



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 31ST, 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

*Those who are able, please stand.

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



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

"The world is a manger, where God is continually being born into our lives." – Frederick Buechner

GATHERING

WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have heard the news!

What news is this?

A Messiah has been born, Christ the Lord!

How can we know this for sure?

The angels, we saw them! We heard them say...

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Let us go – now! Rush to see the King of Kings!

Come, let us adore Him! The Light of life!

HYMN-SING

CONFESSION IN SONG

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news of Christmas.

Today God reveals to us the wonders of divine love.

For unto us a Child is born;

unto us a Son is given.

His name shall be called Wonderful,

Counselor,

the Mighty God,

the Everlasting Father,

the Prince of Peace.

We are forgiven and free. Praise the Lord Almighty!

*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

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. If this is your child's first time going to Sunday School, please accompany them downstairs in order to register your child.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 4:4-7 NRSV NT 189

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:22-40 NRSV NT 59

*HYMN-SING

CHRISTMAS VIDEO OFFERING

MISSION AND MINISTRY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY It Came Upon the Midnight Clear CAROL



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.***

CHRISTMAS INTERCESSION LITURGY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SENDING

*HYMN-SING

CHRISTMAS LITANY OF CHALLENGE

How will we leave this place?

Glowing with the light of love, and ready to share it to the ends of the earth!

Will we be the same?

No! Our hearts are open, our eyes filled with wonder, and our feet are swift to bring the Good News!

Have we learned anything?

Only to stop the endless searching, as we have finally found what we always needed in this baby in a manger!

Will we give, will we forgive, will we share?

Not only that, but we will offer that generosity to those who we wouldn't have before, because we are different!

Now go – and do just that! Open your hearts in love to everyone you meet!

We will! With the joy of Christmas in our hearts, we will offer a love that is beyond all loves – and though that... somehow, someway, we will hear the angels sing!

*Closing Hymn #611

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

*BENEDICTION

Thank you to Roger & Barb Demos, and all who assisted with the worship service this morning.

611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-flect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.

Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a-bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife.

Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.












Luke 2:22-40













²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.



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

OFFERING ENVELOPES If you requested Offering Envelopes for 2024, please pick them up in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

CHURCH OFFICE REOPENS The church office will reopen **Wednesday, January 3**, as the staff returns from winter break. Thanks for the opportunity to re-charge for the New Year.

BOOKLOOK Discuss "Between the World and Me" by Ta-nehisi Coates, **7:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 17**, a #1 New York Times best seller. Hailed by Toni Morrison as "required reading," a bold and personal literary exploration of America's racial history by "the most important essayist in a generation and a writer who changed the national political conversation about race" (Rolling Stone). Contact Walt Kaminski to order – the cost is \$14.

CHILI COOK-OFF Bring your best pot of chili, then taste test and vote for your faves with \$, **5p.m., Saturday, February 3**. All money raised will be donated to a charity TBD. Not a chili eater? Enjoy chicken nuggets, mac and cheese and salad. If you are not entering your chili, please bring an appetizer (last names A-H), salad (J-Q) or dessert (R-Z). There will be a bounce house for the kids. Appetizers begin at 5 p.m.; dinner, 5:45 p.m. Questions? Call Walt Kaminski (610-334-2025).

SPROUTS MOVIE NIGHT Kids – watch a movie on the church's big screen (title TBD), **6 p.m., Friday, January 5**. Dinner is included. Open to children grades K-5.

KIDS CAFÉ Kids – meet Pastor Taylor and Miss Lee in the choir room, **11 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 7**, for songs, games and refreshments. Open to kids 4-11

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." 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

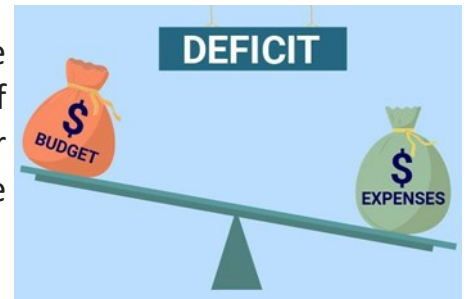


As we approach the end of the year, the Stewardship Council wants to thank the members and friends whose financial contributions sustain the mission and ministry of WPC.



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 January 1st and 2nd</i>	
Sunday, December 31	Thursday, January 04
10:00 am- Breakfast Club	09:30 pm- Chancel Choir
10:00 am- Worship	Friday, January 05
11:00 am- Coffee Hour	06:00 pm- Sprouts
Monday, January 01	Saturday, January 06
New Year's Day	09:00 am- Worship Council Tear-Down
Tuesday, January 02	Sunday, January 07
07:30 pm- Peacemaking & Social Justice	09:30 am- Chancel Choir
Wednesday, January 03	10:00 am- Worship
09:00 am- Breakfast Group - Court Diner	11:00 am- Coffee Hour
10:00 am- Fellowship of Friends	11:00 am- Kids Café
7:30 pm- Stewardship Council	01:00 pm- BSA 228
	03:00 pm- BSA 277

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