunday, October 8**, then perform during the 10 a.m. worship. All children welcome!

W.O.W. (WOMEN OF WALLINGFORD) Join for refreshments, **7 p.m., Wednesday, October 11**, and continue our study of the Gospel of John and Jesus’ seven “I AM” statements. All women of our community of faith are welcome to participate.

BLOOD DRIVE FOR THE AMERICAN RED CROSS Give blood, help save lives! **Wednesday, October 18th, 2023, 2 p.m.-7 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter WPC to schedule an appointment. Help us continue our 70+ years of blood drives here at WPC!

CUB SCOUTS Like to join a Cub Pack? Pack 228, sponsored by WPC, is actively growing in the community and welcomes boys and girls ages 5-10. For more info, visit the website (<https://www.cubpack228.com/>) or email Scoutmaster Simon Gainey (Contact@Cubpack228.com).



GRIEF AND CAREGIVER SUPPORT Swarthmore Presbyterian Church is sponsoring two support groups weekly in October and November open to anyone in the community.

- Grief Support (address the issues of the grieving process for those who have experienced the death of a family member or friend)
- Caregiver Support (address emotional health needs and coping skills unique for those who serve as caregivers on a regular basis)



WPC ONLINE DIRECTORY Do you have questions about how to be part of the online WPC directory? Stop by the table in Fellowship Hall after worship on **September 17, 24 and October 1** as members of our WPC Connections Council will be available to answer your questions. It’s easiest to get set up if you first download the Church Center app on a smartphone (available from Apple App Store or from Google Play). It is possible, however, to use a personal computer as well. You can get started using the QR code.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER Join with Scout Troops 277 and 2019 for Rise Against Hunger, **Sunday, November 5**, to help package 10,000 meals to ship to those in need throughout the world. **Lunch will be available at noon, followed by the pack out starting at 12:30 p.m.** The event is co-sponsored by the Mission and Service Committee and WPC Scouts. Sign up using the poster in the Narthex.

STAFF & HOURS

- REV. FRANÇOIS LACROIX, PASTOR
Tuesday, 11:00am-4:00pm
Wednesday, 10:00am-2:00pm
- REV. TAYLOR CORNELIUS, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Monday, 11:00am-4:430pm
Thursday, 10:00am-1:00pm
- LEE HAGON-KERR, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
- NATHAN GIBSON, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:00pm
- LESLIE KROWCHENKO, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
 - CHRISTINE DARR, CLERK OF SESSION
 - ED MATTOTE AND TODD DARR, CO-TREASURERS
 - MICHELLE HALL, FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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