



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Annual Report 2023

Mission Statement

With grateful recognition that Jesus Christ is Lord of the church and of our lives, the mission of the people of Wallingford Presbyterian Church is to witness to Christ's presence and power.

We recognize that we have been transformed, yet are always being transformed into the likeness of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We witness through meaningful worship, Christian nurture, spiritual growth, caring service, fellowship, music, and mission in the broader community.

In faithful response to God's call, we remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit so that we continually are shaped as individuals and as the body of Christ.

.... God's growing people serving Christ in a changing world

WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Wallingford, Pennsylvania
January 28, 2024

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

AGENDA

Meeting of the Congregation
Call to Order and Welcome
Opening Prayer
Certifying the Quorum- Elder Chris Darr, Clerk of Session
Call for New Business
Mission and Ministry in Review

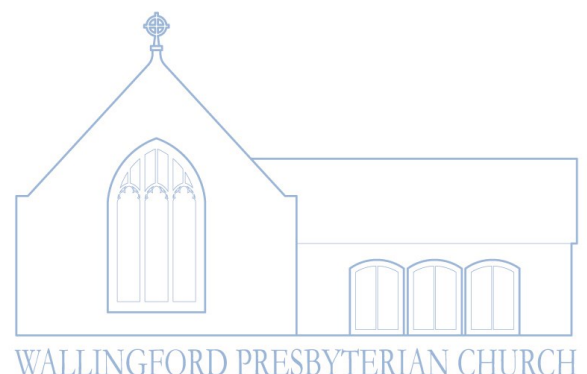
Nominating Committee Report – Lisé Meloy

The Nominating Committee presents the following members to serve as ‘at large’ members on the 2024 Nominating Committee: Pam Mattote, Lisé Meloy, David Rudd, Jenny Montague, and Jim Oetinger

Alternates: Nancy Curtis and Walt Kaminski

Meeting of the Corporation
Call for the Meeting of the Corporation – Bruce Clark, President
Certification of Quorum - Chris Darr, Clerk of Session
Call for New Business
Board of Trustees Report

Reconvene the Meeting of the Congregation
New Business
Treasurer’s Report- Ed Mattote and Todd Darr, Church Treasurers
2023 Financial Review
Review of the 2024 Budget approved by the Session
Review and Approval of Pastoral Terms of Call for 2024- Elder Helen Picher
Adjournment



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Staff



Rev. François Lacroix
Pastor



Rev. Taylor Cornelius
Associate Pastor



Lee Hagon-Kerr
Director of Music



Nathan Gibson
Church Administrator



Jodi Dawes
WCNS Director



Leslie Krowchenko
Communications
Coordinator



Michelle Hall
Financial Secretary

2023

Church Officers

Session

Class of 2024

Diane Corbett
Roger Demos
Leslie Krowchenko
Gwyn Vernon

Class of 2025

Mary Lou Day
Brian George Jr.
Kristine Mulhorn
Shirley Rudd+

Class of 2026

Jennifer Miller
Oliver Picher
Earl Varney
John Stauffer

Board of Deacons

Class of 2024

Karen Emmons
Lin Floyd
Carol Freidinger^
Kai Yokoyama
June Tolomeo (completing
term for Danielle Haury)

Class of 2025

Sally Clyde
Chris Dearnaley
Polly Sacco-Ezell
Cyndi Lacroix^
Tracy Moran^

Class of 2026

Gail Clark
Christine Jacobsen
Don Killian
Dottie Celebre*
Cathy Kilpatrick*

Board of Trustees

Class of 2024

Ken Ezzell+
Walt Kaminski+
Vicki Lovecchio (not active)
Pat Tillson

Class of 2025

Bruce Clark
Mary Payne
John Tiedeck+
Tony Tolomeo

Class of 2026

Bud Fury
Roger Friedinger+
Cary McHugh
Jean Stromberg*

Clerk of Session

Chris Darr

Treasurers

Todd Darr and Ed Mattote

President of Trustees

Bruce Clark

Moderator of Deacons

Dottie Celebre

*^ Serving a partial term
* Serving one year
+ Serving a second term*

From the Pastor

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
[NRSV, John 1:1-5]

Dear Members and Friends,

When on sabbatical I stood at the Reformation wall in Geneva on which is etched the words, “*Post tenebras lux*” Latin for “light after darkness,” a phrase used by John Calvin and adopted by the city of Geneva as mark of its role in the Calvinist movement and the Reformation of the church. As Cyndi and I travelled about retracing the footsteps of the Reformation in Geneva and later in Scotland I kept being reminded of how God always, always, always brings light into our darkness. COVID is over.. well sort of. I think we are still dealing with the effect it has had on our life as a community. We are not meant, as God has created us, to live apart from one another. As you have heard me say numerous times from the pulpit, Jesus began his ministry by creating community. He did not go about it alone.

This year, more than anything, I give thanks to God for bringing light into our darkness by reclaiming us as community. Thanks to the efforts of our staff and leadership on the **session**, the board of **deacons**, the board of **trustees**, all of our **Councils** and **Committees** and **ancillary groups** the pews are more times than not almost full, and children are actively participating in the life of our community of faith. There is a “Sweet, sweet Spirit in this place.” Special thanks here go to **Pastor Taylor** and **Ms. Lee** for their intentional and creative outreach to our children. **And also to the parents of our children** who have made a commitment to their children and this community of faith by choosing to have the church be a part of their lives.

I invite you to look at the pictures in this report to see just what joy in the Lord looks like!





¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. [Acts of the Apostles 2.12-22]

As you know, annual reports and annual meetings are opportunities for us to look back. To see what we did, what we accomplished together while led by the Spirit of God. We have much to be thankful for and to celebrate. And let's remember that **all of you** have had a part to play in the success of our mission and ministry. Whether by serving on one of our boards, volunteering as Sunday School teachers, cutting strawberries in preparation for the festival... supporting the church in a myriad of ways with your time, talent and resources. As Paul makes it clear, each one is a crucial part of the church. So, I say a resounding **THANK YOU to all of you.**

Annual reports and annual meetings are also opportunities to look forward and ask, "Where do we go from here?"

At the birth of the church on Pentecost, Peter stood amid the people who heard the disciples speak to them in their own languages and quotes from the Prophet Joel. I believe that God has called us to walk in the light to continue to "see visions and dream dreams." Let us be open to the Spirit's leading as we journey together in faith. Let us be open to God doing "New Things" in and through us.

God's light is shining bright at WPC and invites us to let our light shine!

Blessings and see you in church,

François

From the Associate Pastor

Friends,

You were there – so you know! What an incredible year God has blessed us with! God is truly up to something here at WPC. We have been bursting with new children, families, and renewed energy like nothing I've seen in my time here! I have enjoyed and cherished every moment I get to spend with my fabulous church family, and I cannot believe how God has brought even more life upon life into our little corner of the world!



The difference between last year and this year is unbelievable, and I am so grateful for such a loving and joy-filled church family that I get to be a part of here at WPC. I've been so blessed to work alongside such an amazing staff as well. Many thanks to Pastor Francois, Lee Hagon-Kerr, Leslie Krowchenko, and our newest member of the staff – Nathan Gibson - for not only their amazing work which somehow gets better each year, but for their wonderful friendship and camaraderie which makes WPC the absolute best place to be!

This year was absolutely packed with special moments, which span across all of my work with the youth group, young adults, the children, Education Council, Session, Deacons, Staff, specialty events, baptisms, and more.

Here are some highlights from this past year that I want to share:

♦Nathan joined our staff team this year as our wonderful new Administrative Assistant! He's done such a great job and we are so grateful for all he does for our church!

♦A huge highlight was that we had to DOUBLE our Sunday School rooms because of our huge influx of children this year – God is truly up to something here at WPC!



♦This year we welcomed our wonderful new soloists, Corinna and Meghan who are our new section leaders who sing alongside our wonderful Tyler who holds down the Tenor section so well! Thank you, Lee, for bringing them to us!



♦My husband accepted a call to be the new Head of Staff at Paoli Presbyterian Church in Paoli, PA. I couldn't be happier for him!

♦The Easter Eggstravaganza was a roaring success even on a rainy day! We had hundreds of participants join us for a fun morning filled with Easter joy!



♦I got the chance to baptize Winter Vaccone, Carter George, and be a part of Clara Goodrich's baptism as well – what a blessing to be a part of their special days!

♦My husband Doug and I got the chance to host a Concert for a Cause which was a great chance to raise money for Musicopia all while singing some of our favorites together!

♦At the Easter Sunrise Service, there was such a sense of joy and peace as we praised God in the morning mist out in the courtyard as the sun gently shone down.



♦To have been surrounded by such excitable children all week during Vacation Bible Camp, all for it to be celebrated at the end of the week with a hot dog dinner, was such a blessing and I'm so proud of all their learning and performing!



♦The Easter Pageant and Christmas Pageant filled my heart because the children took them so seriously & truly cared about what they were communicating. I could not be more thankful for them!

♦One of my favorite moments was when the children put their red paper hearts into Jesus' manger as Lee played "In the Bleak Midwinter."

♦Every year, I can't help but recall my all-time favorite memory which is always when we sing Silent Night by candlelight on Christmas Eve – however, it was also so meaningful to sing it this year by candlelight among the Women of Wallingford at their Christmas Party!

♦One of my favorite services was our Contemporary Service when I got to sing alongside Tyler, Danielle, and Brian for a great morning of praise and worship songs!



I am so deeply thankful for the opportunity to serve God alongside you all this past year. What a gift it is to have such a warm and inviting community to walk the journey of our faith together. As I say every single year, I am truly convinced that the Spirit of God is at work powerfully among you, and I am always far more inspired by you than you even know. Many thanks for all you do show the love of Christ in our church, community, and world – and for how you have unceasingly revealed it to me.



With a grateful heart,
Pastor Taylor

2023 Report of the Clerk of Session



2023 was my first year serving as WPC's Clerk of Session. Many thanks to Judy Kenworthy, *Clerk Emerita*, for her guidance in the transition. In addition to taking minutes of the Session and congregational meetings, the Clerk is responsible for maintenance of the church records, including the rolls of active members. In 2023, I worked with the pastors, church administrator, financial secretary, Session and the Deacons to perform a thorough review of the church rolls. Our last review of the rolls had been interrupted by the pandemic, and it did not seem appropriate to do another review until we had returned to a more normal, post-pandemic environment. As a result of our review, many members who had moved away or were inactive for other reasons were removed from the rolls. While our number of total members decreased during the year as shown in the statistics below, the number of people actively involved in the life of the congregation did not decrease and 18 new members joined in 2023. We also have about 40 adults who worship with us regularly, some of whom have already expressed an interest in joining. I feel blessed to be a part of WPC.

Your Clerk, *Christine Darr*

Annual Statistical Report for Wallingford Presbyterian Church

Members on January 1, 2023	384
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Gains

Certificate of Transfer	7
Youth Professions of Faith	5
Adult Professions and Reaffirmations of Faith	6

<u>Total Gains</u>	<u>18</u>
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Losses

Certificate of Transfers	3
Deaths	1
Other	125
<u>Total Losses</u>	<u>129</u>

Members on December 31, 2023	273
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Infant Baptisms	4
Adult Baptisms	0

Music Ministry



- There have been several Wednesdays at Wallingford events involving music, including Karaoke Night in the summer and a Taize service in the fall.

- We hosted a carol-sing during the annual Advent Open House, which included adults and children alike for a fun, festive music experience!

- We had fantastic soloists and small groups over the summer, including an SATB quartet, a TTBB quartet, instrumental solos, and many other performances by our talented members.



- The worship team designed several “special Sundays”, including specific musical selections, like Mr. Roger’s Sunday, Women’s Sunday, contemporary praise Sunday, and special performances from “Jesus Christ Superstar” for Maundy Thursday.



- Anthem selections corresponded with themed months, including composers of color throughout February and female composers throughout March.

Concerts

FOR A CAUSE

Celebrate great music
and make a difference
in our community

- In February 2023, the WPC chancel choir and local guest singers did a performance of Florence Price's "Communion Service in F". This concert supported Project W to help lift up and promote underserved women in Delaware County.

- In May 2023, our 22-23 concert season ended with Pastor Taylor and her husband, Doug, presenting an afternoon of "Pastors Unplugged": folk and bluegrass music. This concert supported Musicopia, to bring access to music education and music resources to underprivileged children in Philadelphia.



- In December 2023, "Concerts for a Cause" produced a performance of Handel's *Messiah*, part I and the "Hallelujah Chorus", featuring a choir of local singers, including WPC's Chancel Choir, and our three staff singers as soloists. This concert supported Chester Eastside, and we took monetary and food donations to help support their cause.

- Music ministry continues to work in tandem with the Mission & Service Committee to help support the non-profit organizations chosen for each performance. Deep thanks and gratitude to everyone on that committee for their support of this fun and impactful work!



Children's Music Ministry

- Our children continue to have fun and informal music opportunities once a month during “Kids’ Cafe”, where they can sing and play songs with Miss Lee and Pastor Taylor.



- The Chapel Choir has performed the Sunday following Kids’ Cafe, with a featured performance as the “music for meditation” during worship.
- For Easter 2023, Pastor Taylor and Lee did our first ever Easter Pageant, featuring costumes, scenery, props, dramatic reading and music!
- The third Sunday of Advent featured our traditional children’s Christmas Pageant, during which the children sang songs with the congregation, they sang a featured anthem as the Chapel Choir, including jingle bells and chimes, and our older children rang real handbells with the chancel choir in a special performance!
- Our children led the way during our Advent Open House carol-sing, picking their favorite carols to sing and competing for the most emphatic “five golden rings” during “The Twelve Days of Christmas”! It was a blast, thanks to the energy and talent of our wonderful kids!



Adult Music Ministry



- With the support of The Hayes Fund, as well as the hard work of the Stewardship Committee and fundraising by the Worship & Music Committee, we were able to add a third section leader to our Chancel Choir. Having a

soprano, alto and tenor section leader in the group has proven to be invaluable to our music-making, elevating and empowering our terrific WPC choir!

- Wallingford Winds continued to play for special services at WPC, including Easter, “music appreciation Sunday”, Reformation, Christ the King Sunday and Christmas Eve.

- Our Bell Choir and Chancel Choir performed regularly throughout the program year in a variety of styles and genres, often featuring solos by our wonderful staff singers, Meghan Cakalli (soprano), Corinna Bueckner (alto) and Tyler Gibson (tenor).



- Many of our talented musicians performed over the summer, including a pick-up choir that met the morning of worship to put together special summer anthems.



Meghan Cakalli
soprano



Corinna Bueckner
alto



Tyler Gibson
tenor

Children's Ministry

Here at Wallingford Presbyterian Church we strive to create a warm, loving, safe environment for children to grow in friendship, fellowship, and faith. This year our children's ministry was booming with great attendance and bursting with renewed energy – the Spirit is up to something here at Wallingford Pres! We have many programs for children and here are some of the highlights from each this past year:



Sprouts Monthly Program (K-5th) which is a themed night full of fun and friends where the kids get to eat dinner together, do activities, games, and end with a guitar-led song, devotional, and prayer.

-Highlights included Bowling Night at Sproul Lanes where the kids enjoyed a night of fun (many tried their hand at bowling for the first time!) and our End of the Year Celebration where the kids got to run through the sprinkler squealing with joy!



Kid's Café: Sing and Play! (All ages) is a chance for children to sing songs with Miss Lee and eat kid-friendly snacks in the choir room together. They often rehearse their next chapel choir song together as well.

-Highlights included our newest additions to Kid's Café (including some new babies even!) and also the day when the children practiced their Christmas anthem with hand motions and bells!

Vacation Bible Camp was a huge success this past summer! We hosted an energetic group of kids (great turn-out of 33 children!) who learned many New Testament lessons throughout the week which was themed as “Twists and Turns: Following Jesus changes the game!”

-Highlights were when the children sang their song and one little darling girl wanted to keep getting to the microphone to sing it as a solo, and also when the children gave their performance skit and song the last night and the parents roared with cheers!



The Children’s Christmas Pageant was a roaring fun time and children did a splendid job (32 children in all!) We headed down the road to Bethlehem and the children beautifully told the story of the first Christmas night, complete with “baa-ing” sheep!

-Highlights include: seeing the little ones poke their heads through the curtain to wave hello to their moms and dads, and seeing them perform their final song with bells and hand motions- they were so proud of themselves!



Advent Open House had the best attendance since pre-pandemic times, as we filled the Fellowship Hall with families, kids, and adults of all ages! Together our church family had the opportunity to sing, do crafts, enjoy one another's company, watch the Eagles game, eat good food, and celebrate together.

-Highlights include: sitting with the children on the floor for the reading of the children's story, and hearing the congregation roar with laughter when we played a game of "guess the hymn" as fast as we could!



Time with Young Disciples is a time when children come forward during the service to have a little mini-sermonette just for them. The kids got the opportunity this year to do many new things including singing on-the-spot songs, searching for hidden clues, asking questions of the adults, and placing their hearts in Jesus' manger.

-Highlights include: their amazing and honest answers to the questions posed, and putting their hearts in the manger to symbolize giving Him our love! (Made me tear up!)





Worship Involvement was fantastic this past year as we had many children, youth, and young adults help in worship by serving as liturgists, ushers, hymn number helpers, singers, hand-bell ringers, pageant performers, and more!

-Highlights were having only youth serve as our Christmas Eve liturgists who did such a beautiful job, and seeing the children sing alongside the adult choir for an intergenerational music moment!

Sunday School is a program we offer during our 10am Sunday Services which is available to ages 18 months all the way up to 12 years of age. Due to a large influx of children, we have expanded our classes from 2 classes to 4 classes! We now have a Toddler Room, K – 2nd Room, 3rd – 5th Room, and also a monthly Breakfast Club class for our youth group students. God is really up to something here at WPC!

-Highlights include: having so many children come forward every Sunday for the children's message, and seeing their beautiful artwork they show their parents in coffee hour after Sunday School!



In all this, we are so grateful to be a part of the lives of these wonderful children, and cannot wait to see what this new year will bring – we know God will continue to be with us and bless us as we strive to be a blessing to the children of our church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Taylor Cornelius

Youth and Young Adults



At Wallingford Presbyterian Church we are committed to offering opportunities for our youth and young adults to grow in their knowledge and understanding of God, and to serve God in the larger context of our church family. This past year they enjoyed many programs which allowed them to bond with one another and also maintain a strong connection to their faith.

Youth Group meets every month for a new opportunity to have fun with friends and be reminded of God's love! On the last Sunday of the month, our youth gather for an outing in the community where they can have fun and fellowship together and share a meal together.



-Highlights include trip to Hershey Park together, our outing to Urban Air Trampoline Park, and our Mini-Golf/Arcade excursion. The kids love to get a chance to be kids and make new friends – welcome to our newest members William and Juliette!

The Young Adult Group is comprised of college-aged young adults who meet during their breaks in school. We have all kinds of events which include meals together, outings, and more.

-Highlights from this year include our Friendsgiving Dinner where we went out to eat together, having the young adults lead worship, and going out to Rita's!





Youth and Young Adult Service in the church greatly expanded this year as they helped out at many events to benefit those other than themselves. The youth and young adults helped out at:

- Sunday School as teacher's aids and Nursery Care Workers
- Advent Open House as crafters and set-up helpers
- Vacation Bible camp as shepherds and decorators and helpers all week
- The Christmas Pageant where they served as shepherds for the little ones
- Sunday Morning services where they served as liturgists and ushers and Souperbowl of Caring helpers

-Sprouts where the young adults regularly come as leaders to help the children with their crafts and help with set-up and breakdown (Many thanks specifically to Zoe Andrews and Noel Petherbridge for their commitment to this program!)



Breakfast Club is a program that we brought back for the first time since the pandemic, where our youth group students meet once a month during the Sunday service for a lesson, video, and games – and also, breakfast is included! Many thanks to our new teachers Bowe and Kevin for making this possible!

-Highlights include: having 12 kids the very first week we offered it for the first time in 4 years! And having one student ask me this past week, “When is Breakfast Club, I wish it was every week!”

Our youth and young adults have so much to offer our congregation and serve with such open hearts. They continue to inspire us and offer fresh perspectives - all while keeping us young! Now that you know all the ways they are involved – be sure to thank a youth or young adult today!



Respectfully submitted, Pastor Taylor

Communications Coordinator

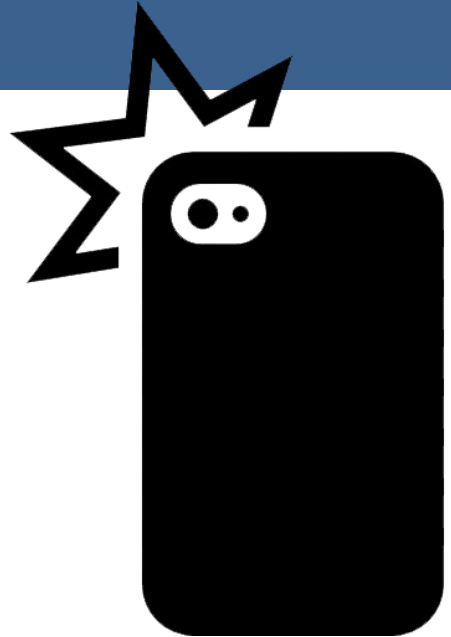
Who knew taking pictures could be so much fun!

Communicating about WPC is an enjoyable assignment – there's always something happening. Whether on your phone, tablet, laptop or desktop, hopefully you have heard (and will continue to hear) about WPC's community of wonderful people.

A special shout-out to my partners in communications crime – everyone who sends pics, videos and/or info about upcoming events. It may seem as if I am frequently asking you to smile, but I don't always deserve the photo credit. Keep those snaps coming!



Leslie Krowchenko



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee works to identify those individuals whom God is calling to serve the church as members of Session, Deacons and Trustees. The Committee's goal is to develop a diverse slate of committed and faithful members who are elected to three-year terms. Our work was handled via in-person meetings, email and phone calls. There were 13 positions to be filled.

The slate of church officers was presented to the congregation in September and the officers began serving their terms in October. Many thanks to the 2023 Nominating Committee for their service:

Zoe Andrews

David Haury

Judy Kenworthy

Lise Meloy

Pam Mattote

Kristine Mulhorn

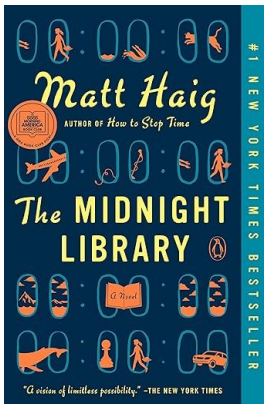
Helen Picher

Dave Rudd

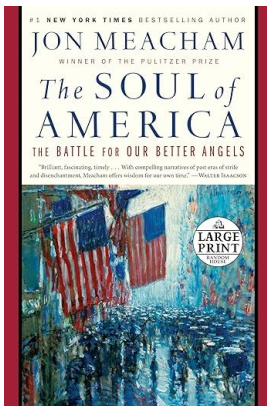
Pat Tillson (alternate)

Walt Kaminski (alternate)

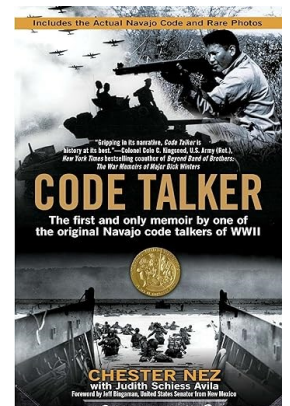
Respectfully submitted, Nancy Oetinger: Committee Chair



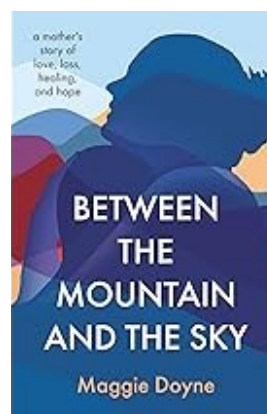
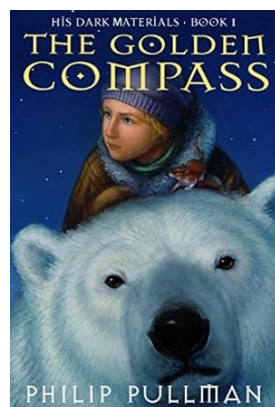
The BookLook is a group of people who like to read and talk, although not necessarily at the same time. We meet on the third Wednesday of odd numbered months (January, March, etc.) to discuss a book that was selected 4 months in advance to allow lots of time to get the book and read it. No rush. Books can usually be ordered from the library or purchased on line (Walt Kaminski will place a group order for each session.) We try to alternate between fiction and non-fiction.



2023 books included:
 Midnight Library
 The Soul of America
 The Golden Compass
 The Keeper of Lost Things
 The Code Talker
 Between the Mountain and the Sky



Anyone is welcome to join us at 7:30 in the library, even if you have not read the book.



Education Council

We are gratified to report that we had increased participation in 2023 for our programming for children and adults. There were many opportunities for learning, fun, and fellowship!

In April and again in October, the Council collaborated with Mission and Services to coordinate clothing donations to Savage Sisters. This organization allows people facing poverty, mental health issues, and substance use to shower and wear clean clothes out of their center. Also in “Socktober,” the Council again collaborated with Mission and Services for a Sock Drive, collecting 425 pairs of socks contributed to Chester Eastside.

Pastor Taylor was happy to welcome five confirmands in May. Also in May, the Council hosted a luncheon to thank our Faith Formation teachers and to meet the caregivers of those who attend the classes. We are hoping to recruit more parents to join our squad of experienced teachers.

In July, more than 20 young campers enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible Camp. They learned about Peter’s discipleship with Jesus and imagined themselves in that time period. Campers were encouraged to contribute to the Red Wagon food collection. On the last night, families were invited as the children jubilantly shared the lessons and songs they took in.



In September, Rally Day saw many young folks who received backpacks with blessings for a new year of Faith Formation. We recognized some new faces who had recently joined us for VBC. Due to increased attendance, another class for ages five to seven was added. The Breakfast Club, monthly Faith Formation for middle and high school resumed.

December started with the Advent Open House for all ages. In addition to Christmas stories for young listeners, there were crafts for both children and adults, age appropriate snacks for both, even streaming of the Eagles game for loyal fans. Everyone came together at the end of the evening to fill Fellowship Hall with the sound of singing carols.

Increased youth engagement led to a full cast in the heartwarming Christmas pageant, thanks to Pastor Taylor and music director Lee. The members of the Council look forward to offering all this and more in 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Weaver

Accessibilities Project



The WPC Education Council supports and sponsors the efforts of Shirley Rudd and Michelle George regarding the Accessibilities Project. Dottie Celebre and Leslie Krowchenko have joined this project and bring their experience and expertise to our efforts. What started out as an education tool for our volunteer teachers dealing with various learning disabilities has turned into other ways to enhance the worship and participation experience WPC.

During 2023, the members of this project worked on the "chairs in the Sanctuary" movement along with musician chairs for the choir. We supported two presentations: Alzheimer's Disease and Parkinson's Disease.

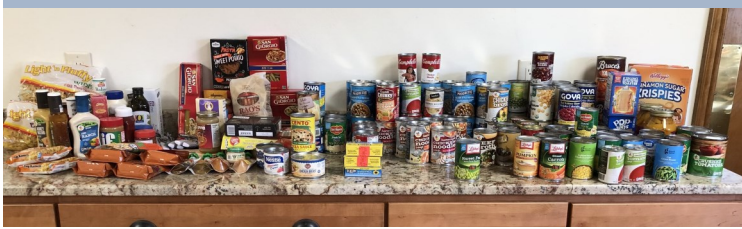
During 2023, work was begun on Aging and Ageism. The culmination of that research will be presented to the congregation in the Spring at WPC. In addition, Leslie is working on an article for publication outlining all the efforts that have been made at WPC since 2020 regarding disabilities, side effects of various diseases that lead to a disability and ways to enhance the worship experience at WPC.



If anyone in the congregation has a topic or an idea that requires thought, research and enhancing the worship experience at WPC, please contact any of the individuals noted above.

Respectfully submitted by Shirley Rudd

Deacons



American Red Cross regarding the blood drives at the WPC, which are held in October and March of each year. In March,

2023 53 pints of blood were collected and in October, 2023 52 pints of blood were collected. We will be meeting with a new **American Red Cross** contact to see how we can improve the publicity and increase the donations at our next blood drive.

Care Networks-Each deacon is provided with a list of families in our congregation. Letters are mailed from the church to update the members on current events and to remind them deacons are available to help. Deacons serve as a link to see if there are any services needed that could be provided by the Deacons Helpers such as phone calls, visitation, meals, rides to church or medical appointments, companionship, errands, household tasks, outdoor chores and pet sitting. Our goal is to foster better communication with the deacons and our congregation.

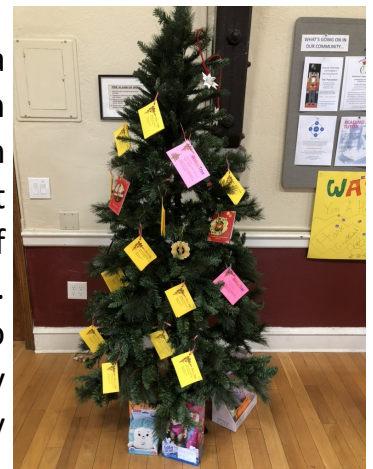


Deacon Helpers-When the church administrator receives a phone call from a member of our church community, he contacts the moderator with the request by e-mail. The requests may include transportation to medical appointments, church services or church events, meals, companionship, visits, phone calls, household tasks, outdoor tasks and pet sitting. An updated list of Deacon Helpers has been provided for each deacon, the ministers, and the church secretary. This year we provided meals to at least 10 families, and

rides to church/medical appointments for at least 6 people.

General Mission-The church office may receive a phone call for a request from the WPC congregation or the community. The church administrator contacts the moderator and the general mission committee. These requests may include food baskets, holiday gift cards, financial assistance, help to pay for medication, etc. A record of the calls and the outcome is kept in a binder in the church office. Deacons are encouraged to have the family come to our church to pick up gift cards for their own personal security. A list of county resources may also be given to the family requesting help, especially for families outside Delaware County.

Member Fellowship-Deacons continue to organize coffee hour quarterly.



Red Wagon-The Red Wagon is available for members of the community and WPC to drop off non-perishable items to be distributed by the deacons to The Foundry Church in Garden City, City Team, and the Media Food Bank. Previously items were sorted in the reception room by the Boys Scouts who meet at our church. In the fall, the deacons went back to doing all the sorting. A list of items is on the WPC website. A committee of deacons and volunteers deliver the donations to the appropriate places on a monthly schedule. The Foundry Church is June Tolomeo, Media Food Bank is delivered by Todd Darr and City Team is delivered by Harold Floyd. Each month a designated activity advertises food donations for the Red Wagon.



Holiday Gift Cards-Names of families who need gift cards for Christmas and Easter meals are provided by the social worker, Jenelle Thomas, in the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District. The deacons purchased gift cards from Walmart in the amount of \$25-\$75, which are given to the social worker to distribute to each family. The amount of the gift card varies with the size of the family.

Giving Tree-The Giving Tree is an activity that Deacons host every Christmas season. Artificial Christmas trees are displayed in the Narthex and social hall beginning the Sunday before Thanksgiving and the following two Sundays. Names are obtained from the district social worker. Gifts tags are hung from the tree so people can choose any number of tags. They tags are returned the following Sunday with the gift cards that were donated. Gift cards are delivered to City Team, Chester Eastside, NPE, WES, SRS and families suggested from Care Networks. **This year we provided 21- \$25 gift cards were given to WSSD (Target), 20-\$25 gift cards were given to Chester Eastside (mostly Walmart), 20-\$25 gift cards were given to City Team (mostly Walmart) and 40 toys were given to City Team.** The preschool gave 10 gift cards and 15-20 toys to City Team. Three children recommended by the deacons were given 1 gift and 2 \$25 Walmart Gifts cards.

Angel Tree-This mission supports inmates at the Delaware County Prison who want to give gifts to their children. The gift requests included the age of the child and gift suggestions. Gifts were provided for 8 children. (2 gifts and 6 \$25 Walmart gift cards)



Visitation- An email is sent weekly to all the deacons with suggestions for visitation on Sundays. After the worship service, two deacons remove the flowers in the sanctuary, and bring them to the kitchen to put in multiple vases. Visitation can occur on another day if the deacon has a schedule conflict. Flowers may be given in honor of a birthday, an anniversary, a birth, an illness, a hospitalization, a death or just to thank someone for their help.

Visitation may include a personal visit, leaving them at the home of the recipient or giving them to the recipient in church. The donations of smaller vases allow us to make more deliveries.

Dottie Celebre, Deacon Moderator



Congregational Wellness Ministry

I have felt that 2023 was truly our first full year out of the shadow of COVID. It was such a good feeling for me not to be afraid anymore. I hope all of you felt that way too. I will always encourage everyone to get their normal vaccines just as we get our flu vaccines every year. I know that some of us will

test positive for Covid from time to time but we will find peace in knowing that we won't die. 2023 was the year that I had to renew my PA State Nursing license. As I have said before, it is 30 hrs of several disciplines that I feel are relevant to what I need to know to take rudimentary care of WPC from pediatrics to geriatrics. I received certificates for those courses and I am honored to help navigate you through the craziness of health care.

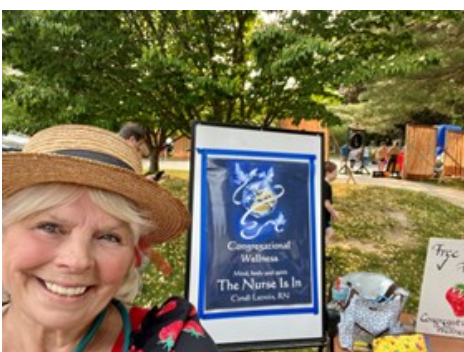
This year I established close dialog with COSA and the heads of our Delaware County Department of Health and Office of the Aging. The directors of both spoke to us at Prime Time and Outreach events. I encourage all of you to see what amazing things are being done for our county through the Delaware County Department of Health.

I continue to do Nursing at a Glance and Across a Crowded room. The strawberry festival was such an amazing place to show our community of the forward thinking of having a nurse set up for Blood Pressure and Heart Rate checks not to mention the falling down boobies that happen every year.

There are three First Aid areas in the church that are set up to deal with any kind of emergency that might happen on the grounds. They are in the back of the sanctuary, the kitchen and in the church office; from band aides to tourniquets, CPR masks to choking suction, fire blankets to ice packs.

We thanked God for cancer results that ended with remission.

I continue to work in concert with the Stephens Ministers, Deacons and Session for the needs of our congregation with a confidential presence.



It is with a full and grateful heart that I submit this; thanking God for each and every one of you every single day.

Cyndi Lacroix, RN, WPC Congregational Wellness Ministry

Women of Wallingford

The purpose of the Women of Wallingford (W.O.W) is to bring together **all** the women of our church family to nurture their spiritual growth. During our monthly meetings we encourage each other to share our joys, sadness, concerns, and celebrations.

Our Wednesday evenings include a time of refreshments and “catching up” followed by Cyndi Lacroix leading discussions that are both humorous and inspirational.



Last winter and spring we continued our study of prayer. We learned about prayer of lament, prayer of gratitude, and prayers of repentance and forgiveness. In January we had a day-long retreat to the IHM Conference Center and Cyndi and Chris led the group in “Awakening.” It was a glorious time of celebration and relaxation.

The fall began with a study of the GREAT I AMS of Jesus from the book of John. We have looked at *I Am the Bread of Life; I Am the Light*

of the World, I Am the Door of the Sheep; I Am the Good Shepherd, and I Am the Way, the Truth and Life.

To further our sense of community we have had two pot-luck suppers – one in May in the garden of the manse and a second one in December to celebrate the birth of Christ. This year 42 women met in the reception room to share in a heart-warming beginning to the Christmas season as we “broke bread together”, read the Christmas story, and sang Christmas carols.

This February we have scheduled a day-long retreat at the magnificent IHM Conference Center in Bryn Mawr. During the day we will enjoy breakfast and lunch prepared by the sisters, and Sister Rose (IHM) will inspire us with a study of the book The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz – a personal guide to personal freedom. Following the retreat, we will continue with our study of the *Great I Ams*.

Blessings,

Chris Dearnaley and Cyndi Lacroix



Worship Council



The purpose of the Worship Council is to support the Church staff in planning worship services and music ministry. The Council meets regularly with the Pastors and Music Director to review the liturgical calendar, plan for services and proposed changes to the flow and arrangement of services, and to provide feedback from the Congregation and Church community on worship services. In coordination with the staff, the Council makes recommendations for, and arranges for, all aspects of our services to make worship more meaningful for the entire congregation.

In addition, the Council coordinates and performs (or arranges for the performance of) many activities that support worship at WPC including:

-The *Council* sets the Communion schedule to be approved by Session. Once set, *Barb Demos*, *Karen Emmons*, and *Chris Dearnaley* plan for the preparation of the communion elements and arrange for a group of Elders and Deacons to serve communion once a month as well as on special holidays.

-*Danielle Haury* has arranged for volunteers from the congregation to serve as liturgists to assist in worship services – we will miss her. *Jenny Miller* will be taking on this responsibility in 2024.

-*Lin Floyd* arranges with Marcus Hook Florists to provide chancel flowers for our Sunday services.

and for the Deacons to distribute during their visitation to members.



-*Barb Demos* arranges for the purchase of Poinsettias and Easter plants.

-The Council decorates the Sanctuary and Narthex for Christmas and Easter.

-*Judy Kenworthy* coordinates volunteers from the congregation to serve as ushers for all our services.





-The *Council* prepares and serves coffee hour on a rotating basis with other Councils and Committees.

-*Shirley Rudd* and *Gwyn Vernon*, with support from members of the Christian Ed Council, work to make worship more inclusive to all abilities.

-In 2023, *Shirley Rudd*, and *Chris Dearnaley*, in coordination with the Sanctuary Committee, completed the purchase and installation of comfortable, padded chairs in half of the Sanctuary. One purpose of these chairs is to

provide more appropriate seating for the elderly and those with disabilities. Another purpose of the chairs is to provide flexibility within the Sanctuary for services, the music ministry, and other events at the Church.

-In 2023, (and following the recommendation of *Lee Hagon-Kerr*, our music director), the Council initiated the purchase of sixty chairs specifically made for singers and musicians. These chairs support the back and allow for better breathing and positioning for performances.



The *Worship Council* would be happy to welcome new members to help ensure that all aspects of worship and the music ministry are supporting and meaningful to are available to our Church community.

In his service,

Christine Dearnaley, Chair; Barb Demos; Lin Floyd; Lee Hagon-Kerr; Danielle Haury; Judy Kenworthy; Jennifer Miller; Shirley Rudd; Gwyn Vernon; and Pastors Francois and Taylor.



Strawberry Festival

We celebrated the Strawberry Festival on Monday, June 5th 2023 and enjoyed:

- beautiful weather
- the triumphant return of Attic Treasures
- lots of friends
- lots of friendly volunteers
- lots and lots of delicious strawberries!





The Strawberry Festival netted \$7,278,
which was divided among:

Chester Eastside	(75%)	\$5,458
WPC Scouts	(15%)	\$1,092
Future SF needs	(10%)	\$728



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a complete system of training and organizing lay persons for caring ministry in and around their

congregations. Stephen Ministers provide distinctively Christian care to those among us who are experiencing a time in their lives when they need to have a committed Christian friend journey with them for awhile. The WPC has been enrolled as a Stephen Series congregation since 1997. In 2023, the combined Stephen Ministry programs of WPC, Swarthmore Presbyterian Church (SPC) and Trinity Episcopal Church (TEC), continued to provide this care to all in our congregations and community who requested it. In-person meetings with care receivers continued to be the norm as the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continued to be a thing of the past.

While the confidential nature of what we do prevents us from sharing the details of any of our relationships and makes providing photo images difficult, this ministry is deeply fulfilling to those providing care as well as to the care receivers. Over the 25+ years that WPC has been enrolled in Stephen Ministry, scores of care receivers have been helped and over 35 WPC members have been trained for and involved in providing care. The currently serving Stephen Leaders from WPC are Roger Demos, Russ Kinder, and Bob Kenworthy.

Fellowship of Friends

The Fellowship of Friends started out as a Men's Group many years ago. Topics included almost anything non-political with a strong emphasis on a chosen book for the year. It has evolved into a discussion group, open to all, with a focus on political topics. The biggest difference is that we know each other well enough to have political discussions without any fisticuffs. Although any topic may come up each week, there is a chosen political topic which is the main discussion point. Since we have a mix of right and left leaning people, the discussions are lively and informative, but not combative. If you have a question you would like to discuss, but don't have an audience and are open to listening to opposing views, we are the group to join. 10 AM on Wednesdays in the Library.

Memorial Committee

The Memorial committee recommends to Session ways to use moneys in the Memorial Fund to better the worship experience at WPC. Funds are from donations to the church in memory of loved ones. We would like to thank those who donated funds in memory of their loved ones.

Sunday worship continues to recover and grow with a large commitment to our excellent music program. Thus, this year Memorial funds were used to purchase special chairs designed to better support our musicians. The chairs are placed in the chancel and in the choir room.

Members of the committee include Marty Ashenfelter, Roger Demos, Alva Hayes, Judy Kenworthy, John Stauffer, Gwyn Vernon, and Pastor Francois Lacroix.

Respectfully submitted, Roger Demos, Chair

Adult Bible Study



The Adult Bible Study group meets on Monday mornings to read various books of the Bible and discuss how what we read applies to our lives today. In 2023, we finished the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament and the Epistles of John (John 1, 2 & 3). In 2024, we will read the Gospel of John. Interspersed among the lessons, there are occasional field trips and the annual ugly Christmas sweater luncheon. There are no homework assignments and no prior Bible knowledge requirements. The only thing needed is a desire to dig into the issue of what the Bible tells us it means to be a Christian, while having fun doing it.

WPC Connections

WPC Connections had a busy year in 2023, as events and attendance returned to pre-Covid levels. WPC sponsors the Annual Easter Egg-stravaganza (estimated 125+ kids) and Trunk or Treat (estimated 150+ kids) as a way to make WPC known to the community. In addition, WPC Connections sponsors a speakers' series for the co-op and church members focusing on child raising issues. We also deliver Welcome Bags to first time visitors to WPC. For members, we have the annual Chili Cook-off, the progressive dinner, PrimeTime luncheon speaker series, and cater the after VBC dinner. And...we have begun the process of creating a new digital directory. If any of these activities interest you, let someone on Connections know.





Mission and Service



The Mission and Service Committee continues to be able to provide ongoing support for the amazing work of local and worldwide missions because of your generosity. Our church leadership faithfully includes our work in the budget and your additional gifts of money and time have made it possible for us to reach out in times of great need.

-The 2023 Christ Market raised \$4,890, in support of 10 organizations and their ministries to help those in need during these very difficult times. This is doubled with a matching gift from Mission and Service funds.

-In the Fall, M&S partnered with the Sunday School and the congregation for Socktober where socks for men and women went to Savage Sisters in Kensington. Children's socks went to Chester Eastside. We also had a last-minute clothing drive to support Savage Sisters.

-We partnered again with our music director, Lee as she hosted three "Concerts for a Cause" throughout the year, culminating with the Messiah Sing. We matched donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$500 for the Spring concerts and \$1,000 for the Messiah concert.



Your contributions to WPC continue to support our missionaries in their varied and much-needed ministries around the world: John Stauffer and The America Team for Displaced Eritreans, Jeni Pedzinski at her new position as Director of Mission Mobilization, New Life Center Foundation in Asia, Corey Booker and the Making a Change Group in Chester, and Chester Eastside and CityTeam in Chester. We spent time reviewing and revising our support as needs and conditions have changed.

Committee Members during 2023: Roger Demos, Lisé Meloy, Shirley Rudd, John Stauffer, Gail Weaver, and Francois Lacroix

Respectfully submitted, Roger Demos, Chairman





Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee supports the staff through annual reviews and salary recommendations, maintaining the employee handbook, and managing the hiring process as needed. In 2023, the Church Administrator resigned to take a new position, and the committee conducted a competitive process to replace her. In April, the Committee recommended and Session agreed to hire Nathan Gibson to take the position. Already a member of the church choir, Nathan very quickly became an integral part of the church staff.

The Committee also conducted annual reviews of all the staff, and made salary recommendations to the Stewardship Council for the staff and to the Congregation for the pastors.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Personnel Committee,
Helen Picher, chair

Committee members: Jim Oetinger, Michael Meloy, Gwyn Vernon, Jenny Miller

Board of Trustees



The Trustees are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the Church building, both Manses and all the grounds to ensure that they are safe for use, meet the needs of the many individuals and groups that use them throughout the year, and present a positive image within the surrounding community. Routine maintenance of the building structures and

their grounds along with all utility systems, mechanical equipment, finishes, and fixtures is ongoing, along with larger repair projects and planned enhancements as needed to meet anticipated future needs. Much of this work is done by members of the Trustees and volunteers from the congregation, often behind the scenes, who donate their time and expertise. Valuable assistance is also provided by members and leaders of our several Scouting troops during our Spring and Fall grounds-cleanup days.

Some significant projects undertaken during 2023 include: removal of privacy wall to make Narthex Bathroom toilet area fully wheelchair-accessible; replacement of non-functioning central A/C unit in the Office wing and installation of new mini-split A/C units for the Music Director's office and the Choir Room; replacement of the shed roof over the nursery co-op entranceway and door; installation of leaf gutter guards on the A Manse roof gutters; reviewed condition of all exterior doors and issued contract for reconstruction of red side doors to Sanctuary from the courtyard (work scheduled for Spring 2024); replacement of nine casement windows in Fellowship Hall (window delivery delayed); update of WCNS areas including painting of classrooms, hallways and bathrooms, replacement of several toilets with child toilets, and cleaning, stripping and waxing of floors; re-landscaping of areas behind the playground, around the A Manse, in the area excavated for the 2022 foundation re-waterproofing work, and planting of an ornamental Japanese Maple tree near the main Narthex entrance door along with a bench on the sidewalk nearby.

Longer term project possibilities currently under Board consideration include installation of solar roof panels to offset daily electricity demand, installation of air conditioning for Fellowship Hall, and improved accessibility to Fellowship Hall, the Office wing and the Sunday School and nursery co-op areas.



Many thanks to outgoing 2023 Trustees Gail Weaver and David Haury for their years of dedicated service, and welcome to incoming Trustees for 2026 Bud Fury and Cary McHugh. Thanks also to Roger Freidinger and Jean Stromberg for each continuing their expiring 2023 terms for an additional year.

Submitted,
Bruce Clark, President



Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee

The Peacemaking and Social Committee is charged with keeping peacemaking and social justice issues before the Session and congregation. We do that through monthly presentations by outside speakers preceded by potluck dinners to increase conversation between congregation members with different views on the month's issue. Because of the charter, the subject matter is often controversial: school funding, public health, how we are influenced by the media, election (voting) security, etc. Dinners are held September through May. Presenters are typically experts in their field. Whatever your viewpoint, come out with an open mind and prepare to learn something different.



Wallingford Cooperative Nursery School



Some things improve with age. This is certainly true for the Wallingford Cooperative which completed its 68th year at WPC. The other adage 'Time flies when you're having fun,' is also true! We have lots of fun in the basement at WPC.

There was only one staff change from 2021/22 school year to 2022/23. Allison Constable replaced Julie Abrams as the lead teacher of the Meerkat Morning Out class. Allison is a teacher of future educators at the Philadelphia

Community College and a parent at our school so hiring her was an easy choice.

A major renovation of the small, gated playground along Avondale was completed just in time for the start of the year. The gardens and rock boarder in the center of the space was eliminated, the ground was leveled, a new piece of equipment was added and the whole area was sodded. The space is now much more appropriate for our youngest children in the Meerkat Morning Out. We got lucky to find a great climber with a slide for free on a community swap page and lucky to have wonderful parents who helped move it and install it on the upper playground. A different type of new climber was purchase for the to the upper playground as well.



Due to some scheduling difficulties with the summer camp, church improvements and the cleaning company, only two classroom floors were buffed prior to the start of school. Next year a plan will be put into place earlier.

Learning, joy, and happiness were not the only measures of success this year. We also had a strong fiscal year. Our classes were full, and the Co-op made a profit. The biggest change for the year was the adoption of Jovial, a preschool management software system that allows us to accept online payments. Prior to using Jovial we only accepted tuition as cash or check. The increase in checks with names of the grandparents of our students let us know it was time for change. After an extensive google search, we landed on Jovial, which was created by a former treasure of a preschool co-op. The software is free to us and our families. There is a small fee for ACH transfers which the school absorbs and a larger fee for paying by credit card which the family pays. The software has resulted in more tuitions being paid on time and a lot less time and effort hunting down late payments. Parents seem to be very happy with it as well.



Staff:

Teachers: Allison Constable, Emma Clauser-Schwartz, Katie Crawford, Jodi Dawes, Stephanie Dykes

Aides: Abby Finney, Olivia Miller, Sam Mirante, Kami Rose, Shelley Pellegrini, Alison Schilero, Jess Trout

Specials Teachers: Jill Coleman, Stephanie Dykes, Laurie Moyer

The Wallingford Cooperative Nursery School is grateful for the positive and supporting relationship with the Wallingford Presbyterian Church.



BSA—Troop 277 & Pack 228



In 2023 both Pack 228 & Troop 277 continue to be healthy and strong post pandemic. Troop 277 is now 30 scouts and Pack 228 is 74 (the largest it has ever been). We continue to welcome new members to the Troop & Pack with their families, and the Pack is now a Family Pack enjoying both Boys & Girls aged 5 through to 11.

Both Pack 288 and Troop 277 continue engage in the WPC community, the wider community and environment, and provide tremendous

opportunities for the youth to learn and grow. Both Troop & Pack made a significant contribution to the annual Cradle of Liberty Fundraising effort – being the top troop & pack in the district, and the 3rd largest Troop across the whole council.

The highlights of the year include:

Community Service & Outreach

- 4 trunks at Trunk or Treat at WPC by both Pack and Troop
 - Running food and games stands at WPC Strawberry Festival
 - Rise Against Hunger – over 50 youth participated in the effort with the church
 - Scouting for Food ABC's Thanksgiving Day Parade – food collection during the Parade
 - Media Food Bank Collection – Scouting For Food
 - Upland Baptist Church - Scouting For Food
 - Rutledge Memorial Preb. Church food drive
 - Weekly Food sorting to support the Church Food drives
 - Youth help to church needs – school floors, choir seating, moving desk, loft clear-out to dumpster
 - Spring & Fall WPC leaf cleanup and mulching
- ### **Troop 277 Camping Trips highlights**
- Philmont High Adventure Scout Camp in New Mexico for a 12 day backpacking trip
 - Gettysburg and 10 mile hike
 - Resica Falls Summer Camp
 - BSA District Camporee
 - Hawk Mountain Camping
 - Cape Henlopen Camping



Troop 277 Meetings & Events (some highlights)

- Orienteering Event in Smedley
- Appalachian Trail hiking
- Fundraising
- Shot Gun & Rifle event at Delaware Field & Stream
- Rocket Launch in Smedley
- Planning for a Philmont 2023 63 mile 12 day hike in New Mexico
- Fundraising efforts for Philmont – Centerpiece selling & leaf clearing



T 277 Eagle Scout Projects

- Wes Chandler - Eagle project to repair and improve stairs in Smedley hiking trail
- Ian Cheshire – Created bordered flower beds & butterfly garden at the Hallie Jackson Memorial Garden in Brookhaven
- Will Badura – Award his Eagle Badge at a Court of Honor in January. Our 111th Eagle!



Pack 228 Meetings & Events

- Media Scavenger Event in Media
- Rocket launch event to welcome new cubs at Smedley Park
- Rain Gutter Regatta held outside at WPC in the fall
- Pinewood Derby
- Media Fire & Ladder Visit
- Trunk or Treat Event
- Helping to run Strawberry Festival
- Henlopen State Park Fall Camping
- Ridley Creek Spring Camping

BSA—Troop 2019

Troop 2019 - 2023 Milestones

We are approaching our **5th anniversary** in February.

We have our first **2 Eagle Scouts**

4 Eagle Scout projects completed,

including Rise Against Hunger, sponsored by WPC.



We had our first **cross over ceremony**, to initiate crossing from a cub scout pack into Troop 2019. This is a tradition our scouts created and will leave as a legacy for the troop for years to come.



We have 23 scouts, **100% earned rank advancements**,

Combined they **earned 82 merit badges**,

2 earned special national outdoor camping awards.

We marched in Philadelphia's Thanksgiving Day parade.

7 Service Projects including:

CRC watershed spring clean up

Scouting for Food

Strawberry Festival



8 Camping trips

Highlights include:

Week at Resica Falls summer camp

Fairwinds Horse Farm

West Point Scout Camporee



Part of scouting is earning your way,

we had **3 money earning opportunities**:

Popcorn sale in October and November

Pumpkin Sale, look for us next fall at Brookhaven and Rose Valley Roads

Flower and Plant Sale, scouts earned \$1500 for their summer camp



Coming Up

This summer the troop is looking forward to a week of summer camp at Bashore in Jonestown, PA. We are selling plants and flowers starting in February to support this adventure. **To support scouts summer camp and get ready for your summer garden Visit: BSATroop2019.FPfundraising.com**

Familiar and Friendly Faces around WPC



Stewardship Council



As stewards of the church, Stewardship Council oversees its financial resources and the application of church funds toward purposes approved by Session. It has two subcommittees—Annual Giving and Capital Campaign (currently inactive). It coordinates with the Legacy Committee and Financial Oversight committees and works closely with the church treasurers to develop and monitor the annual budget. The Stewardship Council meets every couple of months (more toward the end of the year) to monitor income and expenses. Stewardship

had an active year, managing the church resources to support a busy year, back to full operation since the pandemic, and welcoming new families.

Annual Budget

The church ended 2023 with income of \$5,000 over expenses, a considerable accomplishment considering that we looked to be \$85,000 short earlier in December. The Stewardship Council appealed to the congregation in mid-December, and the congregation was wonderfully generous.

The 2023 budget was higher than in recent years, to reflect the increase in activities and to provide somewhat higher salaries increases for staff, which had had only tiny increases for the last several years. Between the kindness of our congregation, and the careful management of expenses, which ended below budget, we finished the year in a strong position.

For 2024, Stewardship Council recommended, and Session approved, a budget similar to the 2023, which modest increases for staff and programs. The budget continues to reflect our desire to advance our mission within the church and in the community, and it requires the continuing generosity of the Congregation. Stewardship Council and Session will continue to look for ways to support and expand our growing mission and program.

Annual Giving Committee

The Annual Faith Giving Campaign was successful again this year. Our theme was “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord...serve the Lord with gladness...enter his gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise... give thanks to him.” We noted that we are a joyful congregation and that our church is like a beehive—always humming with activity. We asked members to tell us what they anticipate being able to give next year, and we marked each pledge by adding a bee to the busy beehive created by Chris Dearnaley and Pastor Taylor. Our beehive was pretty full, and we are deeply grateful to the 82 families and individuals who responded to the call by pledging a total of \$373,000.



Thank you to co-treasurers Ed Mattote and Todd Darr as well as our counters and bookkeeping staff.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Stewardship Council,

Helen Picher and Jim Oetinger, co-chairs

Council members: Pat Tillson, Leslie Krowchenko, Chris Dearnaley, Elizabeth Hansen, Andy Yost, Earl Varney, Todd Darr, Ed Mattote



Serve the Lord with Gladness

Financial Oversight Committee

Members: Todd Darr, Ed Mattote, Jim Oetinger, Earl Varney, Andy Yost

The Financial Oversight Committee is charged with ensuring that the church financial assets are prudently invested to support the day to day as well as long term financial needs of our congregation. The committee meets once a year to review the performance of the existing investments as well as the amount allocated to short term spending needs versus long term funding needs.

As of December 31, 2023 approximately 90% of the church's assets are invested in the Vanguard Star Fund with the balance in a checking account and a Vanguard Money Market fund for short term spending needs.

The other function of the committee is to recommend the amount to be allocated from the reserve funds (MEND, Legacy, Landscaping and Hayes) each year for use by the responsible committees without Session approval.

At its annual meeting on December 11, 2023, the committee made the following recommendations to Session which were approved:

- Transfer 4.0% (\$10,000) from the Legacy Fund (Account 2300) to the Legacy Account Available to Spend (Account 2295).
- Transfer 4.0% (\$12,000) from the MEND Fund (Account 2302) to MEND Account Available to Spend (Account 2297).
- That the Hayes Fund Available to Spend section be removed from the Wallingford Gifts and Funds Policy dated April 2019 and that the policy be changed to state that the Worship Committee will continue to determine the use of this fund and withdrawals of up to \$1000 per year can be made without approval of Session.
- That the Landscaping Fund Available to Spend section be removed from the Wallingford Gifts and Funds Policy dated April 2019 and that the policy be changed to state that the Trustees will continue to determine the use of this fund and withdrawals of up to \$1000 per year can be made without approval of Session.
- That the church's financial services be consolidated at Bank of America which provides more robust security and improved levels of service with less maintenance than the current platform. Further research is needed to determine whether moving the investment accounts from Vanguard to the BofA platform is prudent.

Jim Oetinger
Chair

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenses

The year 2023 was the first full year that Wallingford Presbyterian Church operated without any pandemic precautions or restrictions and could be called normal since the start of the pandemic in early 2020. Activities and programming returned to levels similar to before the pandemic. Attendance improved from the levels of the last three years although was still not at the numbers seen in 2019. Even at these improved but still lower attendance levels, total income for the year of \$548,000 increased by \$22,000 or 4% from 2022. Offering and Plate income rose modestly by \$8,000 to \$487,516 essentially meeting a budgeted goal of \$490,000. A significant increase in income came from rental income which increased by \$14,000 or 30% over 2022 due to the increased use of space for such activities as music lessons, concerts, private events and an increase in rent for the B manse.

Expenses for the year ended substantially below budget (\$27,000 under budget). Actual total expenses for 2023 were \$12,000 higher than 2022 at \$534,000 (2%). The most significant variance from budget was in staff salaries where there was an underspend of approximately \$12,000 reflecting the lower cost for the church administrator who resigned early in the year resulting in lower salary costs until a replacement began a few months later. Other notable items that were under budget include youth and education spending (\$5,000 below budget) and utilities (\$4,000 under budget).

Financial Position

The overall financial strength of the church remained strong especially considering the turmoil of the last few years caused by the pandemic. At year end 2023 total assets were slightly over \$1 million, an increase of about \$28,000, or 3%, over 2022. Net assets (equity) at the end of the year were \$212,807, an increase of about \$63,000 from 2022. The increase reflects the small surplus (\$5,000) added to retained earnings this year and the positive return on the value of investments held which includes dividends and capital gains of \$49,064. Total invested reserves were \$906,744 at December 31. Cash balances held at the end of 2023 were \$100,492.

2024 Budget

Seeking to sustain the momentum achieved in the last year as we recovered from the pandemic and returned to normalcy, Session has adopted a budget that reflects a 7.3% Increase in spending over 2023. Total income is projected to remain essentially flat at \$546,050 in 2024. Expenses are budgeted to increase to \$580,000. The increase in expenses is driven in part by an increase in salaries that are rising 4% across the board and in particular to administrative staff salaries due to the hiring of a new church administrator that was not totally reflected in 2023 numbers. Education and youth expenses are also budgeted to increase more than prior years due to an increase in children participating in programs. Building maintenance expenses are projected to increase significantly from last year due to anticipated projects as well as increases for utilities and insurance. Other expenses remained near 2023 levels.

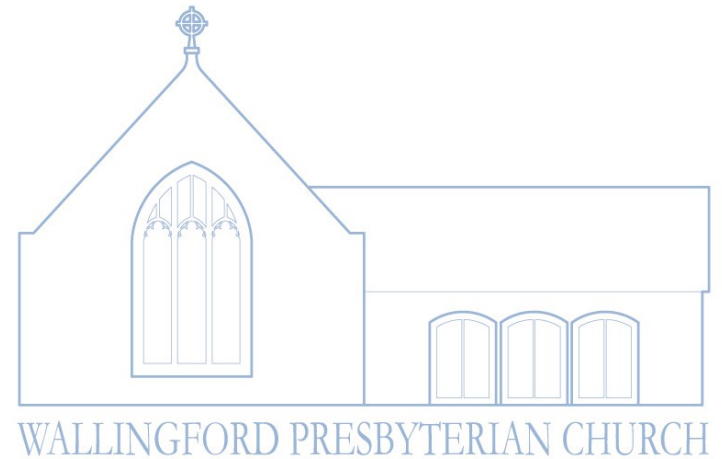
Like most previous years there is projected to be a deficit. This year the gap is approximately \$34,000. Session hopes that as in previous years where such deficits are projected, the congregation will generously close the gap and continue the growth in the mission of the church to a higher level in 2024.

As in past years we are grateful for the many members who have provided their time, money and support. We are especially thankful for the help and support of Michelle Hall, Nathan Gibson, Stewardship Council, Trustees and the counters for their assistance throughout the year.





**Annual Meetings of the Congregation and
Corporation
Wallingford Presbyterian Church
Wallingford, Pennsylvania
January 29, 2023
Minutes**



The meetings were incorporated into the worship service. Moderator the Reverend François Lacroix began the worship service, welcomed attendees, and called the meeting to order. Clerk Chris Darr certified that there was a quorum. Pastor François recognized the service of Judy Kenworthy, clerk *emerita*, and welcomed incoming clerk Chris Darr.

New Business: None

The congregation moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Annual Meetings of January 30, 2022 (found in the Annual Report).

Pastor Taylor Cornelius gave the opening prayer.

Mission and Ministry. Pastor Lacroix reviewed 2022 mission and ministry. Both Pastor Lacroix and Associate Pastor Cornelius commented on their work and the ministry of the congregation. They recognized staff members and volunteers, with special mention of Sunday School Superintendent Sally Flemer.

Nominating Committee. Chair Nancy Oetinger presented the following members to serve as 'at large' members of the 2023 Nominating Committee: Zoe Andrews, Judy Kenworthy, Pam Mattote, Lisé Meloy and Dave Rudd, and alternate members Walt Kaminski and Pat Tillson. There were no nominations from the floor. The congregation voted to approve the nominees.

Oetinger then presented Leslie Krowchenko to fill the unexpired term of Elder Kevin Switala on the Session. There were no nominations from the floor. The congregation voted to approve the nomination.

Oetinger thanked Joanne Callahan, Chris Darr, Mary Lou Day, Polly Sacco Ezzell, Jenny Montague, David Rudd, Pat Tillson and Gail Weaver for their service and stated that they officially were relieved of their duties.

The meeting of the congregation was suspended so that the meeting of the corporation could be held.

Corporation Meeting. President of the Board of Trustees Bruce Clark called the meeting to order. The Clerk certified that a quorum was present. There was no new business. Clark highlighted the 2022 work of the Board as presented in the Annual Report. Clark thanked the outgoing Trustees Sallie Anderson, Stephen Gibson and Lisé Meloy. The congregation voted to receive the report and to adjourn the Meeting of the Corporation.

The Congregational Meeting reconvened.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Ed Mattote reviewed the 2022 financials. (See Annual Report.) There were no questions. Mattote also thanked the counters for their service.

2023 Budget. Jim Oetinger and Helen Picher presented the 2023 Budget which was adopted by the Session. (See Annual Report.) There were no questions.

Pastoral Terms of Call for 2023. Personnel Committee Chair Helen Picher reviewed the terms of call (see Annual Report) after Pastor and Cyndi Lacroix and Pastor Cornelius left the sanctuary. After Picher moved that the terms be approved, the congregation unanimously approved them.

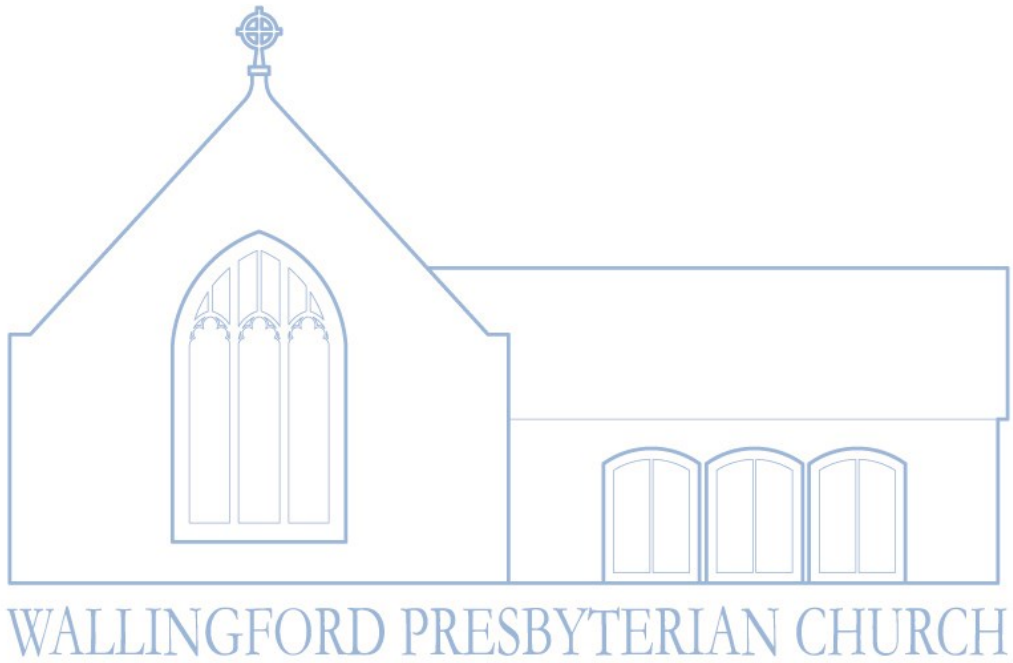
Pastors Lacroix and Cornelius returned to the meeting and the congregation voted to receive reports of the Boards, Councils and organizations.

The congregation voted to adjourn the meeting.

Pastor Cornelius closed the meeting and worship service with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Darr, Clerk



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

110 E. BROOKHAVEN RD, WALLINGFORD, PENNSYLVANIA 19086

WEBSITE: www.wallingfordpres.org PHONE: 610-566-1644

EMAIL: OFFICE@WALLINGFORDPRES.ORG