

December 2024 Newsletter

West Alexander Presbyterian Church
108 Main Street, PO Box 303, West Alexander PA 15376

Phone: 724-484-7542 Office hours M, W, F 8am-1pm

Website: www.wapresbyterianchurch.org

Facebook group : West Alexander Presbyterian Church Family and Friends

Church Administrator Email: wapc-admin@comcast.net



This Month's Message

As we approach the Season of Christ's Birth, we welcome you.

December 1-First Sunday of Advent-Message by Kable Dale

December 8-Second Sunday of Advent-Message by Tom Zambori

December 15-Third Sunday of Advent-Message by Sarah Angelo

December 22-Fourth Sunday of Advent-Message by Kable Dale

December 24-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm-Message by Kable Dale

*"For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.*

*He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.*

*The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this."*

Isaiah 9: 6-7



Opportunities to learn and grow with others

Adult Friendship Class —Choir Room 9:30 am

Adult Praying Hearts Group— Fellowship Hall 9:30 am

Children's Christian Education —Youth Room 9:30 am



THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Clerk of Session - Jane Noble

Trustees Chairman— Dwight Hunter

2024

The Session- Lynne Glessner, Mary Lea Dutton, Jane Noble,
Chris Teagarden, Bob Morgan, Dianna Smith

The Deacons - Candi Noble-Greathouse, Bethany Greathouse,
Beverly Philabaum

The Trustees - Dwight Hunter, Dennis Dutton

2025

The Session— Louis Winters, Karen Johnson, BobiJo McCuen

The Deacons- Kathy Morgan, CeCe Burig

The Trustees- Helen Buckholt, Dick Burig, Will Noble

2026

The Deacons— Gino Delbert, Lee Ann Delbert, Kathy Strawn

The Trustees— Lee Rodgers, Barb Rodgers, Michele Buckholt

Addresses for Shut-ins & Military

Martha McAdoo

Visit:

Presbyterian Sr. Care,
Southmont
Washington, PA 15301

*Correspondence to:
163 Crawford Road
Fredericktown, PA15333

Major Garrett Hunter
Address currently unknown

Nancy Gashel
Greenery Rehabilitation
2000 Hill Church-Houston
Road, Room 121
Canonsburg, PA 15317



Remember in Prayer

To request prayer by the church, call or email the church office at wapc-admin@comcast.net or 724-484-7542. Praying Hearts Christian Education Class will receive your request and honor it. Also, Elder Jane Noble, Clerk of Session, 304.639.9148, and Deacon Kathy Morgan, 724.255.1845, welcome your prayer requests. Please tell us if your request is to be held in confidence or included in the Prayers for the People in morning worship.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY AND USE OF THE ADVENT WREATH?

The Advent wreath visually marks the time leading up to Christmas and symbolizes the increasing light as Christ draws near to us. The use of such wreaths began as a family devotional practice in German homes in the 1600s. Widespread liturgical use only dates back to the middle of the 20th century.

Each of the four purple candles around the periphery of the wreath marks one of the Sundays in Advent; the white Christ candle in the center is lit on Christmas Eve. The *Book of Common Worship* (165-166) provides scripture readings to accompany the lighting of each candle.

Some Advent wreaths include a pink candle. This custom can be traced to medieval practice that set aside the third Sunday in Lent (and later, Advent) as an occasion of joy and a respite from the rigors of the penitential season.

Over the years, some have attached particular interpretations to individual candles, such as shepherds, angels, wise men and Mary; or hope, faith, love and joy. Far more important than any direct correlation of candle to a special meaning, however, is our growing celebration of Jesus' birth and anticipation of Christ's coming again.



The Season of *Advent*
READING PLAN

Hope

- ∅ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ∅ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ∅ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ∅ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ∅ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ∅ Day 6: Titus 2:11-3:8

Joy

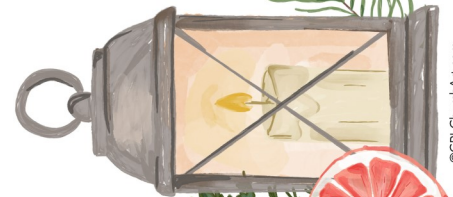
- ∅ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ∅ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ∅ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ∅ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ∅ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ∅ Day 18: John 15:1-11

Peace

- ∅ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ∅ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ∅ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ∅ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ∅ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ∅ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

Love

- ∅ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ∅ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ∅ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ∅ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ∅ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ∅ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
- ∅ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10



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The Friendship Sunday School class will be reading and discussing the book **Stay Awhile Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality** by Kara Eidson.

Advent is a season of preparation that—like our holiday gatherings themselves—takes time and care. Think of the anticipation that comes with hosting loved ones for Christmas dinner: We begin by extending an invitation. We make plans, and as the event draws closer, we begin our preparations. Ultimately, we open the door and welcome our guests, and that is when, finally, we celebrate. Advent should feel the same way, a time to make ready for the long-awaited event of Christ’s birth.

In *Stay Awhile*, pastor Kara Eidson presents a banquet table of inspiration for Advent, including weekly reflections for personal use and brief daily devotions.

We invite all to join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for this most special season!!

The Birth of Jesus

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

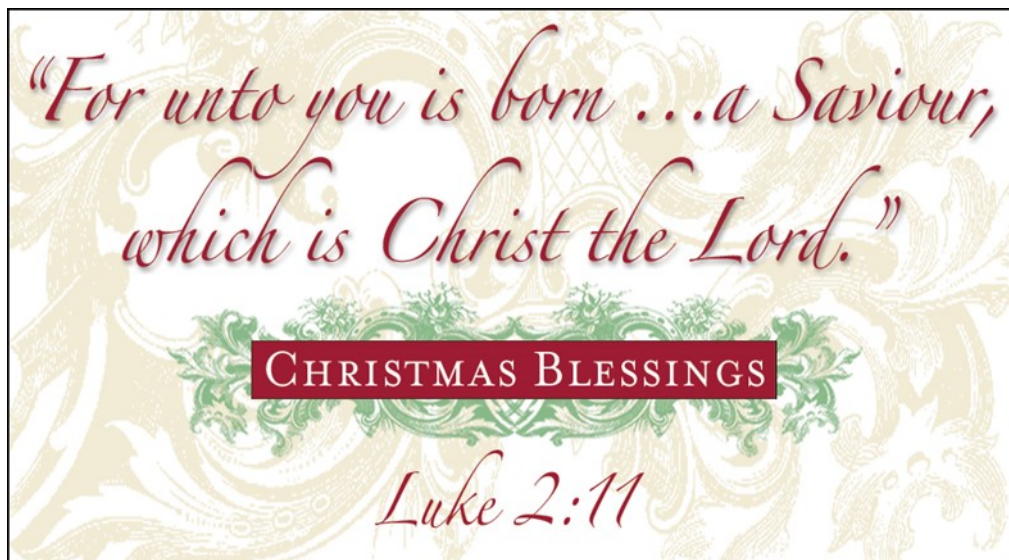
13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”



Luke 2:1-20



The Donegal Township Community Outreach

wants to invite you to a special *Help-Yourself* event on **Saturday, December 21 from 11am till 3pm** at the West Alexander Township Building (formerly the grade school) for an opportunity to find items you or your family may need this Christmas season. This event will take place in the old gymnasium and is a come-as-you-are gathering.

Here is a list of items that may be available

- Clothing of all sizes for all ages
- Toys, Stuffed Animals, and Books
- Household Items (blankets, pillows, sheets, dishware, tools, brooms, mops, decorations)
- Coats, Hats, Gloves, Shoes of all sizes and for all ages
- Specialties- Hygiene Items (all new and unopened)

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jacob Judy of the West Alexander United Methodist Church at (724) 484-9230. If you do not reach him directly, please leave a message stating you are calling regarding the *Help Yourself Event* and provide the best number to give you a call back at.



Yearly Giving Report

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." Proverbs 3: 9-10
"A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, is the Lord's, and is holy."
Leviticus 27: 30

As part of our yearly budget we designate approximately 10% of our income per month to identified charities. Here is a list of the donations made for the year 2024:

January: West Alexander Volunteer Fire Department

February: Ramps of Grace

March: Pine Springs Camp

April: Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus

May: Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus

June: Scherich Missionaries

July: Andrew & Heather Grice Nelson Missionaries

August: Village Missions Ministries, which equips and sends full-time pastors to congregations across North America.

September: Presbyterian Disaster Relief to benefit hurricane victims in Asheville, NC

October: Kairos Prison Ministry

November: Ethiopian Literacy Project through the Presbyterian Church USA

December: Asheville Hurricane Relief

Mission/Evangelism Committee



Dec 1	Robert Wheat Jr.
Dec 8	Cathie Laird
Dec 12	Loralie Snyder
Dec 21	William Stollar



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

COME JESUS, COME

Sudden earthquakes are fearful, shocking events. The Bible teaches that when the feet of Jesus descend to the Mount of Olives at the Second Coming, an earthquake will split open the ridge, producing great topological changes to Jerusalem and Israel. The second coming of Jesus Christ is real. Wait for the Lord with anticipation.



ETHIOPIA CHILDREN'S LITERACY PROJECT

Each year we participate in the Pumpkins for Ethiopia. The funds from this project are used by our sister presbytery to start up schools. If the new school is successful for two years, the government will begin funding the program. Due to the summer drought and some schedule problems, there were no pumpkins. At the mini Thanksgiving dinner we set out a pumpkin basket for any donations. The response was overwhelming. We will be sending \$1549.00 to help start more schools

On Sunday, November 17 we celebrated a mini-Thanksgiving dinner. A full turkey dinner was provided by the Willing Hands. There was a table of desserts set out by our many wonderful bakers. Church members invited family and friends to attend and everyone had a great time of good food and fellowship. Thanks to all that made the day a fun time for all.



1	9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship	2		3		4	AA Meeting 6pm	5		6		7	Community Christmas Parade 4pm
8	9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship	9	Trustees Meeting 6pm	10	Deacon's Meeting 7pm	11	AA Meeting 6pm Truck to Trunk 9-11am	12		13		14	
15	9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship	16		17		18	AA Meeting 6pm	19		20		21	Community Outreach Help Your Self Event Twp. Building 11am-3pm
22	9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship	23		24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm	25	Christmas Day	26		27		28	
29	9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship	30		31									



December 2024 Lectionary Readings

Sunday, December 1
First Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 1:1-9
2 Pet. 3:1-10
Matt. 25:1-13

Monday, December 2
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 1:10-20
1 Thess. 1:1-10
Luke 20:1-8

Tuesday, December 3
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 1:21-31
1 Thess. 2:1-12
Luke 20:9-18

Wednesday, December 4
Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 2:1-4
1 Thess. 2:13-20
Luke 20:19-26

Thursday, December 5
Morning: Pss. 18:1-20; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 2:5-22
1 Thess. 3:1-13
Luke 20:27-40

Friday, December 6
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 3:1-4:1
1 Thess. 4:1-12
Luke 20:41-21:4

Saturday, December 7
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 4:2-6
1 Thess. 4:13-18
Luke 21:5-19

Sunday, December 8
Second Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 5:1-7
2 Pet. 3:11-18
Luke 7:28-35

Monday, December 9
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 5:8-17
1 Thess. 5:1-11
Luke 21:20-28

Tuesday, December 10
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 5:18-25
1 Thess. 5:12-28
Luke 21:29-38

Wednesday, December 11
Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 6:1-13
2 Thess. 1:1-12
John 7:53-8:11

Thursday, December 12
Morning: Pss. 18:1-20; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 7:1-9
2 Thess. 2:1-12
Luke 22:1-13

Friday, December 13
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 7:10-25
2 Thess. 2:13-3:5
Luke 22:14-30

Saturday, December 14
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 8:1-15
2 Thess. 3:6-18
Luke 22:31-38

Sunday, December 15 Third
Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 13:1-13
Heb. 12:18-29
John 3:22-30

Monday, December 16
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 8:16-9:1
2 Pet. 1:1-11
Luke 22:39-53

Tuesday, December 17
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 9:2-7
2 Pet. 1:12-21
Luke 22:54-69

Wednesday, December 18
Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 11:1-9
Eph. 6:10-20
John 3:16-21

Thursday, December 19
Morning: Pss. 18:1-20; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 11:10-16
Rev. 20:1-10
John 5:30-47

Friday, December 20
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 28:9-22
Rev. 20:11-21:8
Luke 1:5-25

Saturday, December 21
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 29:9-24
Rev. 21:9-21
Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 22
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 31:1-9
Rev. 21:22-22:5
Luke 1:39-48a (48b-56)

Monday, December 23
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 33:17-22
Rev. 22:6-11, 18-20
Luke 1:57-66

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 132; 114
Isa. 35:1-10
Rev. 22:12-17, 21
Luke 1:67-80

Wednesday, December 25
Christmas Day
Morning: Pss. 2; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 98; 96
Zech. 2:10-13
1 John 4:7-16
John 3:31-36

Thursday, December 26
Morning: Pss. 116; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 119:1-24; 27
2 Chr. 24:17-22
Acts 6:1-7
Acts 7:59-8:8

Friday, December 27
Morning: Pss. 34; 148
Evening: Pss. 19; 121
Prov. 8:22-30
1 John 5:1-12
John 13:20-35

Saturday, December 28
Morning: Pss. 2; 149
Evening: Pss. 110; 111
Isa. 49:13-23
Isa. 54:1-13
Matt. 18:1-14

Sunday, December 29 First
Sunday of Christmas
Morning: Pss. 96; 150
Evening: Pss. 132; 97
Isa. 62:6-7, 10-12
Heb. 2:10-18
Matt. 1:18-25

Monday, December 30
Morning: Pss. 93; 145
Evening: Pss. 89:1-18; 89:19-52
Isa. 25:1-9
Rev. 1:19-20
John 7:53-8:11

Tuesday, December 31
Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 45; 96
Isa. 26:1-6
2 Cor. 5:16-6:2
John 8:12-19



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West Alexander PA 15376

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THE MOST POPULAR CHRISTMAS
HYMN

"Silent Night," written by Mohr in Germany in 1816 and put to music two years later by Gruber, is the most recorded Christmas song in the modern era of the holiday's substantial body of work.

Lyrics:

[Verse 1]

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

[Verse 2]

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

[Verse 3]

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth