



# Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 McKennans Church Road  
Wilmington DE  
(302) 998-0434 / rccpc.org

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025 / 10 AM

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## *Rooted in Love, Lighting the Way*

*Welcome to worship, welcome to Red Clay, welcome home!*

*Please visit the welcome cart in the narthex to learn more about our community.*

**Please silence your cell phones.**

## GATHER

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE (a silent prayer; by Howard Thurman)

*When the song of the angels is stilled. When the star in the sky is gone. When the kings and princes are home. When the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost; to heal the broken; to feed the hungry; to release the prisoner; to rebuild the nations; to bring peace among others; to make music in the heart. Amen.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS *David & Jessica Badger, Charles & Dianne Fair, Paul Ridley, Julia Tulloch*

Many: **We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all who are blessed by God's grace! Let us gather to give thanks and share His love.

**Many: We come, remembering the ways God has blessed us, naming them one by one.**

One: God calls us to serve, to love, and to shine as a blessing in the world.

**Many: Let us worship God, counting our blessings and lifting our hearts in praise!**

\*HYMN 662                      **Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Lord Jesus Christ, we remember with gratitude those people who have blessed our lives.

*(silence is kept).*

We recognize how you have blessed our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.

**Many: We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves in blessing the lives of others; the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours; the times when we have denied others the opportunity to expand their faith through our lack of interest or involvement; the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what you have said and done and promised. Amen.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE                      Goodness of God

***All my life You have been faithful; all my life You have been so, so good.  
With every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God.***

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*(Psalm 32)*

One: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is covered.

**Many: They are happy, for the Lord declares them "not guilty" and there is no deception in their hearts.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."*

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*At the conclusion, we look forward to welcoming all Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade children to the nursery or their Sunday school classes, as the congregation prepares to hear the sermon.*

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Count Your Blessings

***Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God has done!  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.***

## BLESS

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

One: There are different gifts,

**Many: But it is the same spirit who gives them.**

One: There are different ways of serving God,

**Many: But it is the same Lord who is served.**

One: God works through different people in different ways.

**Many: But it is the same God who  
fulfills these purposes through them all.**

One: Together we are the body of Christ,

**Many: And individually members of him.**

## PRESENTATION OF OFFICERS FOR ORDINATION\* & INSTALLATION

Deacons: *Jayne Abercrombie\*, Norm Carlson, Sue Emmons\*, Carol Hiller\*, Bonnie Hudson,  
Mim Krout, Sue Leininger, Jim Murray*

Elders: *Bill Ciabattoni, Diane Freed, John Gast, Darlyn Green-Kocher, Donna Reilly, Steve Wood*

## QUESTIONS TO THE OFFICERS & QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

*Do you, members of the church, accept these Elders and Deacons chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? If so, please answer, "We do."*

*Do you agree to encourage them, respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the church? If so, please answer, "We do."*

## ACT OF ORDINATION & PRAYER

### COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

*Reflect on the abundance of blessings in your life by writing them on the provided materials.  
Engage in gratitude actively!*

### CALL TO THE OFFERING

*We invite you to make an online donation or by placing a check or cash in the collection plate. Envelopes are available in the pews for specified giving. The gray envelopes are for our Roots & Rays Fund, which goes to creative outreach projects in the community.*



MUSICAL OFFERING      His Eye Is On the Sparrow

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE    We Lift Our Voices (We Are an Offering)

***We lift our voices; we lift our hands;  
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives;  
they are yours: we are an offering.  
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,  
we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands;  
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 749                      **Come! Live in the Light!**

## LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON              Acts 13:1-3

SERMON                              The Tribe of the Trying                      Rev. Dr. Phillips

# SEND

\*HYMN 649

**Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

\*BENEDICTION



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Rachele Gilmore, *Music Ministry*  
Lois Galinat, *Usher Captain*  
Hank Smithies, *Greeter*

Join us for refreshments & fellowship in Founders Hall following the postlude.

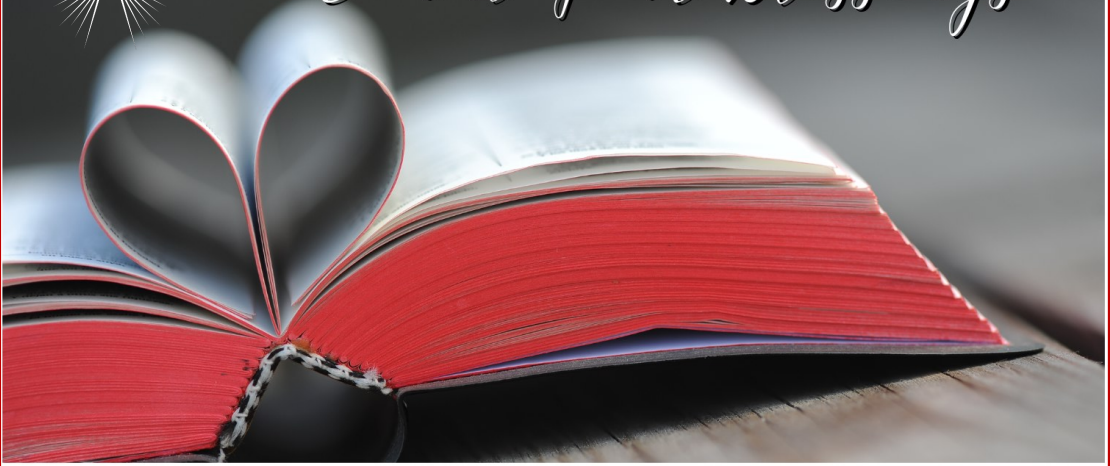
The flowers today are given in for the Glory of God.

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](http://www.rccpc.org).





# Count Your Blessings...



**Sunday, March 2, 2025**

## *Blessed to Serve*

May your new work excite your heart,  
Kindle in your mind creativity  
To journey beyond the old limits  
Of all that has become wearisome.

May this work challenge you toward  
New frontiers that will emerge  
As you begin to approach them,  
Calling forth from you the full force  
And depth of your undiscovered gifts.

May the work fit the rhythms of your  
soul,  
Enabling you to draw from the  
invisible  
New ideas and a vision that will  
inspire.

Remember to be kind  
To those who work for you,  
Endeavor to remain aware  
Of the quiet world  
That lives behind each face.

Be fair in your expectations,  
Compassionate in your criticism.  
May you have the grace of  
encouragement

To awaken the gift in the other's heart,  
Building in them the confidence  
To follow the call of the gift.

May you come to know that work  
Which emerges from the mind of love  
Will have beauty and form.

May this new work be worthy  
Of the energy of your heart  
And the light of your thought.

May your work assume  
A proper space in your life;  
Instead of owning or using you,  
May it challenge and refine you,  
Bringing you every day further  
Into the wonder of your heart.

—John O'Donohue

*Take a moment to pause and reflect on the blessings in your life. Use this worksheet to name the ways God has been present in your journey—through people, moments, or even challenges. You can complete this during today’s Musical Offering or later during the week, at home. Let this practice remind you of God’s abundance and love.*

**PROMPTS:**

1. Thank God for the people in your church and community who serve faithfully. Who are the people that come to mind?
2. When have you felt God calling you to serve in a way that stretched you beyond your comfort zone?
3. Where would you like God to give you the opportunity to serve? Where have you noticed a need but don’t know how to help?
4. Reflect on a time when serving someone else brought you a blessing. Who were they? How were you blessed?

**CLOSING:**

Go where your best prayers take you. Unclench the fists of your spirit and take it easy. Breathe deep of the glad air and live one day at a time. Know that you are precious. Know that you can trust God.

—Buechner

# WELCOME

## *New Members*

### **David & Jessica Badger**

David is from Ohio and moved to Delaware with his wife (Jessica) and daughter (Roz) in 2018. He enjoys spending time outside camping and volunteering as a leader in his daughter's cub scout pack. He also enjoys working on cars and participating in track events. Jessica is originally from Florida. She enjoys vegetable gardening and baking. She keeps busy as a Physician's Assistant and spending time with her family.



### **Paul Ridley**

Paul moved here from Auburn, AL two years ago. He has 2 daughters, 2 sons-in-law and 3 grandchildren. He is retired from fossil fuel businesses, 2 coal related and 2 natural gas. Paul learned about Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church after driving by and seeing the banner for our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary—that motivated him to first visit over a year ago!





## Julia Tulloch

I am so glad to be joining this church! I used to attend as a child and can't wait to raise my daughter in this family. I am an Assistant Principal in the Red Clay School District and mother to the best girl in the world - Cora Louise. We love reading, traveling, exploring new places in the area, and watching Frozen ALL the time.



## Charlie & Dianne Fair

We were married at Red Clay 28 years ago. We welcomed our son, Stephen, four years later and he was baptized at Red Clay. We are both alumni of A.I. duPont High School and the University of Delaware. Charlie is employed at Farmer's Insurance as a Program Manager and Dianne is a Finance Analyst with Bank of America. Stephen enjoys his time at Forward Journey—a wonderful adult day program for people with multiple disabilities. Our 3-year old Black Lab, Finley, keeps us on our toes. We enjoy traveling, music, the beach, boating, fishing (just Charlie!), playing hide-and-seek with Finley and we are big baseball and football fans.



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

### **HOLY WEEK 2025**

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

### **KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN — May 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 | 10AM**

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

### **SUMMER ARTS CAMP — JULY 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 9AM-12PM**

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

### **HOMECOMING SUNDAY — September 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 10AM**

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

### **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

- ◆ **Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 4PM**
- ◆ **Holy Night Service with Candlelight | 8PM**
- ◆ **Candlelight & Communion | 11PM**

### **ROOTS AND RAYS SERVICE CHALLENGE 2025**

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

# WELCOME TO RED CLAY

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins, please ask an Usher.  
Restrooms are available. Just ask!

Welcome to worship, welcome to Red Clay, welcome home! Rooted in God's abiding love for all, our church is lighting the way for friendship, compassion, and service. Please join us for coffee hour in Founder's Hall after service, and stop by the welcome cart by the front entrance to learn more about our community. We hope you will worship with us again soon! If you are interested in deepening your participation, or if you just love Red Clay, it's time to think about membership! Contact Elder Karen Vordemberge at [kvordemberge@gmail.com](mailto:kvordemberge@gmail.com).

Here at Red Clay, we have numerous groups that are open and that welcome newcomers, including, e.g., Quilters, Crafters, "Friends and Fellowship" free luncheon for seniors, Bible study, ROMEOs ("Retired Old Men Eating Out"), Centering Prayer, "The Arcaders" social group for GenX and Millennials, Theology 101 with Pastor Nate, and Pickleball. Details can be found at [www.rcpc.org](http://www.rcpc.org)!

Children: Nursery care is available from 9:45AM through the conclusion of worship in Room 305 (just down the hallway from the sanctuary). After the Children's Moment, Pre-K - 2nd grade will adjourn to Room 303 and Grades 3-8 will adjourn to Room 202/204.

## UPCOMING EVENT SPOTLIGHT

### Ash Wednesday: March 5

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, the season of Lent beckons those of us who follow Christ to a time of introspection and renewal, an opportunity to set aside the burdens that would weigh us down and to make new commitments in faith. **Please join us on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at either Noon or 6:00 pm** as together we begin our Lenten journey with words of faith and the imposition of ashes. Between the services, **our labyrinth will be available in Founders Hall from 12:30 pm-6:00 pm** for those who would like to take a thoughtful, prayerful walk using this ancient tool for prayer and meditation. Finger labyrinths will also be available.

## 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, *Director of Children's Choir*

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*

Nancy James, *Clerk of Session* ❖ Kathy Ciabattoni, *Deacon Moderator*

Bill Ciabattoni, *Belong Chair* ❖ Darlyn Green-Kocher, *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

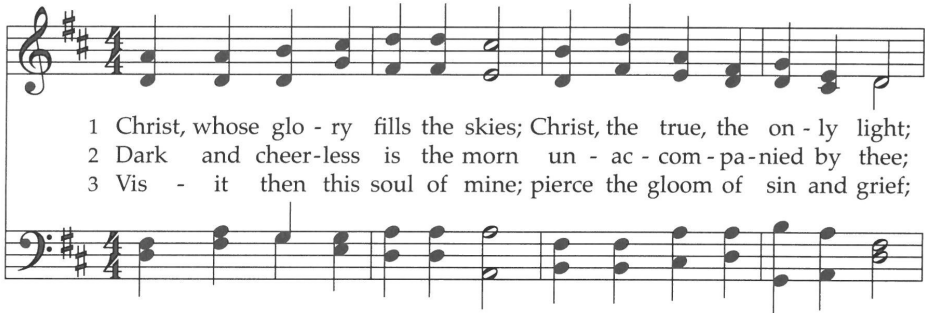
Our church has "roots" in the community that date back to 1722. We have been a good neighbor when we were surrounded by farmland up until now when we are surrounded by the suburbs. Our history helps us remember a time when people helped one another out because that was the right thing to do. We hope 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.

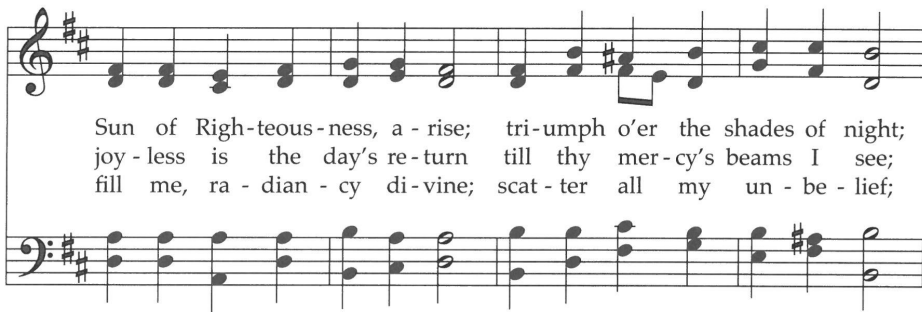
Right there, in the center of it all, is the **cross**. For us, the cross is a "Tree of Life." It represents how God broke into this world to establish a new way of being alive. It symbolizes how God calls us to love with freedom, with recklessness even, if it means connecting the world to the wonder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



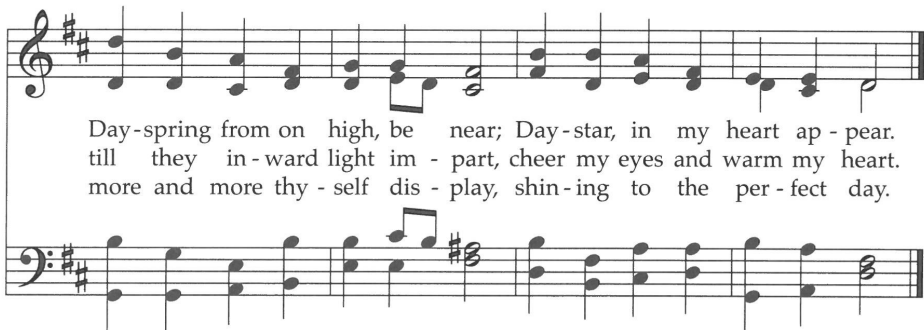
# Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 662



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy-less is the day's re-turn till thy mer-cy's beams I see;  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di-vine; scat-ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

## Come! Live in the Light!

## We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called  
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called  
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,



to be light for the king - dom, to live in the  
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and  
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



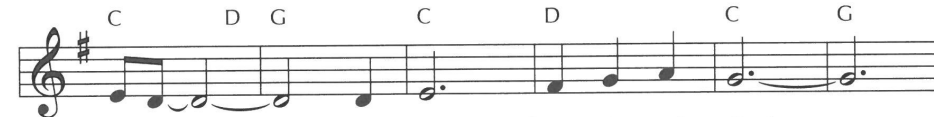
free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
 vio - lence will be no more.  
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

*Refrain*

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

# 649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.