



December 9, 2018

"We are a welcoming and diverse Christian community living our faith in God and affirming the gifts of all of God's people. We are dedicated to serving those in need, demonstrating our faith in action by following the teachings of Jesus Christ."

Statement Adopted by the Wilton Presbyterian Church Session, May 2018

If you are here for the first time or a frequent visitor, we would like to **WELCOME** and **THANK YOU** for visiting with us today! If you would like to learn more about our church life, please visit our website at www.wiltonpresbyterian.org and take a moment to fill out the fellowship pad (*located in your pew*), so that we may contact you.

Stewardship

WPC Stewardship supports all the ministries that define who we are. It is a blessing to give of our resources, so please pledge to support the ministry of all God's children.

Last Sunday, we dedicated our annual gifts to God with thanks and asked the congregation to make Stewardship a year round priority. Today, we celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Advent and the beginning of our 2nd phase of Stewardship. The goal of our Stewardship Ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of time, talent and resources. WPC members give **above and beyond** their time and talent. We ask the same of our financial resources to enable all of the ministries WPC ministries to continue. Our goal *has* to be increased rather than decreased to support our mission, pastoral care, and youth programs. Please pledge if you have not already done so, and if you have, would you consider increasing it by 15%? God's blessings have not become static and neither should our giving.

You can NOW pledge online at www.wiltonpresbyterian.org

For a listing of our full calendar visit our website at www.wiltonpresbyterian.org

Holiday Gift Drive

The holidays are officially here and filled with happiness, friends and family. Children especially look forward to the fun and presents. This holiday season help bring smiles to children who are less fortunate. Once again our friends over at Family ReEntry are sponsoring the holiday gift drive and they are needing donations of *new, unwrapped toys and gifts* for children ages 4-17 years old.

Please consider donating one or even more of the following items: *hats, scarves, gloves, teen T's, fun socks, sweatshirts, dolls & sports items, arts & crafts, Legos, action figures, toy cars, including gift cards to Walmart, Target, Old Navy, TJ Maxx, Game Stop.*

Thank you and please bring donations to the church no later than **Sunday, December 16th.**

For more information email Brandon Bone brandonbone10002@yahoo.com

DEC. 9TH – DEC. 16TH

Sunday, December 9th (Advent–Peace)

- 10:00 AM Christmas Pageant
- 2:00 PM Christmas Tea at the Manse

Monday, December 10th

- 12:00 PM AA Meeting/Upper Core
- 7:30 PM New Life AA Meeting/Upper Core

Tuesday, December 11th

- 8:00 AM Cooking for MANNA/Kitchen
- 7:30 PM WEPCO Meeting/Alcove

Wednesday, December 12th

- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer Service
- 2:00 PM Afternoon Prayer Service
- 6:45 PM New Life AA Meeting/Upper Core
- 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting/Alcove

Thursday, December 13th

- 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal
- 7:00 AM Choir Rehearsal (*The last one*)

Friday, December 14th

- 12:00 PM AA Meeting/Upper Core
- 8:00 PM New Life AA Meeting/Upper Core

Saturday, December 15th

- 9:30 AM WPC Choir Rehearsal
- 12:00 PM Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 16th (Advent–Joy)

- 10:00 AM Big Music Sunday
- 11:00 AM Family Chili Luncheon/Parish Hall
- 11:00 AM Family Cookie Decorating/Parish Hall

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Frank & Judy Mabley, Steve Connor, Kristina Grish, Marjorie Wilkinson, Emily Bohrer, Brandon Bone, Courtney Kleeman's mother.

Please pray for those that are in need, and who choose to remain private.



CHOIR CORNER NEWS

Today, we are letting the young voices of the congregation take over for the Sanctuary Choir. As always, the Children's Pageant means it's time for the wonderful "sounds of the season" to come from the mouths and healthy lungs of our next generation. And this year's Pageant is particularly timely. *Next Sunday*, the Sanctuary Choir will be back in the chairs offering up our annual service of wonderful Christmas music as we celebrate another Big Music Sunday. We'll have ample assistance with a number of guest musicians, singers and instrumentalists, who will join in for this festive occasion. Following previous Big Music Sundays, WPC members have often come up to me and other members of our choir to say, **"Thank you! Now the Christmas Season can really begin!"**

OK ... please forgive me, but it's time for two "commercials": *First*, please invite as many of your friends, relatives and neighbors to join you at church next Sunday. Let's share this annual musical gift with as many people as possible. *Second*, please consider making a financial offering for our Special Music and Flower funds. These Big Music Sundays (as well as other special music Sundays throughout the year, including Palm Sunday and Easter) cost us around \$2,000 and the money is *not* covered in our annual Choir budget. These additional costs allow us to bring in guest instrumentalists, which pays for the extra music we need to purchase for our 30+ singers; *in addition* there are the beautiful seasonal decorations, and the like. Your financial offerings can be in the form of memorials/honoring those who may have left us, or perhaps special thanks and/or recognitions. **Above all**, let me *thank you* for your sincere consideration of your special gifts. And here's looking forward to both today's Pageant, and to next Sunday's Big Music event. Consider it your Sanctuary Choir's early Christmas gift to all of you.

Blessings to you all, Al

2018 ADVENT SEASON

The **Christmas Special Music & Flower Fund Donations** envelopes are included in this week's bulletin. When filling out your form, do not forget to include your dedicated names and donations.

Please return everything in the envelope to the church office no later than **December 16th**, in order to have your dedications included in our Christmas Eve bulletin.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS

Thank you to all the youth, children, and adults who participated as part of our Christmas Pageant.

Thank you to all the teachers who help teach and model Christ's way for our children.

Thank you to Rev. Shannon and Al for help with timing of the service and musical selections.

Thank you to all the parents and the Congregation who encourage me to try new things in worship and let me know what works and what doesn't.

Thank you all for letting me be playful with worship.

Thank you to Suzanne for putting extra time into the bulletin so that everyone could keep their eyes on the pageant instead of flipping to the next hymn in the hymnal.

Finally, let us all give **thanks** to God. Without Jesus coming and revealing to us who God is, there would be no Advent, and no hope for peace.

~Peace, Grace & Love, Nate

FAMILY CHILI LUNCHEON

'Tis The Season...

Please join us on **Sunday, December 16th** following services for our *Second Annual Big Music Sunday Chili Luncheon* in the Parish Hall.

In order to make this festivity a success *please* sign up online to bring certain foods or items! All are welcome!

To sign up, please go to "Sign Up Genius" website:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C48ABAF2BA4FF2-family>

CHRISTMAS TEA AT THE MANSE

Please come and celebrate the season with a holiday open house hosted by Rev. Shannon White at the Manse.

Today from 2:00p-4:00p
33 Millstone Road

For more information contact Rev. Shannon White at
Shannon.white@wiltonpresbyterian.org

Spotlight Series

Lighting the Advent Wreath in the Tradition of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The Church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of *hope, peace, joy, and love*; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

The Meaning of Advent

"Advent" means "coming" or "arrival". During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ's return.

-www.presbyterianmission.org/resource

Peace

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

