



WESTERN SPIRE

December 2017

“It is beautiful Advent weather, grayish and cold, with clouds of light snow howling across the valley, and I see it is really winter. I put some bread out for the birds.” ~Thomas Merton, *December 9, 1962*

To the waiters and the seekers of Western Presbyterian Church in Palmyra,

These days do seem to fly by too quickly, don't they? I watch our little boy play in the morning, and I find my breath catching in my throat: *how is he this big already?! I turned around, and it seems the leaves had all fallen off the trees at once.*

We get so caught up in the busy-ness of our lives, that we sometimes forget to live. This is particularly true at this time of year, as we start to run around on top-secret shopping trips for the perfect Christmas gift, planning and throwing and attending a myriad of holiday parties, visits to Santa, decorating... and all of this on *top of* our “normal” lives.

A friend of mine a few days ago shared on social media that for Advent this year, she is going to take on a spiritual practice (*note: this is usually something that is done during the holy season of Lent, but I am intrigued by this idea*). She wrote, “I’m considering taking on the practice of arriving early to appointments etc, so as to have time and space in my life to sit and wait, literally.”

Advent is, after all, a season of waiting, of expectation, and of hope. And we can't just rush to the end. We have to wait for the day of Christ's arrival; we have to prepare ourselves and our lives for the moment God breaks through into our world.

So perhaps this Advent, you and I can work on this spiritual practice of waiting together. Here's what I would encourage you to do:

First, find someone to partner with in this exercise; someone to whom you will be accountable, and who you can hold accountable. Second, remember that it doesn't matter if you are the person who is *always* early or *always* late: there is challenge aplenty in this for all of us! If you are the “always late” person, there's going to be plenty of challenge in this for you! On the other hand, if you are the “always early” person, be intentional about using those moments to sit still, be present, and meditate on the importance of waiting. Third, be gracious with yourself. This is incredibly counter-cultural: we are always told to do, do, do, and go, go, go! So this will be hard. But I also know that it could be very enriching and life-giving.

(If you are looking for something else to do, see the Reverse Advent Calendar later in this Spire!).

Together, as we wait, as we expect God to show up, let us continue to hold each other in the love and fellowship of the Holy Spirit, that we might all find new ways of being Christ's light in the world.

Grace, peace, and joy to you,

~Pastor Kyle

Preaching and Worship

December 2017

December 3, 2017 **1st Sunday of Advent**
9 am Book Study
RADA Cutlery Sale after worship

Elder/Reader: Randy Kennard
Toddler Room: Jan Taylor

Ushers: Gary LaBerge

December 10, 2017 **2nd Sunday of Advent**
Communion Sunday
9 am Book Study
Blue Christmas 4 pm

Elder/Reader: Fred Coffman
Toddler Room: Irene Fadden

Ushers: Gary LaBerge

Communion Elders: Alicia Lynch, Fred Coffman, Deb Trombino & Jody Pruitt

December 17, 2017 **3rd Sunday of Advent**
9 am Book Study
Candlelight Service 4 pm

Elder/Reader: Edie Chapman
Toddler Room: Ruth Dantz

Ushers: Gary LaBerge

December 24, 2017 **4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve**
Children Led Worship at 10 a.m.

Elder/Reader: Carol Sloan
Toddler Room: Jody Pruitt

Ushers: Gary LaBerge

December 24, 2017 **Christmas Eve at 10:00 p.m.**
A Service of Lessons and Carols and
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Communion Elders for Christmas Eve: Bill & Elaine Hassler,
Sharon Marr, Rena Haigh

December 31, 2017 1st Sunday after Christmas
Sr. Barbara Moore preaching
Casual Sunday
No Sunday School

Elder/Reader: Sue Leonard
Toddler Room: Nancy Talma

Ushers: Gary LaBerge

Blue Christmas
A Service of Wholeness and Healing
Sunday, December 10th, 4 pm

“Comfort, comfort my people, says God.”

The twinkling lights and merry songs of Christmas can, in cruel contrast, deepen the darkness and gloom felt by those struggling with grief, depression, or illness. For this reason, we are offering a special time of worship during this Advent season to offer comfort, healing, and hope.

The suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope-filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah. It expresses belief that no matter what happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us. Christmas can be a time for many when we are in need of that reassurance and comfort.

Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. We wonder how we will get through the holidays.

This year, we will have a Service of Wholeness and Healing, to remember those we have lost, to lift up those who are suffering, and to remind us all of the coming of the comforting Christ. The service will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 10th, at 4 pm.

Those looking for comfort, hope, wholeness, and renewal are invited to join us for quiet reflection, meaningful words, and music, to remind us of the good news of “God with us: Immanuel!”

Your Property Team would like to remind you that we have a monthly point person on call. If you spot an urgent issue that needs attending, please contact the appropriate person rather than the person you may have reached out to in the past.

Month	Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address
December	Don Dantz	315-597-2143	585-317-4960	ddantz@rochester.rr.com

Thank you! We appreciate all the members of our congregation being eyes and ears for our facility.

Deacons Ministry Team

The Deacons are actively praying for those on the prayer lists you see in our Sunday bulletin, for those who wish to remain anonymous, and for you at your request. We will pray for anyone you feel is in need. You can fill out a prayer card located in the pews, contact any Deacon, or call/email the church office with your request. We are honored and pleased to serve in this capacity. On occasion, the Deacons donate funds to individuals and non-profits in need. Recently, we offered gas money to an individual who found himself in what appeared to be a temporary homeless situation. We add notes of inspiration in cards that are sent to those on our special care list each month. And, you'll find birthday, anniversary and get well cards in your mail box that are sent out on a continuing basis.

Please remember that we do not have a budget supported by your pledges. The Deacons Ministry Team is funded entirely by free will donations. There are small Deacons envelopes located in the pews for this purpose. Just place yours in the offering plate. Our account is blessed to be well funded at this time, but the balance will fluctuate over time and the need for operating funds will again present itself.

We are a small but mighty group, graced by God to offer comfort, his peace and companionship through prayer, the written word and visits. We would like to expand our ability to do so by increasing our numbers. There are only five of us now. Our work is integral to the life of Western Presbyterian, and we would welcome new members and those who have served as Deacons previously to join us in service to Him.

Do you know of someone whose circumstances may benefit from our prayers? Please let us know.

CIRCLE IV MEMBERS



We are planning our annual Christmas Luncheon this year on Saturday, December 9th, at Warfield's. We will meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. for carpooling. Please bring a Christmas card for your secret Prayer Pal and we will be taking up a collection for the Good Neighbor Fund. Please let Sandy McMEnamin know if you will or will not be able to attend. She can be reached at smcmenamin@rochester.rr.com or 315-597-6181. Hope to see you there.

Dear WPC Family,

Surgery number three is complete with rehab progressing as planned. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I offer my heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, concerns, cards, phone calls, visits, flowers, and food that John & I received. I'm sure my healing has been aided by the warmth of your love.

With Gratitude,

Wilma Redman

Thank you to my church family for the cards, prayers & visits at church.
Thank you to those who attended my dad's memorial service.
Your prayers and kindness have helped during this difficult holiday time.
Kathy Barr



The Women's Association will be having a RADA Cutlery sale at the church on Sunday, December 3rd during Coffee Hour. What a wonderful time to purchase gifts for friends or family for the holiday season! You can purchase your items or place an order. If you prefer to place an order, you can contact Elaine Hassler at 597-5211. I can also provide you with a catalog. Thanks for your support of the Women's Association!



Deadline for the next SPIRE is Tuesday, December 19th, 2017.

Reverse Advent Calendar for the Food Pantry



Instead of getting something every day of Advent, give to others.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	27 Roll of toilet paper	28 Tube of toothpaste	29 Brand new toothbrush	30 Roll of paper towels	1 Deodorant	2 Handwashing soap
3 A bottle of dish detergent	4 Roll of paper towels	5 Roll of toilet paper	6 Package of napkins	7 Box of tissues	8 Bottle of spray with bleach	9 Deodorant
10 Box of tissues	11 Handwashing soap	12 Laundry soap and/or dryer sheets	13 Tube of toothpaste	14 Brand new toothbrush	15 Diapers or sanitary products	16 Bars of soap
17 Roll of toilet paper	18 A bottle of dish detergent	19 Handwashing soap	20 Bottle of spray with bleach	21 Tube of toothpaste	22 Package of napkins	23 Toilet bowl cleaner
24 Hot chocolate mix, tea bags, etc.	25 Merry Christmas		Thank you	for filling	your gift bags	for others.

Fill the Advent bags with gifts as suggested on the calendar, or with what you have to share.

Paper Products and soaps are always needed by those who come to the food pantry.

Please bring your bags each week and place the gifts in the large boxes under the tree.

Little Hats Big Hearts



Little Hats, Big Hearts started in February 2014 in Chicago, IL collecting 300 hats in the first year. The program has now expanded to more than 40 states.

Volunteers from around the country are joining the American Heart Association, in connection with The Children's Heart Foundation, to celebrate American Heart Month by knitting and crocheting red hats for babies born in February at participating hospitals. Little Hats, Big Hearts™, honors babies, moms, and heart healthy lives in a very special way. Supporters are knitting and crocheting red hats to be given out to thousands of babies during American Heart Month to empower moms to live heart healthy lives and to help their children do the same.

Together, we are working to raise awareness, provide resources and inspire moms to take their family's heart health to heart while also raising awareness about Congenital Heart Defects.

A Women's Gathering will continue to take place the first Wednesday of each month. We'll start working on the Little Hats Big Hearts project, making caps for infants. The Lions Club has a project making scarves, hats, mittens for children and adults in Wayne County, so there are lots of opportunities to help others.

We'll knit and crochet items together. Everyone is welcome, even if you don't knit or crochet, come for the fellowship. Bring your needles or hook and a pattern, if you have one, and join in the fellowship.

Next meeting: Dec 6th 11:00 am -1:00 pm Call Irene Fadden with questions. 585-802-7594

An Awesome Way To Support Family Promise...for Free

As an authorized 501c3, Family Promise of Wayne County has registered with Amazon as a designated charity under their Smile program.

What is Amazon Smile? It's very simple. As a philanthropic act, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the value of your purchases to Family Promise of Wayne County (FPWC). To benefit from this program you and I have to do only 2 things:

1. Designate Family Promise of Wayne County as your charity of choice. Click [HERE](#) to do so.
2. Shop at "smile.amazon.com" instead of "amazon.com". There is no difference in availability of items nor in prices.

Question: Half of one percent doesn't seem like much. Is it really worth it?

Answer: Let's assume we can persuade 500 people both within and outside of Wayne County to designate FPWC with Amazon Smile. And further, let's say that, on average, each one spends \$50/month on Amazon. Here are the numbers:

1. $500 \text{ people} \times \$50 \text{ in purchases} = \$25,000 \text{ per month.}$
2. $0.005 \times \$25,000 = \$125 \text{ per month contributed by Amazon to FPWC!}$
3. $\$125 \times 12 = \$1,500 \text{ per year.}$

Which would be a wonderful benefit, yes; BUT I'm suggesting that we can probably spread the word to enlist MORE than 500 and that the average monthly spend could well be in excess of \$50. This one small program could bring multiple thousands of dollars to FPWC each year.

Please click [HERE](#) to designate FPWC as your charity of choice and **spread the word to your friends and family** and ask them to do the same (and to spread the word to THEIR friends and so on). Then just shop normally at smile.amazon.com!!



December Toddler Schedule

Below is the Schedule for staffing of the Toddler Room during the 10:00 AM Sunday morning service. Thank you in advance for your extremely important mission of providing infant and toddler care. Please arrive about 10-15 minutes early. If you find you are not available on your assigned date, please find a replacement. Many, Many thanks!

The Nursery is located on the second floor, room # 5 – South Side - Snack will be in the cupboard and a vacuum will be hanging around. Age appropriate toys will be available as well as a changing table.

Please let Jody know when we need to refill the snacks.

Thanks once again for your help!

12/03/17	Jan Taylor	315-597-4293
12/10/17	Irene Fadden	585-802-7594
12/17/17	Ruth Dantz	315-597-2143
12/24/17	Jody Pruitt	315-331-3211
12/31/17	Nancy Talma	315-597-5003
01/07/18	Logan & Kelly Babcock	315-210-0368
01/14/18	Carol and Andy Sloan	315-597-5182
01 /21/18	Katie Michell	315-597-5653
01/28/18	Sue Leonard	585-734-4027
02/04/18	Rena Haigh	315-597-5971
02/11/18	Maxine & Kelly Babcock	315-210-0368
02/18/18	Sue Pringle	315-597-9553

Please Note

The Nursery has
changed rooms!
It is Now

Room # 5

Also as a curtesy
Kathy will be giving
everyone a reminder Call
each week.



*If anyone or anyone you know is interested in joining the team in providing infant and toddler care during the 10:00 am service please contact **Jody Pruitt**, we would love to have you! Also, if you are no longer able to help please let Jody know as well. Thanks ~ the CE Team Jody Pruitt 315-331-3211 jody.pruitt@gmail.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 3	Vicky Powell
December 6	Jane Culver
December 8	Kelly Babcock
December 10	Elena Delhagen
December 11	Fran Storm
December 15	Sandy McMenamin
December 17	Kristena Clark
December 29	Grace Williams

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 9	Robert & Susan Pringle
December 27	Joshua & Emily Hunt
December 29	Steve & Randy Kennard

If you are an active member and we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office at 597-9171 so we can add it to our list next time. If your anniversary or birthday is missing, it means it was not in the Data Base, which is where we get the list.



DECEMBER 2017

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2 9 am Junia Gathering FH 9 am-1 pm Angel Tree Delivery
3 Advent I 9 am Book Study RADA Cutlery Sale	4 4:30 pm CTNS Board 7 pm Fellowship	5 9:30 am Book Study 2 pm Deacons	6 11 am -1 pm FH Women's Gathering 1 pm Mission/Social Concerns 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Finance	7 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	8	9 Noon Warfield's Christmas Luncheon Circle IV
10 Communion Sunday 9 am Book Study 4 pm Blue Christmas Service	11	12 9:30 am Book Study 6-9 pm King's Daughters FH & Kit. 7 pm Session	13 6:30 pm Property	14 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir 7 pm 200 th Committee FH	15	16
17 9 am Book Study 4 pm Candlelight Service	18	19 9:30 am Book Study SPIRE DEADLINE	20 CTNS Santa Claus	21 CTNS Santa Claus 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	22	23
24 Christmas Eve & Advent IV 10 am Children Led Worship 10 pm Lessons & Carols	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30
31 Sr. Barbara Moore preaching Casual Sunday No Sunday School						



JANUARY 2018

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 2 pm Deacons	3 11 am – 1 pm Women's Gathering FH 1 pm Mission/Social Concerns	4 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord
7 Baptism of the Lord Epiphany Party	8 4:30 pm CTNS Board 7 pm Fellowship	9 7 pm Worship	10 6:30 pm Property 7 pm Christian Ed.	11 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir 7 pm 200 th Committee FH	12	13
14 Communion Sunday	15 Martin Luther King's Birthday Office Closed	16 SPIRE DEADLINE	17 7 pm Finance	18 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	19	20
21	22	23 7 pm Session	24	25 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	26	27
28	29	30 6-9 pm King's Daughter's Mtg. FH	31			