



December 2024 | Vol.2/No.12

What's inside *this* issue?

- **Calendar Highlights** for December
- **Session Reports**
 - Worship & Personnel - update on Pastor Shamaine
 - Financial Stewardship & Parking Lot Update
 - Outreach & Generosity -- Christmas Projects
- **Communications & Worship**
 - Advent Worship
 - Christmas Eve
 - December Holiday Events
 - WPC Psalm Treasury Notecards
 - Order Poinsettias for Christmas Eve
- **Celebrating Community**
 - Photos from November

Calendar Highlights for December:

- December 3 **Hanging of the Greens** -- 5:30pm
- December 5 **Communications Team** -- 11:15am
- December 5 **CFUM Meal Preparation, Set Up & Serve** -- 1:30pm
- December 11 **Carols & Cocoa** -- 6:00pm
- December 12 **Prayer Circle** -- 2:30pm via Zoom
- December 12 **Session Meeting** -- 4:30pm
- December 14 **Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Scheels** -- 10:00a
- December 15 **Men's Caroling** -- 12:00 noon
- December 24 **Christmas Eve Service** -- 7:00pm

Windsor Presbyterian, Holidays in United States

Dec 2024 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 11:45am - Fellowship in	2	3 9:30am - Text Study	4 5:30pm - Hanging of the Greens - Choir	5 11:15am - Communications 1:30pm - CFUM Meal Prep @ 3:30pm - Set Up & Serve 4pm - Girls Rock Rehearsal @	6 5pm - Girls Rock Open Mic	7
8 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 11:45am - Fellowship in	9	10 9:30am - Text Study	11 6pm - Carols and Cocoa 7pm - Choir	12 2:30pm - Prayer Circle @ 4:30pm - Session Meeting 6pm - Girls Rock Community	13	14 10am - Salvation Army Bell
15 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Food Pantry Sunday 10:30am - Worship 11:45am - Fellowship in 12pm - Men's Christmas	16	17 9:30am - Text Study	18	19	20	21
22 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 11:45am - Fellowship in	23	24 Carol out of office Christmas Eve 7pm - Candlelight Christmas	25 Christmas Day Churchmouse Articles Due	26	27	28
29 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 11:45am - Fellowship in	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2 11:15am - Communications 1:30pm - CFUM Meal Prep @ 3:30pm - Set Up & Serve	3	4

Men's Caroling Event Sunday, December 15th @ noon



Calling all men who would like to spread some Christmas cheer to our homebound members with caroling. And even if you don't want to sing, your presence will bring such joy!

Contact Jim Behrens if you have any questions!



WPC SESSION REPORTS

december 2024

WORSHIP & PERSONNEL

Laura Ward, Session Leader

Update on Pastor Shamaine

As eager as we are to see Shamaine back among us, we are planning our season of Advent and Christmas Eve without her. (Sad face).

The skull fracture and bad concussion need time. The King family has been with her every minute and her needs are well met. Thank you very much for the cards and notes, which she has found deeply moving. Screens are difficult for now, so don't expect an email or text reply, please.

Thank you for supporting her and our wonderful worship team while we design our upcoming worship services without her.

Please rest, Shamaine! We love you!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Ron Grohe, Session Leader

The month of October was a "bummer" for the Operating account at Windsor.

- Total Income was \$8,800 below budget
- Total Expenses were \$700 lower than budget
- Net Income was \$8,100 under budget.

Income was lower, mainly due to General Contributions being much lower than normal. Expenses were, once again, well in hand as almost all categories were lower than budgeted.

Windsor's Operating Fund remains in good condition for the ten months, year-to-date, as Total Income for that period is almost the same amount as last year while Total Expenses are almost \$12,000 below the total for last year.

Parking Lot Task Force Update

There is continuing good news on this front (albeit as slow as molasses in January). After receiving the good news from the City of Windsor Heights that the project has received the go-ahead, our civil engineer, Shane Devick, has contacted three different construction companies for bids on the parking lot construction. Needless to say, your prayers are essential so that we might make further progress on this project so that we are not hindered by possible changes in the weather.

OUTREACH & GENEROSITY

Beth Schmitz, Session Leader

Hello!! While others are starting to hibernate, we are still going strong at WPC. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the special offering for **The Little Food Pantries**. We raised some much needed funds to support us through the winter months. Please keep the item

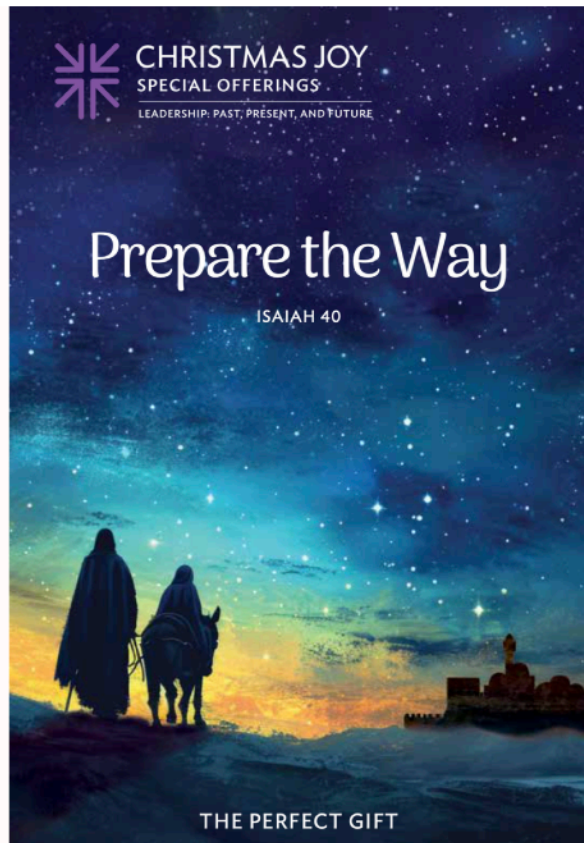
contributions coming as there is so much need for food in this community; and, that need may get greater if costs continue to increase. We put food in the food pantries at least 4 times a week and it is gone pretty quickly. Winter items are best for the next few months due to falling temps. Unsure what is winter-ready? Be looking for suggestions in the weekly email or check with a committee member.

Our most recent Mission donations were made in November. We gave \$250 donations to:

- **Interfaith Alliance of Iowa**
- **the Drake University**
- **Wrongful Conviction Clinic**

These are our last donations of the year. We will be considering next year's donations in January and making a plan for the year. Let a committee member know if you have ideas for organizations to support.

The Christmas Joy Special Offering



The Christmas Joy Special Offering begins December 1 and runs through December 22. The Christmas Joy offering supports education and emergency assistance throughout the world, including supporting Presbyterian-related schools that equip communities of color and helps church workers in times of financial need. You will be hearing about this Special Offering throughout the month of December. Donations to the Christmas Joy offering are a way to support the stability and future of the church.

Christmas Mission Projects

We are deep into our project for the **Christmas Family Adoption**. Tracy Miksell-Branch is spearheading this for the season and she signed us up for three families. The Deadline is December 1, but check in with Tracy or Beth if you could contribute in the few days following December 1 as there may be an option.

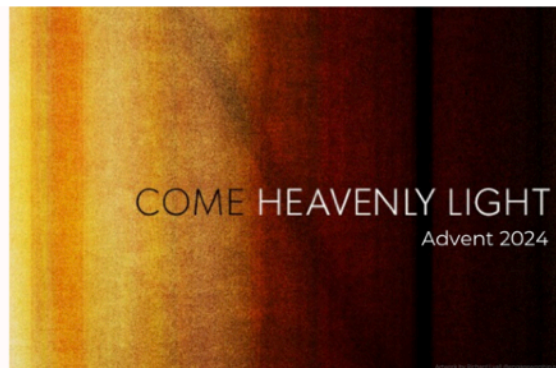


We are also signed up for **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** on Saturday, December 14 at Scheel's. We will have opportunities to ring from 10:00am in the morning through 4:00pm in the afternoon. Anyone who has done this knows that it is a lot of fun and always an adventure. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall and it has several openings. Please save me from having to ring by myself for 6 hours. It is just fine if you can only ring for 30 minutes or an hour.

COMMUNICATIONS & WORSHIP

Natalie Steenson, Communications Shepherd and Director of Arts & Music

Come Heavenly Light: Advent 2024



Our worship services throughout Advent will focus on the coming of Jesus -- our Heavenly Light, through scriptures, liturgy, songs, hymns, prayers and messages. Join us each Sunday as we anticipate the coming of Jesus!

If you want to learn more about the season of Advent, and listen to curated Spotify playlists for Advent and Christmas check out our website page here:

["Advent - what is it?"](#)

The Light Has Come: Christmas Eve 2024



WINDSOR
PRESBYTERIAN

December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve
7:00pm

Then join us for a holy Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm as we celebrate the coming of Jesus through the reading of the gospel of Luke's version of the Christmas narrative, singing of traditional carols, special music, prayers and ending the service with the candlelight singing of Silent Night. Invite your family and friends to share this special service with us.

Advent Devotional : The Weary World Rejoices



Many of you are familiar with Kate Bowler, a podcaster and author. She is offering a FREE Advent Devotional. If you are interested in it, you can receive it here:

<https://katebowler.com/advent/>

WPC Psalm Treasury Notecards Available



Here's a fun Christmas Gift idea: 5"x4" Notecards that features photographs and scriptures from our WPC Psalm Treasury and our website url on the back with information on how to see and hear the various Psalms that have been recorded! What a wonderful way to share with others about the faith and beauty at Windsor Presbyterian Church.

You can purchase a variety pack with a selection of 10 cards for \$5. Contact Natalie at natalie@windsorpc.org or Carol at the office at info@windsorpc.org

They are so nice that you may want to order some for yourself too!

Order a White Poinsettia by December 8th



Christmas Poinsettias

Help us decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Order lovely White Poinsettias in memory or in honor of someone special!

Orders must be placed by **Sunday, December 8th.**

Fill out an order form or contact the church office.

After Christmas Eve worship or the following Sunday, you can take your beautiful Poinsettia(s) home to enjoy for the rest of the season!

Carols, Cocoa & Cookies

Join in the Holiday Spirit!

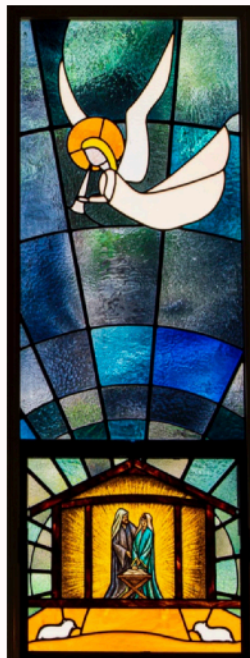
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11th at 5:30pm

Bring a plate of Christmas Cookies to share and we will have fun fellowship, drinking hot chocolate and singing our favorite Christmas Carols! Invite family, friends and neighbors to this informal gathering in Ward Fellowship Hall. ***"Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la...."***



Christmas Eve Invitation

Pick up some of our Christmas Eve invitations to share with family, friends and neighbors and enjoy a beautiful and holy Christmas Eve together at Windsor Presbyterian.



Christmas Eve

7:00 pm | December 24, 2024

Join us as we celebrate the gift of Jesus, Emmanuel, the Light of the World at our traditional Candlelight Service featuring the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke, traditional carols, and special music



6301 University Avenue | windsorpc.org

The Ballad of Befana

Phyllis McGinley (1905-1978)



Befana the Housewife, scrubbing her pane,
Saw three old sages ride down the lane,
Saw three gray travelers pass her door -
Gaspar, Balthazar, Melchior.

"Where journey you, sirs?" she asked of them.
Balthazar answered, "To Bethlehem,

For we have news of a marvelous thing.
Born in a stable is Christ the King."

"Give Him my welcome!"
Then Gaspar smiled,
"Come with us, mistress, to greet the Child."

"Oh, happily, happily would I fare,
Were my dusting through and I'd polished the stair."

Old Melchior leaned on his saddle horn.
"Then send but a gift to the small Newborn."

"Oh, gladly, gladly I'd send Him one,
Were the hearthstone swept and my weaving done.

"As soon as ever I've baked my bread,
I'll fetch Him a pillow for His head,
And a coverlet too," Befana said.

"When the rooms are aired and the linen dry,
I'll look at the Babe."
But the Three rode by.

She worked for a day and a night and a day,
Then, gifts in her hands, took up her way.
But she never could find where the Christ Child lay.

And still she wanders at Christmastide,
Houseless, whose house was all her pride,

Whose heart was tardy, whose gifts were late;
Wanders, and knocks at every gate,
Crying, "Good people, the bells begin!
Put off your toiling and let love in."

This poem was submitted by Laura Ward,

"During this Season of Joy, let's make sure we don't let important experiences pass us by!"



Sunday Worship - November



Thanksgiving Community Potluck Gathering

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church (host)

with Windsor United Methodist, St. Theresa Catholic Church, & Windsor Presbyterian Church





Special thanks to Dwight Tomes for our photography.

Session

Laura Ward, Beth Schmitz Class of 2025

Angie King, Krysta Tomes Class of 2026

Ron Grohe, Dana Mitchell Class of 2027

Dwight Tomes, Clerk

Board of Deacons

Donna Dickerson, Lori Pope Class of 2025

Beth Mogle, Judy Teig Class of 2026

Sue Cooper, Shelly Weatherby Class of 2027

Jim Newsom, Deacon for CFUM

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