



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

CHRISTMAS EVE / WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 / 11 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

PRELUDE

Some Children See Him

*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 (vs.1)

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 (vs.2)

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.*

*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 placed in the plate will go directly to our Roots & Rays Fund, supporting this year's Rise Against Hunger (RAH) meal-packing event. RAH distributes millions of meals each year to children in food-insecure communities around the world. We invite you to give generously tonight and to join us for the meal-packing event after worship on February 22.



MUSICAL OFFERING

O Holy Night

HOMILY

Ruby Slippers

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 Cello Suite #1 in G Major: Prelude

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*
Rick Marsey, *Usher Captain*

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 & 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

The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given by the following:

From:

Ann Thomas
Arlene Thompson
Blanche Pando
Carol, Kyle Jr., & Eric
Carolyn Falasca
Carolyn Geshner Diehl
Carolyn Geshner Diehl
Cindy & Bob Gamble
Dave & Jane Conly
Debbie Wersinger
Diane Freed
Dianne & Bob Carter and Family
Dianne Whittaker
Dianne Whittaker
Donna Reilly
Gail Ahrens
Gail Ahrens, daughter
Gail Bouck
Gail Bouck
Green-Kocher Families
Holly Martinez
Jacqui Kolle, daughter
Jane & Bruce Spencer
Jane Wood
Jim & Christine Fischer
Jim & Christine Fischer
Joyce, Pam, Heather, Stephanie & Lily
Judy Krein & Family
Karen & Jim Caldas
Li-Hwa Tseng
Linda & Matthew Hanna
Lorraine & Richard Gilmore
Lorraine & Richard Gilmore
Lynn & Jim, Chloe & Sheldon
Marcia Hastings
Mary Jane Weldin
Matthew & Linda Hanna
Matthew & Linda Hanna and Family
Noah

In Memory Of:

Meredith "Tom" Thomas
Leon L. Thompson
Jim Pando
Kyle Outlaw
Angelo Falasca
Eileen, Kathleen, Judy, Michael & Richard Diehl
Glenn, Nancy & Robert Geshner
The Brooks and Gamble families
Our parents
Jim & Mary Hunter
Herbert & Elizabeth Freed
Wanda & James Corrigan
Beloved Parents, MaryLou & Jim Taylor
Patty & Steve Taylor
JoAnne Strickler
Jim Ahrens
Wanda & James Corrigan
Fraser & Beryl Bouck
Steven Yamazaki
Doris & Bill Green and Linda Kocher
My brother, John, Uncle Bob and Uncle Ron
Joseph & Caroline Fedena
Our daughter, Melissa
Henry Eby Herr
Wallace & Pearl Fischer
Joseph & Jean Celano
Roger McClellan
Edward Krein
Darden & Lynn Rodden
My parents, Fu-Yun & Hsu Hsin Tseng
Phyllis Musser
Joseph & Helen Ambrogio
Lisa Febre
Missy
Loved Ones
My husband, Paul Weldin
John & Connie Hanna
Phyllis Musser
My Mom



The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given by the following:

From:

Pamela Saylor Droke
Patricia Nash Christel & family
Peggy Keay Germain
Pei-Yi Lo
Rev. Emily Schwenker
Ron & Linda Reisor
Ron & Linda Reisor
Sharon Meyer
Sharon Meyer, daughter
Steve & Mary Cay
Steve & Mary Cay
Suzanne Courter-Jann
The Brown & Kissell Families
The Christel Family
The Galinat Family
The Haggertys
The Klair Family
The Klair Family
The Phillips Family
The Putscher Family
Tosh & Norm Carlson
Vicki Smith & Ted Harting

From:

John & Susan Welsh

Pamela Saylor Droke
Rich & Debbie Behling

To the Glory of God:

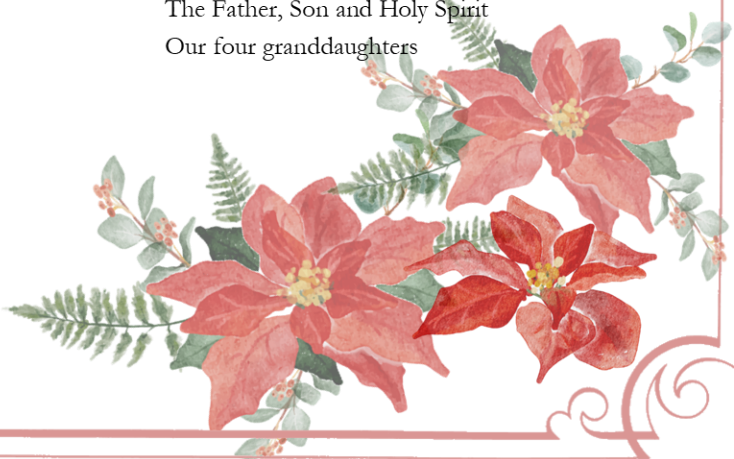
Barbara P. Fox
Dave & Mary Young
Deborah McNesby
Ellen Hinrichs
Rev. Emily Schwenker
The Galinat Family
The Gast Family

In Memory Of:

Family, friends & loved ones
James Nash
Bill Keay
My parents, Tso-Hsun & Juo-Chu Chang Lo
Loved Ones who have passed
Ron's parents, Peg & Johnny Reisor
Linda's Parents, Nancy & Don Hogeland
Harry Meyer, Jr.
Grover Hale
Steve & Virginia Armstrong
George & Rosemary Sausen
William & Eleanore Courter
Margaret K. Kissell
Scout Christel (our beloved furry family member)
Loved Ones
Kenny Haggerty, Jr.
Richard & Barbara Klair
Marc Klair
Gary Buzzell
Elizabeth Rada
Loved Ones
Our parents

In Honor Of:

Our Grandchildren: Reagan, Logan & Emma Rose
Welsh and Andrew & Emma Lynn Hoagland
The Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Our four granddaughters





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



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.

