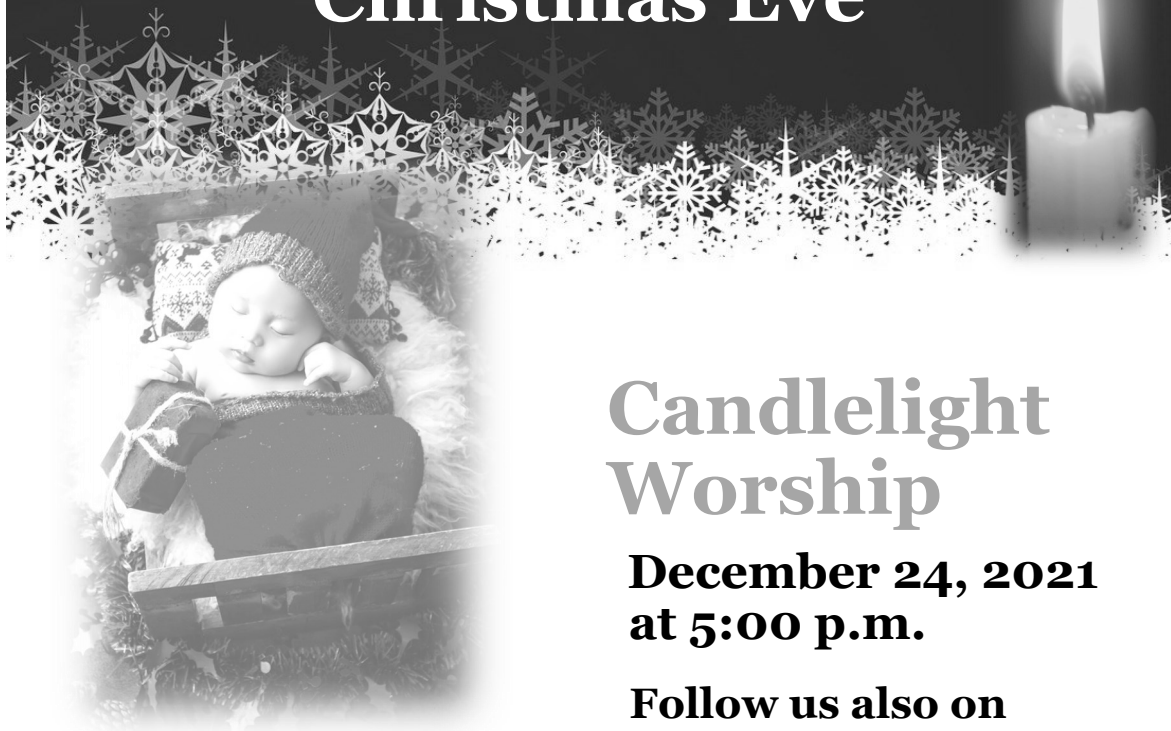


# Christmas Eve



## Candlelight Worship

**December 24, 2021  
at 5:00 p.m.**

**Follow us also on**



**or on our church website at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org)**

***Welcome Reverend Tom Ulrich and the Congregation  
of New Covenant Community Church!***

*At the ringing of the chimes please silence your cell phones and  
conversations and prepare your hearts and minds for an encounter  
with the Living God. **Bolded text is read or sung by all.***

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

# COME

Prelude of Seasonal Music

Paragon Brass and Choral Scholars

\*Call to Worship

Jacquie Mabry

Leader: O come, all faithful people, and celebrate the birth of the One who reveals God's love to the world.

**People: On this holy night, the light of hope illumines the world's darkness.**

Leader: Through the Child of Bethlehem, a new day has dawned for all humanity.

**People: We come to praise the One born in the manger who imparts peace on earth and good will for all people.**

Leader: Come and behold the Holy Infant, Emmanuel, God-with-us, who brings salvation to the world.

**People: O come, all faithful people, and let us worship our Lord.**

\*Hymn 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

**1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!**

**Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**2 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens  
of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! [Refrain]**



Lighting of the CHRIST Candle

Kacey Yates Gable, Dean and Tori Gable, Mac and Kristy Yates

Reader 1: As the Advent Candles of hope, peace, joy, and love shine among us, we gather this evening to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Reader 2: In Him, God's Word became flesh and lived among us.

Reader 1: In Him, God's Love became flesh and embraced all humanity.

Reader 2: In Him, God's Light became flesh and illumined the world.

**People: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)**

Reader 1: In Him, God's Way became flesh and revealed the path of life.

Reader 2: In Him, God's Grace became flesh and blessed us with new beginnings.

Reader 1: In Him, God's Power became flesh and shattered the chains of injustice and inequality.

Reader 2: This evening we light the Christ Candle to remind us that God's light forever shines among us. (Light the candle)

Let us pray:

**People: God of radiant glory, as we celebrate the birth of the Holy Child, grant that our lives will be changed through the infinite grace that was found in a manger. Through the One who is the Light of the world, infuse the horizons of humanity with Your justice, truth, and love. Through the Word who became flesh and lived among us, speak to us of Your new reality. And through the gift of the Savior of the world, enable us to allow this little Child to lead us along the path of new life and true life, for we ask it in the name of the One who was born a child and yet a king, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## ENCOUNTER

Choir

Mary Had A Baby      *Arr. Ralph C. Schultz*  
*David Ciucevich, Clarinet - Laurel Labbe, Piano*

**1 Angels we have heard on high; Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply; Echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains  
prolong?**

**What the gladsome tidings be; Which inspire your heavenly  
song?**

**3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels  
sing;**

**Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn  
King.**

*\*Passing the Peace*

*Greet both friends and strangers saying,*

**The peace of Christ be with you.**

*During this time of pandemic, a nod of the head and wave of the hand  
will suffice.*

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Jesus Christ has shown us how to live – by loving God and neighbor, by sharing what we have, and by engaging in acts of mercy and justice. As we celebrate His birth, and wait in expectant hope for the kingdom He inaugurates, let us bring the offerings of our lives before Him.

*Offering plates may be found as you exit the sanctuary.*

Offertory

On Christmas Night

*Arr. Dan Forrest*

*On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels  
bring:*

*News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's  
birth.*



*The King of kings to us is giv'n, the Lord of earth and King of heav'n.  
Heaven and earth with joy may sing all for to see the newborn King.  
Then why should we on earth be sad, since our redeemer made us glad?  
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.  
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God, and peace to men, now and forever more. Amen"*

\*Response Hymn 36, verse 4

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

**What can I give Him, Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.**

## GROW

### Prayer for Illumination

Loving God, as we prepare to hear Your word in a familiar story, come to us in the power of Your Spirit, and prepare our hearts to receive You, so that we may experience the wonder of Your transforming and life-giving love that was revealed through the Child of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Old Testament

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Carol #48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

**1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming, From tender stem hath sprung  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, By faithful prophets sung.  
It came a floweret bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half  
spent was the night.**

**2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind. To show  
God's love aright, She bore for us a Savior, When half spent  
was the night.**

The Second Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

New Testament

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 All went to their own towns to be registered.

4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Choir

O Little Town of Bethlehem *Arr. Stephen Paulus*

Carol #40

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come: Let earth receive her  
King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature  
sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven, and  
nature sing.**

**2 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, Repeat the  
sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, Repeat, the  
sounding joy.**

**4 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the  
nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders  
of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders,  
of His love.**

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

New Testament

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Choir

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

French Carol  
*Arr. Carolyn Jennings*

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting  
Lord! Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's  
womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate  
Deity, Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.  
[Refrain]**

**3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of  
Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Risen with  
healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we  
no more may die. Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give  
us second birth. [Refrain]**

Sermon

What Do You See?

The Reverend Tom Ulrich

## SERVE

\*Affirmation of Faith

*from A Declaration of Faith*

**Jesus, the long expected deliverer, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and**

## **resurrection, Jesus brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.**

Prayers of the People, Silent Reflection and The Lord's Prayer

Loving God, who inaugurates a new day for all people upon the planet through the birth of Your Son, as we bow together in prayer, grant that the glad glow of Christmas would not diminish . . . that the spirit of good will would not fade . . . and that the message from the manger would be kept alive. May "joy to the world" forever be understood, so that all the good and blessed things of Christmas would become a significant part of every day of the year. Because we know that Jesus was born, not just for a particular season, that good will is not only for a week, and that caring for others is not merely a holiday act, we have come before You to praise You . . . bringing our bodies, minds, and souls to honor You . . . opening our lips to celebrate in song . . . and opening our ears to hear Your word . . . so that we may live in Your love all the year, and serve You and our fellow human beings every day of the week.

Lead us into the joy of accomplishing Your will in the world . . . doing what we can, where we can, and when we can . . . meeting our obligations, and then doing more . . . loving our enemies as well as our friends. Enter every corner of our lives – our mangers as well as our mansions . . . our hopes as well as our heartaches . . . our labor as well as our leisure . . . and our worship as well as our worries. Plant Your hope and peace everywhere among us, so that as You came to live fully in the world, You may come and live fully in us and through us . . . for we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught His disciples, when praying, to say together:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our  
debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Lighting of Congregational Candles

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

*Please note that under Akron's city fire code, candles are not allowed in the balcony.*

*The congregation is invited to light their individual candles as they sing. To light your candle, dip it into the flame passed on to you. Hold your candle upright once it is lit, and let the next person dip their candle into your flame.*

**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.**

**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."**

***(Sung unaccompanied)***

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

*Please extinguish your candles at the close of the hymn.*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

Go into the night, glorifying and praising God for all you have seen and heard.

May Christ be your light this night and forevermore.

Voluntary                      *My Spirit Be Joyful*                      *Johann Sebastian Bach*

*Funding for the Paragon Brass Quintet is provided by  
the Enyart Endowment for Music Enrichment.*

THE PARAGON BRASS QUINTET: Douglas Amos and Jim Johnson, trumpet - Stephanie Blaha, horn - John Gruber, trombone - Christopher Blaha, tuba - Matt Dudack, timpani.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR: Isabella Anderson, Laura Best, David Ciucevich, Elizabeth Crabtree, Ben Hayes, Nancy Keogh, Laurel Labbe, Jacquie Mabry, Nick Modney, Brian Patton, Marge Rearick, Joel Rhoads, Brian Rodabaugh, Rebecca Sabree, Pat Schumacher, Marlene Sell, Paul Stewart, Valerie Stewart, Marian Wahl, Alec Works and Kristy Yates.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***In order to accommodate the anticipated large number of worshipers today, all pews are open for seating and all worshipers are required to wear masks.***

**Our USHERS Today** are Phil Fry, Donna Gorrington, Dan Gorrington, Bob Leonard, Raphael Peoples, Earl Pierson, Don Rearick, Linda Stobbs and Dave Stobbs (head usher).

**Greeters from New Covenant Community Church Today** are Jim Strandberg, Ken Williams and Nancy Williams.

**Please dispose of your used masks in the trash receptacles located in the narthex and Wright-Herberich Hall.**

**Church Offices will be closed Monday, December 27 for Christmas, Friday, December 31, 2021, and Monday, January 3, 2022.**

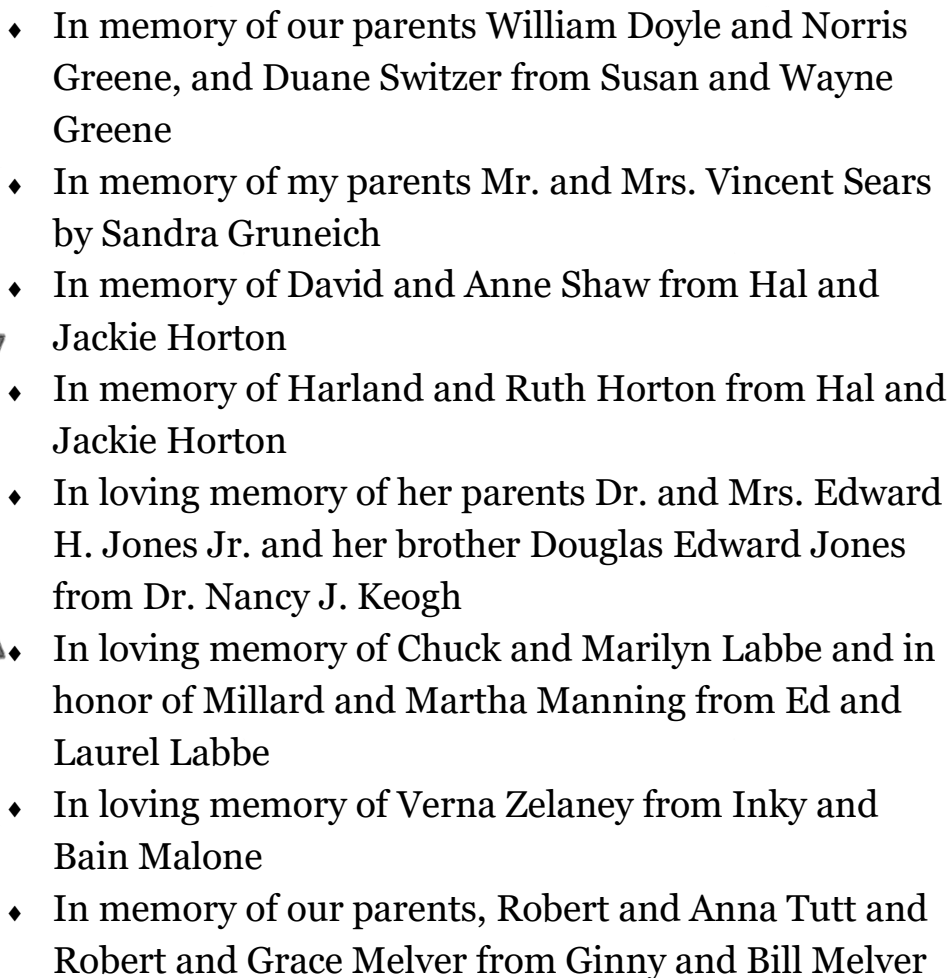


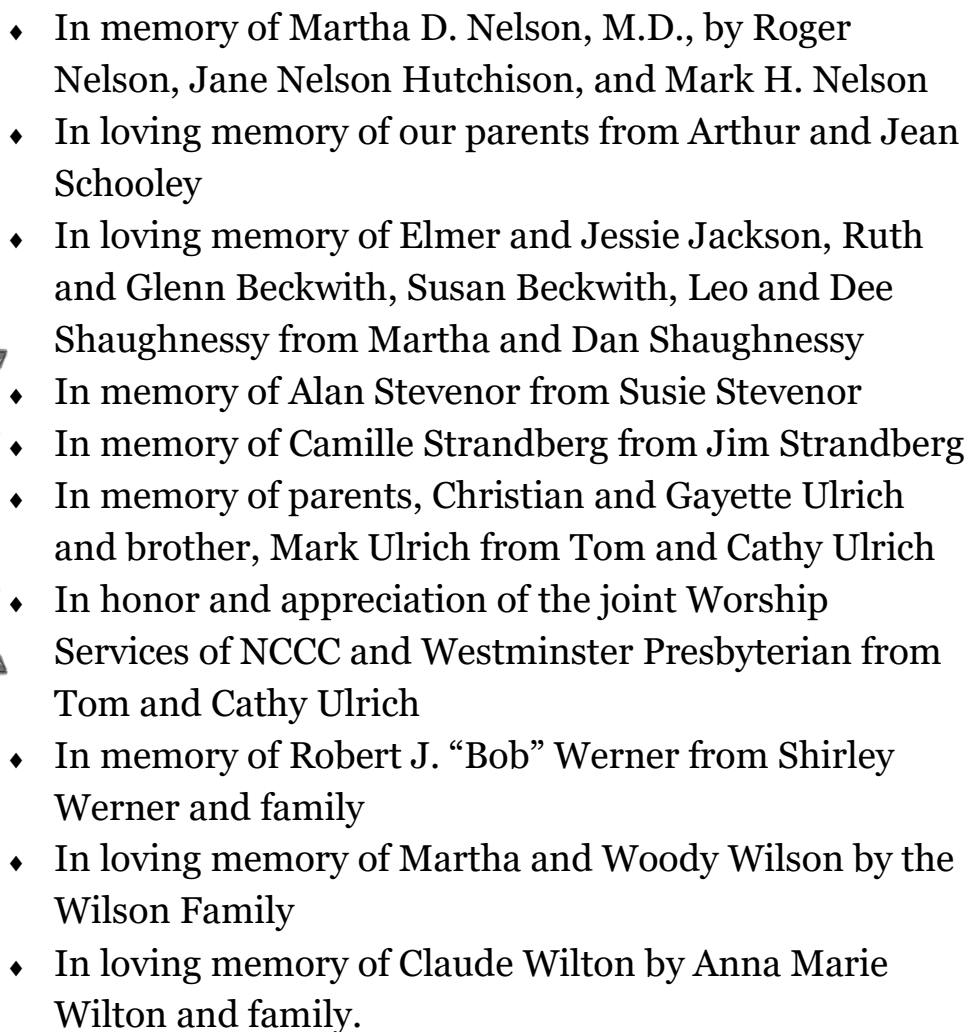
**2021**

**Christmas Poinsettias Memorials and Gifts**

- ◆ In memory of my wife Dianne Allison from Dave Allison
- ◆ In loving memory of Phil Buehl from his family
- ◆ In loving memory of William B. Brideweser, M.D., from the Brideweser Family
- ◆ In loving memory of Laurance and Sylvia Chapman, Penfield and Harriet Seiberling, and John D. and Mary S. Chapman from Harriet Chapman
- ◆ In loving memory of Peter Wilson and Peter Lepp, former members of WPC, from Bonnie and John Childs
- ◆ In loving memory of Fran Clark from Kathleen Clark
- ◆ In memory of Harold Colley from Jean Colley and Family
- ◆ In loving memory of Jon M. Daugherty from Ellen Daugherty and Family
- ◆ In loving memory of Dan D'Avello from his family
- ◆ In memory of Susie Pender from Mark and Carol Davis



- 
- ♦ In memory of our parents William Doyle and Norris Greene, and Duane Switzer from Susan and Wayne Greene
  - ♦ In memory of my parents Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Sears by Sandra Gruneich
  - ♦ In memory of David and Anne Shaw from Hal and Jackie Horton
  - ♦ In memory of Harland and Ruth Horton from Hal and Jackie Horton
  - ♦ In loving memory of her parents Dr. and Mrs. Edward H. Jones Jr. and her brother Douglas Edward Jones from Dr. Nancy J. Keogh
  - ♦ In loving memory of Chuck and Marilyn Labbe and in honor of Millard and Martha Manning from Ed and Laurel Labbe
  - ♦ In loving memory of Verna Zelaney from Inky and Bain Malone
  - ♦ In memory of our parents, Robert and Anna Tutt and Robert and Grace Melver from Ginny and Bill Melver

- 
- ♦ In memory of Martha D. Nelson, M.D., by Roger Nelson, Jane Nelson Hutchison, and Mark H. Nelson
  - ♦ In loving memory of our parents from Arthur and Jean Schooley
  - ♦ In loving memory of Elmer and Jessie Jackson, Ruth and Glenn Beckwith, Susan Beckwith, Leo and Dee Shaughnessy from Martha and Dan Shaughnessy
  - ♦ In memory of Alan Stevenor from Susie Stevenor
  - ♦ In memory of Camille Strandberg from Jim Strandberg
  - ♦ In memory of parents, Christian and Gayette Ulrich and brother, Mark Ulrich from Tom and Cathy Ulrich
  - ♦ In honor and appreciation of the joint Worship Services of NCCC and Westminster Presbyterian from Tom and Cathy Ulrich
  - ♦ In memory of Robert J. “Bob” Werner from Shirley Werner and family
  - ♦ In loving memory of Martha and Woody Wilson by the Wilson Family
  - ♦ In loving memory of Claude Wilton by Anna Marie Wilton and family.



## ***Calendar of Church Events*** ***December 24, 2021—January 1, 2022***

### **Friday, December 24 - Church Offices Closed**

- 3:30 pm Childcare Opens in the Nursery
- 3:30 pm Choir and Brass Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary  
& on YouTube Livestream

### **Saturday, December 25 - Merry Christmas!**

### **Sunday, December 26**

- 10:15 am Childcare Opens in the Nursery
- 10:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary, Lessons & Carols  
Pastor Tom Ulrich Preaching  
& on YouTube Livestream

### **Monday, December 27 - Church Offices Closed**

### **Thursday, December 30**

- 9:30 am WPC Staff Meeting in the Library

### **Friday, December 31 - Church Offices Closed**

### **Saturday, January 1, 2022 - Happy New Year!**

Staff Schedule in the Office:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Claudine Schooley		Claudine Schooley	Claudine Schooley	Claudine Schooley
WPC Church Office <a href="mailto:wpcoffice1250@gmail.com">wpcoffice1250@gmail.com</a>				
	Margo Works	Margo Works	Margo Works	
Director of Children, Family, and Youth <a href="mailto:wpccchildren1250@gmail.com">wpccchildren1250@gmail.com</a>				
	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	Bob Carlyon	
Music Director/Organist <a href="mailto:wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com">wpcmusicdir1250@gmail.com</a>				
WPC Church Finance <a href="mailto:wpcfinance1250@gmail.com">wpcfinance1250@gmail.com</a>				
Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	Dave Bodnar	
Daytime Custodian <a href="mailto:wpcbuilding@gmail.com">wpcbuilding@gmail.com</a>				

Other Staff:

Val Stewart, Director of Children's Choir [wpccchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpccchildrenschoir1250@gmail.com)

Laurel Labbe, Youth Music [llabbe@roadrunner.com](mailto:llabbe@roadrunner.com)

Traci Range, Director of Childcare [wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpcchildcare1250@gmail.com)

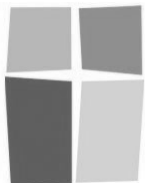
Bruce Klucharich, Audio-Visual Technician

Volunteers:

Kristy Yates, Director of Adult Bell Choir

Shelley Koutnik, Head of Staff

*The Church Office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.*



Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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