



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE - 7:30 PM
DECEMBER 24TH, 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 are optional for all activities 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.

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 questions.

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



Visual Worship Schedules are available upon request.



If You Need a Little Help Hearing, portable listening devices are available.

An All Gender, ADA Restroom is located in the Narthex.



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

Activity Packets are available for children to use during worship.

Fidget Toys for children (and adults) are available at the Narthex entrance.



Gluten Free Cookies are labeled and available during coffee hour.

Communion is served the first Sunday of the month.

WPC uses bread that is gluten free and made without tree nuts or peanuts.

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

STAFF & HOURS

PASTOR: Rev. François Lacroix

- Tuesday, 11:00am-4:00pm
- Wednesday, 10:00am-2:00pm

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Taylor Cornelius

- Monday, 11:00am-4:430pm
- Thursday, 10:00am-1:00pm

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Lee Hagon-Kerr

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Nathan Gibson

- Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:00pm

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: Leslie Krowchenko

CLERK OF SESSION: Christine Darr

CO-TREASURERS: Ed Mattote and Todd Darr

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Michelle Hall

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



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS FOR MEDITATION - *Ann Weems, Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Christmas comes every time we see God in other persons.

The human and the holy meet in Bethlehem

or in Times Square,

for Christmas comes like a golden storm on its way

to Jerusalem –

determinedly, inevitably. . .

Even now it comes

in the face of hatred and warring –

no atrocity too terrible to stop it.

no Herod strong enough,

no hurt deep enough,

no curse shocking enough,

no disaster shattering enough.

For someone on earth will see the star,

someone will hear the angel voices,

someone will run to Bethlehem,

someone will know peace and goodwill:

The Christ will be born!

GATHERING

WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

The whole world waits in December darkness for a glimpse of the Light of God.

Even those who snarl “Humbug” and chase away the carolers have been seen looking toward the skies.

The one who declared he never would forgive, has forgiven,

And those who left home have returned,

And even wars are halted, if briefly, as the whole world looks starward.

In the December darkness we peer from our windows

Watching for an angel with rainbow wings to announce the Hope of the World.

Let us go to the manger to see the Light of God.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

*OPENING CAROL HYMN #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

MUSICAL MEDITATION	Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring Wallingford Woodwinds	J.S. Bach, arr. B. Holcombe
SCRIPTURE SENTENCE	Isaiah 11:1-9	NRSV OT 640
CAROL #82	Come Thou Long Expected Jesus	HYFRYDOL
SCRIPTURE READING	Isaiah 9:2-7	NRSV OT 638
CHAPEL CHOIR	Arise, Shine, Jesus Has Come	L. Bailey and B. Mayo
SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 2:1-7	NRSV NT 58
BELL CHOIR	Silent Night	F. Gruber, arr. L. Larson
SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 2:8-12	NRSV NT 58
CAROL #119	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (verse 1)	MEDELSOHN

MISSION AND MINISTRY

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY	Oh Holy Night Brian George	A. Adam
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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 every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to your purposes and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING	John 1:1-5	NRSV NT 91
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THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Our lights have been dimmed to symbolize the darkness of the world without Christ. The burning candles represent the divine source of light in that darkness. Please stand as the usher comes to your pew. To light your candle, tilt it to the candle already lit. Don't tip the lighted candle or the hot wax will drip onto you or the floor. We ask parents to supervise your children as they light and hold their candles. You may extinguish your candle following the Benediction.

*CAROL #122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

SENDING

*CAROL #136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*TIME OF GREETING AND SHARING THE GRACE AND PEACE WE RECEIVED

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

**Those who are able, please stand.*

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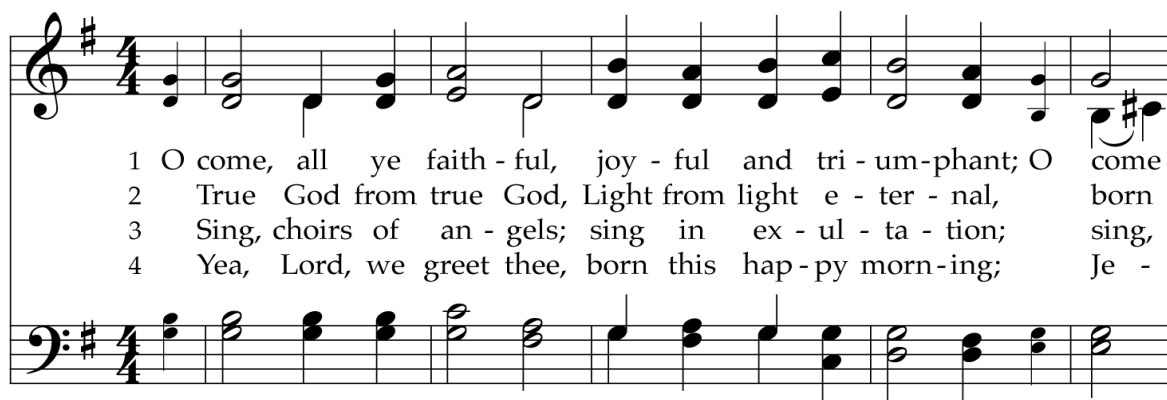
Thank you to Julia, Anna, Carter, Juliette, Lena, Ellis, and all who assisted with the worship service this evening.

Isaiah 11:1-9

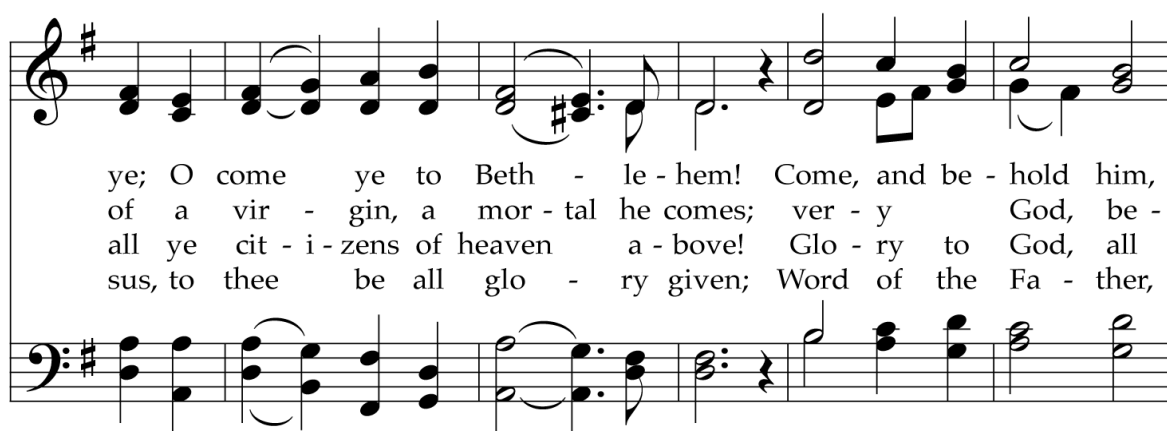
¹A green Shoot will sprout from Jesse's stump, from his roots a budding Branch. ²The life-giving Spirit of God will hover over him, the Spirit that brings wisdom and understanding, The Spirit that gives direction and builds strength, the Spirit that instills knowledge and Fear-of-God. ³Fear-of-God will be all his joy and delight. He won't judge by appearances, won't decide on the basis of hearsay. ⁴He'll judge the needy by what is right, render decisions on earth's poor with justice. His words will bring everyone to awed attention. A mere breath from his lips will topple the wicked. ⁵Each morning he'll pull on sturdy work clothes and boots, and build righteousness and faithfulness in the land. ⁶The wolf will romp with the lamb, the leopard sleep with the kid. Calf and lion will eat from the same trough, and a little child will tend them. ⁷Cow and bear will graze the same pasture, their calves and cubs grow up together, and the lion eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child will crawl over rattlesnake dens, the toddler stick his hand down the hole of a serpent. ⁹Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill on my holy mountain. The whole earth will be brimming with knowing God-Alive, a living knowledge of God ocean-deep, ocean-wide.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133

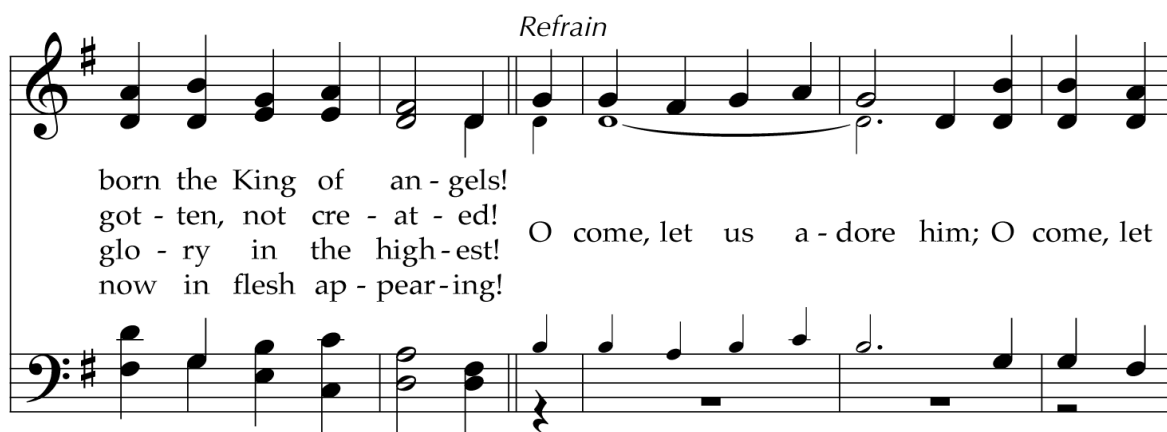


1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um-phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain



born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for-ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



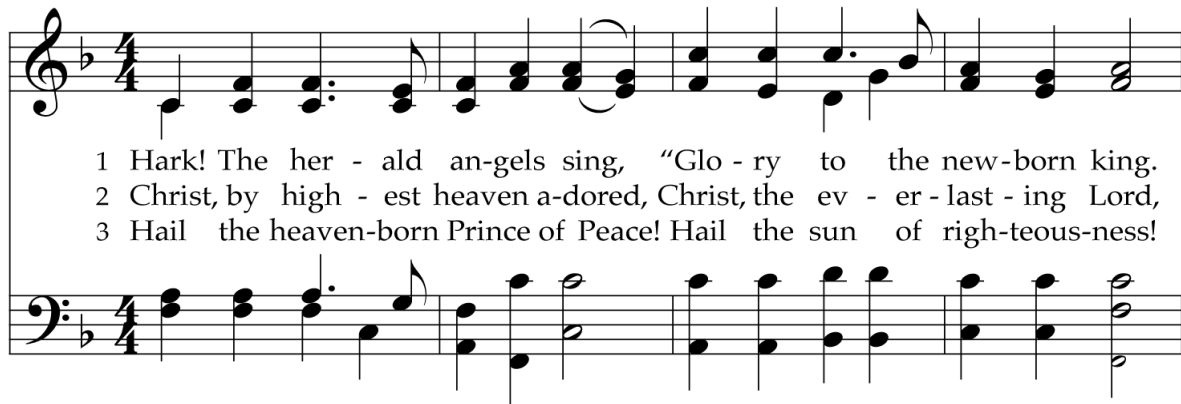
Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.


119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



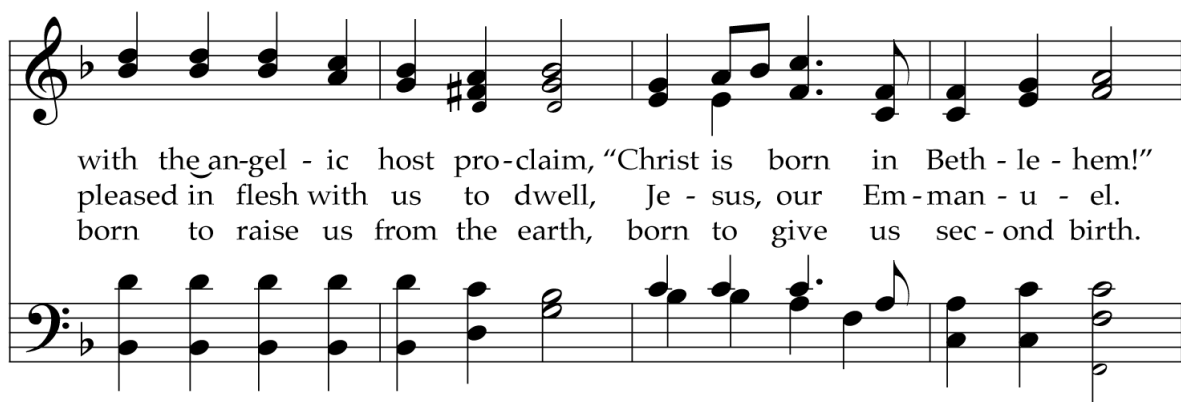
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

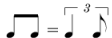
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

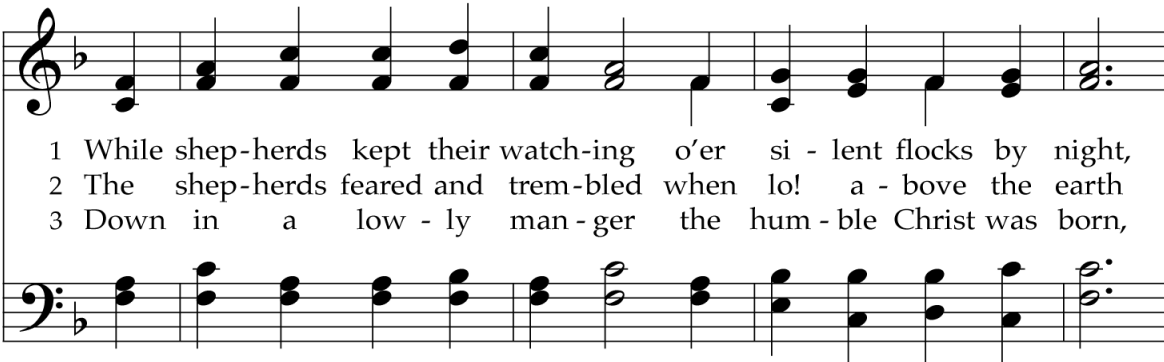
Refrain 


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

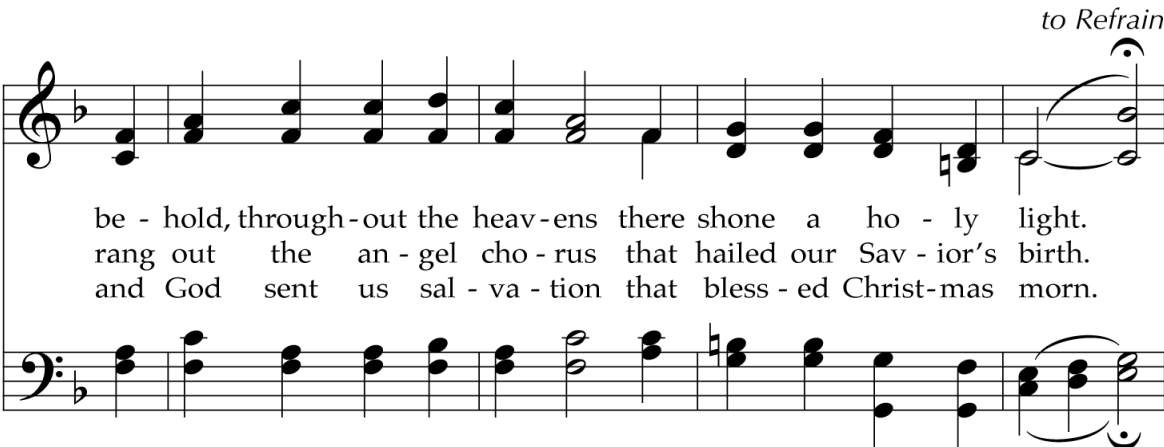


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

to Refrain

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows – light! Sunbursts of light! ³You repopulated the nation, you expanded its joy. Oh, they're so glad in your presence! Festival joy! The joy of a great celebration, sharing rich gifts and warm greetings. ⁴The abuse of oppressors and cruelty of tyrants – all their whips and cudgels and curses – Is gone, done away with, a deliverance as surprising and sudden as Gideon's old victory over Midian. ⁵The boots of all those invading troops, along with their shirts soaked with innocent blood, Will be piled in a heap and burned, a fire that will burn for days! ⁶For a child has been born - for us! the gift of a son - for us! He'll take over the running of the world. His names will be: Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness. ⁷His ruling authority will grow, and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings. He'll rule from the historic David throne over that promised kingdom. He'll put that kingdom on a firm footing and keep it going With fair dealing and right living, beginning now and lasting always.

Luke 2:1-7

¹About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. ²This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. ⁴So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. ⁵He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

Luke 2:8-12

⁸There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. ⁹Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. ¹⁰The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: ¹¹A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. ¹²This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."












John 1:1-5













¹The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, ²in readiness for God from day one. ³Everything was created through him; nothing - not one thing! - came into being without him. ⁴What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. ⁵The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.



Christmas Poinsettias



Given By	Dedication
 Jon Bauer	In Memory of Belle and Pete Bauer
 Sally Clyde	In Memory of Bill Clyde and Family Members
 Mary Lou Day	In Memory of Loved Ones
 Chris Dearnaley and Joe Benvenuto	In Honor of Family and Friends
 Jeff Draine and Deb Dunbar	In Honor of Susan Eberle, Ed Reed, and Alan Barman
 Walter M. Dunham	In Memory of Parents Ernest & Elizabeth Dunham
 Roger and Carol Freidinger	In Honor of Our Family
 Helene Furlong	In Honor of My Parents, John R and Helene Furlong
 Bud and Edna Fury	In Memory of Our Parents
 Fred and Mary Ann German	In Memory of Loved Ones
 Alva Hayes	In Memory of Donald Hayes and Family

 Chris Jacobsen	In Memory of Her Parents, Frank & Lynn Deming
 Reg Jones	In Memory of William and Rhoda Jones
 Don Killian	In Memory of Parents Allan & Pauline Killian
 Cathy Kilpatrick	In Memory of Harry
 Russ Kinder	In Memory of Loved Ones
 Henry and Leslie Krowchenko	In Memory of Sam and Caroline Keys
 Mary L. Payne	In Memory of Bob Foley And Walter & Elizabeth Payne
 Dave and Shirley Rudd	In Memory of Our Parents George & Lorna Lemberger And Vincent & Vera Rudd
 John, Teresa and Shane Sawyer	In Memory of Loved Ones
 Scott Sawyer	In Memory of Loved Ones
 Harry and Carol Schultz	In Memory of Our Mom, Connie Kraus and Our Son, Brian Andrew Schultz
 Earl Varney	In Memory of Mina Hale Varney

PLEASE NOTE

We will not provide childcare (Nursery, Toddler Room or Sunday School) today, **Sunday, December 24** (Christmas Eve) so children can enjoy the family-friendly services.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES Sunday, December 24 - 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

No Nursery, Toddler Room or Sunday School

7:30 p.m. – Service of Lessons and Carols A family-friendly service equally appealing to children, youth and adults, ending with “Silent Night” sung by candlelight.

10 p.m. – Candlelight Service Our traditional service of Bible readings, carols and anthems by our vocal and instrumental choirs, ending with “Silent Night” sung by candlelight.

BLOOD DRIVE IN NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP Garden City Fire Company #1 Banquet Hall, 412 Moore Road, Wallingford, PA 19086. **Tuesday, December 26, 2023 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Nether Providence to schedule an appointment.

BREAKFAST CLUB Students grades 6-12 – take a break from normal worship, **10 a.m., Sunday, December 31**, and share fellowship in the Youth Room. Enjoy breakfast, discussion about the week’s “Nooma” video and games.

FELLOWSHIP HALL WINDOWS The Trustees are replacing three old windows in Fellowship Hall with double pane windows, which will provide greater energy efficiency and insulating properties. If you would like one of the current windows, contact Walt Kaminski.

REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS Show the world how proud we are of our music ministry with reusable shopping bags emblazoned with “Make a joyful noise” and Wallingford Presbyterian info. They demonstrate to everyone involved in the program how much we appreciate them with a little extra funds for all those “nice to haves” and “if I could’s.” Available at Coffee Hour. Cost – one for \$10 or three for \$20.

CHANCEL FLOWERS 2024 The sign-up board for sponsoring Chancel Flowers in 2024 is live and posted in the Fellowship Hall. Sign your name and the dedication you would like printed in the bulletin. Suggested donation price is \$50. Payments will be collected at the beginning of each month. The church office will reach out with a reminder when your month is coming up.

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.

Year-End Giving

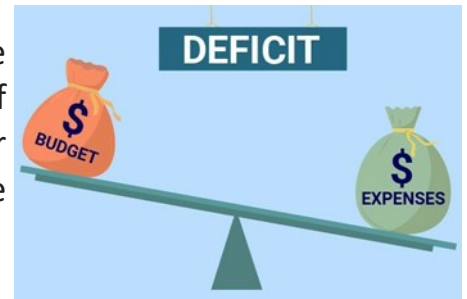


As we approach the end of the year, the Stewardship Council wants to thank the members and friends whose financial contributions sustain the mission and ministry of WPC.



The church was fully open this year, post-pandemic, and your monetary contributions have allowed us to provide an array of activities and programs for all ages and complete interior and exterior maintenance of the building and grounds.

The projected income for 2023 is \$490,000 to support the increased programming, but contributions have fallen short of our estimate. As of the second Sunday in December, our revenue is approximately \$405,000, \$85,000 less than the anticipated amount.



We appeal to you all to remember the church as you make year-end gifts. We understand everyone is facing higher costs right now, but if you can share some of your resources to support our church, our community, our faith, we would greatly appreciate it.

Donations may be made by cash, check or using the QR code.



Many thanks,
The Stewardship Council

WPC Week at a Glance	
<i>The Church Office will be closed the week of 12/25-12/29</i>	
Sunday, December 24	Wednesday, December 27
07:30 pm- Service of Lessons and Carols	09:00 am- Breakfast Group - Court Diner
09:00 pm- Wallingford Winds	Thursday, December 28
09:15 pm- Bell Choir	Friday, December 29
09:30 pm- Chancel Choir	Saturday, December 30
10:00 pm- Candlelight Service	Sunday, December 31
Monday, December 25	10:00 am- Breakfast Club
Christmas Day	10:00 am- Worship
Tuesday, December 26	11.00 am- Coffee Hour

WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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