RALLY DAY



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2025
13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
RALLY DAY

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.

Mrs. 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

CHURCH OFFICE

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

PASTOR: Rev. François Lacroix

pastorfrancois@wallingfordpres.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Taylor Cornelius

pastortaylor@wallingfordpres.org

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lee Hagon

music@wallingfordpres.org

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Nathan Gibson

office@wallingfordpres.org

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: Leslie Krowchenko

CLERK OF SESSION: Christine Darr

TREASURER: Todd Darr

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Michelle Hall

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

This Week

LITURGIST: Roger Demos COFFEE HOUR: WOW

Next Week

LITURGIST: Barb Demos

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Lisé Meloy

Carol Freidinger

Jenny Montague

COFFEE HOUR: Connections

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



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

^{*}Those who are able, please stand.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF MEDITATION

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

- Nelson Henderson

GATHERING

WELCOME, RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAY WISHES

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 - Statement of Faith (by Ann Weems, in Reaching for Rainbows) We believe in God, in Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, and in you and me.

ALL: We believe the Holy Spirit has freed us to worship as a community.

We believe the Holy Spirit works through Balloons and ministers...

ELDERS AND DEACONS: daisies and wiggly children

Clanging cymbals and silence... drama and the unexpected

CHOIR: Choirs and banners... touching and praying

Spontaneity and planning... faith and doubt

ALL: Tears and laughter... leading and supporting

Hugging and kneeling... dancing and stillness

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS: Applauding and giving... creativity and plodding

Words and listening... holding and letting go

PASTORS: Thank you and help me... Scripture and alleluias

Agonizing and celebrating... accepting and caring

STEPHEN MINISTERS: Through you and through me... through love.

We believe God's Holy Spirit lives in this community of dancing, hand-holding people where lines of age and politics and lifestyles are crossed.

ALL: We believe in praising God for Life.

We believe in responding to God's grace and love and justice for all people.

ALL: We believe in the poetry within each of us.

We believe in dreams and visions.

ALL: We believe in old people running and children leading.

We believe in the Kin-dom of God within us.

ALL: We believe in Love.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES - BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER COMMISSIONING

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. After the lesson, children grades K-6 are invited to Sunday School classes or to stay with us in worship. The Nursery is open to children between 12 months and pre-K for the duration of worship. If this is your child's first time going to Sunday School or the Nursery, please accompany them so that we may register your child.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

We're Marching to Zion

arr. J. Scriveyner

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

CHILDREN PRAYING

MISSION AND MINISTRY

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus has promised us that all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. This is a community that seeks to do justice, show mercy, walk humbly with God and show Christ's love for the world. Jesus has prepared a place for you here.

If you would like to know more about this congregation and how to become a member, please see Pastor Taylor or Pastor François.

OFFERTORY

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

T. Birchwood

O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free; tell me thy secret, help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love; teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way. Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong. In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broad'ning way, in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live, with thee O let me live.



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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks this day for the goodness and love that you have shown to us in Christ and pray your blessing upon these gifts: may they build your love in the world, to the honor of your name. Amen.

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:25-33

NRSV NT 78

HOMILY

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

QUORUM

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

MOTION TO DISSOLVE THE PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP WITH REV. LACROIX EFFECTIVE NOV. 1, 2025

CLOSING PRAYER

SENDING

*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.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with worship this morning.
This week's flowers were given to the Glory of God by François and Cyndi Lacroix,
in celebration of the Ministry of Lee, Taylor and François here at WPC.

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^{*}CHARGE, BENEDICTION AND PEACE

641 When in Our Music God Is Glorified



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

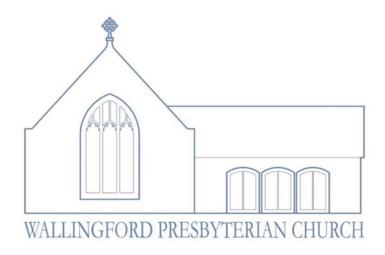
Written to supply this tune with words suitable for occasions celebrating music, this text explores how human song gives voice to creation, how music can convey new insight, how sung faith has kept the church authentic, how Jesus relied on the psalms, and how sound can be praise.

Luke 14:25-33

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

WPC OFFICER BIOS CLASS OF 2027

Session Two-Year Terms



Teresa Ahern-Sawyer

Teresa, whose husband John was raised at WPC, joined in 2009 "specifically for the spiritual life on a Sunday morning." She felt welcomed with open arms, adding no one "judged me because I had an accent, that I grew up Catholic or asked about my political affiliation. You are the reason I'm still here today and proudly look forward to serving again on Session."

Within three months of becoming a member, Teresa was asked to serve as a Deacon and shortly thereafter was recruited by someone with the initials "WK" to help with his newest adventure, WPC Connections (where she still volunteers). She has also been on the Outreach, Nominating and Associate Pastor Search committees and is currently the Chartering Organization Representative for the Scouts.

The same year she joined WPC, Teresa left the business world to become a stay-at-home mom to son Shane and feels blessed to have walked the amazing journey with his as she and John navigated the foster/adoption system. Shane attended Sunday school and youth group and was confirmed at WPC and she credits those in the congregation who guided him during the years and the unconditional support that the pastors provided behind the scenes.

Teresa's interests are varied, including gardening, British detective mysteries and history, especially US history since 1776 and Irish history from 1700-1900.

Joanne Callahan

Joanne, a former member of Cheltenham United Methodist Church, joined WPC in 1999 when she, her husband Bernie and kids Kate and Joe moved to Wallingford. Seeking a church where her youngsters could grow in their faith, she found the children's programs to be "very vibrant." Music is an important part of her spiritual life (she is among the altos in the Chancel Choir) and she noted the program at WPC has always been excellent. They quickly found their place, building many wonderful friendships and "really feeling like we are a family."

In addition to the choir, she has served as an Elder and Deacon and member of the Worship Council and Nominating, Personnel and Youth Director Search committees.

Joanne is the Assistant Director of Risk Management for the University of Pennsylvania/Penn Medicine. In her free time she enjoys singing, baseball (go Phillies!!), reading, gardening, crocheting, cross stitch and playing with their three grandchildren (Joshua, Lily and Abby).

Don Holloway

Don was given his first Bible "many years ago" at Bergenfield Presbyterian Church, confirmed at West Side Presbyterian and spent his high school years in the youth group of Dutch Neck Presbyterian, all in northern New Jersey. After he and Karen married, they moved to Bucks County, spending more than 30 years at Newtown Presbyterian Church before transferring to WPC in fall 2024. "I knew in my heart that I was home and where I belonged."

Don was ordained as a Deacon at Newtown Presbyterian, where he also served as a Trustee. He is a member of the Chancel Choir.

Employed in the telecommunications field, Don has extensive experience in sound and video production, both live and recorded, and "gets pretty involved in techie stuff."

The couple has two adult children (Dave and Katie) and four grandchildren (Archie, Augie, Rocky and Winnie).

Doug Thomas

Doug, a PK (preacher's kid) and life-long Presbyterian, served for seven years as a ruling Elder, lay preacher and worship leader, musician and Sunday School teacher at Christ's United Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, until it closed several years ago. He and his family (wife Amanda, and their children, Charlotte and Rowan) subsequently moved to Delaware County and he began looking at churches in the area. When he came to WPC, "I could feel that the congregation had love for Christ, the church and each other — I didn't look any further," joining in 2023.

A first-person interpreter, actor, writer, director, producer and costumer, Doug is familiar to Prime Time attendees dressed in his 18th century garb as Founding Fathers George Washington and John Dickinson. In his spare time, he enjoys public speaking, is handy with tools, sews, plays guitar and likes history, TTRPGs (table-top role playing games) and sci-fi/fantasy novels.

Deacons Two-Year Terms

Barbara Demos

Barb is a WPC lifer, baptized in 1953 and confirmed 13 years later. She believes in the faith that is the backbone of the church – seeing it alive at WPC, lived out by examples she views around her and calling for her support in service to neighbors and mission to those in need near and far. She has made lasting friendships with like-minded people who are willing to explore situations and support causes that are important to her and is fed weekly by the message and the music, played and sung. "It always draws me back – I am home."

Barb has and continues to be involved in a variety of WPC activities – singing in the choir since childhood; a learner, and later teacher, in Sunday School and VBC; participant in Adult Sunday School and Bible Study; 50-year member of the Women's Association as a circle member, leader and former moderator and active in/chair of the Strawberry Festival. She has also served as an Elder and Deacon, member of Worship Council (mainly with preparing for Communion) and is a trained and active Stephen Minister.

A retired art and fifth grade teacher, she noted she has "responded as needed as illustrated in my favorite hymn, 'Here I am, Lord. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.'"

Barb and her husband, Roger, have two children (Jonathan and Matthew) and two grandchildren (Ben and Will).

Debora Dunbar

Deb, who was previously affiliated with Central Baptist Church, joined WPC in 2019 when she and her husband, Jeff Draine, moved to Wallingford. She was and continues to be drawn by the love of worshipping with her neighbors and the sense of community at the church. Deb will be serving her second term as a Deacon.

A nurse practitioner at the University of Pennsylvania, Deb received her DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) from the university's School of Nursing in 2023. Her interests include politics, civil rights, social justice, LGBTQ inclusion in faith communities, food and swimming. The couple has three children (Ben, Isaac and Leah) and two grandchildren (Andre and Gabriel).

Ken Ezzell

When Ken and his wife, Polly, began attending WPC on Pentecost, 2015, they quickly realized their decision to seek membership was the right one. They joined in September of the following year, finding a community "that provides opportunities to constructively serve and grow."

He has done just that. He volunteered to help count the Sunday offering in 2017 and four years later was asked to assume coordination of the process. He served two terms as a Trustee and has been a Deacons' Helper for more than six years, assisting with visitations,

meal preparation and delivery; the Red Wagon and Strawberry Festival. He has been a member of the Bell Choir since 2023 and often serves as an usher.

Ken is retired, working for 30 years as a software engineer and later as an assistant manager of a retail wine and spirits store. His interests are diverse – he is learning to speak Spanish and paint with acrylics and has served on the Nether Providence Zoning Hearing Board since 2008. The couple has six children (she, four boys and he, two girls) from their previous marriages and are blessed to have nine grandchildren (seven boys and two girls).

Lindsay Gursky

It didn't take long for Lindsay to become involved at WPC. She and her family (husband Mark and 11-year-old twins Luke and Casey) moved to the area from metro Detroit in the summer of 2024 and she and Mark joined this spring. They formerly were members of Berkley and Birmingham First United Methodist Church (Michigan) and she was drawn to WPC by the community involvement and outreach, Christ-focused worship and mission, inclusive and welcoming church community and family and children's opportunities.

Lindsay has been active in both churches as a member of the Methodist women's group, women's retreat coordinator, mom's group leader, Nominations Committee, Connecting Ministries and Vacation Bible School and Sunday School volunteer.

After years of being a stay-at-home mom and community volunteer, Lindsay is returning to school this year at Bryn Mawr College to earn a Master's in Social Services (social work). Her interests and talents include connecting people with their interests, other people and finding a sense of purpose and helping people get the resources they need.

Frank Noyes

Frank, raised in an Episcopal church in Wilmington, previously attended First United Methodist of Germantown before moving to Wallingford and joining WPC in 1993. He was, and continues to be drawn, by the understanding of the Gospel and emphasis on Christ's message of love, reconciliation, forgiveness and active faith that is conveyed in preaching and in action; scholarly and personal preaching; style of worship; welcoming, warm congregation; community ties; collective call to mission; music and the beautiful church and grounds.

An active participant in his 30+ years, Frank has served two terms on Session, chaired the PNC that called Pastor François and been a member of the Personnel, Electronic Sign and Strawberry Festival committees. He led adult Sunday School for many years, taught youth Sunday School, currently helps with Breakfast Club and is occasionally a liturgist, video operator and usher. Frank also serves on the Presbytery Commission for Financial Management (trustees) and through that on the West Kensington Ministry Management Board.

A lawyer "who is hoping to retire very soon," Frank enjoys music, watching sports and puttering around the house. He and his wife, Chris, have three children (Patrick, Tara and Tyler) and three grandchildren (Charlotte, Colin and Ella).

Trustees Two-Year Terms

Elizabeth Hansen

Elizabeth, her husband Bowe and their children previously lived in Virginia, where they attended Blacksburg Methodist Church. The couple, who joined WPC in 2018 when they re-located to the Wallingford area, were drawn by the excellent children's programming, friendly faces when they visited and sense of a strong community of faith.

Elizabeth is a Certified Public Accountant with more than 20-years' experience in budgeting, finance, human resources, facilities maintenance, design and construction. She lends that expertise to WPC's Stewardship Council and is also a Sunday School teacher for grades three-five. Bowe is one of the leaders of the Breakfast Club.

The couple has three children – Bailey, Thomas and William. Elizabeth is currently recovering from a spinal injury and enjoying spending more time with her family.

Walt Kaminski

Walt, formerly affiliated with First Presbyterian Church and Christian Scientist Church (both in Chester), was initially drawn to WPC's Adult Forum, a discussion group that focused on religious approaches to issues in the news (and the primary source of conversation in his carpool). He and his wife, Sally, joined May 6, 1985, due to the way the forum and other church-related learning experiences impacted his life and how his social circle began to revolve around WPC and its members.

Walt's WPC resumé is extensive, having served as an Elder, Deacon and Trustee; leader of the Adult Bible Class and (currently inactive) Fellowship of Friends; chair of Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee and WPC Connections; webmaster and member of the Electronic Sign Committee (which relieved him of his responsibility as church sign maker). He is also the liaison with The Alumni Group.

Retired from global IT support, Walt enjoys golf, bridge and Philadelphia Union soccer. The couple has three children (Chris, Matt and Russell) and he likes babysitting and playing with their six grandchildren (Daniel, Declan, Dylan, Hazel, Jordan and Logan).

Louise Rowland

Louise joined WPC in 2023 after affiliations with Moraga Valley Presbyterian (California) and Swarthmore Presbyterian. She was attracted and continues to be drawn to the friendliness of the church and Pastor François.

A self-described "jack of all trades, but master of none," Louise has demonstrated her interests in her church activities. She participated in the junior high program at Moraga, sang in the choir and taught Sunday School at SPC and is currently a member of the Peacemaking and Social Justice committee and volunteer at the Strawberry Festival.

Louise is a retired Vice President of RREEF, a global real estate advisor to pension funds, where she did due diligence and closed commercial transactions. She enjoys reading, hiking, needlepoint and travel and is the mother of two sons (William and Richard) and grandmother of Aiden.

Joe Vaccone

Joe, raised in a Catholic household, previously attended St. John Chrysostom Church before he and his wife, Erin, began coming to WPC in 2019. They joined in October 2024. He was initially drawn to WPC by the genuine, welcoming nature of the people and the church's meaningful involvement in the local community; "what keeps me here" is the sense of purpose, the friendships they have built and the church's strong commitment to service and compassion.

Joe's involvement began before he became a member. As a regular attendee, he was an active supporter of church events, offering help with technology guidance and facilities improvements when needed.

The retired founder of an internet cloud distributor, Joe is currently a real estate agent and investor, property manager and business consultant. His interests lie in technology and investing and in his spare time enjoys going to concerts, sporting events and traveling with Erin.

Joe is the father of four – adult children Alyssa and Rocco and Aspen (5) and Winter (3).

RALLY DAY Kick off an exciting year at WPC, **10am today, Sunday, September 7**.

- -Sunday School Registration
- -First Day of Sunday School
- -Sunday School Teacher commissioning
- -Bibles for children of all ages
- -Blessing of the backpacks (bring the backpack you'll be taking to school)
- -Special Meeting

Elect Elders, Deacons and Trustees

Accept the dissolution of Pastor François' relationship with WPC.

- -Outdoor coffee hour
- -Fill the Red Wagon

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION Register your children before worship TODAY, Sunday, September 7, in the Narthex (even if they attended last year) for the Nursery (12 months – pre-K), Early Elementary (grades K-2) and Older Elementary (grades 3-6).

NAME TAGS Name tags will be available in the Narthex wear during the service and Coffee Hour beginning Rally Day (today, Sunday, September 7). When the new pastor is called, they will be a great way for the person to become acquainted with the congregation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EXPANSION Exciting news – the third-fifth grade Sunday School class will be expanding to include sixth grade beginning today, Sunday, September 7. Sixth graders can head downstairs for Sunday School most weeks, then go to Breakfast Club (the monthly 6th-12th grade Sunday School Class with breakfast, games and a devotional) when it meets. Many thanks to our teachers for allowing us to offer this expansion.



KID'S EVENTS Children's events (grades K-5) for fall include Kids Café, Zoo on Wheels and the Christmas Pageant. Use the QR code for a master list for the season.



黑鹭跑餐票 YOUTH GROUP FALL SCHEDULE Youth Group activities (grades 6-12) for the fall include YG trunk at Trunk or Treat, Arcade Night and Advent Open House After Party. Use the QR code for the fall schedule.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY Study the book of Genesis beginning **10am, Monday, September 8**. All are welcome – no Bible knowledge required. Meets weekly.

PRIME TIME Bring your cell phone – Walt Kaminski's topic will be "iPhones for Dummies: How to do Things Easier and Better," **Tuesday, September 9**. Have any specific phone issues you can't resolve? Call Walt (610-334-2025) before Tuesday so he can be sure to have an answer. **Lunch begins at noon; the talk, 12:30pm.** Meets monthly.

WOMEN OF WALLINGFORD (W.O.W.) Meet, greet, eat and talk about ideas for discussion during the year, **7pm**, **Wednesday**, **September 10**. All women of our community of faith are welcome to participate in this ministry. Meets monthly.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/BREAKFAST CLUB OFFERING Fish banks will be in each Sunday School room (and Breakfast Club) for children/tweens/teens to bring an offering beginning **Sunday, September 14**. For the fall, the money will benefit Giving Tree/Angel Tree (Christmas support for Chester Eastside/City Team/local families and children of incarcerated parents).

ABILITIES INITIATIVE UPDATE The PC(USA) celebrates Disability Inclusion Sunday on the second Sunday of September. During Coffee Hour on **September 14**, learn more about WPC's Abilities Initiative by watching a video presentation of the last five years and completing a short survey to help the committee plan for the next five.

BOOKLOOK Discuss "Salt: A World History" by Mark Kurlansky, **7:30pm, Wednesday, September 17**. "The only rock we eat, salt has shaped civilization from the very beginning, and its story is a glittering, often surprising part of the history of humankind. A substance so valuable it served as currency, salt has influenced the establishment of trade routes and cities, provoked and financed wars, secured empires, and inspired revolutions." (Amazon). Contact Walt Kaminski to order – the cost is approximately \$6.50

SOCKTOBER Buying socks for back to school? Pick up an extra package for Socktober, benefitting Savage Sisters (men and women) and Chester Eastside (kids). **Collection begins Sunday, October 5.**

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

Chester Eastside is requesting:

-Cereal/oatmeal/Cream of Wheat

-Pancake mix/syrup

-Peanut butter/grape jelly

-Noodles (egg, ramen, cup of noodles)

-Apple sauce

-Canned fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple, fruit cocktail)

-Canned soup

-Canned chicken

-Canned fish (tuna, salmon)

-Rice

-Knorr Side Dishes

-Stuffing/mashed potatoes/mac & cheese

-Pasta (spaghetti, macaroni)

-Canned Vegetables (corn, carrots, peas, green beans, collard greens)

WPC Week at a Glance

Sunday, September 07 - Rally Day	Thursday, September 11
09.30am- Chancel Choir	07.30pm- Chancel Choir
10.00am- Worship	Friday, September 12
11.00am- Coffee Hour	Saturday, September 13
Monday, September 08	Sunday, September 14
10.00am- Bible Study	09.30am- Chancel Choir
07.30pm- Session	10.00am- Worship
Tuesday, September 09	11.00am- Coffee Hour
Wednesday, September 10	
09.00am- Breakfast Group @Court Diner	
01.30pm- Stephen Ministry	
07.00pm- WOW	