



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY / SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026 / 10 AM

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

We're glad you're here. If needed, a family area with CCTV is in the narthex near the front doors, and our nursery is open for young children. Restrooms are available by exiting out the side door near the pulpit and turning left. After worship, join us for Coffee Hour in Founders Hall by the main parking lot. Please silence your cell phone as we enter into worship.

GATHER

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

(a silent prayer)

God of grace and mercy, as we await the Prince of Peace, we come to you with hearts yearning for the day when your peace reigns in the world. May your light dispel the darkness of discord, and may nations unite in the pursuit of harmony and justice. Inspire our leaders with wisdom and compassion that they may work for the well-being of all. Amen.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The Lord be with you.
Many: **And also with you.**

COMMISSIONING OF CONFIRMATION CLASS & THEIR MENTORS

- ◆ *Confirmands: Shane Baxley, Vanning Crawford, Kaelyn McNesby, Ross Meyer, Isabelle Moulsdale, Jorie Vaughn and Lawson Vaughn*
- ◆ *Mentors: Deena Andrews, Wendy Baxley, Andrew Bloom, Amy Cozine, Fred Crowley, Liz Phung, Michael Snouffer, Barb Vanderkraats and Tom Whipple*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Isaiah 60)

One: Arise, God's people, and shine like the sun; the glory of the Lord is shining on you!

Many: **Other people will be covered by the darkness, but on God's people the light of the Lord will shine;**

One: The brightness of his presence will be with you.

Many: **Nations will be drawn to the light upon God's people, and even kings will be drawn to the dawning of our new day.**

One: Let God's people begin a new year worshiping Him who is the Light and Life of our salvation!

Many: **Let us worship the Lord!**

*HYMN 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Timeless God, who can make all things new, we humbly bring before you the record of our lives in the year just ending.

Many: **Where life has been good to us, do not let us take more of the credit than we deserve. Where we have been good to others, help us to forget thoughts of honor and reward. Where we have fallen short, forgive us, and free us from brooding over what is past. Cleanse us by your mercy, guide us by your truth, fill us with your love, lead us forward in your all-conquering hope. Through the grace of Jesus, your son, our Savior. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear this Good News from the Apostle Paul: our old lives are gone; new lives emerge! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through Jesus Christ, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. Friends, Jesus gives us a new start today in our New Year, for in Him, our sins are forgiven.

*SUNG RESPONSE Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (vs.1)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*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 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (vs.2)

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

*Lucas Adam Pugh,
son of Adam Vincent Pugh & Ashley Marie Stearrett Pugh*

HYMN 482, vs. 1

Baptized in Water

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.*

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & BAPTISM

HYMN 482, vss. 2,3

Baptized in Water

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
One with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Many: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church
to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING Children, Go Where I Send Thee

*SUNG RESPONSE All to Jesus I Surrender

*All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live
I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to You, my blessed Savior, I surrender all*



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 450

Be Thou My Vision

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:13-4:4

SERMON

Into the Wilderness

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

SEND

*HYMN 157

I Danced in the Morning

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Let There Be Peace on Earth

POSTLUDE



A warm welcome today to Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Rev. Edwin last preached in our pulpit in July 2025. Friday evening and yesterday, Rev. Edwin led a special Reach Retreat for all interested members of our congregation to take a thoughtful, fresh look at how Red Clay engages our community—with the goal of reimagining our mission to take outreach to the next level. We are deeply grateful for his leadership and to have him preach today!



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Lauda, Music Ministry
Bob Emmons, *Usher Captain*; Van Sedita, *Greeter*

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

Note, there will also be **BINGO!**

Please join us... you might be a lucky prize winner!

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Glenn Geshner,
from Carolyn Geshner Diehl.

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.

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

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

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. All are welcome, for Jesus gathers us together even as we divide ourselves by politics, denomination, or whatever labels the world puts on us. 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 and "The Arcaders" social group for GenX and Millennials. Details can be found at 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 - Kindergarteners will adjourn to Room 303, Grades 1-3 will adjourn to Room 206, and Grades 4-8 will adjourn to Room 202/204.

UPCOMING EVENT SPOTLIGHT

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held immediately after the 10:00 a.m. worship service on January 25, 2026 for the purpose of receiving the reports of the Staff, the Clerk of Session, Session Committees, the Board of Deacons and other church organizations and committees, receiving and acting upon the report of the Nominating Committee for the election of ruling elders, deacons and members of congregational committees, reviewing the 2026 operating budget, and any other business deemed appropriate for congregational consideration.

The annual Congregational meeting will be immediately followed by a short annual meeting of the Cemetery Corporation. All church members are members of the Cemetery Corporation also.

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.rcpc.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.



35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant-ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

450

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D)
E^b(G)
A^b(D/F[#])
E^b/G(A7)
B^b7(D)
E^b

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A)
B^b(D)
E^b(G)
A^b(A)
B^b

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G)
A^b(D)
E^b(F[#]m7)
Gm7(G) (A)
A^b B^b

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm)
Cm(D/F[#])
E^b/G(G)
A^b(D)
E^b

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

Capo 3: (D)

F

(Bm)

Dm

(F#m)

Am

(Bm)

Dm



1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
 3 I danced on the Sab - bath and I cured the lame. The
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. ♫

(Em)

Gm

(A)

C



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D)

F

(Bm)

Dm

(F#m)

Am

(Bm)

Dm



came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me, ♫

(Em)

Gm

(A7)

C7

(G)

B♭

(D)

F



Beth - le - hem I had my birth. At
 came with me and the dance went on. On
 left me there on a cross to die. On
 I am the dance and I still go on. On
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. On

Refrain

(F[#]m) (Bm) (F[#]m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm

Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)
Gm C F Dm F C7 F

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Gm C7 F B^b F

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.