



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

CHRISTMAS EVE / WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 / 4 PM



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

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL CAROL **Little Drummer Boy**

Our children lead us into worship dressed as the animals of the Nativity, walking alongside live animals to celebrate the birth of Christ. Watch as the story comes to life with wonder and joy!

***Come, they told me, pa rum pum pum pum
A newborn King to see, pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pum pum pum
To lay before the King, pa rum pum pum pum
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.
So to honor Him, pa rum pum pum pum. When we come.***

***Little baby, pa rum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum
That's fit to give a King, pa rum pum pum pum
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.
Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum on my drum?***

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One:	The four candles of Advent are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.
Many:	Hope is:
One:	Trusting that there is light, even in the dark.
Many:	Peace is:
One:	The wolf lying down with the lamb.
Many:	Joy is:
One:	Contagious sounds of Alleluia.
Many:	Love is:
One:	Unquenchable, never-ending, born in a manger, here today.
Many:	Christmas is:
One:	A love song to the world; the light that shines in the darkness.
Many:	Let us make a joyful noise! Let us worship God.

*CAROL

Little Drummer Boy

*Mary nodded, pa rum pum pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pum pum pum
I played my drum for Him, pa rum pum pum pum
I played my best for Him, pa rum pum pum pum
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.
Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum, Me and my drum*

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST TOLD

We give thanks for everyone participating in our pageant this afternoon! If your child would like to participate and has not received a costume, please have them come to the back of the Hall. Cues in the bulletin will show when they should come to the manger.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7

PART I: MARY AND JOSEPH

(Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus come to the manger as the congregation sings.)

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.*

PART II: ANIMALS

(Sheep, cows and other animals come to the manger as the congregation sings.)

CAROL

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

*Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you.*

PART III: ANGELS

(Angels come to the manger as the congregation sings.)

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be; which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

PART IV: SHEPHERDS

(Shepherds come to the manger as the congregation sings.)

CAROL

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*While shepherds kept their watching over silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

PART V: WISE PERSONS AND STAR

(Wise persons and the Star come to the manger as the congregation sings.)

CAROL

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

PART VI: CONCLUSION

CAROL

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”

MUSICAL OFFERING

A Christmas Hymn

(to the tune of “Come Thou Fount”)

*Come now church, let us adore Him, tune your heart to sing His grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's redeeming love
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's redeeming love*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT WITH PASTOR NATE

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

This Christmas Eve, all cash offerings placed in the plate will go directly to our Roots & Rays Fund, supporting our Rise Against Hunger (RAH) meal-packing event, scheduled after worship on February 22. RAH distributes millions of meals each year worldwide to children in food-insecure communities. We invite you to give generously.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Mary, Did You Know?

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: At Christmas time we celebrate how God came. And when God did that, a lot of sounds were made. The sheep in the manger said,

Many: "Baaa..."

One: The cows in the field said,

Many: "Moo..."

One: The horses in the stalls said,

Many: "Neigh..."

One: The angels in the sky said,

Many: "Glory in the highest heaven."

One: The wise men and the shepherds...

Many: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

*CAROL

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

*BENEDICTION



A very special thank you to
Hannimal Farm's Mobile Barnyard (Elkton, MD)
for sharing their furry and fuzzy friends
with us today! The petting zoo
will be available until 5:30 pm for your enjoyment.



For a family Christmas Eve photo with a gorgeous backdrop, stop by the chapel
to take your own pictures using our setup and your camera.
The chapel is located between the sanctuary and Founders Hall.
All are welcome!

Thanks to this afternoon's worship participants:

Deena Andrews, Ben Andrews, Rachele Gilmore, Charlie Hannagan,
Dinyar Vania & Steve Wood, *The Red Clay Collective*
Children's Choir, *Music Ministry*
Chip Gruber, *Usher Captain*

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!





How We Helped in 2025...

LOCAL MISSION

- Food Bank of Delaware:
 - Fall Flash Food Drive: 10 barrels donated
 - Lenten Food Drive: 1,323 lbs donated
 - Monthly volunteer sessions
- Car Care Bags distributed in the community
- Youth Service Days: 300 Go Bags & Sandwiches for FH
- Regular food support for Table of Plenty
- Meeting Ground:
 - Breakfast Drive and Chili Meal,
 - 100 hand-knitted scarves for clients
- Friendship House:
 - Epiphany Dinners (year-round)
 - 200 bagged lunches & 200 Go Bags
 - Hot lunch for 80 clients during Code Purple
 - Annual Residential Housing Picnic
- Regular volunteer sessions & supply drives for Humane Animal Partners

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Wilmington Children's Choir (Four Baritones Concert): \$4,456 raised
- Sneaker Drive for FH & Youth shoe shopping trip
- 21 Baby Care Packages for Head Start (UD)
- Delmarva utility assistance for local family

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS

- Dickinson High School: Yearbooks & Prom Tickets
- School Uniform Drive: \$2,879 donated + 250 uniforms
- Roots & Rays Kids Wish List for 4 schools
- Hygiene Kits for H.B. DuPont Middle (100 kits)
- Richey Elementary: Apple Orchard Field Trip

BEYOND DELAWARE

- Mission to Maine: Home repair & Sparrow's Nest revitalization
- Mission to Maine Fundraisers: Pancake Breakfast, Cookie Walk, Car Wash & Hoe Down
- Seeds to Sustainability: 1,000 seed packs + \$1,000 donation
- Rise Against Hunger: 12,000 meals packed for Zambia
- Sibanye: 50 pairs of new shoes (\$1,000)
- Stockings for Soldiers: 1,020 stockings (Faith, Hope & Love Quilters)

HOLIDAY HELP

- 50 Easter Meals for Table of Plenty clients
- Thanksgiving Turkeys for 100 families
- 30 Thanksgiving Meals for Table of Plenty
- Carrie Downie Elem. Christmas: \$1,620 donated
- FH Transitional Housing Gift Cards: \$5,200
- Adopt-a-Family:
 - Gifts for 29 local children
 - 100 gifts for FH Santa's Shop

RCCPC INITIATIVES

- 3rd annual Roots & Rays Service Challenge-Month of Service Activities by our congregation
- Initiation of RCCPC & FH Clothing Bank Family Center Satellite location
- Free or low cost Arts Camps for local children throughout the year



Red Clay Creek
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Children's Ministries

Year in Review 2025

COMMUNITY FUN

Easter Egg Hunt
3 Open Gyms With Inflatables
3 Weeks of Summer Arts Camp
One-day Arts Camps
Trunk-or-Treat

FUN ACTIVITIES

Waterslide
Gaga pit
Ninja lines
Wheel parade for the 4th of July
Younger Youth for 4th-7th graders

UPCOMING FUN

One-Day Arts Camp - December 29 -
9 am to 12 pm - Registration Required
Glow Dance - January 2nd - 5 pm to 7 pm

FUN ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

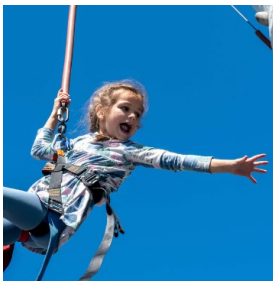
Year-round Sunday School
Children's Choir Performances
Highland Games for Kids
Lent and Advent Decorations in Founders Hall

NEW FUN FOR 2025

Easter and Christmas Family Photos
Communion for Kids
Recess at Red Clay for kids and families thru
3rd grade

RED CLAY KIDS ON FACEBOOK





Children & Families WHAT'S AHEAD

DECEMBER 29

One Day Arts Camp

9 am- 12 pm, Grades K-5

JANUARY 2

Glow Dance

5-7 pm, Family-friendly, all are welcome

JANUARY 11

Church Bingo

11 am, all are welcome

FEBRUARY 22

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing

11 am, Hunger Relief Service Event

MARCH 29

Easter Egg Hunt

11:30 am, Palm Sunday

Visit www.rccpc.org for details

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

ROOTS AND RAYS SERVICE CHALLENGE — Feb. 22nd–Mar. 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; Good Friday — April 3rd
- ◆ Resurrection Remembrance Service — April 5th | 9:30AM Worship
- ◆ 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.

HOMEcoming SUNDAY — September 6th, 2026 | 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 25th, 2026 | 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 15th, 2026 | 10AM

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

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24th, 2026

RED CLAY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN — MINISTERS, STAFF & CHAIRS

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips, *Senior Pastor/Head of Staff*
Rev. Emily Schwenker ❖ Rev. Dr. Philip Jones

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*
Barbara Vanderkraats, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*
Jamie Russell, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Judy Lozier, *Nursery Director* ❖ Sofia Martin, *Nursery Support*
Delaney Christel, Josephine DeCaire, Quiara Smith, *Sunday School Teachers*

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.

