



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 McKennans Church Road
Wilmington DE 19808
(302) 998-0434 / rccpc.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025 / 10 AM

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

Please silence your cell phones.

GATHER

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

The Peace Prayer

*Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet. Peace within us, peace over us, let all
around us be peace.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Amen. So be it. The word that ends our prayers and begins our trust.

**Many: Amen. So be it. Our yes to God's promises and God's love
made real.**

One: Amen. So be it. A candle in the darkness and a path into hope.

Many: Come, let us worship God,

One: and say with one voice,

Many: So be it! Amen!

*HYMN 687 (vss. 1,4,5,6) **Our God, Our Help in Ages Past**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(From PCUSA's *Book of Common Worship*)

Many: **Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a prayerful and quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Many: **Amen and amen.**

*SUNG RESPONSE

Sweet Hour of Prayer

***Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!***

*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 children through 8th grade to the nursery or their Sunday school classes, as the congregation prepares to hear the sermon.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Sweet Hour of Prayer

***Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!***

PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.



*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE O Praise the Name (Anástasis; sing twice)

***O praise the name of the Lord our God, O praise His name forever more
For endless days we will sing Your praise, Oh Lord, oh Lord our God***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 22

God of the Sparrow

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5 (selected verses)

SERMON

Amen: Help. Thanks. Wow

Rev. Barbara Price-Martin

SEND

*HYMN 720

Jesus Calls Us

*BENEDICTION



From <https://shelf-awareness.com/readers-issue.html?issue=152#m2927>:

Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers by Anne Lamott

In *Traveling Mercies*, her first memoir about faith, Anne Lamott asserted, "Here are the two best prayers I know: 'Help me, help me, help me,' and 'Thank you, thank you, thank you.'" In *Help, Thanks, Wow*, she has distilled those prayers to one word each--and added a third. In three brief chapters and a coda on "amen," she explores the wisdom and power of these four simple words.

Lamott's trademark wry humor shines through as she explains (with frequent reassurance for the religion-shy) why these prayers can help anyone. She admits to frustration that the world seldom works the way she wants it to. But instead of taking God to task (which she'd rather do), she prays "Help," acknowledges the limits of her own power, and finds (often surprisingly) that she can say "Thanks."

Gratitude is a popular and sometimes nebulous concept, but Lamott pulls no punches in her "Thanks" chapter: life is difficult, and gratitude does not necessarily erase the challenges. What it can do, she explains, is open people up to blessings they might not otherwise notice and make them more open to serving others. And while "Wow" can either express utter joy or raw grief, it serves a vital purpose in both forms--"making sure we are not dulled to wonder."

Longtime fans and new readers will appreciate Lamott's honesty and plain language (she avoids God-jargon whenever possible). Reactions may vary, but "thanks" and "wow" will certainly be among them.



We warmly welcome Rev. Barbara Price-Martin back to our pulpit today; she last joined us in August 2024! The Rev. Barbara Price-Martin is an ordained minister in the PCUSA and a pastoral counselor in private practice in North Wilmington. She has been connected to RCCPC in different ways throughout the years, having led a grief support group some years back. She and her husband Brad Martin have recently retired from being co-pastors at Trinity Presbyterian Church for the past 33 years.



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Lois Galinat, *Usher Captain*
Linda Neel, *Greeter*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of my mother, Kathleen T. Barton—born July 10, 1931, baptized, confirmed, grew up and married at RCCPC, from Keith Barton.

Join us for coffee & fellowship in Founders Hall following the postlude!

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.



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

HOMEcomings SUNDAY — September 14th, 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.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24th, 2025

**ROOTS AND RAYS SERVICE CHALLENGE 2026 — February 22nd –
March 22nd, 2026**

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

HOLY WEEK 2026

- ♦ Maundy Thursday — April 2nd | 7PM
- ♦ Good Friday — April 3rd | 12PM
- ♦ Easter Sunday — April 5th | 10AM Worship

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN — April 26th, 2026 | 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 7th, 2026 | 10AM

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

SUMMER ARTS CAMPS — July 2026 | 9AM-12PM

Kids will have music, drama, visual arts, snacks, and FUN, culminating with Bingo and performance night, as well as Youth Sunday.

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.

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.rccpc.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

MEET THE AUTHOR—*BOOK DISCUSSION*
AUGUST 24 AT 8:30 AM



We're excited to invite you to an exclusive book discussion with author Ryan Webb! Join us for an engaging discussion of his book, *Saving Will*.

In preparation, we encourage you to read *Saving Will*. This powerful story represents Ryan's own 'turning of the page'. The first 14 people that sign up get a free book (available in the church office). You may also purchase your book online from Amazon. Please let us know you'll be attending by registering using QR code or link in newsletter.

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*
Quiara Smith, *Sunday School 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*

* For a complete list of all Session Ruling Elders and Board of Deacons members, please refer to <https://www.rccpc.org>.*

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.

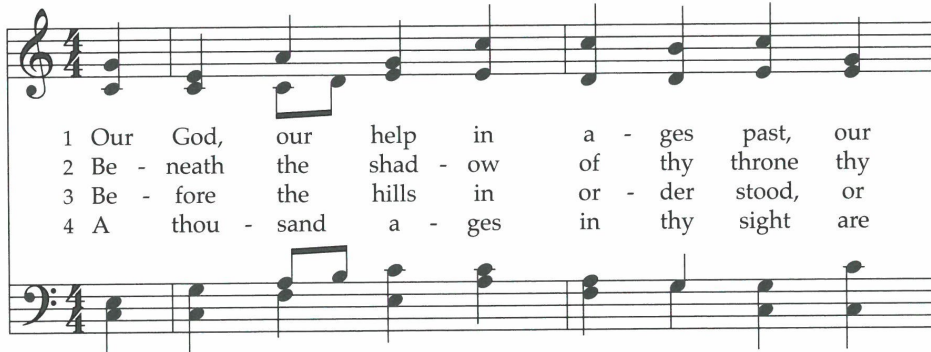
That is where the "**rays**" come in. We hope to extend our love, and the love we know from the graciousness of God, in many ways today. This means engaging in friendships with those that Jesus would have made friends with - those that feel isolated for any number of reasons. We know we will never be 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.



687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past


(Psalm 90)



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
thou art God, to end - less years the same.
ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

22

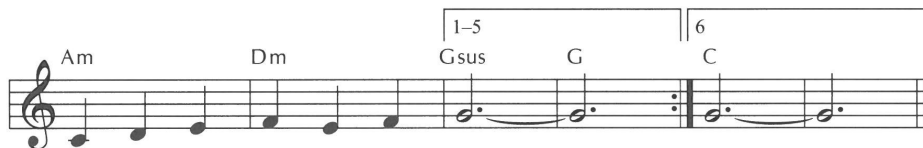
God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy




How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren say Home

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

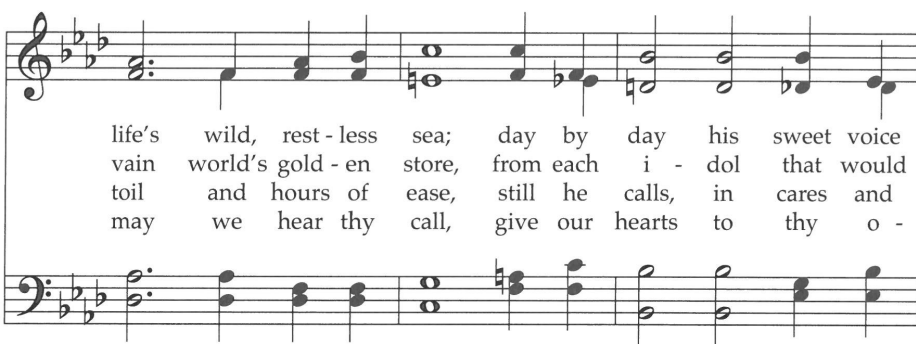
Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

Jesus Calls Us


720



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Like many hymns that adults have come to cherish, this text based on Jesus' calling of the disciple Andrew was written for a 19th-century collection of hymns for children. The popular tune used here was composed for these words more than a quarter of a century later.