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January 2024 | Vol. 2/No. 1



As I drove into the church parking lot this morning, the sun was shining brightly on the empty land across the street. Though the clearing has been going on for weeks now, the starkness took me aback. I saw nothing but sky. The trees are gone. The houses are gone. I had to look away, as my throat tightened and I fought back tears. It hits me hard—our congregation no longer owns the property across the street—and I realize I am grieving the loss of the land. I wonder if you are grieving it too.

### **A Time of Change**

While I am filled with sadness, I am genuinely excited about the future. I am eager, almost impatient, to see what God will do with the land, with our congregation, and with the neighborhood in this time of change. I try to imagine

- the beautiful variety of people who will make their homes in the new apartments,
- the community that can be formed there,
- the difference our church can make in our neighborhood as it changes,
- who our neighbors will be and how we can try to know them and be a positive presence in their lives,
- a parking lot to better support our ministries,
- how our congregation will grow and change....

### **Making Space for New Beginnings**

Right now the expansiveness of the land is a big, beautiful, blank canvas, full of possibility and making space for people to have brand new beginnings.\* It reminds me that long before Des Moines, Windsor Heights, or our church were here, this land was home for plants, animals, and many indigenous people. Historically this area was home to the loway or Baxoje nation. Furthermore, we believe this and all land truly belong only to God. So we give thanks to God and those who came before.

God was so faithful in providing the resources of that land for the congregation. It gave them places to park, income in the form of rent money, a place to play and worship outside, and the community-forming-responsibility of caring for the houses and yards. I think of the people who struggled with the decision to buy the homes, who raised the money, who repaired and readied the homes, and who took care of the business of renting. I think of the people who made those houses their homes through the years.

### **A Legacy of Gratitude and Faithfulness**

A few years ago, the congregation began to sense that owning the rentals was no longer serving them well. Around that time, the city and developers began to inquire about our willingness to sell the property. Then one after another, the 3 houses adjacent to the church became available for purchase. It seemed as if God was up to something. So, now we are getting ready for what's next. Even now, in the second century of being a congregation, God is doing new and exciting things. Join me in praying God's ongoing guidance and that we will continue in the legacy of gratitude, faithfulness, persistence, hope, joy, and loving service that brought us this far.

*\*thanks to Laura W for this image*

-- Pastor Shamaine

# January 2024 Calendar

Check out all that's happening at WPC in the month of January. Click on the calendar or [here](#) see the most up-to-date information on our website calendar. For more detailed event information click [here](#).

windsorpresbyterian@gmail.com

Today | January 2024 | Print | Week | Month | Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10:30am Worship with 11:45am Fellowship in 5:30pm OA Meeting	Jan 1	2 9:30am Text Study	3	4 10am Don Justo Coff 12pm CFUM Meal Pre 4pm Girls Rock Rehe	5	6
7 9:15am Sunday Scho 10:30am Worship 11:45am Fellowship in 5:30pm OA Meeting	8 8:15am WPC Staff Me	9 9:30am Text Study	10 7pm WOW Choir	11 10am Don Justo Coff 2:30pm Prayer Circle 6:30pm Worship Tear 7pm Girls Rock- We	12	13
14 9:15am Sunday Scho 10:30am Worship 11:45am Fellowship in 12:15pm Session Lun <a href="#">+2 more</a>	15 8:15am WPC Staff Me	16 9:30am Text Study	17 7pm WOW Choir	18 4pm Girls Rock Rehe 5:30pm Men on a Mis	19	20
21 9:15am Sunday Scho 10am Food Pantry Su 10:30am Worship 11:45am Fellowship in <a href="#">+2 more</a>	22 8:15am WPC Staff Me	23 9:30am Text Study	24 7pm WOW Choir	25 5:30pm Budget & Fin 6pm Worship for Chr	26	27
28 9:15am Sunday Scho 10:30am Worship 11:45am Annual Mee 5:30pm OA Meeting	29 8:15am WPC Staff Me	30 9:30am Text Study	31 7pm WOW Choir	Feb 1 10am Don Justo Coff 12pm CFUM Meal Pre 4pm Girls Rock Rehe	2	3

Events shown in time zone: Central Time - Chicago

Google Calendar

Please note that **Text Study** has moved from Mondays to Tuesdays from 9:30-10:45am.



# WINDSOR

**ON WEDNESDAY**

# WOW!

**We are announcing a new 5-week  
WOW series "Praying the Psalms"  
beginning Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

# Praying the Psalms

discover a deeper, richer, experience of reading  
and praying the psalms in community



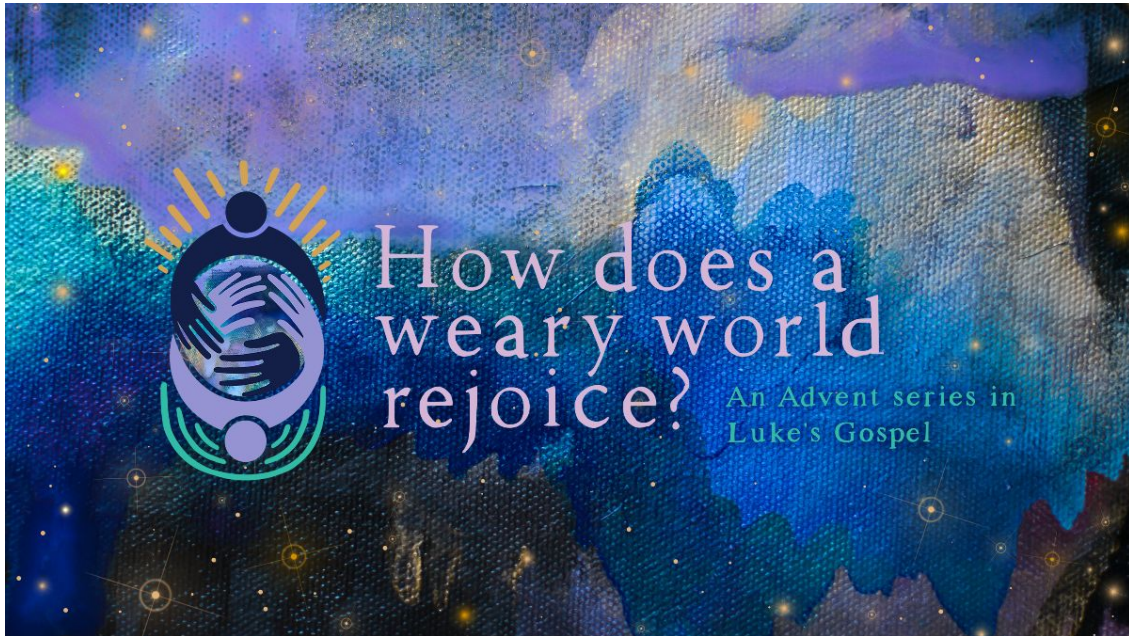
Come and learn from each other the richness of Psalm reading in community. If you are interested, we will also offer an opportunity to record each of us reading a favorite Psalm and putting it on our website. This series is inspired by a recent recording of Don Beeson reading Psalm 46, click the Psalm 46 graphic below to listen and watch a short video.



## Psalm 46

NKJ VERSION

Read aloud by  
Don Beeson



## ***Reflecting on Advent and Christmas***

As we close out the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we have a lot to reflect upon with the Sanctified Art series: How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We would like to hear what you thought of this series, the theme, the new music, the visuals, the social media content on Facebook and Instagram as well as the Sunday morning worship aids (liturgy, Advent candle liturgy, poetry, devotional and the Visio Divina practice with artwork provided by Sanctified Art. If you would take some time and respond to this online poll, we can better determine whether this is something you would like to see more of. Please consider filling out the Questionnaire below by clicking the ["Sanctified Art Questionnaire"](#) button here or below.

**Sanctified Art Questionnaire**

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# Celebrate COMMUNITY

December at Windsor: CFUM Meal Prep, Neighborhood Schools giving, Salvation Army bell ringing, Advent Joint Wednesday services with UMC, Sunday morning Advent Worship, Choir singing, Longest Night Service, and Christmas Eve!





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**Our Mission Outreach Team thanks YOU!**



# Thank You

for your generous giving to **COWLES ELEMENTARY** (hats, gloves, mittens), **WINDSOR ELEMENTARY** (winter outerwear), **WINDSOR ELEMENTARY** (adopt a family), **SALVATION ARMY** (bell ringing), and **CFUM** (monthly meal and financial gift) this holiday season, as well as continuing to contribute to our **LITTLE FOOD PANTRY**. Your faithful giving makes a difference to lives of so many!

# The Work of Christmas

by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.

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