

Worship for the Lord's Day

Greetings & Announcements

Refrain: God is good / *All the time* / All the time / *God is good*

Prelude – *Advent Medley* by Marilynn Ham

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading – *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

Gathering Prayer

*Hymn (on screen) – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, verses 1-2, and 6

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Simon Hauser and Vinnie Pisano

Unison Prayer (here and on screen):

God of timeless grace, you fill us with hopeful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with pure hearts and holy joy we may know the truth of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*Advent Response (here, on insert & screen) –

A Candle Shines by Phillip M. Hayden

*A candle shines in the window for hope, to melt our hearts of stone.
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and make our hearts Your home.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

A candle shines in the window for hope, to melt our hearts of stone.

Passing of the Peace:

Leader: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

(Children are welcome to join Children's Church at this time - Room 213)

Scripture Reading – *John 8:31-38*

Sermon – *The Advent of Truth*

Rev. Dr. Matthew Lloyd Camlin

Song of Praise (on screen) – *King of Kings*

by Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood, and Jason Ingram

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Presentation of Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory – *Longing for Messiah* by Mark Hayes

*Doxology, Hymn #592

*Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Leader: ...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: Holy God, Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

We praise thee, we praise thee. Amen.

Leader: ...Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Words of Institution

The Communion of the People

The Prayer After Communion

Worship Service concludes,

SENDING

Postlude – *Once He Came in Blessing* by J.S. Bach

Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response (on screen)

May the Peace of the Lord Christ Go with You by P. Sutcliff



Advent begins today!

Here are two free Advent devotionals the Discipleship Committee is suggesting for your use:

- 1.) The first one, from Frontier Fellowship, is entitled “*Grace to Come*”. To understand the full meaning of Advent reflect on the story of grace across all Scripture and human history. Advent recalls the longing for a Savior, centuries of waiting and the prophecies and promise of the Messiah, celebrating His arrival, sacrifice, resurrection and return. *This is the story of grace to come.* Printed copies are in the Ligo Room, download the PDF version, or receive it daily by email at the Frontier Fellowship website: frontierfellowship.com.
- 2.) The second is a 4-week daily devotional also available to download as a PDF or to access online, entitled “*The Weary World Rejoices*” by Kate Bowler. This devotional invites us to lean into the period of waiting that is Advent with eyes and hearts wide open to what it means to live with hope now. It can be used on your own, with family, friends, or as a small group study. It can be accessed at katebowler.com/advent.

The Session has called a **Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, December 15, 2024, in the sanctuary** for the purposes of electing officers for 2025 and approving the pastor's Terms of Call for 2025. Please plan to attend; a quorum is required.

December 1, 2024
Communion
First Sunday of Advent - Hope



New Wilmington Presbyterian Church

229 S. Market Street, New Wilmington, PA 16142

www.nwpresby.org • office@nwpresby.org • 724-946-3541

Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm

Worship services on radio WWNW (88.9FM)

Rev. Dr. Matthew L. Camlin (Pastor) ext. 12; matt@nwpresby.org
Anne Bruening (Music Coordinator, Director of Chancel and Handbell Choirs)
brueniap@gmail.com

Kathy Montgomery (Organist) kwmdmd@zoominternet.net
Linda McGrath (Worship Team Co-Leader), lmoosemcgrath@gmail.com and
Katie Dreyer (Worship Team Co-Leader), k.dreyer98@gmail.com
Debbie Forsberg (Christian Education Coordinator) ext. 24; debbie@nwpresby.org
Doug Phillips (Youth Leader), coachphillips30@gmail.com
Linda McGrath (Congregational Care Coordinator), lmoosemcgrath@gmail.com
Kim Romig (Church Treasurer), ext. 13, kim@nwpresby.org
Kay Taylor (Building Manager), kay@nwpresby.org

From the Reconciliation Committee: HARD TO RECYCLE ITEMS

The Lawrence-Mercer Recycling/Solid Waste Department offers a program for the collection of select hard-to-recycle items. ???—724-658-6925

LAST COLLECTION IN 2024 – DECEMBER 10 – 9 AM to 1 PM

Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Dept.

Gettings Annex at Lawrence County Courthouse, New Caste, PA

Program Details:

- *This program is for RESIDENTIAL households only. No commercial or institutional materials are accepted.*
- *The program is currently free.*
- *Materials collected are subject to change depending on costs and markets.*

Visit our webpages or follow us on Facebook!

lawrencecountypa.gov/recycling and mercercountypa.gov/recycling

YES:

- Holiday Lights
- Thermostats
- Shoes (athletic pairs, no holes)
- Media
- VHS Tapes
- Cassette Tapes
- CDs and DVDs
- Floppy disks
- Plastic Bags & Film
- Books

NO:

- Cell Phones
- Fluorescent Tubes
- CFLs
- Electronics
- Paint, Chemicals, etc.
- Batteries

WORSHIP NOTES

If you are a guest today, we pray God will bless you through your presence with us. Please sign the pew pad, including contact information, so we may welcome you.

Assistance for worship: large print bulletins are in the bulletin racks; personal audio receivers providing sound amplification at the “sound booth” at the back of the sanctuary.

For children:

1. **The Nursery** (infants – age 3) is located through the side doors of the sanctuary to the left of the pulpit area, Room 212. Alasdair Camlin and an adult volunteer will be in the nursery each Sunday.
2. Families of **4 to 6-year-old children** are welcome to use Room 215, next to the NWPC Preschool classroom, during the service. A parent/guardian must be present at all times. Please feel free to use the toys, games and art supplies in the labeled cupboards. Kindly return everything at the end of the service.
3. **Children's Church** (ages 4 years – grade four), meets in Room 213 during the middle part of the adult worship service. Justin & Pamela Zackal visit Children's Church this week to share how the church uses live streaming, radio, and other technology with our children. We see God in the way the Zackals use media and technology to spread God's word.
4. **Children's Worship Bulletins** (ages 3-6 & 7-12) are found at the ramp door.

Greeting you this morning is Laura McCracken.

Daily Lectionary Readings for This Week:

Monday Psalm 90; Numbers 17:1-11; 2 Peter 3:1-18

Tuesday Psalm 90; 2 Samuel 7:18-29; Revelation 22:12-16

Wednesday Psalm 90; Isaiah 1:24-31; Luke 11:29-32

Thursday Luke 1:68-79; Malachi 3:5-12; Philippians 1:12-18a

Friday Luke 1:68-79; Malachi 3:13-18; Philippians 1:18b-26

Saturday Luke 1:68-79; Malachi 4:1-6; Luke 9:1-6

As you read, don't ask yourself, “What am I learning?” but rather, “How does this speak to me? What does this stir up within me? Why might that be?”

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024 - Communion

9am Men's Bible Class, Lillian Martin Room
9:30am "Different Brews * Different Views" meeting in the Youth Lounge
10:30am WORSHIP: here at New Wilmington Presbyterian Church, or via LiveStream at livestream.com/nwpresby or Titan radio, at 88.9 FM
6pm SHYG, Youth Lounge – *packing WC "Goodie Bags"*

MONDAY, 12-2

9:30am Shutterbugs Camera Club, Room 214
7pm Discipleship Committee, Room 214

TUESDAY, 12-3

9:30am Staff Meeting, Room 206
5:30pm Joybells Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7pm Carillon Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7pm AA Meeting, Room 214

WEDNESDAY, 12-4

2pm Women's Empowerment Group, Social Hall (*See announcement.*)
6pm JHYG, Youth Lounge
6pm Spanish Class, Room 206

THURSDAY, 12-5

6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30pm Called Session Meeting, Room 214
7:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary

FRIDAY, 12-6

SATURDAY, 12-7

9am Adult Saturday Bible Study on the *Book of Acts*, Church Library

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

9am Men's Bible Class, Lillian Martin Room
9:30am "Different Brews * Different Views" meeting in the Youth Lounge
10:30am WORSHIP: here at New Wilmington Presbyterian Church, or via LiveStream at livestream.com/nwpresby or Titan radio, at 88.9 FM
4pm WC Christmas Vespers, Orr Auditorium
5pm Road to Bethlehem Drive-Thru Nativity – in our side yard

Enjoy the **Shenango Valley Chorale's concert**, "A Classic Christmas" on Friday, December 14th, 7:30pm, at the First Presbyterian Church in Sharon, PA. Tickets are \$15 for adults; children age 12 and under are free.

For your calendar - Upcoming Advent Events:

Sunday, 12/15 – Blue Christmas Service, NWPC Sanctuary, 6pm
Friday, 12/20 – SHYG's fundraiser Parents' Night Out, 5:30-8:30m
Sunday, 12/22 – "Sing with Us the Christmas Story" during worship followed by a Special Christmas Potluck Lunch in the Social Hall
Tuesday, 12/24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols, 7pm



December Mission Focus:

2024 Christmas Joy Offering – Prepare the Way, ISAIAH 40
The perfect gift – Jesus – destined to bring joy, peace, and salvation.

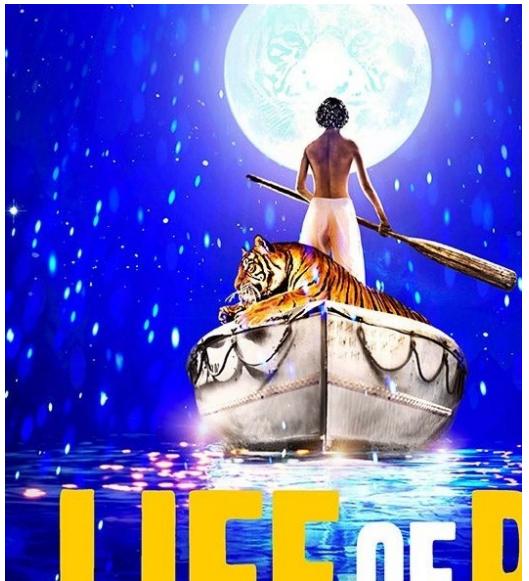
Since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering has celebrated God's perfect gift to us with generous support of the leaders among us – past, present and future – who point us to God. The offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received Sunday, December 22.

2025 Estimate of Givings and 2025 Offering Envelopes

If you haven't already submitted your **2025 Estimate of Givings**, we kindly ask that you do so. We are grateful for and encouraged by the many responses already received! If you've misplaced your Estimate of Givings Trifold, extra copies are in the Ligo Room.

Your **2025 Offering Envelopes** are also ready for pickup in the Ligo Room! If you give online/annually but would like a few envelopes for additional offerings, please take some, located near the 2025 Offering Envelopes. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact treasurer Kim Romig, kim@nwpresby.org

Broadway in Cleveland



The next trip to see an Off-Broadway production is right around the corner.

The next show that we are trying to get a group together for is *Life of Pi*. This show is running in Cleveland from January 7 – 26, 2025. Ticket prices range from \$27.50 to \$97.50. We are allowed to mix and match dates, times, and ticket prices.

Winner of three Tony Awards® and the Olivier Award for Best Play, the Broadway and West End sensation *Life of Pi* is “an exhilarating evening of theater” (*The Wall Street Journal*).

Based on the novel that sold more than 15 million copies and became a worldwide phenomenon, *Life of Pi* is an epic story of perseverance and hope that speaks to every generation and “gives new life to Broadway” (*The Today Show*).

After a shipwreck in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi survives on a lifeboat with four companions—a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan and a Royal Bengal tiger.

Told with jaw-dropping visuals, world class puppetry and exquisite stagecraft, *Life of Pi* creates a breathtaking journey that will leave you filled with awe and joy.

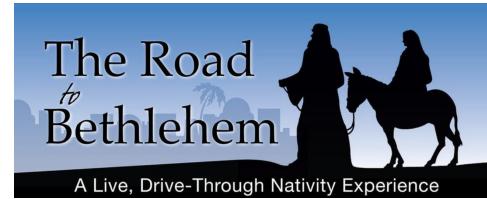
Currently we have 10 tickets on hold at \$82.50 each for Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 1:30 PM. However, if a different date, time, or price is better for you, please let me know.

The deadline for reservations and payment for *Life of Pi* is Tuesday, December 10. If you are interested in this show, please see or contact Don or Lisa Rodgers. Email: d.rodgers.62@gmail.com or phone 724-651-8285.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Widows Empowerment Group** is Wednesday, December 4 at 2pm in the Social Hall. Bring a favorite holiday treat to share if you wish but it is not at all required. Be ready to sing a few favorite carols, play a festive holiday game, and enjoy friendly fellowship. The more the merrier, so bring a friend or two! RSVP, and also if you'd like transportation, call or text Mary James (724-977-8453 or by email maryecjames@gmail.com) or contact Jennifer Green (724-714-8172 or jeneg26@gmail.com)

Westminster College Annual Christmas Vespers Worship Service is next Sunday, December 8, 4pm at Orr Auditorium and is open to the public. The message, “The Wonders of Joseph,” will be shared by WC Chaplain the Rev. Jim Mohr. The service will feature scripture readings and special music—including selections from Handel’s “Messiah”—from combined Westminster choirs, Westminster Symphony Orchestra, Brass Quintet and the Handbell Choir. A punch and cookie reception will follow.



The New Wilmington Ministerium’s “Road to Bethlehem” live nativity drive-thru event is next **Sunday, December 8th starting at 5pm**. Many of the local churches each portray a part of the story of Jesus’s birth – NWPC depicts the angels appearing to the shepherds.

The journey begins at New Life Baptist Church where you will receive a ticket and a map.

At the end of the “road” there is a cookie and drink reception at Living Word Church where kids who followed the road receive a goody bag and, this year, adults can put their ticket in a basket raffle.

MOVING TOWARD THE HOLIDAYS....

The experience of cloudy, early -wintery days, and longer hours of darkness can change our body rhythms. We may feel less energy, and possibly sadness or depression. The anticipation of the holidays may bring up feelings of anxiety rather than joy. Although some “must-do” lists are beyond our control, we can still determine to use this holiday season to allow ourselves some “to- be” time. Focusing on the peace of the season using intentional quiet times of prayer, music, reading or another personal practice can promote a sense of balance as we carry out necessary holiday preparations. Consider attending the Blue Christmas Service of hope and healing - December 15.



New Wilmington Presbyterian Church offers:

Blue Christmas

A Service of Hope and Healing

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
6:00 p.m.

A time for worship and remembering, with gratitude, our healing and comforting God.

The service will be live-streamed. Visit nwpresby.org for the link.

Its Giving Tree Time



Calling all Elves! It's time to select a tag from the Giving Tree in the Ligo Room. Tags note gift suggestions for residents of The Grove, Shenango on the Green and Wilmington Area School students. There may be multiple gift suggestions on a tag, this is intended to help personalize gifts; you need not provide all the items.

Select a tag and write your name and tag number on the participant sheet on the table by the tree. [Gifts are due back by Sunday, December 15.](#)

Wilmington Area School – please do NOT wrap the gift - just attach the tag to it and place it in the box near the Giving Tree.

The Grove and Shenango on the Green – please wrap these gifts in gift bags. Attach the tag to the gift bag and return it to the Giving Tree.

Questions? Contact Don Shelenberger, (724) 946-3388.

Thank you for sharing with area students and residents.



Please complete the form and return with payment in an offering plate, or bring/mail it to the church office. Please put it in an envelope and mark it "flowers". You may also use the online order form found on the NWPC website. **The deadline for ordering is**

December 2nd.

Please order _____ poinsettias at \$11 each. Total = \$ _____

Order placed by _____ Phone: _____

Print dedication in the bulletin as follows:

1. In memory of _____

Given by- _____

2. In memory of _____

Given by- _____

3. In memory of _____

Given by- _____

1. In honor of _____

Given by- _____

2. In honor of _____

Given by- _____

3. In honor of _____

Given by- _____

Poinsettias should be picked up after the service on Christmas Eve.

Thank you for helping to make our Advent worship special.

