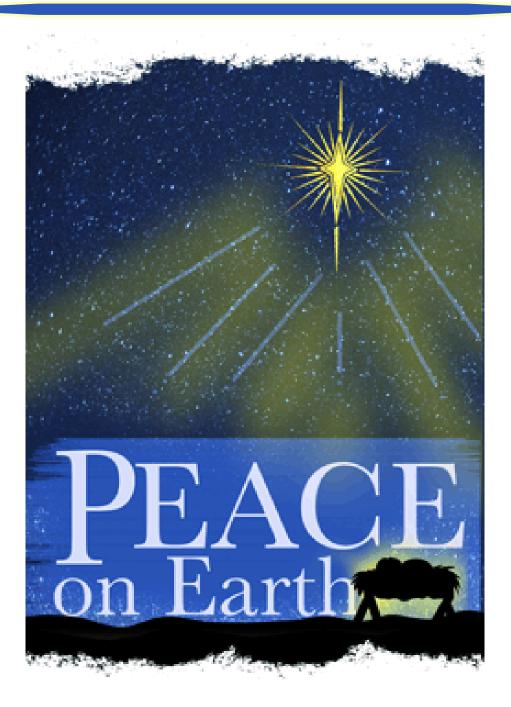




December 2024





Worship Services: 8:15 & 10:30 AM | Sunday School: 9:15 AM 400 S. Lakemont Avenue | Winter Park, FL 32792 | 407-647-1467 | www.winppc.org Newsletter Submissions: cindym@winppc.org DECEMBER

SUNDAY 1	MONDAY 2	TUESDAY 3	WEDNESDAY 4	THURSDAY 5	FRIDAY 6	SATURDAY 7
Communion Worship Svc. 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15-10:15am Children's Church 10:30am			Coalition Mix & Bake Brownies 9am/Kitchen WPPC Handbells 6pm, Rm 102 Chancel Choir 7:15pm, Sanctuary	Coalition Prepare Meal 9:30am/Kitchen Neighbors & Friends Outing 11:30am at Friendly Confines	Coalition Food Prep 9am/Kitchen Tai Chi 11:30am, FH Serve the Meal 3:30pm/FH-gather 4:00pm/Depart	
SUNDAY 8	MONDAY 9	TUESDAY 10	WEDNESDAY 11	THURSDAY 12	FRIDAY 13	SATURDAY 14
Toy Collection 8:15 & 10:30am Communion Worship Svc. 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15-10:15am Children's Church 10:30am	Tai Chi 11:30am, FH Hannah Circle Christmas Party 6pm, Parlor		WPPC Handbells 6pm, Rm 102 Chancel Choir 7:15pm, Sanctuary		Kid's Night Out Spm, FH	
SUNDAY 15	MONDAY 16	TUESDAY 17	WEDNESDAY 18	THURSDAY 19	FRIDAY 20	SATURDAY 21
Worship Svc. 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15-10:15am Children's Church 10:30am	Tai Chi 11:30am, FH	Young at Heart Chorale 2:30pm, Sanctuary	Kid's Night Out 5pm, FH WPPC Handbells 6pm, Rm 102 Chancel Choir 7:15pm, Sanctuary	Communion Svc Westminster WP Ilam Neighbors & Friends Il:30am, FH	Tai Chi I I:30am, FH Living Nativity 6:30-8pm	
SUNDAY 22	MONDAY 23	TUESDAY 24	WEDNESDAY 25	THURSDAY 26	FRIDAY 27	SATURDAY 28
Worship Svc. "Lessons & Carols" 10:30 am-Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15-10:15am Children's Church 10:30am	Tai Chi 11:30am, FH	Office Closes at Noon Christmas Eve 5pm-Family Svc 7pm-Candlelight Svc			Tai Chi I 1:30am, FH	
SUNDAY 29	MONDAY 30	TUESDAY 31				
Worship Svc. 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15-10:15am Children's Church 10:30am	Tai Chi 11:30am, FH	Office Closes at Noon				





Sometimes before we act, we need things to be perfect or at least our perception of perfection. God doesn't hesitate when it comes to acting on our behalf. That's one of the blessings of Advent as expressed in the following:

First Coming Madeleine L-Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready, till men and nations were at peace. He came when the Heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release. *He did not wait for the perfect time.* He came when the need was deep and great. He dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine. He did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy He came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt. To a world like ours, of anguished shame He came, and his light would not go out. He came to a world which did not mesh, to heal it's tangles, shield its scorn. In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born. We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our sings with joyful voice. For to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

In response, "we cannot wait," we must share love when the love of many is growing cold. We should build with peace even amid destruction and violence. We can't wait any longer to bring hope, even as an infectious nihilism seeks to consume the world. "He came with love," therefore, we can choose joy.

Grace, Peace, Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,



The wppc stalle wishes stalle wishes corrogone a very MERRY ustmas

Living Mativity

Friday, December 20 Two Performances 6:30 & 7:15 PM

* + Live Animals
Refreshments in Fellowship Hall
Candlelit Sanctuary



400 S. Lakemont Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32792 407-647-1467 WWW.WINPPC.ORG



Poinsettia Dudens	The Sanctuary will once again be decorated with beautiful poinsettias. The plants will be distributed to the sick and shut-ins, or you can pick up your plant after the 7pm Christmas Eve Service. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor/ memory of someone, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by December 16th. The cost for each poinsettia is \$15.		
I would like to purchase g (Qty)	poinsettia(s)		
Attached is my check in the amount of \$			
Donated by			
In Loving Memory of			
In Honor of			
In Appreciation of			

NE^IGHBORS & FRIENDS

Join the Neighbors & Friends Ministry for a special program.

Our own Director of Music, Justin Chase, will bring some of his Lake Nona High School singers for a musical presentation.

PROGRAM 11:30AM

LUNCH @ 12PM \$15.00

The students will join us around the tables as our guests. If you would like to purchase an extra meal for a student guest, you may do so as it will help offset our expenses. This is a wonderful opportunity to mix and mingle with the delightful students as we celebrate their gift of song and share our Christmas joy with them. As always, you are welcome to come for just the program or bring your own lunch.

DECEMBER 19TH

Reservations are due on December 16th and can be made by calling the church office at 407-647-1467 or by signing up on the bulletin board in the front hall. Please note that the program will be first at II:30 followed by the meal.

We look forward to seeing you there. Bring a Neighbor or a Friend to join us in celebrating the joy of Christmas. We also welcome an offering of canned meat that will be donated to our local food pantry.

THE N&F MINISTRY IS A PART OF THE COMMUNITY LIFE OUTREACH COMMITTEE. OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP THAT ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE CHRIST CENTERED INTERACTIONS. COME AND BE A PART OF THIS GROWING AND EXCITING MINISTRY AND DO REMEMBER TO BRING A NEIGHBOR OR FRIEND!

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.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

"Seekers" is an adult Sunday School Class that is presently meeting every Sunday at 9:15am in the Winter Park Presbyterian Church parlor. As the name implies we, as a group, seek to better understand God's word and to apply that understanding to our everyday lives. Our classes begin with a reading of the Bible, and are followed by a discussion. Members may choose to actively participate, or to just listen and observe. At this time, the members of the class are taking turns, on a voluntary basis, presenting the Bible lessons. Beginning the first week of December, we will study Matthew 22: 34-40, *Called to Love*. The second week of December we will study Luke 1:46-55, *Filled with Joy*. The third week we will look at John 1: 1-18, *The Word of God* and the final week of December we will examine Luke 2 :25-35, *Salvation is for Everyone*. We are using Cokesbury's Adult Bible Study and the Bible as our study guides. Everyone is welcome to join us, and we are looking forward to new members.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 THE SEASON OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

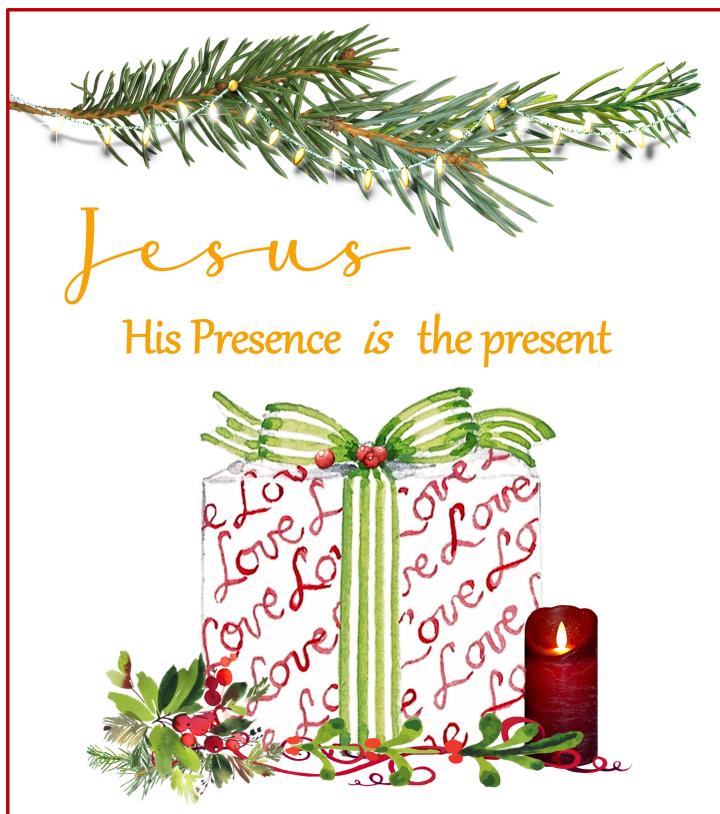
In a season when we are considering the perfect gift, the gift that says how much we know and love our family and friends—we are reminded of God's perfect gift to us. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. Jesus Christ was God's perfect gift.

During Advent we celebrate the gift of leaders—past, present and future—through the Christmas Joy Offering. Leaders greatly impact our faith, serving as models for our own journey of faith. We need well-equipped leaders for the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity. We want church leaders and their families who find themselves dealing with dire financial needs to receive assistance. For those leaders the Christmas Joy Offering is truly a gift from above. For those who give, your gift will be reminder of the One whose birth we celebrate, the one truly perfect gift.

Fifty percent of the offering received is sent to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, offering critical financial assistance for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

Fifty percent provides opportunities for education through Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color and leader-ship development efforts of the Racial Equity Office of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Christmas Joy Offering, which will be taken on Sunday, December 15. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! ~ *The Compassion Committee*



Merry Christmas to our Beloved Church Family the Deacons Below is the latest newsletter from Audrey Santiago with updated news on her recent trip to Ukraine and especially, news about Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation's 2024 Christmas Project.



November 17, 2024

Dear Friends,

The sights and sounds of Odesa welcome me home every time I go back: the golden onion domes of the churches, the train station, the tall steeple of the cathedral, the opera house, the Potemkin Staircase overlooking the port on the Black Sea, my little marketplace, the City Garden – all familiar sights among many others, accompanied by the beeping of horns, the clickety-clack of the trams on their tracks and the screeching of the brakes on the marshrutkas. Now, however, there are some new sounds added to the mix – air raid sirens, which are often followed by explosions.

We heard the sirens as we were getting ready for bed shortly after our arrival in Odesa, and they quickly became a regular part of our daily lives. The explosions were a bit more disconcerting, but as the days of our trip counted down, the explosions thankfully became fewer and fewer. We experienced a day without electricity, and another without water. We felt the weather become cooler and then downright chilly to this cold-sensitive Floridian. The city had not yet turned the heat on, prompting me to pile on layers of clothing in the house and even more layers outside, giving me flashbacks of my first winter in Odesa when I had no heat in my apartment.

Despite these reminders that there was a war going on around us, we had places to go and people to see, and we didn't let anything get in our way. Every day was busy with planning, preparing, meeting, shopping, and visiting with our teammates and families. There was so much to accomplish in so little time together. We met with each team member individually to listen, share, and problem-solve. We managed one big dinner together. Nearly three years of war have definitely taken a toll on our folks. We could see that they are simply exhausted from the stress and strain, yet they remain faithful to our mission of caring for orphans and vulnerable families and willingly pitch in to do whatever needs to be done.





A surprise meeting in Chisinau with Misha, house dad of our foster family in Germany.



Planning for Christmas was a main goal of this trip. Our Christmas Project this year will again benefit the orphans and vulnerable children and families in the village of Pishana and the surrounding villages. This fall, after a renovation of the orphanage's bomb shelter, the orphanage was given permission to have all the children return to the orphanage to live and to attend school classes there. While it may seem strange to be rejoicing to see children return to an orphanage, this is truly a blessing for these children. The previous four and a half years (two years of covid and two and a half years of war) sent the children back to the villages to live in less than ideal living conditions and meant little to no educational opportunity for the children. A return to the orphanage gives them the structure and schooling that they so need.

Please read on for a summary of our Christmas Project and opportunities for you to join in and help.

Christmas Project 2024 – Odesa, Ukraine

Christmas Packages (30 families/100 children)

Our team in Odesa will be purchasing and preparing everything needed for these packages and will mail them to the families in the villages prior to December 25 so that the families can enjoy them during the holidays. There are three parts to these packages:

- 1. Food staples and some special Christmas treats and food items will be given to each family. Each bag of food will cost about \$125.
- Warm clothing for the children a warm sweatshirt, pants, shoes, a hat and gloves will be provided for each of the children. This will cost \$50-\$75 per child.
- 3. Heavy duty, rechargeable flashlights will be purchased for each family, as well. Since Ukraine's electric grids have been heavily damaged, electricity is often absent for hours, and even days, at a time, and we anticipate this to continue throughout the winter. Flashlights are estimated to be about \$50 each.

Christmas Mini Camps

After the New Year, when all of the children will be on break from school and home with relatives, we will provide Christmas camps in each village where our children live. The camps will include a Christmas story skit, Christmas carols, crafts, games, snacks and small gifts. We will include neighborhood kids, and we've learned that some of the parents and grandparents like to join in the fun, too. We are planning 12 camps and estimate that each one will cost \$200 to cover gas, supplies, and gifts.

*Any donations we receive above and beyond the needs for these projects will be used as:

Christmas bonuses for our faithful staff, without whom these projects could not happen.

Food bags for the Pishana Orphanage staff who kindly work with us to allow us the opportunity to work with the children.

Ongoing support of our transition homes and continuing projects.

How to Donate to the Christmas Project

Checks may be written to:

Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation, Inc.

541 Evening Sky Drive -or-3530 Diamond Leaf Lane Oviedo, FL 32765

Oviedo, FL 32765

Online options to donate can be found on our website: www.transitionsoaf.org

In a few short weeks we will be celebrating the season of giving. But first, before we jump into the Christmas festivities, I want to take time to count my blessings: my family, my friends, my homes (both in America and in Ukraine), and for the opportunity to continue serving orphans and vulnerable families in Ukraine. And, of course, I count you among my blessings too, for your continuing love and support of all these good things that we do together. I give thanks with a grateful heart.

Happy Thanksgiving!

With gratitude and love, Audrey





COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS - Here's How to Help

Winter Park Presbyterian Church has been involved in a feeding ministry even before the Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless was created in 1987. We serve on the 1st Friday of each month. If you would like to donate your time to prepare the food during the week before the 1st Friday, please review the information below and contact the Team Leader listed. If you would like to serve, please sign up on the Coalition serving list posted in the hallway near the office, or contact Anna Caparis at 707-889-4768/annafromal@yahoo.com.

What	When
Bake brownies / Anna Caparis 707-889-4768	Wed 12/4 9:00-11:00 AM
Prepare meal / Anna Caparis 707-889-4768	Thurs 12/5 9:30-11:30 AM
Bag brownies / Wendy Jamison 407-739-7858	Fri 12/6 9:00-10:00 AM
Donate reading materials: Magazines for men, women, & children (news, cars, sports, National Geographic, religious magazines/booklets, paperback books)	All month: Place in COALITION giant storage box in Fellowship Hall.
Prepare to transport: Gather supplies, load food & supplies into bus Anna Caparis 707-889-4768	Fri 12/6 3:30-4:00 PM
Serve the Meal. Join us in the WPPC kitchen for departure to Coalition at 4:00PM and return by 7:00PM. Volunteers please wear closed-toed shoes; it is a violation of health code to wear flip-flops. Please sign up in office hallway <u>and</u> call Anna Caparis (707-889-4768) by the Wednesday before if you would like to serve. The Coalition requires each volunteer to register.	Fri 12/6 4:00-7:00 PM NOTE: The church bus is reserved for this function.
Cleanup kitchen: Wash, sanitize items used; store supplies	Fri 12/6 7:00-7:30 PM
Financial Donation : Make check out to WPPC; note on the memo line "Coalition for the Homeless" - mail to WPPC or bring to the church office.	Anytime

HOMELESS COALITION TEAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Each month about 40 devoted WPPC volunteers handle the many tasks to provide and serve a wonderful meal to our guests at the Coalition. We are in need of additional volunteers for various projects, and backup volunteers when regulars must be absent.

> Any of the above gifts, or your time, are so appreciated! To help in any way, please contact: Anna Caparis 707-889-4768 or <u>annafromal@yahoo.com</u>

Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida is a Compassion Committee Ministry.



<u>12/1</u> Lucy Martin

<u>12/3</u> Rene Cuthill Sara Woodward

<u>12/5</u> Beverly Tavel

<u>12/8</u> Terry Irwin Sylvia Reaves Dawn Sumrall John Trexler

<u>12/10</u> Reta Jackson Robert Walker <u>12/11</u> Linda Morse

<u>12/12</u> David Lee

<u>12/13</u> Berta Hall

<u>12/14</u> Alissa Mahoney Connie Swensk

> <u>12/15</u> Linda Beaty

<u>12/17</u> Melinda MacDade Ann McDonald

<u>12/18</u> Betty Gale Case

<u>12/19</u> Julie Kent Holly Small Stephen Smith

<u>12/23</u> Cynthia Nants

12/25

Jessica Conner William Darcy Julie Frazier Tasha Lampe

<u>12/26</u> Julie Rankin

<u>12/27</u>

Judy Mitchell Clark Ranson

l 2/<u>28</u> Howard Evans

<u>12/29</u> Gary Henderson Lil Rea Ellen Skelton

<u>12/31</u> Patrick LaRue Glenn Riccio Brandon St. John

<u>I/I</u> Rick Davis Tom Russell

<u>1/2</u> John Gehrig Claudia Hafich Carole Reece Audrey Santiago

<u>1/5</u> Nancy Johnson

> <u>1/6</u> Lucienne Lee

<u>1/9</u> Jo Davidson Johnnie McCarter Joe Workman

<u>1/17</u> Vicki Blanchfield

<u>1/18</u> Debbie Workman

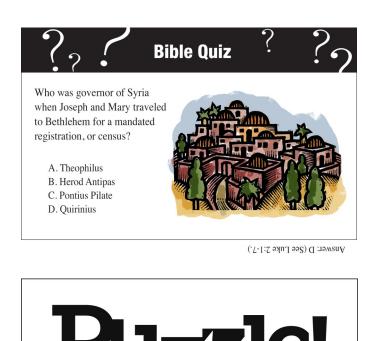
> <u>1/20</u> Meg Baldwin

<u>1/21</u> Lindsay Blood

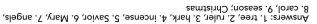
<u>1/24</u> Jean McGuire

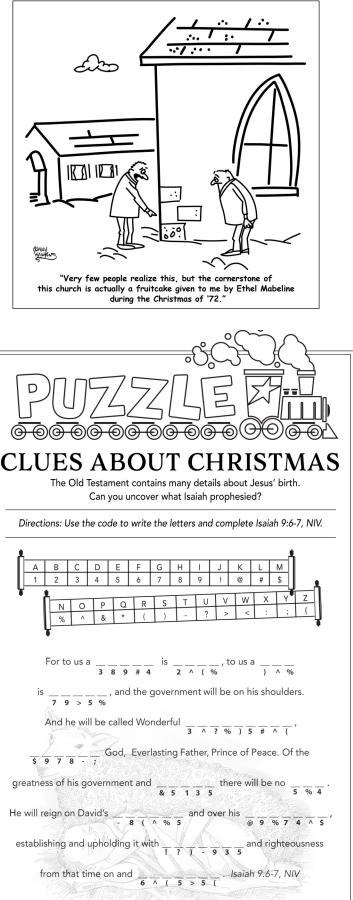
<u>1/26</u> Drew Byrne Rita Chasser Patricia Kiester

<u>1/28</u> Alyssa Kittinger Flo Tuck



Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle. Then jot down the first letter of each answer and unscramble those letters to form a word about this season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree. * * * CLUES 1. You trim this at Christmas. 2. One who governs 3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!" 4. You burn this to make the air sweet. 5. "For unto us is born this day a _ * 6. She was betrothed to Joseph. 7. Shepherds heard them sing. 8. A Christmas song to be jolly! 9. 'Tis the





Answers: child, born, son, given, Counselor, Mighty, peace, end, throne, kingdom, justice, forever

KED'S NEGHT OUT!

KARAOKE & DANCE PARTY EDITION!



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 2024 FROM 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

AGES 3 (POTTY TRAINED) -11 YEARS OLD

\$20 per child Dinner and snack will be provided!



Winter Park PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 400 S. Lakemont Ave. Winter Park, FL 32792

KED'S NEGHT OUT!

REGISTRATION

PLEASE SUBMIT PAYMENT WITH YOUR REGISTRATION. PAYMENT NEEDS TO BE MADE BY CHECK OR CASH. NO ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION IS AVAILABLE.

Сніг	AGE: LLERGIES: .D'S NAME: AGE:		- CHILD'S NAME AGE: _	•	
		PAREN	IT'S NAME:		
		E	MAIL:		
		CONTA	CT PHONE:		
	-	EMERGEN	NCY NUMBER:	-	
				_	



×	KID'S night out	举
	REGISTRATION	
•	Please submit payment with your re Payment needs to be made by cheo No online payment option is av	ck or cash.
A MARKEN	Child's name: Age: Allergies:	
	Child's name: Age: Allergies:	
	Child's name: Age: Allergies:	
	Parent's name: E-mail: Contact Phone: Emergency Number:	

DECEMBER

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR...

Our teachers, Ms. Fye, Ms. Valerie, church members and our surrounding community for helping us with Fall Festival. It was a huge success. It is always great to see families and the community coming together for fellowship, fun and an amazing performance by the Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool children.

November was so full of things to be grateful for and we are filled with so much gratitude.

December has quickly

approached and we love to share the good news of Jesus and are welcoming you to our Christmas Program where the message of the Lord along with songs sang by our preschoolers will touch and brighten your heart.

We are so grateful your family is a part of our preschool family! And we are thankful that you have chosen to share your precious children with us. Blessings to you all during the holidays.



DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Breakfast with Santa - 12/9 & 12/10

Christmas Program - 12/18 & 12/22

Baby DJ Toy Drive - 12/2-12/20



"Give thanks in all circumstance; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18













The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. James A. Capps, 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 Valerie Beltrán, Children's Ministry Coordinator Wendy Stafford, Health Care Coordinator Adam Davies, Sexton Nicole Fye, Director of Preschool Programs Rosaura Velazques, Assistant Director of Preschool Programs Katie Daniels, Preschool Administrative Assistant

SESSION

<u>2024</u>

Mike Galyean John Gehrig Jayne Leach Audrey Santiago Sara Van Arsdel

<u>2025</u>

Theresa Coker Mary Ferguson Cathy House Glenn Riccio Ron Thompson

<u>2026</u>

Syd Davis Betty Johnston Shaheed Mohammed Nelson Roe

DIACONATE

2024 Lisa Dreasher Jerry Fitzgerald Nancy Galyean Andy Riccio

<u>2025</u>

Meg Baldwin Anna Caparis Lynne McKnight Debbie Pauzar Deborah Roberts

2026 Ernestine Beattie Sue Howard

MISSIONARIES

Mark Hare & Jenny Bent - Costa Rica Dr. Dan & Elizabeth Turk - Madagascar

For Covenanter or Sunday bulletin submissions, please fill out a publicity request online at http://winppc.org/publicity-request/ or contact Cindy Mitchum at cindym@winppc.org or 407-647-1467.