



Worship for the Lord's Day

December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent – Peace

*Denotes all may stand if possible

Greetings & Announcements

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

Prelude – *Joy to the World* arranged by Alan Lohr

Carillon Handbell Choir

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading – *Luke 1:68–79*

Gathering Prayer

*Hymn (on screen) – *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Jackson Hauser, Jason and Zachary Stuart

Unison Prayer (here and on screen):

O Root of Jesse, O God of Peace, stir up your power within us, that in this time we may await with abundant expectation the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation, for you live and reign among us, Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

A Candle Shines by Phillip M. Hayden

A candle shines in the window for peace, 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 peace, 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.

Worship Service continues,

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

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

Sermon – *The Advent of Compassion*

Rev. Dr. Matthew Lloyd Camlin

Song of Praise (on screen) – *Prepare the Way* by Darrell Evans and Eric Nuzum

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Presentation of Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory – *Of the Father's Love Begotten* arranged by Mark Hayes

*Doxology, Hymn #592

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

*Hymn (on screen) – *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Postlude – *A Christmas Miniature (Old French Carol)* by P.I. Tchaikovsky

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response (on screen)

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

Daily Lectionary Readings for This Week:

Monday Psalm 126; Isaiah 40:1-11; Romans 8:22-25

Tuesday Psalm 126; Isaiah 19:18-25; 2 Peter 1:2-15

Wednesday Psalm 126; Isaiah 35:3-7; Luke 7:18-30

Thursday Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 6:1-8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Friday Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 8:4-12; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Saturday Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 9:8-15; Luke 1:57-66

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?"

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. Jim Mohr will be visiting CC this week. We are thankful for Jim Mohr “shepherding” us through the Christmas story this week. We see God in the way Jim has shepherded all of us especially the way he has guided the college students towards our church family.
4. **Children's Worship Bulletins** (ages 3-6 & 7-12) are found at the ramp door.

Greeting you this morning is Laura McCracken.

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

- 1.) The first, 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*. There are printed copies 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 and can be accessed at katebowler.com/advent.



CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

9am Men's Bible Class, Lillian Martin Room
9:30am "Different Brews * Different Views", 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
10:45am Worship Committee, Room 206
4pm WC Christmas Vespers, Orr Auditorium
5pm Road to Bethlehem Drive-Thru Nativity – in our side yard

MONDAY, 12-9

2pm SOG Alzheimer Support Group, Room 214
6pm Generosity Steering Committee, Room 206

TUESDAY, 12-10

5:30pm Joybells Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7pm AA Meeting, Room 214

WEDNESDAY, 12-11

6pm JHYG, Youth Lounge
6pm Spanish Class, Room 206

THURSDAY, 12-12

6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary

SATURDAY, 12-14

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 – Congregational Meeting after Worship

9am Men's Bible Class, Lillian Martin Room
9:30am "Different Brews * Different Views", 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 Blue Christmas Service, Sanctuary

For your calendar - Upcoming Advent Events:

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

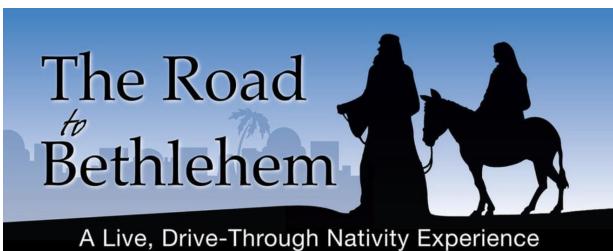


**New Wilmington
Presbyterian Church**

Deeper in Scripture • Wider in Service

229 S. Market Street, New Wilmington, PA 16142

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



New Wilmington Ministerium's "Road to Bethlehem" live nativity drive-thru event is **TODAY 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.



December Mission Focus 2024 Christmas Joy Offering:

Prepare the Way, ISAIAH 40

The perfect gift – Jesus – bringing 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.

SALT will respond to Roger Rosenblatt's, Cold Moon: On Life, Love and Responsibility. "The Cold Moon occurs in late December, auguring the arrival of the winter solstice. Approaching the winter solstice of his own life, Roger Rosenblatt offers a book dedicated to the three most important lessons he has learned over his many years: an appreciation of being alive, a recognition of the gift and power of love, and the necessity of exercising responsibility toward one another." SALT meets via Zoom at 9:15am. Contact Jim Hines for a link, jhines55@hotmail.com

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. **If you prefer, email your 2025 Estimate**, to our treasurer Kim Romig at kim@nwpresby.org.

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.

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.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is with great pleasure that the Nominating Committee introduces these nominees for church officers.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR NOMINATION at the Congregational Meeting on December 15, 2024

(Serving 3 years from January, 2025 through December 31, 2027
unless otherwise indicated.)

Session: (all returning for a second term)

Scott McGrath
Tawnee Hunter
Dan Forsberg
Pam Mansell

Deacons:

Sharyn Campbell – returning for a second term
Jennifer Green – returning for a second term
Kay Crytzer
Sharyn Shaner

Trustees:

Ernie Rodgers
John Zahniser
Lyle Johnston

MOVING TOWARD THE HOLIDAY



Please join us at the Blue Christmas service for a time of hope and healing; a quiet and peaceful reminder of God's love for each of us. The service is in the sanctuary, December 15, at 6pm.

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year! Only it's not. Not for everyone. Not when there is an empty chair, or when there is illness, or when depression is too much to bear, or when the bills can't be paid or there is a broken relationship or....

There is HOPE for the holidays...

...because God comes to be with you and all of us. He brings hope to comfort you, to restore you, to bring renewal and rest, to strengthen you, to give you hope and to give you peace.

"Some of us walk into Advent tethered to our unresolved yesterdays with the pain still stabbing and the hurt still throbbing. It's not that we don't know better; it's just that we can't stand up anymore by ourselves. On the way to Bethlehem, may we give you a hand?" (Ann Weems.)

GIVING TREE REMINDERS

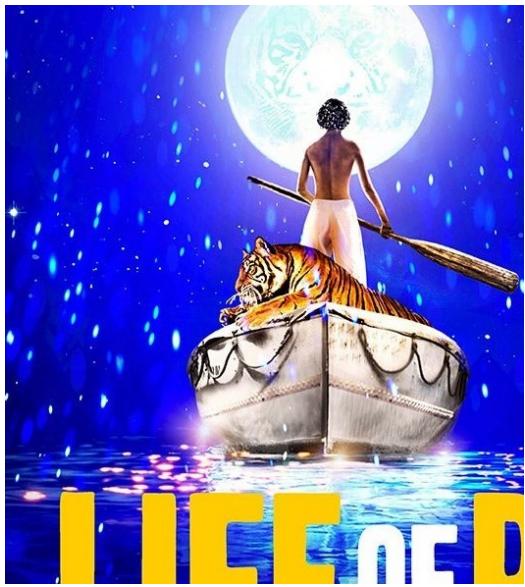


Calling all Elves! *Giving Tree Gifts are due back by Sunday, December 15.* Be sure you attach the tag you took from the tree to the gift!!!

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.



Broadway in Cleveland : The next show that we are trying to get a group together for is *Life of Pi* which is running in Cleveland from January 7 to the 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 1:30pm. However, if a different date, time, or price is better for you, please let me know. **Deadline for reservations & payment for *Life of Pi* is this coming Tuesday, December 10.** If you are interested in this show, please contact Don or Lisa Rodgers. Email: d.rodgers.62@gmail.com or phone 724-651-8285.

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.

Parents: drop your kids off at the church on Friday, December 20th from 5:30 - 8:30pm.

**Need to run some errands or have a dinner out?
Your kids will be having a fun time with SHYG.**

Gift wrapping, food, games, crafts, movies, more!

For Kids PreK – 6th grade @ \$10 per kid



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