



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 2

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Melissa, Sophia, Charlotte, and Micah McGovern

Lighting a candle is a simple yet profound act. It is a testimony to the power of light over darkness. When we look at the world around us we can see pain in suffering. But as we light the first candle of Advent we see that the light of one candle shines brightly in the darkness. As we light the candle, we begin our journey to Christmas in anticipation of the day when Christ will return in glory.

[Light one purple candle.]

Today we light the candle of hope. We press forward in our world of struggles and hardship as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ, who is our hope now and forever.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope” (1 Pet. 1:3). In our hope of Christ’s return we find our strength for each new day.

Prayer

Dear God, as we light this candle and begin this new Advent season, shine the light of your hope into our hearts and into our world. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

People: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

Leader: that we may learn God's ways and walk in God's paths. Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

People: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

WORSHIP SONG

"Our God"

Water You turned into wine
Open the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You
None like You
Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You

*Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome In power
Our God, Our God...*

Into the darkness you shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no One like You
None like You

And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?
And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?
What can stand against?

(You may be seated)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of glory, we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour. Come to us now, in spirit and truth. Take us up into your presence, and make us ready for your reign of peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

WORSHIP SONG

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death’s dark shadows put to flight. *(Chorus)*

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. *(Chorus)*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Donna Mazeika

(We invite all children through 5th grade to come up to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message for them. They will then be dismissed to their Sunday School teacher, or if you prefer they may return to their seats with you.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Christmas Bells are Ringing”

Lily & Melissa Meade and Coralie, Ondine, Sadie & Christine Van Tassel

CALL TO CONFESSION

You know what time it is: Now is the time to wake from sleep. Salvation is near! Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of night and day, there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you and no secret that you will not bring to light. For our reveling and drunkenness, forgive us, O God. For our debauchery and licentiousness, forgive us, O God. For our quarreling and jealousy, forgive us, O God. O God, forgive us our sins, renew us in love, and teach us to live in a way that brings honor and glory to your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Please take a moment of silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved, in your baptism you were bathed in light and clothed with grace. Therefore, put on the Lord Jesus Christ! Know that you are forgiven, and live in peace.

(Please stand if you are able)

RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE

“Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(You may be seated)

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Come with gratitude and joy to the table of the Lord. Bring the works of your hands and the gifts of your lives

OFFERTORY

Suzanne Zak Carver

(Please place your offering in the plate in the Narthex as you enter/exit the Sanctuary.)

(Please stand if you are able)

DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Surprised but not Unprepared”

Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

(Please stand if you are able)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

HYMN NO. 13

“Prepare the Way”

Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley A level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ that came In God’s most holy name.

Christ brings God’s rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, For grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ that came In God’s most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Savior’s rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation Proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ that came In God’s most holy name.

CHARGE

Go out into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold onto what is good. Render no one evil for evil. Uplift the fainthearted. Support the weak. Laugh with those who laugh and mourn with those who mourn. Do this in a spirit of joy and appreciation for you are God's child. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the Spirit’s joy surround you as you walk in the light of the Lord.



Prayer Concerns: Family of Joe Mazeika

Dorothy Moritz

Karen Meade

Leslie McCartney (sister of Gail Bilsland)

Family of Harold Eveland

Helen Murray (mother of Susan Zimmerman)

David Rankin (brother of Deborah Kapinos & Paul Rankin)

Family of Marlene Tyler (friend of Eloyce Sturgeon)

Carol Daniels (friend of Bonnie Guenzel)

Trey McFadden (friend of Wendy Wirsch)

Craig Marvill (friend of Sue Rems)

Tim Godfrey (son in law of Sue Rems)

Helene Lyons (friend of Cindy Anderson)

John Anderson (brother of Kris Richard)

Sheha Ranade (friend of Beth Augustine)

Beth Moffa (friend of Beth Augustine)

Raydon Van Horn (great nephew of Beth Augustine)

David Louderback (nephew of Marge, cousin of Bob)

Christy Lessard (friend of Bill Watson)

Lyubov & family of Michael Farrel (family of Dalia & Jamme Lucas)

Tom Potts (father of Melissa Meade)

Amy Miller (niece of Bill Watson)

Donald Fiedler (cousin of Sandee Wilson)

Ed Bray (brother of Alice Bray)

Ed Larlick (friend of Dorothy Smith)

Rima Mironas (mother of Dalia Lucas)

Ongoing Concerns: Debbie Edwards

Joan George

Kerry Zimmerman

Debbie Watson

David Rankin (nephew of Deborah Kapinos & Paul Rankin)



PULPIT FLOWERS

The pulpit flowers are given in memory of loved ones from Leslie Bonner; and given to the glory of God. Deacons Cindy Anderson & Jen Kreischer will deliver the flowers. Each week the flowers can be a bright moment for someone needing prayers or praise. If anyone in the congregation has a person in mind to give the pulpit flowers to, please contact Cindy Anderson at 215-672-3219. Pulpit flowers are needed for December 25. If you are interested in donating pulpit flowers, please contact Dorothy Smith at 215-343-1142.

MEN'S GROUP

Next Meeting: **Sunday January 15th from 6pm to 8pm**

At Rick Rugel's 1471 Greenleaf Dr. Warrington, PA

This is your opportunity to get to know other men at NWPC better, and to participate in discussing the challenges we face in living a life of faith today. Please join us! For more information, or any questions you have you can talk to or email Pastor Mark or Rick Rugel Please *RSVP* so that we know how many will be coming. pastormark@nwpc.net.

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

There is an ongoing need at local food banks and pantries. Warminster Food Pantry has expressed an urgent need. During the month of November please consider buying an extra bag of groceries as you do your grocery shopping. Food donations may be placed on the stage in the auditorium. Any canned goods or non-perishable items in boxes, cans or plastic bottles can be donated. For more info, please contact Barb Landis.

Here's a list of suggested items that are most needed by our local food banks:

Canned Vegetables	Powdered Milk	Peanut Butter / Jelly
Canned Tuna/Fish/Meats	Fruit Juice (100%)	Granola Bars
Soups/Pasta/Chili/Fruit/Beans	Rice / Pasta in boxes/bags	Applesauce
	Cereal / Oatmeal	



December 1st is just around the corner;

Neshaminy needs volunteers to work at the Cold Blue shelter for the Homeless in December

To become a volunteer you must be trained. You can do this by **training online** by going to the CSSH website. Go to www.co2ssh.org, pull down the menu and click on "New Volunteer Training." This training is approximately 50 minutes.

You may also take the **van driver or attendant training** online.

If you are not sure what the shelter is all about, you may shadow or drop by the shelter from 7 – 10.

If you have any questions, please call Joanne Cochran at 215 - 290 -0079. We hope to see you in December at the Neshaminy shelter in the auditorium!

WHOLYFIT

WholyFit is a women's ministry for your mind, body and soul. We use gentle stretching and holding poses to increase stability, strength and flexibility as we grow closer in worship. We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the auditorium. Live music from Keith Rounds every first Tuesday of the month. We will not meet in the month of December so the auditorium can be used for Code Blue. Please contact Chelsea Rounds at mrsrounds@gmail.com for more information

*Thank
you*

Thanks to members of the Mission Committee and the Adult Mission Team for their recent efforts during the cleaning and rewaxing of the Auditorium floor. Two weeks ago all the furniture was removed and that Wednesday everything was replaced. We are back in operation with a sparkling Auditorium. Lloyd would be proud of us.

MEALS FOR OUR CODE BLUE GUESTS - DECEMBER 2022

We are once again planning for our Code Blue guests at NWPC in December. Your generosity as a congregation has provided hot and nourishing meals in the past, and the need continues to be great. Please prayerfully consider the information below as you decide how you can help. And many thanks in advance - you are a blessing!

Suggestions for meals:

Some suggestions for meals: LASAGNE; MACARONI & CHEESE; HOT DOGS & BEANS; MEAT LOAF, MASHED POTATOES with GRAVY; PORK & SAUERKRAUT; HAM & SCALLOPED POTATOES; PEROGIES; BAKED ZITI with MEAT BALLS/SAUSAGE; CHICKEN & RICE; or any foods that have protein and are easy to chew. Some of our homeless guests have dental problems and are not able to chew hard or crunchy foods. Also please be moderate with spices and seasonings.

Instructions for providing meals:

PLEASE PREPARE CASSEROLE for **12 people** in disposable covered aluminum casserole-sized pans. (The kitchen crew will be dishing the meal that you bring into individual containers to serve our guests.) Historically, the number of guests starts to increase as we get into the month. We may eventually ask for casseroles to serve 20 or so people, so as the number of our guests increases, we will let you know how many folks we can expect to feed. If you choose to add rolls or dessert, these need to be put into individual sandwich bags. So no pies, puddings, etc. Cakes, cookies, doughnuts, etc are great.

You can drop off the casseroles: 1) "Hot" to the church kitchen at **7 PM**, 2) earlier in the day (attach reheating instructions & call me so I make sure someone is there to receive them), or 3) frozen (again we'll need instructions & phone call).

Because of covid, we will follow the same changes as last year:

1) Everything needs to be disposable.

2) We will be asking for donations of certain items and will be using a **SignUp Genius** for these items and also one for the actual casseroles. (**See links and QR codes below**). The cooks no longer need to provide extra vegetables or salads; these items will be on the SignUp Genius for miscellaneous donated items. We will no longer be serving food cafeteria-style as we used to, but will be packaging the meals in the kitchen for individual distribution to the guests in the auditorium. Therefore, we will need to have a tighter handle on quantity of food so we can avoid waste.

REMINDER: You will only need to cook for that evening **if a Code Blue is called** (usually wind chill factor of 26 degrees or less). If there is no Code Blue called, you will receive a call or email in the morning (usually before 10 AM) as soon as we are notified. (If you have prepared the meal ahead of time and a Code Blue is not called, you could always freeze it for possible use later in the month.)

Thank you for your willingness to prepare a meal for our homeless guests.

Your kindness is greatly appreciated by all of us!

If you have any questions, or do not want to use Sign Up Genius, **please contact** Jan Helsel (H#215-343-3778) (email: jjhelsel@yahoo.com).



Dinners link - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4faba723a4fa7-nwpc4>



Supplies link - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4faba723a4fa7-nwpc5>

CHRISTMAS PARTY & NATIVITY NIGHT



On Saturday, December 10th, at 4:00pm we will hold a catered dinner, decorate the Christmas tree, and enjoy a visit from Santa. Following the dinner, at 5:30pm, the Sunday school kids perform in a LIVE Nativity complete with LIVE sheep, goats, and a donkey. It is a night full of fellowship as well as a great opportunity to reach out and share the gift of Christmas with the community around us. Please sign up on one of the sheets in the Narthex or Auditorium.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX MISSION

Our Christmas shoeboxes will be delivered to Crossroads Community Center by Santa on December 14th. If you would like to pack a shoebox please sign up in the outer narthex and take a list of gift suggestions. Please pack your shoebox to match the age and gender you signed up for as these match the children who attend the after-school program at Crossroads. Bring them to the church wrapped and labeled by December 4th. If you have any questions contact Donna Mazeika: donna.mazeika@nwpc.net

POINSETTIAS

All those interested in making donations for poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary at Christmas time please notify Dorothy Smith (215-343-1142) by Sunday, December 4. Please fill out the form below indicating which option you prefer:

- I am interested in making a donation (any dollar amount). I understand the poinsettias will be delivered to shut-ins.
- I prefer to make a donation for a poinsettia (\$10). I understand I can pick up this poinsettia after the 7:00 service on December 24.

As all donations will be noted in the Sunday, December 11 bulletin, please designate what the wording should be for you:

(In memory of, from Mr. & Mrs. Smith, etc.)

All checks should be made payable to Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church, Attn: Poinsettias and forwarded to the church at 1401 Meetinghouse Road, Hartsville, Warminster, PA 18974.

(Signature)

THIS WEEK AT NESHAMINY

TODAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Sunday Food & Fellowship 10:15 am Auditorium

MONDAY—Session Meeting 7 pm Sanctuary then Lounge
—Deacon Meeting 7pm Sanctuary then Auditorium

TUESDAY—WholyFit 7 pm Auditorium

WEDNESDAY—Bible Study 10 am Auditorium

THURSDAY—William Tennent House Association Meeting 2 pm Lounge
—Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Room

SATURDAY—Code Blue Orientation 9 am Auditorium

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Sunday Food & Fellowship 10:15 am Auditorium
—Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Choir Room
—Mary-Martha Circle 10:45 am Lounge
—Youth Group 6 pm Youth Room

Church Staff

Rev. Mark Lyndaker-Studer, Pastor
Donna Mazeika, Director of Children & Youth
Rev. Sameh Shaker, Pastor of Visitation
Dr. Suzanne Zak Carver, Director of Music
Keith Rounds, Contemporary Music
Marianne Tierney, Business Manager
Cheryl Overton, Church Administrator
Website: www.nwpc.net
215-343-6060

Remembering that the members of Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church are the ministers and missionaries of our faith community, our Pastoral Staff and Support Team provide leadership and specialized ministries.