



North Warren Presbyterian Church

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

Winter 2024-2025

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



Chris McClellan
Qadosh Bells
Director



Kathy Whittemore
Treasurer



Amanda Knopf
Clerk of Session



Bill Gross
President of
Deacons



Gary Olson
President of
Trustees



The Congregation
Ministers of
The Gospel



Pastor's Corner

“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.”

— Luke 2:7 (NIV)

With Christmas just around the corner, it is time for us to be turning our thoughts toward the Nativity of our Lord Jesus. But as I write this, my last Christmas “Pastor’s Corner” for you as your pastor, I find myself pressed for time and wondering how I will get it all done! I haven’t even started to think about all I have to do for Christmas, much less having time to celebrate the birth of Jesus! So, on this very busy day for all of us, since you are already sitting there reading our newsletter, let me invite you to take a few moments with me and consider the wonderful gift from God we have in the Nativity of our Lord.

The birth of Jesus (nativity means birth), is one of the best-known accounts in the Bible. It begins with the Annunciation (Luke 1), where the Archangel Gabriel brings a message to the young maiden Mary. Gabriel tells her that she will become pregnant even though she is a virgin, and that her son is the Son of God. Later the angel also gave Joseph a message, assuring him that Mary’s child was the result of a miraculous conception so that Joseph would not be tempted to put her away as was the custom of the time. When Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to be enrolled in the census that had been ordered by Caesar Augustus, there was no guest room available for them and they had to stay in a stable. It was there that Jesus was born, and Mary wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in the food trough for the stable animals. Meanwhile out in some nearby fields an angel appeared to the shepherds who were minding their flocks to give them the glorious news that the Savior, Christ the Lord, had been born!

The Nativity still strikes a cord in our hearts, making us long for a day when the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, of that first Christmas will come to reality in this world of despair, violence, sadness, and hatred. The birth of Jesus has been the subject of thousands of works of art and songs through the centuries, and many familiar Christmas carols, like “Silent Night” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” pop into our heads at this time of year, taking us back to the events in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. Friends, don’t let the busyness of this holiday steal from you the true meaning of the Nativity! For there is more laying in that manger than just a tiny baby, there is more to Christmas than tinsel and holly; this baby, and this season, embody the very Love of God for we who are God’s Creation!

Anne and I would like to thank each and every one of you who have supported us and our family over the years. We will sorely miss you, and will always think of you with every passing Christmas we celebrate until the day of our Lord’s return. As a way of thanking you for all of these Christmases we have shared together, the Ward family would like to invite you to one last Christmas Party from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm on December 22nd. It will be just like the Open Houses we had before COVID 19 (even trains and Wassail), except this one will be in Fellowship Hall so that those with accessibility issues will still be able to attend. Please plan on dropping in!

Merry Christmas! May God Bless you and your family this Christmas and in the coming year,

Buddy & Anne Ward

Children’s Christmas Party

Saturday, December 21st
from 10 am - 12 noon

Children’s Christmas Program

Sunday, December 22nd
11:00 am in Sanctuary

Ward Family Christmas Party

Sunday, December 22nd
from 4:30 - 7:00 pm
in Fellowship Hall

Christmas Eve Candlelight

Communion Service
Tuesday, December 24th
at 7:00 pm



Christmas Eve Candlelight

Communion Service

You and your family are invited and encouraged to attend our special Christmas Eve candlelight and communion service at 7:00 pm on Tuesday December 24, to celebrate our Savior's birth. We will 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 your choice of a personal "flameless" candle or a more traditional open flame while we join in singing Silent Night. Rev. Ward's message for the evening is titled "*Light over Darkness*," as the final part of his service titled: "Announcing Christ's Coming" taken from Isaiah 9:2-7. If you are not able to join us in person, the service will be streamed live on our Facebook page with a later posting on our website. Those celebrating at home are encouraged to provide their own juice and bread for communion, and a candle for the candlelight service.

Sunday School Pageant

On Sunday, December 22, during our regular 11:00 am service, our Sunday School children will celebrate with a pageant "Too-oo-oo-oo Busy" and carol singing to be joined by members of the congregation. Plan to attend and invite a friend!

Per Capita

The Presbytery adopted a \$35.00 per person Per Capita into their 2025 budget. This means our church pays \$35.00 per person (not family) to the Presbytery. If you would like to help us with this expense, please contribute this amount to the church and mark Per Capita on your memo line. Thank you.


New Address

Maureen Gonano has recently moved to be closer to her son. She would love to hear from you.

1529 Crater Avenue, #12H
Dover, OH 44622

North Warren Presbyterian Church

200 S. State Street • Warren, Pennsylvania • 16365-4645 phone (814) 723-5060

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First Sunday in Advent 1 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	No School 2 6:00 PM Christian Ed	3	4	5 6:00 PM Deacon Sharing Place	6	7
8 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Congregational meeting following worship After Church Coffee	9 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study	10	11	12 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon Prayer Group at Hilltop Restaurant	13	14
15 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship with Christmas Program 6:00 PM Session Meeting	16	17	18	19 First Day of Winter	20	21 10:00 AM – Noon Children's Christmas Party
22 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship After Church Coffee	No School 23 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study	No School 24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	No School 25	No School 26	No School 27	28
29 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	No School 30	No School 31				

For a complete up-to-date view, visit our website at <http://www.nwpcchurch.org/events-news-and-lists>

December 2024

Lay Leaders

- Dec 01 Darrell Pusateri
08 Heidi DeWald
15 Kathy Whittemore
22 Bill Gross
24 Ruth Morrison
29 Amy Ransom

After Church Coffee Hosts

- Dec 08 Lynn Olsen & Lois Marshall
15 Jack & Lynn Collins
22 Chris & Denny McClellan

Sound Booth

- Dec 01 Philip Nickerson
08 Darrell Pusateri
15 Kelley Wood
22 Drake Lawson
24 Burt & Joshua Ward
29 Dawn Thayer

Nursery - Adults

- Dec 01 Amanda Knopf
08 Amy Ransom
15 Nancy Bullock
22 Christina Hartman-Wilson
24 Megan Grady
29 Amanda Knopf

Sanctuary Flowers

Advent Decorations & Poinsettias

Ushers / Greeters

Nancy Bullock
Bill Ransom

Elders usher on Christmas Eve

Anniversaries

- Dec 29 Andrew & Caroline Benson

Birthdays

- Dec 01 Kate McClellan
09 Burt Ward
10 Shawn Jones
10 Wyatt Trojanowski
12 Brett McElhatten
13 Jillian Busby
13 Marian Hartman
15 Melani Decker
18 Elizabeth McPherson
20 Nancy Bullock
21 Jim Ashbaugh
24 Sam McKown
25 Garrett Fiscus
26 Ellen Nelson
27 Cale Ash
27 Judy McElhatten
28 Jim Fiscus
30 Madelyn Nelson
31 Laura Megill
31 Rylan Wilson

Christmas Eve Communion

Communion will be served during our
Christmas Eve candlelight service.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			No School 1	2 6:00 PM Deacons 6:30 PM Community House	3	4
Penny Sunday 5 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	6 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:00 PM Christian Ed	7	8	9 NO Ladies Prayer Luncheon Group	10	11
12 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship After Church Coffee	13 Martin Luther King Day	14	15	16	No School 17	18
19 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Session Meeting	No School 20 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship After Church Coffee- Reception for New Members	27	28	29	30	31	

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January 2025

Lay Leaders

- Jan 05 Ivy Whilton
12 MaryAnn Erdmann
19 Heidi DeWald
26 Ruth Morrison

Sound Booth

- Jan 05 Mark Nickerson
12 Drake Lawson
19 Dawn Thayer
26 Kelley Wood

Sanctuary Flowers

- Jan 05 Poinsettias
12 Lois Marshall
19 Bryan & Lynn Olsen
26 Joe & Tricia Poston

Nursery Workers

- Jan 05 Christina Hartman-Wilson
12 Nancy Bullock
19 Ivy Whilton
26 Amanda Knopf

After Church Coffee

- Jan 12 Marcia McKown & Ellen Nelson
26 Reception for New Members

Ushers / Greeters

Mark Ash
Sheryl Ash




Birthdays

- Jan 05 Kathy Olson
08 Kyle Wilson
10 Ivy Whilton
11 Charlie Lucks
13 Kathy Whittemore
14 Taylor Swanson
14 Gavin Wilson
15 Shawn Billman
16 Avalynn Swanson
20 Alex Ferry
22 Carol Pusateri
23 William Swartz
24 John Caito
24 Ryan Knopf
24 Alicia Trojanowski
25 Cindy Fiscus
27 Skyler Lester
29 Elizabeth Goodwill



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<i>Scout/Penny Sunday 2</i> 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship After Church Soup and Pie hosted by Scouts and Scouters	3 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:00 PM Christian Ed	4	5	6 6:00 PM Deacons	7	8
9 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship After Church Coffee	10	11	12	13 12:30 PM Ladies Luncheon Prayer Group	Energy Day 14 	15
16 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Session meeting	No School 17 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study	18	19	20	21	22
23 Buddy's last day to Preach 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship After Church Coffee	24	25	26	27	28	

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February 2025

Lay Leaders

- Feb 02 Boy Scouts
09 Mark Ash
16 Amy Ransom
23 Bill Gross

Nursery Workers

- Feb 02 Christina Hartman-Wilson
09 Amy Ransom
16 Ivy Whilton
23 Amanda Knopf

After Church Coffee

- Feb 02 Boy Scouts
09 Judy McElhatten & Shirley Betts
23 Bill & Celia Gross

Sound Booth

- Feb 02 Dawn Thayer
09 Philip Nickerson
16 Kelley Wood
23 Drake Lawson

Sanctuary Flowers

- Feb 02 Penny Wolboldt
09 Jim & Ruth Morrison
16 Mark & Sheryl Ash
23 Bullock Family

Ushers / Greeters

Nancy Bullock
Mary Ann Erdmann

Boy Scouts usher on February 2

Birthdays

- Aug 02 Charlie Jones
04 Cori Dunagan
05 Nova Gustafson
06 Shirley Betts
08 Jill Lester
10 Randy Jones
10 Buddy Ward
13 Jaylene Swanson
17 Lynn Olsen
18 Ron Davies
19 Matt Tower
20 Jerry Lester
20 Levon Gustafson
21 Nyssa Brumagin
21 Jim LaRusch
22 Mary Ann Erdmann
23 Janet Maze
23 Penny Wolboldt
25 Susan Stout
26 Teresa Blumquist
26 Heather Nelson

**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY**



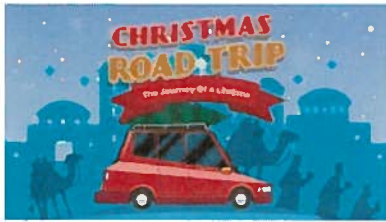
News from the Pews



Winter 2024-2025

Children's Christmas Party!

Children aged 4 to grade 5 are invited to join us on Saturday, December 21 from 10:00 am until noon for our annual Christmas Party.



We will experience "A Christmas Road trip" as we focus on the birth of Christ through Luke 2:11 "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you, He is the Messiah, the Lord". Children will have the opportunity to learn the story of Jesus through lessons, crafts, and music. We have been told that two special visitors from the North Pole will be dropping by.

Pastor Appreciation & Farewell

On Saturday, January 11, we will be having a celebration to honor Pastor Ward and also the years we have shared with the Ward Family. Buddy's last day in the pulpit will be February 23.

Everyone is welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall for the celebration.

More details will be available.

Women's Bible Study

The women will continue with their study in 1 Corinthians every other Monday morning at 10:00 am using the Right Now Video curriculum featuring Jennie Allen



Dec 9 – Chapter 7

Dec 23 – NO study

Jan 6 – Chapter 8

Jan 20 – Chapters 9 & 10

Feb 3 – Chapter 11

Feb 17 – Chapters 12-14

Flower Committee



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

Ladies Luncheon

Prayer Group

The ladies will be traveling to the Hill Top Restaurant for their luncheon on December 12. Be there by 11:30 am. Let Anne Ward know if you need a ride.

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



We will meet at 12:30 pm on February 13 in Fellowship Hall. Bring a covered dish to share. Coffee and dessert will be provided.

Address Service Requested



North Warren Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)
200 S. State Street
Warren, PA 16365-4645

Phone: (814) 723-5060
Email: secretary@nwpchurch.org
Web: www.nwpchurch.org

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Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am
(10:00 am Memorial Day to Labor Day)

Church Office Hours are limited.
Please call for an appointment

NON-PROFIT
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16365
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Life is an Advent Season



Life is a constant Advent season: We are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience.

The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. but the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives.

**"Connections"
November 28, 1993**