

# The Newsheet

## ✠ Waverly Road Presbyterian Church

www.waverlyroadpc.org wrpc@waverlyroadpc.org 423.247.5121 Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Friday, 8:00am – 12:00 pm

### WELCOME TO WORSHIP



**December 25, 2022**

**In-Person and  
Online Worship Service  
at 11:00am**

**Click on either link for  
Sunday Worship Service**



[https://www.facebook.com/  
WaverlyRoadPresbyterian-  
Church/](https://www.facebook.com/WaverlyRoadPresbyterian-Church/)



[https://www.youtube.com/  
channel/  
UC1dv3U42u4jLlksq\\_71Foyg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1dv3U42u4jLlksq_71Foyg)



### SCRIPTURES

**December 25, 2022**  
Informal Service and Carols

**WRPC**  
*Food Pantry*  
**SERVING EVERY FRIDAY**  
**from 10:00am—Noon.**

*A very special thanks goes out  
to all of our Food Pantry  
volunteers who are helping to  
FEED THE HUNGRY  
in our community.*



**You are loved. We are blessed!**



### From the desk of Pastor Collin...

**Greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ,**

There are times when it is hard to find the joy of the season. We get caught up in the busyness of life. People get sick. Recovery still needs to happen. The drama of family and life overwhelm us. All around us the march of time and the events of the world continue.

I always feel like we should be able to pause life these last two weeks of December. Cuddle up around a fire with a warm drink and basically live in a Christmas card. As I read the Christmas story, I am reminded why this is not possible.

The Christmas story is a reminder that God does not pause time to make things perfect. God instead enters into a messy world. The world that welcomed Jesus was full of drama, injustice, sickness and pain. God showed up there just as God shows up in our world and lives right now. God does not call us to live in a perfect world, he instead bursts into our mess and remains with us in the midst of it.

This amazing, triune God, does not allow us to remain alone. Instead, God comes in and makes a home with us. Thanks be to God for that.

—Rev. Collin



## PRAYER REQUESTS

### People in our Prayers

Rev. Dan Clark	Laci, Nicholas & Robin
Holston Presbytery Camp	Lodal
Patients receiving Dialysis	Sarah Valk
Rorie Parker Family	Ann Kibler
Lee Bockman	Dr. Bob & Jeanne Jernigan
Doris Blanchard	Sarah Hale
Susan Smith	Susan Avery
Beverly Carman	Kirk and Lola Finch
Howard's Mother)	Ken & Jane Hunter

### Missions in our Prayers—4th Quarter

#### Local Missions

Kingsport City Schools Homeless Education Program  
Trunk or Treat  
WRPC Food Pantry

#### Regional / National Missions

Presbyterian Disaster Relief

#### International Missions

Families Involved Serving Humanity (FISH), Nicaragua  
Northumbria Community Retreat Center & Mother  
House, England

#### Special Offerings

Appalachian Miles for Smiles (October 13-14)  
Christmas Joy Offering (December 11)

*We will leave names on the Prayer Request List for three weeks unless you notify the Church Office to remain on the list for an extended amount of time.*



## This Week at WRPC

### Indoor and Online Worship at 11:00am.

<b>Sunday 12/25</b>	11:00am	Sunday Worship (informal service)
<b>Monday 12/26</b>	8:00am	Christmas Holiday – Church Offices CLOSED
<b>Tuesday 12/27</b>	8:00am	Christmas Floating Holiday – Church Offices CLOSED
	6:00pm	Healing Holidays Grief Seminar, MR
<b>Friday 12/30</b>	10:00am	Food Pantry, FH



## Waverly Wanderers



Our Waverly Wanderers Group enjoyed a day of fun and fellowship in Abingdon at Barter Theatre. The play "Over the River and Through the Woods" was a hit and Chuck Green provided comic relief for everyone!

Want to join in the fun?  
Contact Rachel Lawson at

rachelzbth@gmail.com.



Youth Group will be taking a break and resume meeting on January 9th! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

## The History of WRPC's Silent Nativity



Have you noticed some recent visitors to our church dressed in unusual clothing? Did you see a man and woman sitting in a pew while others were standing or sitting in the Narthex next to a

small flock of sheep? They are part of our "Silent Nativity," a project that our church undertook in 1996 when I was serving as the Director of Children's Ministry. The idea came about when a church member - Darrell Rice - shared an article about "A Silent Pageant" that had become a tradition in two Presbyterian churches located in Knoxville: Fountain City and First Presbyterian. We decided to make this our tradition also.

Each of the Sunday School classes from preschool through senior high designed the Nativity people. The 2's & 3's chose the clothing colors for Mary and Jesus, the 4's & 5's designed the Angel, continuing up through the middle and senior high classes, who designed the shepherds.

Church members donated fabric and materials and a small group of adults worked to bring the designs to life: Edythe Buchanan, Judi Easley, Susan Lodal, Barnes Louthan, and Jennie Steffey. Others would be involved in later years when additional improvements were made.

It was our intent to represent diversity within the figures, so you will notice a variety of skin tones, hair color, costume styles, and even a shepherdess (designed by the all-girl 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade class).

At the beginning of Advent, the figures began their journey that will eventually lead them to Bethlehem (aka, front of the Sanctuary).

May you be blessed as you experience the Christmas Story told by our Silent Nativity.

— Susan Lodal



*Candlelight  
Christmas Eve  
Service  
Saturday,  
December 24 at  
6:30pm*





**December 25–31, 2022**

We distributed 39 bags this past Friday, another normal day.

What was unusual about last week was, first, we received 52 fully packed bags from 1st Presbyterian – Kingsport as a part of their White Gift offering (we will also receive a financial contribution). Our thanks to our friends at First Pres for their ongoing support and generosity.

We also received a \$3000 gift from Food City as a part of their Race Against Hunger program, a very generous amount. Most importantly (from my standpoint, anyway) was that it came in the form of a pre-loaded Corporate Card. No more paying with dozens of \$50 gift cards!

The Christmas Card project was a success again this year. Final numbers are being tabulated, and I will pass them along when they are finalized.

—Pete Lodal



Since 1972, Meals on Wheels of Kingsport has been delivering hot, nutritious home-delivered meals free of charge to those in Kingsport who need a little help to remain independent and live in their own homes. We have had a wonderful year of special celebrations including a car show, a 50th anniversary dinner and a series of Celebrate- Connect-Contribute videos. You can view the videos on the Meals on Wheels website at [www.mealsonwheelskingsport.org](http://www.mealsonwheelskingsport.org).

Meals on Wheels is sincerely grateful for the support that it receives from our church. WRPC has generously made kitchen and storage space available for Meals on Wheels use free of charge. Members of our congregation volunteer their time every month to serve as cooks, drivers, lead drivers and board members. Many of our congregation also volunteer as drivers and cooks at the second Meals on Wheels kitchen at First Presbyterian Church. Most recently, Meals on Wheels received a  
(Continued on back)



History can't tell us who first sang the lines of "Go, Tell It on the Mountain," because the original author and lyricist was an enslaved African-American. The call-and-response praise songs that came from this terrible stage of our history are known as spirituals, spread orally from one plantation and farm to another.

We do know much more about the people responsible for bringing this song to the rest of the world. In 1907, John Wesley Work Jr. compiled and edited a number of songs, including this one, in his songbook Jubilee Songs and Folk Songs of the American Negro. But the song was popularized decades before that, by the original Fisk Jubilee Singers.

The Jubilee Singers started out in 1871 as a brave little band of young people led by George White and Ella Shepperd. Many of them were former slaves, and their mission was to raise money for their struggling university on a singing tour through cities of the North.

They began by performing only traditional hymns and classical arrangements to show their musical training and their performances received a moderate amount of attention, but the journey was anything but easy.

When their money ran out and they had to scrimp to get coats to protect themselves from the cold Northern winter, they kept going. When they were met with threats and hostility and were turned away from hotel after hotel in Ohio because of the color of their skin, they kept going.

When reviews derided their music and editorial cartoons depicted them as minstrel singers, they still kept going.

At last, three days before Christmas, the tide turned. The choir had run out of funds when the most famous preacher of the day, Henry Ward Beecher, invited them to his church. They began to sing the songs of their hearts, the spirituals they'd learned from their parents during slavery days.

And the wealthy congregation responded with tears... and donations. Soon, they went from struggling to successful to, eventually, famous – world-famous, when their following tour of England had them appearing before nobility and even Queen Victoria herself.

Their concerts were the first time most Americans were introduced to spirituals, including "Go, Tell It on the Mountain," a seasonal crowd favorite, so that the good news could truly spread "Over the hills and everywhere." (Continued on back)

**Waverly Road Presbyterian Church**  
**1415 Waverly Road**  
**Kingsport, TN 37664-2520**

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## **Meals on Wheels, *cont'd.***

mini-grant from our Mission Committee that will be used to purchase coolers that we provide to our recipients. Meals on Wheels thanks our congregation for this generous mini-grant.

Please continue to remember Meals on Wheels' recipients, volunteers, and staff in your prayers, so that they can continue to serve those in need far into the future. If you are interested in volunteering with Meals on Wheels, there is an opening for a cook the first Thursday of the month. Meals on Wheels is always happy to sign up new drivers too. You can sign up to volunteer at [www.mealsonwheelskingsport.org](http://www.mealsonwheelskingsport.org) or call the office at 423-247-4511. Thank you for supporting MOW.

## **Go Tell it on the Mountain, *cont'd.***

### **The Fisk Jubilee Singers**

**in concert at**

**First Presbyterian Church in Kingsport  
on Friday, February 17, 2023, 7:30pm**

The Fisk Jubilee Singers are an internationally acclaimed ensemble, embodying the historic roots of slave songs, bursting forth in the energy of the modern spiritual.

**Ticket: \$30 for Adults, \$25 for Seniors,  
\$10 for Students**

