



North Warren Presbyterian Church

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

Winter 2022-2023

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



Chris McClellan
Qadosh Bells
Director



Kathy Whittemore
Treasurer



Anne Ward
Youth Coordinator



Gloria Lindell
Clerk of Session



Bill Gross
President of
Deacons



Gary Olson
President of
Trustees



The Congregation
Ministers of
The Gospel



Pastor's Corner

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him." Matthew 2:1-3

In Matthew's telling of the visit of the "Wise Men," we see that Herod's perception of the birth of Jesus was very different from that of the Magi. Herod saw Jesus as a threat to the kind of life he wanted. The people he governed existed for one purpose: to serve him. Naturally he was shocked and dismayed when these visitors came from the East, looking for the newborn "King of the Jews." This was an affront to his power, his position, and his prestige. This newborn king was a threat, an enemy. That is why Matthew writes in verse 3, "He was disturbed and all Jerusalem with him." When the Magi did not come back, Herod became furious, and ordered all boys two years old and under to be killed.

We can see clearly in Herod what we cannot see as well in ourselves. Like Herod, when we approach life as if things are owed to us—when we see others as persons who are to serve us, rather than being of service to them, then Jesus becomes a threat to our lives. Jesus has been and always will be a threat to the self-centered and self-sufficient. We don't usually see ourselves as evil, yet most of us do have an idea as to the kind of life we want and to which we feel entitled. When we close our hearts to God's grace, we are acting like Herod. When we sin, we reject God in our lives.

The Magi were passionate people who came with one commanding desire: to follow the star that was leading them to Jesus. They set out looking for a newborn king. What they found was not a king surrounded by regal splendor. They could have looked at the place where Jesus was born, at the carpenter's wife and the little child, and said, "This can't be it." They could have turned around and headed back to the East. Instead they went in to worship and adore Him because their passion for truth would have it no other way.

The Magi were humble people. They were unpretentious people. It takes grace-filled humility to prostrate yourself before anyone, especially a baby. It also takes humility to be filled with joy. Joy is too often lacking in the lives of many Christians. When I expect someone to do something for me, my joy is not very great when it happens. When I don't expect it, my joy is much greater!

But the Magi were also faith-filled and faithful people, because they saw in Jesus who He truly was. They didn't go back to Herod. Rather they went back to their homeland by another route. They were willing to act when God spoke to them. If we would be faithful, then we must be willing to respond to God when we are called! May we all, like the Magi, faithfully bow before our God and Christ acknowledging His authority over our lives and service. Wishing you and your family the blessings of Christmas this Holiday and throughout the New Year!

In the Name of Christ,

Anne & Buddy

Christmas Cookies

Community Christmas
Party & Program

December 17 & 18

10 am Saturday

11 am Sunday

(the Sunday program will be
preceded at 9.30 am with
Sunday School for all ages.)

Come and Join the Fun!



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 Saturday 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 *"The Song of Christmas"* 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 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.

Christmas Program

On Sunday, December 18, during our regular 11:00 am service, members

of the congregation and our children's choir will show us what "the sweetest thing" about Christmas really is.

Annual Church & Community Children's Christmas Party!

Saturday, December 17th from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

All the children ages 4 to grade 5 in Church, Sunday School, Day Care, and from our Summer Day Camp are invited! Children can experience the meaning of Christmas through lessons, craft and music with a special visit from Santa and Crystal Claus.

Ladies Luncheon Prayer Group

The ladies will be traveling to the Hill Top Restaurant at the Career Center for their 11:15 luncheon on December 8. Please be at the church by 11:00 if you want to carpool. Anne Ward is the hostess for this luncheon.

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

We will meet at 12:30 pm on February 9 in Fellowship Hall. Bring a covered dish to share. Coffee and dessert will be provided.



Women's Bible Study

We will continue our study - What the Women Saw with Sadie Robertson Huff, Bianca Juarez Olthoff Jada Edwards and Jennie Allen (from Right Now Media).

Do women matter to the kingdom of God?

Dec 5 - Jesus Heals the Wounded with Jada Edwards

Dec 19 - Jesus Sees the Marginalized with Jennie Allen

Jan 2 - Jesus Gives Us Hope with Sadie Robertson Huff

Jan 16 - Jesus Empowers with Jada Edwards

January 30 to March 27 – Our new study “Teach Us to Want” with Jen Pollock Michel

We all want things: certain relationships, just the right job affirmation from others, a life full of passion and purpose. Contemporary culture says to go after desire, pursue your “I want” list ruthlessly. Christianity seems to send a different message: Wanting is sinful and selfish. Faith is about obedience and sacrifice. How do we reconcile the longings in our hearts with the God we’re called to follow? In five sessions, based on her

2015 book Teach Us to Want: Longing, Ambition and the Life of Faith, author and Bible teacher Jen Pollock Michel takes women on a brave journey through their many desires, longing and ambitions. Featuring real-life stories of women wrestling with their desires-Jen offers insight from her own life, dives deep into Scripture and asks what it means to desire as a Christian:

~Is it true that the hardest, least desirable choice is the most obviously holy?

~Is it true that personal desire must never be trusted?

Jen will show biblically how it’s not only OK to name and voice our desires – it’s actually holy to. When we freely let God know our desires and allow them to be informed by Scripture and reformed by our spiritual practices, we’ll discover a God more loving and generous than we ever imagine.

Jan 30 – Fear & Courage

Feb 13 – Grace, Good News & Scripture

Feb 27 – Prayer & Petition

March 13 – Confession & Community

March 27- Commitment

April 10 – no Study, Easter Monday



Adult Advent Sunday School

Join the Adult Sunday School class for a 5 week study on “ADVENT” starting Sunday, December 4 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

Who exactly is Jesus? What kind of God would come to earth as a human? The season of Advent offers us a chance to reflect on our savior, his purpose, and the surprising ways he invited people near to him. Join Pastor Derwin Gray in this Advent study as he unveils King Jesus – the God-man who defied expectations, the king of all creation who humbled himself to serve and die, the friend to sinners who wants to lift us up.

January 8, the Adult Sunday School class will do a 5-part series titled “The Worship Dilemma”, taught by Pastor Aaron Short. In this series, we will tackle the ongoing dilemma of whom or what we worship in our lives and how what we worship can have the biggest impact in influencing our decisions and direction in life.

Both of these studies are on Right Now Media which is available to all our members and friends, FREE! If you are unable to join us in person & would still like to study along with us, please

contact Rev. Wared to arrange to join the class as part of a Virtual Group.

Thank-you, Thank-you,

Anne and Buddy Ward would like to express their heartfelt thanks for the special reception on October 6 and all the wonderful gifts they received for the special Pastor Appreciation and Anniversary. “We are truly blessed to be part of such a loving and caring congregation, and offer special thanks to Ivy, Amanda, and Donna for all their hard work,” Buddy said.

The Ward family would also like to add, “May your Christmas and 2023 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

Congregational Meeting

The Fall Congregational Meeting will be held December 11 immediately following the Worship Service to receive the 2023 Church Budget, vote on the 2023 Pastoral Terms of Call, elect members to the: Day Care, Community House, Memorial, Audit, and P.F.I.E. Committees, along with any other business as is appropriate according to the Book of Order.



Additional News



Winter 2022-2023

Note from the Deacons

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

The Salvation Army Christmas gift “Treasures Tags” are available for selection by interested church members. The unwrapped gifts must be returned to the church by Sunday, December 11. This will give the Deacons time to sort and pack 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

Halloween in the Park

What do a striped unicorn, a scholar and a man in a hot dog hat have in common? They were just some of the sights we saw at our annual Halloween in the Park. It was a cool crisp night but our hearts were warm as we passed out hot dogs and tons of candy. Folks of all ages came and had a wonderful, safe evening in the park.

Thanks to everyone who donated candy and those who came to help and greet our friends and neighbors.





Additional News



Winter 2022-2023

Youth Recreation

Youth Rec will be held each Wednesday from 6-7:30 pm starting November 30 in the North Warren Community Center. This is open to all youth in grades 5 through 12.

Anne Ward is looking for another adult to help during this time. Please contact Anne if you are interested in volunteering to make a difference in someone's life. Thank you

Reminder

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



Winter Address



If you are going south for the winter, please notify the church office of your temporary address. Also, let us know when you are leaving and when you plan to return to Warren.

Warren Public Library

Toddler Time: Mrs. Claus will be visiting the library on Monday, December 12 during toddler time.

After School with Mrs.

Claus: Monday, December 12 at 4:30 pm, Mrs. Claus will be visiting the Children's Department to share holiday stories, songs and crafts. Preregistration appreciated. Registration forms will be available in the starting November 1.

Holiday Scavenger

Hunt: Children ages 3 to 11 are invited to complete a holiday themed scavenger hunt form, which are available starting November 1. As each task is completed, the title of the book or library item that meets the description is to be noted on the form. Parents can write for the little ones.

Scavenger Hunt forms can be found on the staff desk in the Children's Dept. **Forms are due into the Children's Room by December 13.** Participant names will be placed in a random drawing. The grand prize is a huge Grinch Gift Basket. There will also be six runner-up holiday prizes.

December 2022

Lay Leaders

Dec	04	Anne Ward
	11	Bill Gross
	18	Heidi DeWald
	24	Chris McClellan
	25	Celia Gross

After Church Coffee Hosts

Dec	04	Lois Marshall & Lynn Olsen
	18	Mark & Sheryl Ash

Sound Booth

Dec	04	Gloria Lindell
	11	Rick Blumquist
	18	Kelley Wood
	24	
	25	Teresa Blumquist

Nursery - Adults

Dec	04	Nancy Bullock
	11	Nancy Bullock
	18	Anne Ward
	24	Megan Grady
	25	Nancy Bullock

Sanctuary Flowers

Advent Decorations & Poinsettias

Ushers / Greeters

Carol Pusateri
Darrell Pusateri

Elders usher on Christmas Eve

Anniversaries

Dec	29	Andrew & Caroline Benson
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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	Marian Hartman
	15	Melani Decker
	18	Elizabeth McPherson
	19	Alexa Guiley
	20	Nancy Bullock
	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	Elyzza Linkerhof
	30	Madelyn Nelson (5)
	31	Laura Megill

Christmas Eve Communion

Communion will be served during our Christmas Eve candlelight service.



Birthdays

Jan 5 Kathy Olson
9 Daphne DePoole
10 Deklon Stiteler
10 Ivy Whilton
11 Sofi Frankson
11 Charlie Lucks
13 Kathy Whittemore
14 Taylor Swanson
15 Shawn Billman
16 Avalynn Swanson
16 Harrison Williams
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

Sound Booth

Jan 01 Drake Lawson
08 Darrell Pusateri
15 Rick Blumquist
22 Kelley Wood
29 Philip Nickerson

Sanctuary Flowers

Jan 01 Christmas Flowers
08 Caroline Benson
15 Lois Marshall
22 Bryan & Lynn Olsen
29 Barb Hoehn

Birthdays

Feb 2 Charlie Jones
4 Cori Dunagan
5 Nova Gustafson
6 Shirley Betts
8 Jill Lester
10 Randy Jones
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 Nysa Brumagin
21 Jim LaRusch
23 Janet Maze
23 Penny Wolboldt
25 Susan Stout
26 Teresa Blumquist
26 Heather Nelson

Sanctuary Flowers

Feb 05 Penny Wolboldt
12 Jim & Ruth Morrison
19 Mark & Sheryl Ash
26 Bullock family

Sound Booth

Feb 5 Teresa Blumquist
12 Drake Lawson
19 Darrell Pusateri
26 Philip Nickerson

North Warren Presbyterian Church

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				6:00 PM Devotions	2	3
<i>Penny Sunday 4</i> 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship After Church Coffee	10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study	6	Youth Rec 6:00-7:30	8 11:00 AM Ladies Luncheon Prayer Group at Hilltop Restaurant	9	10
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Congregational meeting	12	13	14 Youth Rec 6:00-7:30	15	16	17 10:00 AM - Noon Children's Christmas Party
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship with Christmas Program After Church Coffee 6:00 PM Session Meeting	19 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study	20	21 Youth Rec 6:00-7:30	22 No School	23 No School	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eye Candlelight Communion Service
25 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	26 No School	27 No School	28 No School NO Youth Rec	29 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 2022

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

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January 2023

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

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February 2023

Address Service Requested



North Warren Presbyterian Church
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Warren, PA 16365- 4645

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Winter 2022-23 Newsletter

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic
There are no regular
Church Office Hours
Please call for an appointment

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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.*

Robert Louis Stevenson



THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN