Our Mission Statement

The Presbyterian Church of Wilmington has been called by God and organized to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ; to equip the Saints; to minister to the needs of congregational members and the community; and to promote peace and justice in the world.
Prayer of Preparation for Worship

Holy God, as the candles’ warmth envelops us, we are drawn to the sense of comfort and peace we find in the story of Christmas. Guide us as we seek to enter more deeply into this story. Sharpen our awareness and open our hearts to what you would reveal. In the name of the Messiah we pray. Amen.

-Cynthia Campbell

We Gather to Worship God

Organ Prelude  “Ding Dong Merrily On High”  
Arr. Douglas Wagner

Welcome and Announcements  
Pastor Stan Gockel

*Call to Worship
Leader: Sing aloud and shout for joy!
People: The Lord God is in our midst.
Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.
People: Again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.

*Opening Hymn 13  “Prepare the Way”  
Bereden Väg För Herran

*Litany of the Advent Candles  
Jean, Tim, Blake, and Brycen Haley
Reader 1: The Advent of our Lord is near, as we rejoice in the fulfillment of the long-awaited promise. As we light the Advent Candle of Joy, we proclaim the good news of God’s salvation, the gift of joy
Reader 2: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4:4-7)
Reader 1: God’s promise of joy is for all people; together, we rejoice in the promise of Christ’s coming.
The Advent Candle of Joy is lit.

Reader 2: Let us pray…

ALL: Surprising God, you bring joy to an unexpecting world. Into our busy days, you place Bethlehem moments—a stillness that strengthens our hearts, a cry that kindles memories and wrinkles smiles across our faces, visitors who bless us with kind words and warm gifts, angelic music that lifts our weariness. Surprising God, usher us into the wonder of Bethlehem and let our hearts abound with joy. Amen.

*Congregational Response: “The Candle of Hope,” verse 3

The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God’s kingdom is one of delight and surprise.

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Tune: Lyons, “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above”

*Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Please wave to each other, make the sign of peace, or bow to each other. Let us continue to observe social distancing and keep each other safe.)

Christmas Pageant—The Birth of Jesus Reenacted

Part I: Mary and Joseph

Carol no. 25: “Away in a Manger” (verse 1)

Part II: The Animals

Carol no. 37: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (verses 1 & 2)

Part III: The Angels

Carol no. 31: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (verse 1)

Part IV: The Shepherds

Carol no. 29: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (verse 1)

Part V: Wise Persons Follow the Star

Carol no. 66: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” (verse 1)

Part VI: Conclusion

Carol no. 40: “Joy To The World!” (verses 1 & 4)
We Hear the Word of God

The Psalter—Luke 1:46-55 (read responsively)
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Anthem
“Sing to the Holy Child”
- Patrick M. Liebergen

The Word of the Lord….Thanks be to God!

Sermon
“Christmas at Luke’s House”
(An Advent Tour of Gospel Homes, Part 3)
Text: “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.”
-Luke 2:7

We Respond to the Word of God

*Affirmation of Faith— The Apostles’ Creed
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he
ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory—Envelope giving, checks, and cash donations may be placed in the offering plate on the table at the back of the center aisle.

*Congregational Response: “Doxology”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Silent Prayer…Pastoral Prayer…The Lord’s Prayer (‘debts’)

We Go Forth to Serve God

*Closing Hymn 38 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” Carol

*Charge and Benediction

Organ Postlude “Carol of the Bells” Arr. John Dixon

*All who are able, please stand.

The Congregational meeting will begin immediately following the prelude.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMINGTON extends a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today. If you are interested in joining, please speak to the pastor, or you may call the church office during the week.

THE SUNDAY SERVICE can be viewed from our website (pcwilmington.org) on the Sermon page after it is uploaded on Monday mornings or from our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pcwilmington/.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL meets from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. every Sunday.

Gather for Coffee and Snacks in Fellowship Hall every Sunday after Service.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Today
9:30a Pre-Worship Prayer (PO)
10a Worship (SY)
10:15a Children’s Sunday School (CE)
11:15a Fellowship Coffee Hour (FH)
Deacon Team 2
Greeters: Mike Wallace & Jim Gillette

Monday, December 13
12p Blanket Bunch Lunch
   bring your own) (FH)
1p Blanket Bunch Meeting (FH)
7p Clintonaires (MR)

Tuesday, December 14
10a Women’s Bible Study (MR)
10a Mission Ministry (FH)

Wednesday, December 15
11a Evangelism Ministry (FH)
12p Brown Bag Bible Study (FH)
6p TFP Board Meeting (FH)
6:30p Choir Practice (SY)
7p AA Women (FH)
7:30p Bell Choir (SY)

Thursday, December 16
6:30p Timber Faith Christmas Program (SY)

Saturday, December 18
10a AA Meeting

Sunday, December 19
9:30a Pre-Worship Prayer (PO)
10a Worship (SY)
10:15a Children’s Sunday School (CE)
11a Fellowship (FH)
*Congregation Meeting after Service
    Deacon: Team 3
    Greeters: Connie Bailey & Anna Mae Rosenow

Financial Update
As of November 30, 2021,
Year to Date Income $254,651
Expenses $251,861
Difference $2,789.
Rejoice evermore,
Pray without ceasing.
In everything give thanks:
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
concerning you.

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER LIST

Cindy Craig
Deb Philp
Ann Evans
Ruth MacDonald (friend of Evelyn Gunning)
Meredith Mcle (friend Jan Blohm)
Leslie Hicks, friend of Ginger Wallace
Laurie Gillette
Jim Chroust
Reagan Williams
Leah Holden
Jim Hurst, Amy Burton’s uncle
Mary Ann Mason, sister-in-law of Jennie & Marty Mason
Yvonne Hayes
Kitty Werner
Shirley Hansen
Emma Gano, Baby Anderson
Sherry Thomson
Karen Heinrich (Preschool Parent)
Hana Shelton
Eric Johnston

We pray for all, whether named or unnamed.
If you would like your name added to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 937-382-2185.