



Winter 2023-2024

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

“In a loud voice she exclaimed: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!’”

Luke 1:42 (NIV)

In the above verse, Elizabeth’s greeting to Mary was a spontaneous expression of bursting joy and gratitude, for in her young cousin she saw the handiwork of God, and on her face she saw the unmistakable signs of trusting faith. Mary was God’s favored one, a chosen instrument to help bring about God’s work of salvation. But Mary was also hardly more than a girl, one of countless Jewish girls whose simple lives were lived in the homes and villages of Palestine. There was nothing unique, nothing profound about her, she was really quite ordinary. Just the sort of “earthen vessel” through which God often works out God’s most amazing miracles.

Among the other wonders of Christmas, we remember today that God does not bypass even the weaknesses of human frailty in order to work out God’s plan. In fact, the message of the incarnation is that it is often precisely through mere human beings that God reveals the Almighty’s splendor! This is a day to rejoice, for no person is despised by God, no person is useless in God’s hands, no person is too flawed to be blessed by God!

Only one thing was required of Mary in order that she might bear the Son of God, her willingness to believe. Mary believed in the goodness, the love, and the power of God. No super-human strength was required, no extraordinary amount of faith. God sent the angel Gabriel to one who listened to God’s call and answer with those simple words from Luke 1:38, “May it be to me as you have said!” And shouldn’t that be our answer to God’s call on our life as we seek to do God’s work in our community? Shouldn’t “We trust God’s Spirit to work in us, through our words and deeds, wherever we are?” We can if we, like Mary, only believe! So this Christmas let us greet the God who came directly into our midst to save us, with the same joy and gratitude as Mary, and may our hearts be lifted by the remembrance that God used one just like us to introduce God’s Son to the World!

Anne and I would like to express our deep appreciation for all your love, support, and encouragement you have given our family over the years. You and your loved ones continue to be remembered in our prayers, as we thank God for the blessing of such a loving church family. *Merry Christmas!*

In the Name of Christ,

Anne & Buddy

Christmas Eve Services

(Sunday, December 24th)

9:30 am Sunday
School for all ages

11:00 am
Morning Worship

7:00 pm Christmas
Eve Candlelight
Communion
Service

Christmas Symbolism



Star represents the bright star that shone the night Jesus was born. *"Where is the new born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him."* Matthew 2:2



Candy cane represents the shepherd's staff. Christ is also called the Good Shepherd. *And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.* Luke 2:8



Gifts represent the gold, frankincense and myrrh. *...And when they opened they had opened their treasures, they presented him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.* Matthew 2:11



Evergreen tree represents the eternal life. *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* John 3:16



Christmas carollers represent the multitude of angels that sang on the night Jesus was born. *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest..."* Luke 2:13-14



Christmas candles and lights represent the light that Jesus has brought to the world. *To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.* Luke 1:79



Holly Berries represent the blood that Christ shed for us. *For this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many remission of sins.* Matthew 26:28



Nativity scene represents the scene in the manger where Jesus was born. *And she brought for her firstborn son, and wrapped him swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn.* Luke 2:7



Christmas wreath represents the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. *The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head...* John 19:2



Christmas Bells represent the call of mankind to worship the Lord. *For the Son of man came to seek, and to save that which was lost.* Luke 19:10

Lay Leaders

Dec 03 Chris McClellan
10 Heidi DeWald
17 Bill Gross
24 Ivy Whilton
Eve Ruth Morrison
31 Gloria Lindell

After Church Coffee Hosts

Dec 03 Lois Marshall & Lynn Olsen
17 Marcia McKown & Ellen Nelson

Sound Booth

Dec 03 Darrell Pusateri
10 Teresa Blumquist
17 Philip Nickerson
24 Drake Lawson
31 Kelley Wood

Nursery - Adults

Dec 03 Nancy Bullock
10 Chris McClellan
17 Nancy Bullock
24 Nancy Bullock
Eve Megan Grady
31 Nancy Bullock

Sanctuary Flowers

Advent Decorations & Poinsettias

Ushers / Greeters

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


Christmas Eve Communion

Communion will be served during our
Christmas Eve candlelight service.



North Warren Presbyterian Church

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

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

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

December 2023

Lay Leaders

- Jan 07 Heidi DeWald
14 Marcia McKown
21 Susan Stout
28 Gloria Lindell

Sound Booth

- Jan 07 Rick Blumquist
14 Philip Nickerson
21 Drake Lawson
28 Mark Nickerson

Sanctuary Flowers

- Jan 07 Caroline Benson
14 Lois Marshall
21 Bryan & Lynn Olsen
28 Barb Hoehn

Nursery Workers

- Jan 07 Nancy Bullock
14 Christina Hartman-Wilson
21 Chris McClellan
28 Amanda Knopf

After Church Coffee

- Jan 07 Mary Putnam & Sally Clark
21 Ivy Whilton
28 Shirley Betts & Judy McElhatten

Ushers / Greeters

Mark Ash
Sheryl Ash



Birthdays

- Jan 05 Kathy Olson
09 Daphne DePoole
10 Ivy Whilton
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



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	No School 1	2	3	4 6:00 PM Deacons	5	6
Penny Sunday 7 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship After Church Coffee	8 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:00 PM Christian Ed 6:00 PM Community House 7:00 PM P.F.I.E.	9	10	11 NO Ladies Prayer Luncheon Group	12	13
14 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Session Meeting	No School 15 Martin Luther King Day	No School 16	17	18	19	20
21 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship After Church Coffee	22 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study	23	24	25 Sharing Place	26	27
28 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship After Church Coffee	29	30	31			

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January 2024

Lay Leaders

Feb 04 Boy Scouts
11 Mark Ash
18 Bill Gross
25 Chris McClellan

Nursery Workers

Feb 04 Amy Ransom
11 Chris Case Crocker
18 Nancy Bullock
25 Christina Hartman-Wilson

After Church Coffee

Feb 04 Boy Scouts
18 Ruth Morrison

Sound Booth

Feb 04 Kelley Wood
11 Darrell Pusateri
18 Philip Nickerson
25 Drake Lawson

Sanctuary Flowers

Feb 04 Penny Wolboldt
11 Jim & Ruth Morrison
18 Mark & Sheryl Ash
25 Bullock Family

Ushers / Greeters

Lynn Olsen
Lois Marshall

Boy Scouts usher on February 4


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

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

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February 2024



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 Sunday 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 "*Glory to God*" 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 Programs

On Sunday, December 17, during our regular 11:00 am service, members

of the congregation and our children's choir will celebrate the "Good News of Christmas" with carol singing, the children's choir, and a re-enactment of the First Christmas. Plan to attend and invite a friend!

Per Capita

The Presbytery adopted a \$34.00 per person Per Capita into their 2024 budget. This means our church pays \$34.00 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.

Annual Church & Community Children's Christmas Party!

Saturday, December 23 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 will experience "A Candy Cane Christmas" as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas through lessons, craft, and music with a special visit from Santa and Crystal Claus.





Women's Bible Study

December 2023-January 2024

Holy Habits with Derwin Gray

When God calls us to himself, he sets us apart – he makes us holy. But what does it mean to be holy? What habits define God's people, no matter where they are on earth or which denomination they are part of? In this four-part series, Pastor Derwin Gray explores four foundational behaviors of Christians. God calls us to a new way of living, one formed by rhythms of holiness.



Dec 18 – Making Peace in a World of Conflict

Jan 8 – Being Shaped by Scripture

Jan 22 – Seeking and Saving the Lost

Feb 5 – Resting in a Weary World

Women's Bible Study

February-May 2024

A Psalm for Every Situation

We sometimes feel like we need to curate our emotions when we talk to feeling or going through. Join Bible leader Lisa Harper as she teaches from the book of Psalms looking at a variety

of circumstances faced by followers of God. In this eight-session series, we learn how to find comfort in any situation based on this songbook of the people of God.

Feb 19 – If God Had a Playlist

March 4 – Walk This Way

March 18 – Frantic Isn't a Spiritual

Fruit

April 1 – Messy Beards and Our Merciful God

April 15 – When Scars Become Beauty Marks

April 29 – The Rebar of Redemption

May 13 – Absolutely Seen and Always Secure

May 27 – A Divine Invitation to Dance

Congregational Meeting

The Fall Congregational Meeting will be held December 10 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.



News from the Pews



Winter 2023-2024

Flower Committee

If you would like to provide flowers for the Sanctuary on May 19, 2024, please contact Marcia at 726-0198.

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

Thank-you, Thank-you,

Anne and Buddy Ward would like to express their heartfelt thanks for the Pastor Appreciation soup and pie reception on October 22 and all the wonderful cards and gifts they received. "We are truly blessed to be part of such a loving and caring congregation, and offer special thanks to Ivy Whilton, Amanda Knopf, and Donna Caito 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

Sharing Place

Upcoming dates are January 25, March 7, April 18, June 6, July 25, September 5, October 24, and December 5.

Ladies Luncheon

Prayer Group

The ladies will be traveling to the Hill Top Restaurant for their luncheon on December 14. Be there by 11:30 am. Let Anne Ward or Marcia McKown 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 8 in Fellowship Hall. Bring a covered dish to share. Coffee and dessert will be provided.



Missions Committee News

Several special collections are taken up throughout the year, in addition to our regular missions support, which comprises 10% of the church budget. This year the congregation's extra efforts were as follows:

- *30-Hour Famine to World Vision child hunger \$1,440
- *One Great Hour of Sharing \$1,170
- *Deacon's Baby Bottles to Women's Care Center \$316
- *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Maui Relief \$517
- *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Florida Hurricane \$200
- *Church World Service Blanket Fund \$807

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 School: 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am

Church Office Hours are limited.
Please call for an appointment

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Mr. & Mrs. William Mahan
4345 Stoney Run Road
Sugar Grove, PA 16350

*O God,
Whose mighty Son was born in Bethlehem those days long ago,
lead us to that same poor place,
where Mary laid her tiny Child.
And as we look on in wonder and praise,
make us welcome him in all new life,
see him in the poor, and care for his handiwork
the earth, the sky and the sea.
O God, bless us again in your great love.
We pray for this through Christ our Lord.*



Amen!