



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 8TH, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.



Friendship Pew Pads can be found in each row.

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.



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-4:30pm
- Thursday, 10:00am-1:00pm

MINISTER 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

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

This Week

CHURCH OPENER: Dave Rudd

LITURGIST: Mimi Haggerty

USHERS: Nancy Oettinger

Gwyn Vernon

COFFEE HOUR: Care/Outreach

Next Week

CHURCH OPENER: Tony Tolomeo

LITURGIST: Noelle Coker

USHERS: Mary Lou Day

Frank Noyes

COFFEE HOUR: Worship Council

*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

GATHERING

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“He must increase, but I must decrease.” – John the Baptist (John 3:30)

“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God’s own love and concern.” – Mother Theresa

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:4b-6

NRSV NT 60

⁴‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’

*CALL TO WORSHIP

I heard his voice, who was it?

It was the prophet bidding us to come!

Who is the One he is speaking of?

The Messiah, His time is drawing near!

What must we do now?

Prepare the way of the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN #100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN
(verses 1, 3 & 4)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your gaze due to shame. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*RESPONSE #582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (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.***

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.

WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Malachi 3:1-3, 7a NRSV OT 889

ANTHEM Spaseniye Chesnekov
Russian: Spaséñiye, sodélal yesí Posredé ziemlí, Bózhe. Allilúiya.
English translation: Salvation is created, in midst of the earth, O God, O our God. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:2b-6, 15-18 NRSV NT 60

SERMON

RESPONSIVE HYMN #97 Watchman, Tell Us of the Night WINCHESTER NEW
(verses 1 and 2)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSIONS 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.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY O Come, Emmanuel arr. Jason Krug



Scan the QR code to give via credit card on 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.***

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

New to our church? Discover the joy of belonging at Wallingford Presbyterian Church. Experience the enriching fellowship and diverse ministries available and be an official part of a supportive and nurturing church family. If you're seeking a place for you and your family to connect with God and others, we encourage you to explore membership. Contact Pastor Taylor (pastortaylor@wallingfordpres.org) to learn more about how to join our vibrant community!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you. Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN #106

Prepare the Way O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

A voice cries out; a prophet speaks:

In the wilderness, prepare the way.

The valleys are filled; the mountains are made low.

In the wilderness, prepare the way!

Open your hearts to a new road within

On which the Messiah can traverse again!

In my own heart I prepare the way,

For the blessed Messiah – for which we have prayed!

Alleluia, Amen!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST


Thank you to everyone who assisted with worship this morning.

This week's flowers were given to the Glory of God by Mary Payne, for her family.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout


Canticle of the Turning

Em C D




1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

Em C D Em




God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

G D Em C Em




won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

G D



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

Em C D Em



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night 97

*
 1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.
 Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?
 Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.

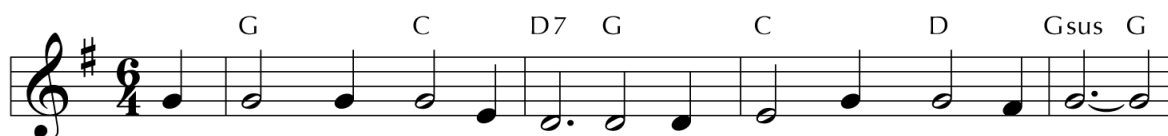
Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.
 Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
 Trav-eler, we re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

**May be sung antiphonally.*

This unusual dialogue hymn alternates between the voice of a traveler and that of a watchman, setting up an exchange that creates parallels between the coming of dawn and the birth of Christ. The tune is named for a Welsh town whose name means "mouth of the bending river."

Prepare the Way, O Zion

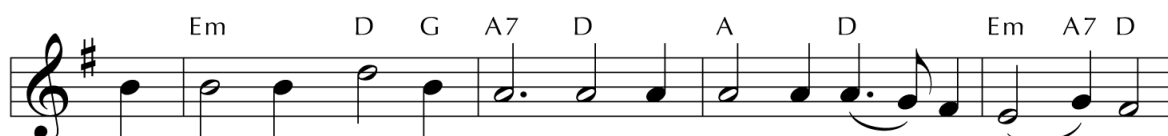
106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

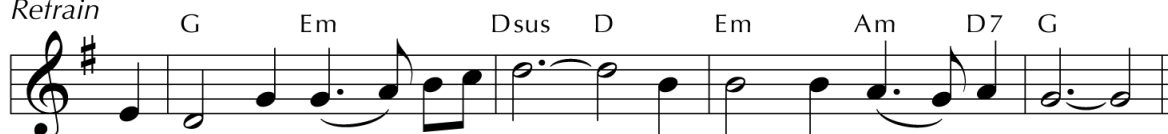


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

Malachi 3: 1-3, 7a

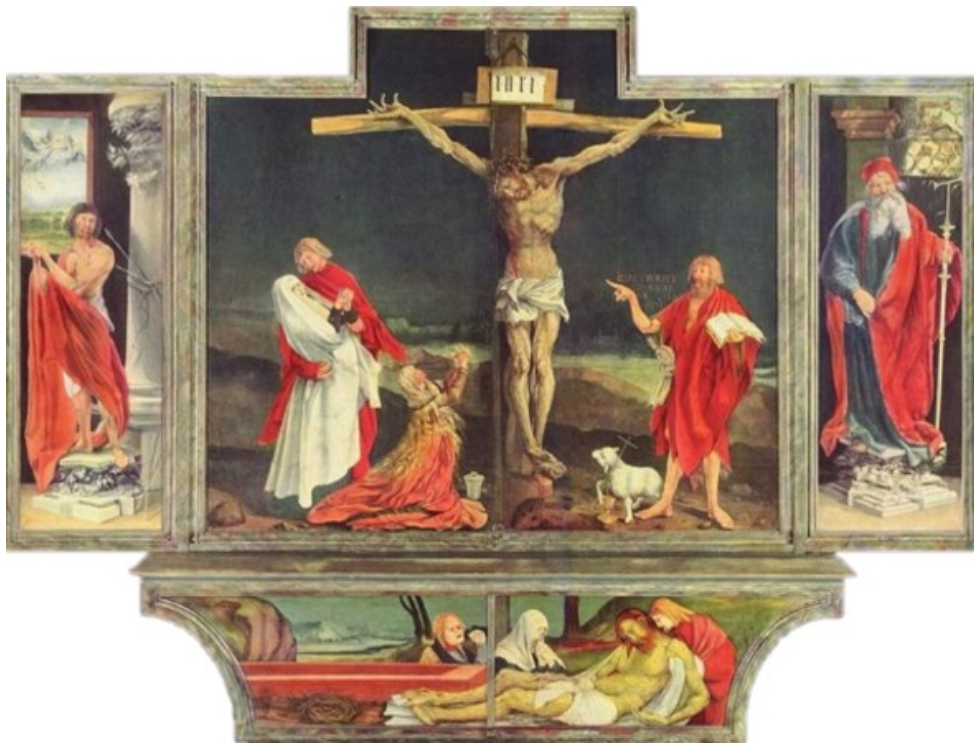
¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

⁷Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

Luke 3: 2b -6, 15-18

²The Word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.



ChristMarket 2024

WPC supports several charitable groups throughout the year, missions near and far, such as **Chester Eastside** ceichester.org, **The America Team for Displaced Eritreans** eritreanrefugees.org, and **New Life Center** newlifecenterfoundation.org.

You may choose specific groups or choose to give a lump sum to be distributed among several groups. We will still have printed cards available should you want to send them to loved ones informing them that you have contributed in their honor as an alternative gift.

NEW! You can use checks, cash, credit cards, and such apps as Venmo and Apple Pay.

We are sorting other groups as International, National, and Local. We have included website URLs so you can learn more and we will speak about these organizations leading up to Advent so we can be better informed.

INTERNATIONAL:

Malala Fund malala.org

Supporting Girls' Education Worldwide

Heifer International heifer.org

Providing livestock for food and farming

NATIONAL:

4 Paws for Ability 4pawsforability.org

Training service dogs for people with disabilities

Arbor Day Foundation arborday.org

Over 50 years of planting trees to improve the climate.

LOCAL:

Spring Garden Soup Society springgardensoupsociety.org

Supporting ten organizations in Philadelphia that offer food, housing, counseling, and other services.

City Team - Chester cityteam.org

Assistance with homelessness, hunger, poverty, and addiction. Supportive programs for youth who have aged out of foster care.

Crum Creek Watershed Association crcwatersheds.org

Restoring and conserving the natural resources of Chester Creek, Ridley Creek, and Crum Creek.



Congregational Vision Questionnaire

As part of the process for calling a new pastor to replace François Lacroix after his retirement, the church is undertaking a Mission Study to learn the congregation's perspective on what direction the church might take and what WPC should look for in a new pastor.

We need your input. It doesn't matter if you've been a member for a week, a year, or 40 years (or even if you've never gotten around to joining), your voice is amongst equals at this table. Please take the time to prayerfully consider the questionnaire.



Scan the QR code to launch the online Congregational Vision Questionnaire or find it at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Wallingford2025. Hard copies of the questionnaire are available from the ushers for those who prefer paper. The questionnaire is anonymous. Please submit only one questionnaire per person.

The Mission Study Team will also be holding a series of in-person and online listening sessions as a follow-up to the questionnaire. Stay tuned for more!

The Mission Study Team consists of Ver Picher, Ben Drane, Lin Floyd, Lisé Meloy, Rick Miller, David Rudd, and Erin Vaccone.



ANNUAL GIVING We have received 77 pledges totaling \$355,394. Pledges represent approximately two-thirds of our annual budget and provide the confidence that we will continue to be the exciting, growing church we have become thanks to everyone's helping hand.

Register your pledge using the pledge card or the Church Center app.

OFFERING ENVELOPES If you requested offering envelopes for 2025, please pick them up in Fellowship Hall.

GIVING TREE/ANGEL TREE TODAY is the last day to return gifts/gift cards.

HAM DONATIONS Have a ham you won't be cooking? Donate it to the Deacons. Put it in the church refrigerator **through Sunday, December 22.**

CHRISTMARKET ChristMarket offers meaningful alternatives to traditional gifts that raise awareness of the needs of others and funds to support those needs. Choose among local, national and international organizations or give a lump sum to be distributed among all the groups. Mission and Service will match all gifts to a total of \$5,000. Shop in person after worship or by mail. **Continues Sundays through December 22.**



SCRIP GIFT CARDS Giving gift cards this holiday season? Purchase them through the Co-op Scrip Gift Card Fundraiser. Use the QR code for details.

PRIME TIME Delaware County historian Keith Lockhart will present a pictorial "then and now" comparison of Swarthmore and surrounding communities (including early pics of WPC), **Tuesday, December 10. Lunch begins at noon; the talk, 12:30pm.**

WOW CHRISTMAS FEAST Eat, Drink and Be Merry! Please plan to come join the annual WOW Christmas feast on **Wednesday, December 11 starting at 6pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a main dish and everyone will bring a dish to pass or dessert. After our time together breaking bread, we will follow the path to Cyndi's house and enjoy fellowship and a hot cocoa bar and have our Christmas story and carols. The house will be all decked with boughs of holly and sparkle. Please, Come all you faithful and share Cyndi's last Christmas with all the amazing women of Wallingford.

CHRISTMAS CABARET Join Tyler, Nathan, Billy and François for a festive afternoon of song, **3pm, Sunday, December 15.** Dress in merry attire, get in the holiday spirit and listen to the beautiful and diverse musical offerings! Part of Concerts for a Cause, the suggested donation of \$15 will benefit Keep Music Alive, a non-profit that believes every child deserves the opportunity to play music and every adult needs to be reminded it's never too late to start!

MONTHLY CONVERSATIONS Pastor François will share some of his photos with the theme “Post Tenebras Lux” (“From Darkness to Light”), **11:30am, Sunday, December 15.**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Join the children "Live from Bethlehem," as they tell the magical story of Jesus' birth. Presented as part of the worship service, **10am, Sunday, December 22.**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CHILD CARE Please note we will not provide childcare (Nursery, Toddler Room or Sunday School), **Sunday, December 22**, so children can enjoy the family-friendly service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WPC will offer 2 services on **Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 -7:30pm, Service of Lessons and Carols** – a family-friendly service equally appealing to children, youth and adults, ending with “Silent Night” sung by candlelight.

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

CONTROLLING THE END OF LIFE Thank you to all who attended Cyndi's talk. Copies of the handout are available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. **If you requested the “Five Wishes” packet, please contact Church Administrator Nathan Gibson.**

CHANCEL FLOWERS 2025 The sign-up board for sponsoring Chancel Flowers in 2025 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.

RED WAGON WPC supports 3 food pantries – Chester Eastside, LifeWerks & Media Food Bank. LifeWerks is requesting:

- Cereal (kids' and whole grain adult)
- Soups: Condensed (any kind), Chunky: [Beef (any combo with potatoes and veggies), Chicken (any with noodles), Sausage (any type)] Chowder (New England, corn), Italian Wedding, Minestrone, Lentil
- Crackers (Ritz, Triscuits, Wheat Thins, Nut Thins, graham)
- Canned vegetables, tomato paste
- Spaghetti sauce
- Condiments (ketchup, mayo, BBQ sauce)
- Salad dressing (all varieties)
- Paper goods (tissues, toilet paper, paper towels)
- Household cleaning products (multi-purpose spray/disinfectant, laundry detergent, dish soap, sponges/wipes)
- Skin care products (body lotion, hand cream, wet wipes)
- Feminine hygiene products (tampons, mini-pads, maxi-pads, overnight)
- Bladder control products (medium, heavy-long pads)

WPC Week at a Glance	
Sunday, December 08	Thursday, December 12
09.30am- Chancel Choir	06.30pm- Bell Choir
10.00am- Worship	07.15pm- Winds
11.00am- Coffee Hour	07.45pm- Chancel Choir
11.00am- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	07.30pm- BSA 227/2019
Monday, December 09	Friday, December 13
10.00am- Adult Bible Class	Saturday, December 14
07.30pm- Officers Meeting	Sunday, December 15
Tuesday, December 10	09.30am- Chancel Choir
04.00pm- Flute Lessons	10.00am- Worship
Wednesday, December 11	11.00am- Coffee Hour
09.00am- Breakfast Group - Court Diner	11.00am- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
10.00am- Fellowship of Friends	11.30am- Monthly Conversation
01.30pm- Stephen Ministry	03.00pm- Concert for a Cause
03.00pm- Flute Lessons	
03.30pm- Brass Lessons	
06:00pm- WOW Christmas Feast	

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