

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

We are so glad you are here to worship with us today! Worship services are also available online. Sermons can be found at www.winppc.org/sermons.

HANNAH CIRCLE—DECEMBER 11TH

The Hannah Circle will meet tomorrow night, December 11, at 6pm in the Parlor. Please bring a dish to share for our pot luck dinner. Also bring a small gift that will fit in a small brown paper bag—\$10 or under. No breakable items please! All are welcome.

POINSETTIAS—ORDER FORMS DUE BY DECEMBER 14TH

Our church will once again be graced with poinsettias as we celebrate Christmas. Forms for purchasing a poinsettia to serve as a memorial, or as a tribute of honor are available in the narthex and the front office. Each poinsettia is \$15. Order forms must be returned by December 14th.

RELATIONSHIPS IN ACTION—SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:15 AM IN ROOM 301

December 17th - Holiday Party

Have you wondered about the adult Sunday school classes at Winter Park Presbyterian? If so, please join us for a "meet and greet" Christmas brunch on December 17th from 9:15 until 10:15 in room 301. We would love to have the pleasure of your company!

WELLNESS PROGRAM—AED DEMONSTRATION—DECEMBER 12TH

As part of our Wellness Program, we are receiving two defibrillation devices from our local Fire Department. As we know, these devices can help save lives. However, we also need to know how to use them effectively in the event of an emergency. On December 12th at noon, that's 12/12 at 12, there will be a representative from the Fire Department here to perform a demonstration on the use of these AED's. Everyone is welcome, no prior medical training required, and if you are currently serving as an elder or deacon and are available to attend, it would be highly encouraged and greatly appreciated. This event is part of our Wellness Program here at our church, and since this demonstration is from 12-1pm there will also be a delightfully delicious, as well as, a highly nutritious lunch provided. If you plan to attend, please contact the church office (407-647-1467). We hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING—DECEMBER 17TH

The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken next Sunday, December 17. This is one of the four annual PC(USA) Special Offerings taken every year. Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to an Advent Offering. Fifty percent of receipts from this offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses/families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related ethnic schools and colleges through the Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Please give generously to those who serve the church: past, present and future. Thank you. ~The Compassion Committee

CONCERT SERIES—DECEMBER 17TH

BASILICA CHOIR—MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

Please join us on Sunday, December 17th at 3pm for some beautiful Christmas holiday music. There is no charge for the concert, although donations will be accepted. A meet and greet with refreshments will be held after the concert.



FAVORITE HYMN

Do you have a favorite hymn you would like to hear in the New Year? Write it on the line below, tear it off and put it in the offering plate.

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LIVING NATIVITY—DECEMBER 22ND

Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with Living Nativity! Our poster is nearly full! For those who are helping with stage setup, we are planning to set up the stage area the morning of Saturday, Dec 16, from 8am to 12pm. For the actors (Mary/Joseph, Herod, Wise Men, shepherds and angels), we are planning to do a walkthrough of the performance from 1pm to 2pm that same day. If both of the above groups can be in attendance at those times, it will help us be prepared for a smooth performance. Please contact Steve House, 407-758-3613, with any questions, and stay tuned for more news! (P.S. We are still in need of one more wise man and one or two angels. These are non-speaking parts).

BLUE CHRISTMAS—DECEMBER 23RD

This is a time to remember and cherish the ones we love. We bring them home again to be with us at Christmas. Please join us on December 23rd at 4pm in the Chapel, where we will recognize our loss of friends, family, and our aloneness in this season.

WHITE SOCKS

Please bring NEW WHITE SOCKS and deposit them in the marked containers in the front office. We will be accepting the socks through the end of December. The Hannah Circle will be folding and packing them for the January Meal. The recipients of these socks are the people that come to the Coalition for the Homeless for an evening meal, or they are residents in the program. Our church has been doing this drive for over 20 years and have dispensed literally thousands of pairs of socks. It's hard to describe the joy and thanks that is expressed for these simple gifts.

COMING UP AT WPPC

- ◆ Toy Collection today in room 301; Toy delivery December 12
- ◆ Poinsettia order forms due December 14th
- ◆ Wellness Program-AED Demo at 12pm on December 12th
- ◆ Young at Heart at 2pm on Tuesday, December 12th
- ◆ Lesson & Carols Service at 10:30am on December 17th
- ◆ Basilica Choir Holiday Music at 3pm on December 17th
- ◆ Living Nativity 6:30-8pm on December 22nd
- ◆ Blue Christmas at 4pm on December 23rd
- ◆ Christmas Eve—10:30am (Traditional); 5pm (Family); 7pm (Candlelight)

Staff

- The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor
- The Rev. Dr. James A. Capps, Senior Adult Ministry Coordinator
- Justin Chase, Director of Music
- Penny Walsh, Organist
- Sandra Shafer, Pianist
- Scott Beck, Director of Handbells
- Carolyn Achenbach, Director of Operations/Accountant
- Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant
- Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant
- La'Shai Huff-Bichet, Children's Ministry Coordinator
- Wendy Stafford, Health Care Coordinator
- Nicole Fye, Director of Preschool Programs
- Adam Davies, Sexton



Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 10, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ORDER OF WORSHIP

* Please stand as you are able

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE • *An Advent Tapestry* - Wilson (10:30)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Wilderness living calls us to seek God in the voice that cries out.

“Valleys will be lifted up and mountains will be made low,”

to seek God in the sound of this One who peaks of peace.

“The day of the Lord is coming,”

to seek God in the loud noise that foretells what will be made new.

In the wilderness, let us listen only for God’s voice. Let us worship God!

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

RESPONSE • ***Light One Candle*** (Hymnal 85, Verse 2)

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

God our Savior—Your word shakes the wilderness, washes away evil, and causes all flesh to rejoice. Make us ready to greet You at the coming of Your holy realm; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

* HYMN 121 • ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

CALL TO CONFESSION

In Jesus Christ God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope let us make our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude Your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from You, away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way You have shown us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Continue with silent confession and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

* RESPONSE • ***Gloria from Angels We Have Heard on High***
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE • ***While We Are Waiting, Come*** (Hymnal 92)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Hosea 11:1-9

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8:31-39

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“IN THE GRIP OF LOVE” • The Rev. Dr. James A. Capps

* THE REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH - *Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Masters in This Hall* - arr. Purifoy (10:30)

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE ***Doxology*** (Sung to the tune of "Veni Emmanuel")

PRAYER OF DEDICATION 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.

* HYMN 159 • ***O Sing a Song of Bethlehem***

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE • *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies* - Tchaikovsky (10:30)

✠ SERVING TODAY ✠

OFFICIATING MINISTER: The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER: The Rev. Dr. James A. Capps, Sr Adult Min Coordinator

LITURGIST: Jim Esch (8:15); Steve House (10:30)

ADVENT LIGHTERS Margie Meliza (8:15)
Fred & Anne Murray, Matthew, Nicholas & Zachary MacDonald (10:30)

MUSICIANS: Sandra Shafer, Piano (8:15)
Justin Chase, Director of Music (10:30)
Penny Walsh, Organ; WPPC Ringers (10:30)

AUDIO/VISUAL: Carole Reece, Doug Reece, Nelson Roe & Carissa Taylor

✠ WORSHIP MATTERS ✠

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Ron & Carol Thompson. They wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

ANTHEM TEXT

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today brought from over sea, and ever I you pray: Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we clear! Blessed are all folk on earth, Born to us, God’s Son so dear! God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day. To save us all from Satan’s power when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy. This is Christ the Lord, Masters be ye glad! Christmas is come in, and no one should be sad: Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we clear. Blessed are all folk on earth, Born to us, God’s Son so dear! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell. From God our Heavenly Father, a blessed angel came. And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same. How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy! This is Christ the Lord, Masters, be ye glad!

MUSIC

Our CCLI License number is 11184426; OneLicense.net number is 725233; Our CVLI License number is 505405959.

WORSHIP AIDS

Assistive hearing devices are available from an audio/visual technician at the rear of the sanctuary.

✠ COMMUNICATION INFORMATION ✠

PASTORAL CARE

If you (or someone you know) are going through a difficult time, please reach out to us. Our Deacons and pastoral care staff are available for support, home and hospital visits, and prayer. Please contact Dr. Darren Bess at 407-647-1467 or darrenb@winppc.org. For pastoral emergencies when the church office is closed, call 407-647-1467 x 112.

PUBLICITY

If you have a church event that needs to be publicized in the church bulletin, newsletter, etc., please fill out the form located at <http://winppc.org/publicity-request/>.