



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024 at 11 PM

Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church
500 McKennans Church Road, Wilmington DE
(302) 998-0434; www.rccpc.org



Rooted in Love, Lighting the Way
Welcome to worship, welcome to Red Clay, welcome home!

Please silence your cell phones.

GATHER

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*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!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

One: Hope is:

Many: Trusting that there is light, even in the dark.

One: Peace is:

Many: The wolf lying down with the lamb.

One: Joy is:

Many: Contagious sounds of Alleluia.

One: Love is:

Many: Unquenchable, never-ending, born in a manger, here today.

One: Christmas is:

Many: A love song to the world; the light that shines in the darkness.

One: Let us make a joyful noise! Let us worship God.

*CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

One: We welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

Many: Amen.

*CAROL **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-25

MUSICAL OFFERING Fantasia on "Greensleeves"

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-14

CAROL **In the Bleak Midwinter**

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

*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.*

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

This Christmas Eve, all cash offerings put in the plate will go directly to the Roots & Rays Fund, which will support our Rise Against Hunger meal packing event. RAH sends out millions of meals every year to children in food insecure countries around the world. We hope you will give generously tonight and consider joining us for the event after worship on February 2.



MUSICAL OFFERING

O Holy Night

HOMILY

Pinned to the Quilt

Rev. Dr. Phillips

HOLY COMMUNION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Ring in the Joy!

Please have your bell ready to ring when invited!

GRACIOUS INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: Glory to God in the highest!

Many: And on earth, peace to all!

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed by 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All are welcome to the table! This evening the congregation is served in procession. Those seated in the pews at the front of the sanctuary begin the procession when directed by ushers. For those unable to process forward, stay seated and the pastors will bring the sacrament to you. All bread is gluten-free and will be placed into your cupped hand by a server. Empty glasses are placed in the baskets provided near the communion servers.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Many: Holy God, on this night of ringing bells and rejoicing hearts, we thank you for the gift of this meal. In the bread and the cup, we have tasted your grace and heard the echoes of heaven's joy. As we rise from this table, may the bells of your love ring through our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CANDLES

(The pastors will share the light from the Christ candle with people seated near the end of the pew. Please tilt the unlighted candle towards the lit candle to ensure safety.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-5,14

*CAROL **Silent Night**

*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!"*

*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.*

(The carol will conclude with a verse that is hummed.)

*BENEDICTION

*CAROL

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

(Please extinguish your candles during the organ introduction.)

***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!"***

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

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.***

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"



Thanks to this evening's worship participants:

Martin Hargrove, *Soloist*

Jessie Reagen, *Cellist*

Chip Gruber, *Usher Captain*

John & Leslie Gast, *Greeters*

Tonight's soloists are brought to you through gifts from
the Naylor and Music Memorial funds.

Through a series of in-person messages, devotionals, and worship opportunities, we hope to keep you connected to—and nurtured by—the Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church community. Make sure you're signed up for our Thursday eNews, Facebook, and Instagram accounts. Visit www.rccpc.org.

To learn more, check out the church website at www.rccpc.org for a calendar of events and for more on the history and other information about our church!



Red Clay Creek Presbyterian invites you
to its *Signature Services* during the coming year.

ROOTS AND RAYS SERVICE CHALLENGE 2025

A month-long service effort beginning in January of each year, that directs our intention to the needs of our community.

HOLY WEEK 2025

- ◆ **Maundy Thursday — April 17th | 7PM**
- ◆ **Good Friday — April 18th | 12PM**
- ◆ **Easter Sunday — April 20th | 10AM**

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN — May 18th, 2025 | 10AM

Kirk is the Scottish word for church, so a church celebration and blessing of the tartans in our Presbyterian church honors both local and church heritage since it was the Scots who brought the Presbyterian Church to America.

OUTDOOR SERVICE & PICNIC — June 1st, 2025 | 10AM

Join us in the back meadow for worship and our annual picnic.

SUMMER ARTS CAMP — JULY 14th-18th, 2025 | 9AM-12PM

Kids K-5 will have music, drama, visual arts, snacks, and FUN, culminating with bingo and performance night July 18th, as well as Youth Sunday on July 20th.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY — September 7th, 2025 | 10AM

We mark our return to regular church programming with the start of our fall sermon series and Sunday School kick off.

FALL CELEBRATION SUNDAY — October 26th, 2025 | 10AM

A joyous worship service where we give Bibles to our 3rd graders and dedicate our pledges, followed by outdoor trunk-or-treat and a flag football game.

ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY — November 16th, 2025 | 10AM

We give thanks for God's many blessings and our rich history of over 300 years.

RED CLAY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN — MINISTERS, STAFF & CHAIRS

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips, *Senior Pastor/Head of Staff*

Rev. Emily Schwenker, *Parish Associate*

Rev. Dr. Philip Jones, *Parish Associate*

Jeffrey Miller, *Director of Music*

Deena Andrews, *Assistant Director of Instrumental Music and Children's Choir Director*

Lisa Nichols, *Bell Choir Director*

Rachele Gilmore, *Director of Community Life*

Ben Andrews, *Director of Christian Formation*

Jamie Russell, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Barbara Vanderkraats, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

Judy Lozier, *Nursery Director* ❖ Shelby Beattie, *Sunday School Teacher* ❖ Sofia Martin, *Nursery Support*

Julie Reeder, *Office Coordinator* ❖ Dinyar Vania, *Facilities Manager*

Kelley Norton, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Anthony M. Condoluci-Smith, *Financial Associate*

Charlie Hannagan, *Technology Support*

A. Leonhard, S. Armstrong, K. Barton, A. Bloom, D. Howarth, J. Schubel, P. Worrell, *Livestream Production*

Sandy Sarjeant, *Clerk of Session* ❖ Sue Gleason, *Deacon Moderator*

Geoff and Pam Meyer, *Belong Chairs* ❖ Nancy James, *Nurture Chair*

Linda Reisor, *Reach Chair* ❖ Lois Galinat, *Rejoice Chair*

Brandon Wallace, *Finance Chair* ❖ John Gast, *Personnel Chair*

Mark Cozine, *Home Chair* ❖ Scott McHenry, *Administration Chair*

Andrew Bloom, *Community Partners* ❖ Marcia Kelly, *Memory Garden Chair*

A NOTE ON THE LOGO

Our church has "roots" in the community that date back to 1722. We have been a good neighbor when we were surrounded by farmland up until now when we are surrounded by the suburbs. Our history helps us remember a time when people helped one another out because that was the right thing to do. We hope to be a sign that this kind of community can still exist. We also believe that, in order for that community to exist, we need to stay "rooted" in the Good News that God has chosen to love us - not because of who we are, but because of who God is. We call that grace.

That is where the "rays" come in. We hope to extend our love, and the love we know from the graciousness of God, in many ways today. This means engaging in friendships with those that Jesus would have made friends with - those that feel isolated for any number of reasons. We know we will never be perfect at that, but we will try! We are especially aware that churches have long held back from friendship with others based on age, economics, sexuality, race, disability, and the list goes on. We seek to be something different than that. There are so many stories about how Jesus entered into life-affirming friendships with those that others wouldn't. We seek to be like Jesus.

Right there, in the center of it all, is the **cross**. For us, the cross is a "Tree of Life." It represents how God broke into this world to establish a new way of being alive. It symbolizes how God calls us to love with freedom, with recklessness even, if it means connecting the world to the wonder of God's transformative presence.





How we helped in 2024

FOOD

- Food Bank of Delaware- 531 volunteer hours & 13 Red Clay sessions
- Lenten Food Drive- 10 barrels & 1192 lbs of food collected
- 11 Thanksgiving turkeys provided to Richey E.S. families
- Distributed 8 cases of Infant Formula
- Emmanuel Dining Room, 12 months, over 1200 hot meals provided
- 250 Go Bags packed for Friendship House (FH)

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Free Arts Camps for over 125 kids throughout the year
- 100 School Kits provided for PCUSA Gifts of the Heart Program
- Dickinson H.S. children provided with clothing, school supplies & yearbooks
- Electric bill paid for Dickinson family
- FH School Uniforms- 200 uniforms & over \$2100 raised
- Continued support for Sharif family & new refugee team formed to help extended family

RCCPC INITIATIVES

- 2nd annual Roots & Rays Service Challenge- Month of service activities from our congregation
- Hope for Tomorrow Campaign- Raised \$400,000 for the future of mission at Red Clay

AROUND TOWN

- New outreach team for Humane Animal Partners
- Annual Picnic & monthly meals for the residents of FH Transitional Housing Program
- FH Highmark Walk- 24 team members & \$3685 raised
- Sunscreen, lip balm & canned food drives for Meeting Ground

BEYOND DELAWARE

- \$ 27k raised for Asheville with match from Roots & Rays
- 2 trailers of donations sent to N.C. with Albertini Landscaping
- Asheville Service Trip- Team of 23 provided 7 days of service to organizations in Asheville area.
- Costa Rica Service Trip- Team of 12 provided 8 days of service to Clinica CEDCAS

HOLIDAY HELP

- 50 Easter Meals for Table of Plenty families
- 28 Thanksgiving meal bags provided to Table of Plenty
- 11 Thanksgiving turkeys provided to Richey families
- 100 toys provided to *Stock Santa's Shop* for FH
- 30 \$100 Christmas Gift Cards provided to FH women
- Santa's 2nd Run*- 30 children provided Christmas gifts



RCCPC Kids

Year in Review 2024

FUN WITH THE COMMUNITY

Easter Egg Hunt with animals from Conrad FFA
Disney Sing-Along and appearance by Olaf
Week-long Summer Arts Camp
Trunk-or-Treat

FUN ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

FUN EVENTS

Foam Party
Rock Wall
Magic Show
S'more Making
Open Gyms

Year-round Sunday School
Children's Choir Performances
Highland Games for Kids

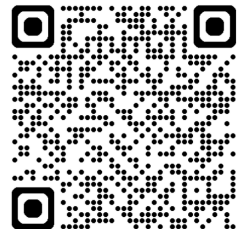
NEW FUN FOR 2024

Younger Youth Group for grades 3-6
Wheel Parade for the 4th of July

UPCOMING FUN

Glow Dance - December 30 - 5pm to 7pm

Follow us on Facebook
to join the fun!





Please join us in January for our 3rd annual *Roots & Rays Service Challenge!*

We are thrilled our Roots & Rays Service Challenge will begin Sunday, January 12. Started in 2023, our annual Service Challenge takes place the first month of every year and is dedicated to serving and responding to the many needs of our community with love and compassion. Our theme this year is "Count your Blessings."

Highlights include:

January 12- Friendship House Day- Lunch Bag Assembly & Coat Drive

January 19- Blood Drive & Book Club with Pastor Nate

January 20- MLK Youth Service Day

January 26- Cookie Delivery Project

February 2- Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event

We hope that you will join us and serve in anyway you can, no matter how big or small!

For details on all service events and how to
sign up visit: www.rccpc.org/serve

