



North Warren Presbyterian Church

200 S. State Street, Warren, Pennsylvania † phone (814) 723-5060

Winter 2020-2021

Rev. Burfoot S.
(Buddy) Ward, III
Pastor



Rick Blumquist
Worship Team
Director



Kathy Whittemore
Treasurer



Anne Ward
Youth Coordinator



Gloria Lindell
Clerk of Session



Sandy Ransom
President of
Deacons



Gary Olson
President of
Trustees



The Congregation
Ministers of
The Gospel



"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." — Luke 2:4-6, (RSV)

A Sunday School teacher once decided to supervise the construction of a manger scene in the corner of her classroom to help the children in the class learn about the Christmas story. The children worked very hard on the project using cardboard refrigerator boxes to make a stable, straw to use for the hay, and a simple little wooden doll crib as the manger. The children all dressed up in Bible costumes to play the different characters: the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, the sheep and the oxen. It fascinated the children, one especially. The teacher asked this little ten-year-old, "What is it? Why are you so taken with the nativity? Is there something that bothers you?" With his eyes still glued to the scene, the little fellow asked, "What I'd like to know is: Where does God fit in?"

You know something, more and more of us look at the commercial nature of our modern day Christmas celebration and wonder to ourselves, "Where does God fit in?" What is Christ's place in this season's festivities? It seems that the celebration has replaced the celebrity! Why, it has even become unacceptable under some conditions for Jesus' name to even be used with reference to this very holy day. It reminds me of one scene in Barbara Robinson's delightful story, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, where a question arises over what to name the Christ child. One little boy offered the names found in Isaiah, "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." One of the other children, Imogene Herdman, spoke up and said, "He'd never get out of the first grade if he had to learn how to write all of that!" Like Imogene, too many of us are too quick to be willing to simplify the Christmas story and ignore the full magnitude of just who this little baby really is! HE IS GOD, and as God, our Lord Jesus deserves the respect we should afford the creator of the universe! Oh sure, not everyone believes in Jesus, and they are entitled to their own beliefs; but, that doesn't mean we should have to downplay our beliefs. We have the right and responsibility to proclaim the Good News of Christ's birth and what it means to our world, especially during this very troubling time we are in! Jesus Christ is the "Prince of Peace," and peace is just what we need in the midst of this pandemic.

So, my friends, let's be bold with our faith and proclaim with confidence the real meaning of Christmas. You may be surprised just how receptive some people may be to God's Good News. The world needs some "Good News" and people all around the world are "hungry" for a deeper meaning to life and when we share Jesus in a positive, non-apologetic way, people will be encouraged by just how real the Lord is to His followers!



**Join Us for an
IN PERSON
Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Communion
Worship Service
on Thursday,
December 24th
at 7:00 PM**

The service will be streamed live on our Facebook page and be available on our website as well as by email for those who are unable to join us in person.

December 2020

Lay Leaders

Dec 6 Ruth Morrison
13 Bill Gross
20 Mark Ash
24 Anne Ward
27 Gloria Lindell

Greeters

Dec 6 Jim Reese
13 Gloria Lindell
20 Ivy Whilton
24 Ken Bakewell
27 Bill Gross

Sound Booth

Dec 6 Rick Blumquist
13 Jim Ashbaugh
20 Hayden Turner
24
27 Teresa Blumquist

Nursery - Adults

Dec 6 Nancy Bullock
13 Chris Case
20 Melissa Turner
24
27 Nancy Bullock

Sanctuary Flowers

Advent Decorations & Poinsettias

Ushers

Nancy Bullock
Nancy Grinnen
Bill Ransom

Elders usher on Christmas Eve

Hospital Visitor

Chris Case

After Church Coffee

Presently, we are not holding Coffee Hour.
If this changes, we will list in the bulletin

Anniversaries

Dec 29 Andrew & Caroline Benson

Birthdays

Dec 01 Kate McClellan
04 David Swartz
09 Burt Ward
10 Shawn Jones
10 Wyatt Trojanowski
11 Kinsley Little
12 Brett McElhatten
13 Jillian Busby
13 Julia Claypoole
13 Marian Hartman
15 Melani Decker
16 Milee Evans
16 Arabella Keefer
18 Elizabeth McPherson
19 Alexa Guiley
20 Nancy Bullock
20 Ava Curry
20 Josh McLean
21 Jim Ashbaugh
24 Sam McKown
25 Garrett Fiscus
26 Ellen Nelson
27 Cale Ash
27 Judy McElhatten
28 Jim Fiscus
30 Winter Evans
30 Elyzza Linkerhof
30 Layton Ricketts
30 Madelyn Nelson
31 Laura Megill

Christmas Eve Communion Servers

Jim Ashbaugh
Nancy Bullock
Marian Hartman
Gary Olson
Joe Poston
Jim Reese



Christmas Eve Candlelight

Communion Service

Thursday, December 24th at 7:00 pm. In Person and Live Streamed on our Facebook page.

This year may be a little different, but even the COVID-19 Pandemic can't stop us from worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ, and celebrating our Savior's birth. We will still be having our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 24th. We will meet all CDC and state mandates for our "in person" gathering, which include the wearing of masks. So, if you are able please come and join your friends and neighbors for a celebration of Jesus' birth as we worship together with carols, special music, and the telling of the timeless story of how God's love was sent to earth to save this world. As part of the evening's worship we will join together in sharing the Lord's Supper with individual, separate juice and bread, along with a personal "flameless" candles so that proper social distancing can be maintained while we join in Silent Night. No one will need to remove their mask to blow out their candle,

and everyone will get to keep their own individual "flameless" candle to take home with them. Rev. Ward's message for the evening is titled "Christmas Pics" taken from Luke 2:1-14. If you are not able to join us in person, the service will be streamed live on our Facebook page, and later posted on our website and sent out via email. Those celebrating at home are encouraged to provide their own juice and bread for communion, and a candle for the candlelight service.

Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you!

Anne and Buddy Ward would like to express their heartfelt thanks for all the wonderful gifts they received for Pastor Appreciation this past fall. Buddy says that, "we are truly blessed to be part of such a loving and caring congregation that makes some of the best pies in the world!"

The Ward family would also like to ask God's Blessing on you and your family this Christmas and in the coming year! "May your Christmas and 2021 be filled with the wonder of God's gift to the world, God's Divine Son, Jesus Christ!" In the loving name of our Savior, Anne & Buddy Ward :-)



News from the Pews



Winter 2020-2021

Note from the Deacons

The Board of Deacons thanks the congregation for donating turkeys to fill the Thanksgiving boxes. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

The Salvation Army Christmas gift “Treasures Tags” are available for selection by interested church members. The gifts must be returned to the church by Sunday, December 6. This will give the Deacons time to sort and repack them for each child for the Salvation Army.

The Christmas season is a joyful time for most of us, but others have no extra money for gift giving or buying adequate food for their holiday table. Please contact one of our Deacons if you know someone in our congregation or community that needs assistance. The Christmas Eve offering is an appropriate time for giving so the Deacons can say “yes” when calls for help are made to us.

Merry Christmas from
The Board of Deacons



Reminder

Don't forget to pick up your poinsettia after the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service.

Sunday School

Christmas Pageant

The Christian Ed committee discussed ideas for a Sunday School Christmas Pageant. We will make a video of short segments, including all the classes. It will be available on the NWPC Facebook page.

Our hope is to start with a song played by the Qadosh bell choir. Moving to the downstairs classroom, each volunteer will say “Hi” and share their thoughts of the season.

The Nursey class and the Primary class will sing songs. The boys in middle school will read the standard Christmas story. The upstairs adult class will have volunteers share their thoughts. The video will end with another song from the bells.

We hope you enjoy seeing some familiar faces.

Ladies Luncheon

Prayer Group

The ladies will be meeting in Fellowship Hall on December 10 at 12:30 pm with Marcia McKown and Sally Clark as hostesses. The meal and dessert will be provided.

Just a reminder, there will be NO luncheon in January.



Women's Bible Study

December 2020 we will study

The Parable of the Good Samaritan
on Video with Right Now Media

Interruptions are annoying. There's no getting around it. We make plans expecting to follow through on them, but God sees interruptions differently. Whether they come in the form of a man bloodied on the side of the road or a child or spouse asking for our time, God allows interruptions in our life to deepen our spiritual walk.

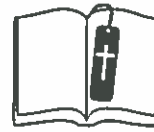
As we study one of Jesus's most famous parables, that's the truth that will echo from beginning to end. The Parable of the Good Samaritan is a striking reminder that people are always more important than our plans and that we display our love for Christ most vividly by loving those around us. Pastor Jamin Roller will help us see not only what neighborly love looks like, but also how God has demonstrated that kind of love to us through his Son, Jesus Christ.

No book to buy, this is a short study. We will begin a new study in January. Any questions please see Gloria Lindell.

NEW Women's Bible Study

begins January 2021

The Gospel of Mark from Right Now Media with Francis Chan



The Gospel of Mark chronicles Jesus's journey from Galilee to Jerusalem.

Along the way, the Messiah gathers a ragged band of disciples. As crowds grow and dwindle on the road to Jerusalem, only a few stick by the Suffering Savior on the road of discipleship.

In this 11-part series on the Gospel of Mark, author and speaker Francis Chan invites us to walk with him along the ancient ways of the Master. Tracing the steps of Jesus and the Twelve through Israel, Francis explores the major themes of the Gospel of Mark and asks: Are we willing to take this journey to embrace discipleship?

No books to purchase for this study, if interested let Gloria Lindell know, but anyone is welcome to join at any time during this series.

Jan 4 – Mark 1:1-13

Jan 18 – Mark 1:14-45

Feb 1 – Mark 2:1-3:6

Feb 15 – Mark 3:7 – 4:34



News from the Pews



Winter 2020-2021

Sanctuary Flowers

The Flower Committee has been busy making phone calls to confirm the dates for 2021. Some people have decided not to continue providing flowers on Sunday mornings and others have changed dates.

If you would like to be added to the list, please contact Marcia McKown.

Open dates for 2021 are April 18, May 16, and June 6.

Parking Reminder

With winter upon us, we once again ask you to leave the few parking spaces on Church Street for those with mobility issues and keeping the handicapped spot by the door available unless you need it. Please take advantage of the parking lot on Sunday mornings.

Winter Address

If you are going south for the winter, please notify the church office of your temporary address and when you are leaving. Also, let us know before you plan to return so we can switch back to your home address.

Thank you.

Crystal Claus' Corner

Mrs. Claus will not be able to make her yearly visit to the Warren Library, but her elves made 10 different recordings of her sharing holiday stories and such.

Starting December 1st, the library will post three festive recordings per week on their Facebook page, ending with one story the week of Christmas.

Mrs. Claus also has coloring pages to correspond to each week's readings, which can be picked up at the entrance to the library's Children's Department starting in December.

Halloween in the Park

Our Halloween celebration looked a little differently this year, but everything has been adjusted in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We passed out bags of candy to the trick or treaters, but were unable to give away hotdogs and coffee.

We held a costume contest and the kids participated in a scavenger hunt. Thank you to everyone who came out and made this such a fun evening. Also a very big thank you to all the candy donations. It is much appreciated.



Anniversaries

Jan 18 David & Sandra Lee

Birthdays

Jan 4 Hayden Lilley
5 Kathryn Olson
7 Kyle Phinney
9 Daphne DePoole
10 Deklon Stiteler
10 Ivy Whilton
11 Sofi Frankson
11 Charles Luck
13 Kathy Whittemore
14 Taylor Swanson
15 Shawn Billman
16 Avalynn Swanson
16 Harrison Williams
18 Adam McCoy
20 Alex Ferry
22 Carol Pusateri
23 Al Brumagin
23 William Swartz
24 John Caito
24 Alicia Trojanowski
25 Cindy Fiscus
27 Skyler Lester
29 Elizabeth Goodwill

Hospital Visitor

Tricia Poston

Sound Booth

Jan 3 Kelley Wood
10 Rick Blumquist
17 Jim Ashbaugh
24 Hayden Turner
31 Teresa Blumquist

Sanctuary Flowers

Jan 3 Kathy Whittemore
10 Caroline Benson
17 Lois Marshall
24 Bryan & Lynn Olsen
31 Barb Hoehn

Birthdays

Feb 1 Kevin Billman
1 Parker Kiser
2 Charlie Jones
3 Addison Grant
4 Cori Dunagan
4 Addison Lilley
5 Nova Gustafson
6 Shirley Betts
8 Jill Lester
8 Madelyn Nordstrom
10 Randy Jones
10 Heidi Swanson
10 Buddy Ward
13 Emma Campbell
13 Jaylene Swanson
13 Adam Yeager
17 Lynn Olsen
18 Ron Davies
19 Matt Tower
20 Madalynn Campbell
20 Jerry Lester
21 Nyssa Brumagin
21 Jim LaRusch
22 Justin Slack
23 Janet Maze
23 Penny Wolboldt
25 Susan Stout
26 Teresa Blumquist
26 Heather Nelson

Hospital Visitor

Denise Cederquist

Sanctuary Flowers

Feb 7 Penny Wolboldt
14 Jim & Ruth Morrison
21 Mark & Sheryl Ash
28 Bullock family

Sound Booth

Feb 7 Kelley Wood
14 Rick Blumquist
21 Jim Ashbaugh
28 Hayden Turner



North Warren Presbyterian Church
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Church Office Hours
Tuesday 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Thursday & Friday 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

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Christmas Eve Prayer



Loving God, help us remember, the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen