



What's Up Wickliffe!

JANUARY 2025

THE MAGI

Christmas may come but once a year, but thankfully the season doesn't end in the church's Liturgical Calendar on December 25th. After all the bustling activity leading up to Christmas Day, we get more time afterwards to reflect on the wonders of the Incarnation.

Think of it! God first assumed a human nature to save us from our sins, most vulnerably, as a little baby in a *stable* in a *cave* in Bethlehem! As mentioned here, in being born in such a seemingly lowly circumstance, Jesus wished to highlight for us how much he values true humility. Yet He also shows us His place as the "King of Kings" and "Lord of Lords" (1 Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14) in that He as a newborn baby is worshiped by shepherds (Luke 2:15-20) and kings (Matt 2:1-12) alike!

I'd like to focus on those kings (also known as the Three Wise Men or the Magi) who followed the Star of Bethlehem that they saw in the sky heralding our Lord's birth. Matthew's Gospel refers to them as [Magi](#), a word for astrologers, although tradition associates these men with royalty. They followed that star to the cave outside Bethlehem to pay homage to the "newborn king of the Jews" as they referred to Jesus (Matt 2:2).

Their journey is remembered not only on Christmas Day, but more prominently, [afterwards](#), in the United States and many other countries on the first Sunday after New Years' Day on what we call Epiphany (although the official date of Epiphany is January 6th). This special holiday also commemorates Christ's manifestation to the gentiles (in this case the Magi).

Epiphany is also called Three Kings Day and children receive their gifts on this day in many Latin American countries (as well as in Puerto Rico and Spain) in commemoration of the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that the Magi brought Jesus!

In honor of this blessed event, I'd like to offer this selection below. It's taken from a chapter entitled *The Adoration of the Magi* from the book *The Life of Mary as Seen by The Mystics*. Raphael

Brown, its author, masterfully wove together various mystical accounts of events in the life of our Lord and Our Lady. Although these private revelations by no means constitute a Fifth Gospel, they are faithful to the Gospel accounts, and as such, have been deemed worthy of belief by clergy over the centuries.

We read in this account reprinted from the book below of the great joy the Magi experienced when they saw the Christ child, the great hospitality the Holy Family showed them, and the evil anguish of King Herod, who went on to order the massacre of all babies under the age of two in Bethlehem (Matt 2:16) in an effort to kill the little baby Jesus who he saw as a threat to his power.

One particularly intriguing point is that the Magi arrived in Jerusalem thinking that would be the most logical spot to find the long awaited Messiah but when they got there they found...nothing. Our God is truly a God of surprises! Born in Bethlehem? Not in the Temple or a palace surrounded by worshipers? Nope!

We are not required to take as fact any of the details enhancing Matthew's Gospel account (such as the names and other descriptive information given about the Magi and their entourage) but I have found them most helpful for meditations and hope you might too.

~ [Faithwriters.com](#)

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JANUARY SCHEDULE

- January 5 2nd Sunday of Christmas
- January 12 Baptism of the Lord
- January 19 2nd Sunday After Epiphany
 - ◆ Support Meeting
 - ◆ Leadership Training
- January 26 3rd Sunday After Epiphany
 - ◆ Benevolence Sunday



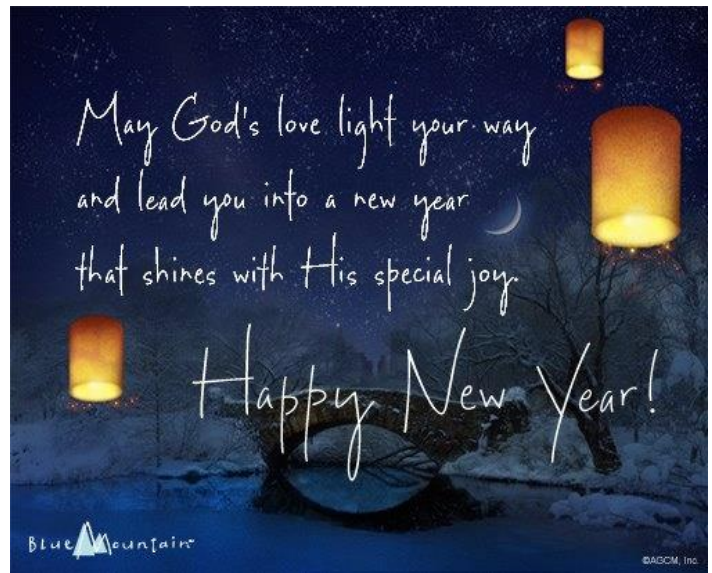
Happy Birthday!

January 1	Bev Bagoly
January 15	Georgia Velly
January 23	Bobbi Jo Smith
January 30	Grace Brown

Church Office Hours:
 Monday - 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Tuesday - Closed
 Wednesday - Closed
 Thursday - 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Friday - Closed

(Hours may vary. Please contact the office for an appointment if you need in the church)

Church Website: www.wickliffepc.com
 Secretary's Email: wickliffepc@gmail.com



Wickliffe Presbyterian Church
 45 Idlewood Rd.
 Austintown, OH 44515
 P: 330-792-6441 F: 330-792-1006

TLCC Daycare and Preschool
 Director, Norma Johnson
 330-792-9048





2025 Per Capita increased to \$33.00. Per Capita information flyers are available at the church.

IN STEP WITH SESSION



Happy New Year to all those who received our Newsletter and are able to read this message in its entirety as we now move into "2025". I am hoping that everyone had a wonderful Christmas as we celebrated The Birth of Jesus. What a blessing to have joined our Hubbard friends at their Church on Christmas Eve. The turnout from Wickliffe was small with only 8 in attendance. I hope in the future, we will support Hubbard as they support us during our Church Events. Just wanted to remind you of the upcoming events at Wickliffe:

- ◆ Elder Ruth Cole will be leading the Leadership Training Session on January 19th after Worship. All Elders and Deacons are asked to attend. A lite lunch will be served.
- ◆ Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after Worship on Feb 2nd with a luncheon included. You know we, as Presbyterians, like to eat. Please bring a covered dish to share. Elder Judi Bender will be moderating this meeting.
- ◆ Audrey would like to have all reports for the Congregational meeting send to her by January 9th.
- ◆ The Installation of Officers both newly coming on and those who are serving a second term will be installed on Feb 16th. Again, Elder Judi Bender will be officiating that Sunday morning.
- ◆ We were blessed on Dec 1st to receive Cathy and Jerry Murray as new members. Thank you for choosing Wickliffe!

Please let your Session know if we can help you in anyway. We are still looking for a Pastor to lead us into the future, but have been able to keep the church doors opened as we worship our Lord and Savior. Thank you for your support.

Blessings to all, *Nancy O'Hara, your Clerk of Session*



REQUEST FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Please have your completed reports to me for the WPC Annual Report by **Thursday, January 9, 2025**. Please e-mail it to me in Word or Excel format- **not a PDF**. You are also welcome to drop off a hand-written document if that is more convenient for you.

Thank you much!

Audrey



As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear:

our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way.



THANK YOU FROM THE DEACONS OF WICKLIFFE!

A huge thank you to all our members who supported the Deacons in any way during this holiday season.

Thanks to your wonderful generosity, we supported 4 different missions. We gave 14 Christmas Shoeboxes to children, 23 presents of toys and gifts to Protestant Family Services and 82 items of gloves, scarves, socks and mittens to Needle's Eye to be given to needy children. None of this would be possible without you!

Wishing a Happy and Healthy New Year one and all!

The Deacons of Wickliffe

A REQUEST FROM JEFF BRYANT, CHAIRMAN WPC SERVICE COMMITTEE

**If you need to enter the church, please don't do
so after dark. This is for your safety!**

**If you need to do so, contact Jeff at
330-402-4498 and he will meet you there.**

Thank you!



* WHEN GOD SENDS HELP, DON'T ASK QUESTIONS *

She hurried to the pharmacy to pick up the medication. When she got back to the car, she found her keys locked inside. The woman found an old rusty coat hanger on the ground. She looked at it and said, "I don't know how to use this."

She bowed her head and asked God to send her some help. Within five minutes an old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off his cycle and asked if he could help. She said, "Yes, my husband is sick. I've locked my keys in the car. I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?" He said, "Sure!" He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute the car was open. She hugged the man and through tears, said, "Thank you, God, for send me such a very nice man."

The man heard her little prayer and replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday. I was in prison for car theft." The woman hugged the man again, sobbing, "Oh, thank you God! You even sent me a professional!"

Moral of the story, God will send you who you need when you need them. Just never judge the person by how they look. Sometimes we may be the person that some needs. So, no matter how they look, remember they are a child of God also.

Submitted by Donna Cooper



SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

Needle's Eye Soup Ministry

Grateful thanks to all who donated cans of soup and/or jars of peanut butter for our December collection. Let us be one of the perfect gifts that keeps on giving in the new year! Thank you!

~ Donna Cooper



Newsletter Content Wanted!

Our monthly newsletter, can at times be quite sparse and I need your help to fill the pages.

Some ideas of things that can be submitted are:

- ◆ Church and Family Celebrations
- ◆ Prayer and Praise Requests
- ◆ Poems and Stories
- ◆ Favorite Recipes



Let's beef up our future newsletters to reflect our church and family life. I welcome your contributions!

Thank you!

Audrey Covault, WPC Secretary

GOODTIMERS will meet Wednesday, January 8, 2024 at 12:00 PM at Denny's.

Grace Brown

The DISCOVERY GROUP will meet Tuesday, January 28 at 12:30 PM here at the church.




Grace Brown

The WPC Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 2, 2025 with Judi Bender.

~ Nancy O'Hara

WPC Clerk of Session

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 5:45 PM Tops	3	4
5 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	6 	7	8 12:00 Noon Goodtimers at Denny's	9 Deadline for Congregational Meeting Annual Reports 5:45 PM Tops	10	11
12 10:00 AM Worship Service  8:00 PM AA Mtg.	13 6:00 PM TLCC Board Mtg.	14	15	16 5:45 PM Tops	17	18
19 10:00 AM Worship Service Deacon/Elder Leadership Training 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	20	21 6:00 PM Session Meeting	22	23 Newsletter Deadline 5:45 PM Tops	24	25
26 10:00 AM Worship Service  8:00 PM AA Mtg.	27	28 12:30 PM Discovery Group at WPC	29	30 5:45 PM Tops	31	