

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 with us, and hope that you'll feel right at home. Please join us after worship for fellowship and light refreshments in our Fellowship Hall.

Please ask an usher,

Visitors are always welcomed and encouraged to participate in any of our programs, activities and ministry opportunities.

A Nursery is available downstairs for preschool children.

Large print bulletins are available on request.

If you need a little help hearing, portable listening devices are available.

Restrooms are located in the Narthex and throughout the church building.

We are ready to assist you.

Sunday, December 21

4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 am-Children's choir

9:00 am-Adult Education/various

10:00 am-Worship/Sunday School

10:00 am-Nursery Care/MS Breakfast Club

11:00 am-Fellowship Time/ChristMarket

7:00 pm-Messiah Sing-Sanctuary, FH & RR

Monday, December 22

9:30 am-Learning through scripturesus-RR

7:30 pm-Stephen Ministry

7:30 pm-8pm Christmas Eve music rehearsal

Tuesday, December 23

4:00 pm-Pageant rehearsal

7:30 pm-11pm Christmas Eve music rehearsal

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm-Christmas Pageant-Family

8:00 pm-Gifting Service w/communion

11:00 pm-Lessons, Carols & Candlelight

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

Holiday - Office closed

Friday, December 26

Holiday - Office Closed

Sunday, December 28

First Sunday after Christmas Day

10:00 am-Worship

Children in Worship – No Sunday School

Pastor Francois preaching

10:00 am-Nursery Care-birth to 3 years old

STEWARDSHIP 2015 - To date, \$316,405 has been pledged toward our 2015 ministries and operating budget. We estimate that the cost to fund our ministry in 2015 will be over \$500,000. Our ministries, our pledges and our giving are ways of showing our Faith in Action. If you have not yet submitted a pledge of 2015 estimated gifts, there is still time to do so. Pledge cards are available in the pew pads. If you prefer to pledge online, go to www.wallingfordpres.org and click on the "Giving" section. You can also scan the QR code shown here and you will be directed to the online pledging page.



A MESSAGE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL – With less than 2 weeks remaining this year, our receipts to date have totaled \$476,000. We still anticipate that total expenses for the year will be in the neighborhood of \$490,000-\$495,000, so we're going to need at least \$14,000 more to cover expenses. If you are able, please help us close the gap through your gifts. You might want to consider making your donation in appreciated stock which can be a tax advantaged alternative to donating cash. Thank you for your continued loving support of WPC and its mission and ministry on behalf of Jesus Christ.

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE WOW RETREAT WITH NEW DATE AND LOCATION – This year's WOW Retreat "Seasons of the Spirit" will be held on 2/6 & 2/7, 2015 and led by Cyndi Lacroix. The cost will be \$30. Complete details & registration information are included in the flyer in December's "Spirit Song." Questions? Please call Chris Dearnaley at 610-566-5670 or the Church Office. Registrations are due by January 4, 2015.

2014 CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY NOON, DECEMBER 31 will be posted in 2014. Funds received after that, will be reported in your first 2015 contribution statement.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS – ALL MS and HS students are welcome to youth group at WPC on Tuesdays from 6-8PM. If you have questions about youth ministry at WPC please call or email Pastor Rob, 610-357-6067 or rob@wallingfordpres.org. NO YOUTH GROUP 12/23 and 30. **SEE YOU 1/6/2015.**

THE 2015 MEMORIAL FLOWER CALENDAR is posted in the narthex for those who wish to sign up. The requested contribution is \$50. January 4, and 18 are still available. Thank you for your support of memorial flowers.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, SUSAN SCHWARZ will be out of the office January 2 through January 11, 2015. She will return January 12. There will be coverage in the church office. Please make a note of it.

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



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING CLOSED December 25 and 26 for the Christmas Holiday and January 1, 2015 for the New Year's Holiday. **THE PASTORS AND STAFF** express their appreciation for all your Christmas remembrances and greetings and your graciousness in this season and through the year. If you are in need of pastoral care during the holidays do not hesitate to contact Pastor François Lacroix by cell 724-421-4992.

Cares and Concerns

Staff

Rev. François Lacroix, Pastor
Rev. Robert Ross, Associate Pastor for Christian Nurture
Elizabeth Braden, Director of Music
Susan Schwarz, Administrative Secretary
Nunzio Bottino, Sexton
Barbara Meahl, Clerk of Session
Andy Yost, Treasurer

WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

110 E. BROOKHAVEN RD, WALLINGFORD, PENNSYLVANIA 19086

WEBSITE: www.wallingfordpres.org PHONE: 610/566-1644, FAX: 610/892-0558

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A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

SHARING OF JOYS, CARES AND CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen”

*AFFIRMATION

*I believe in the Spirit of Christmas, for it is the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth it celebrates;
I believe in the lights of Christmas, for they remind me of him who is the light of the World;
I believe in the greenery of Christmas, for it symbolizes the eternal life of those in Christ;
I believe in giving gifts at Christmas, for it is in keeping with the greatest gift the world has ever known;
I believe in being childlike at Christmas, for Jesus said we must become as children to enter the kingdom of heaven;
And I believe in the angels' song about peace on earth among persons of good will, for when my will is good, as it is at Christmas, I feel a peace and joy in my heart that is unlike anything else in all the world. It is the peace and Joy of God! Amen.*

*SENDING HYMN While We are Waiting, Come (see insert)

*THE BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE A Waiting Prayer Lee Dengler

*O Come and be with us, Emmanuel, we wait for you.
We long for you every morning, and at midday, watch for signs of your coming.
We seek your face in the evening. O come quickly; you alone can save us.*

Please join us for friendship and refreshments in Fellowship Hall, following the service of worship.

*Those who are able, please stand.

++Please wait to enter the Sanctuary until the conclusion of the prayer

“Words and music printed for the hymns, Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A71731.”

THE POINSETTIAS have been given as memorials or in honor of loved ones. We are grateful to those who provided them. They may be taken by those who gave them after the 11:00 PM Christmas Eve service.

Thank you to Deacon Debbie George for assisting with worship as our liturgist, those volunteering to usher, and to those assisting with fellowship time today.

The Worship of Our Lord

December 21, 2014

4th Sunday of Advent

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

from, A Child Is Born, by J. Barrie Shepherd

“...Patience, waiting, seems the cruelest form of torture for your twentieth-century servants. Our activist souls compel us to get up and go, to seize the bull by the horns, to strike if the iron is even faintly warm, to slash through the Gordian knot. Instead we are admonished to have patience, wait in hope...”
“Teach me this truth of Advent, Lord, Let me share the patient blessing of waiting for your Word. Amen.”

WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS!

Whoever you are, whether a long time member, new to the community, visiting friends or family, we welcome you

WELCOME, TIME OF GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the black friendship pad found at the end of your pew, and then learn the names of your “pew neighbors” by passing the completed register back down the pew. Thank you.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Harold Floyd

OPENING PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Come, come Emmanuel". It is written in 3/4 time and G major. The score includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. man - u - el. man - u - el." The score is divided into two sections: "For repeat" and "Final ending".

++CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mary said, "How can this be?" and opened her heart to mystery and grace.

We have said, "We must see it to believe it!" trusting only what we can prove.

She said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord." And gave her life over to bearing the child of God, even though this could mean the end of her life as she knew it.

We have said, "Sorry, can't today, I've got too much work today." We have said, "I'm not comfortable signing my name to that – I believe in the cause, but I'm not sure I want to give my name to it." We have said, "This one time won't matter – I'll do it later; I'll enjoy this privilege just a little more; I'll let that racial slip go... who's going to care?"

She said, "My soul magnifies the Lord!" and understood herself profoundly as a child and image of God.

We have said, "I am just one person and my life doesn't matter in the big picture." (Silent Confession)

Hear our confession loving God.

We confess that we have not opened our hearts to the in-breaking of your spirit, and have often taken the easy, fearful, apologetic way.

Descend upon us today as you did with Mary, and help us to know ourselves as agents of change and glory. Forgive us and give us strength, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The angel said to Mary that day, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." Let us hear this greeting ourselves today. Let us feel in our bodies that each of us, no matter how great or how meek, no matter how young or old, no matter our status or rank, each is favored! Each of us is loved and full of potential. And God is with us all. Let us rejoice in this.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE 23

Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)

GLORIA

"Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo."

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

John 1: 1-5

pg. 91

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Children 1st - 5th grades are invited to come forward for a "Time with Young Disciples." At the conclusion, children will be excused with their teachers. Visiting parents with children are welcome to

escort their children along with the teachers. On the first & third Sundays of the month, MS Students are invited to sit together near the back of the sanctuary during the service. Nursery care is available, and is located downstairs.

CHORAL ANTHEM

And the Glory of the Lord from Messiah

G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38

pgs. 56-57

SERMON

"So Let It Be"

Pastor François

* DEDICATION HYMN 16

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP & CHRISTMAS JOY DEDICATION

If you have a prayer request or celebration, please use the prayer requests & ponderings card found in the pew racks and leave it in the offering plate. We invite you to take this opportunity to open your hearts, minds and spirits to the living God and to the example of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Carol of the Bells

arr. Arnold Sherman

Bell choir

*RESPONSE 62

Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love

EPIPHANY SONG

Refrain
F Am Dm Gm Dm Gm
Ho - ly the In - fant and ho - ly the moth - er And ho - ly and
C F G C F
pre - cious the gifts that we bring; Praise to the Fa - ther and
F B F
praise to the Spir - it And praise to Christ Je - sus our King.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We say "yes" today. We say "yes" to God, and "yes" to the call to bear witness to God's love and justice. We say "yes" to being vessels of God's glory – to becoming the house of God. We say "yes" today, and dedicate this worship, this offering, our very selves, to sharing the light of love in all ways. Amen.

Advent and Christmas Calendar

DECEMBER 21 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:00 p.m. – Messiah Sing – *The Chancel Choir invites you to join them in an evening of music from Handel's Messiah. You're invited to sing along with the choir or just sit back and listen. A reception will follow.*



DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. The Christmas Pageant - *Come enjoy the Christmas Story as told and reenacted by our children.*

8:00 p.m. Music Gifting Service and celebration of the Lord's Supper
Our church musicians and friends share their talent in an intimate setting in a half hour concert. The service concludes with the congregation sharing in the Lord's Supper.

11:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols
Through scripture and song and in the glow of candlelight we welcome the coming of the Christ Child, Emmanuel, God with us.

DECEMBER 28 – 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

No Sunday School – We'll sing Christmas carols, listen to a Christmas story and worship together.

JANUARY 4 – 2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

We celebrate Epiphany (a few days early) and reflect on the meaning of the Light of God, Jesus Christ.

JANUARY 10 (SATURDAY)

Join members of the worship council as we take down and box our Christmas decorations in preparation for the next liturgical season. 9:00 AM

OUR CHURCH MISSION FOR THE MONTH of December is the Christmas Joy Offering as designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Fifty percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council. Dedication of this offering is TODAY.

CHRISTMARKET 2014 - Today is the last day to purchase ChristMarket projects in person. The market will be closing today. Please visit our tables in Fellowship Hall after the service to select the projects and people you would like to help. WPC Mission and Service committee will match the sales up to \$200 for each project. WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS!!



TUESDAY, 12/23, 4:00 PM – CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL

(Dinner to follow at 5PM) All children and teens are invited to be a part of this year's Christmas Pageant. You have four parts from which to choose: angel, shepherd, wiseman or sheep. No speaking required – just your presence. At the rehearsal, you'll get a costume, hear the Christmas story, and practice when you move where during the pageant. Parents of anxious children are welcome to put on a costume and be in the pageant too! Afterwards, we'll share a pizza dinner together. The pageant will be presented at the 5 pm Christmas Eve worship service.

