



What's Up Wickliffe!

DECEMBER 2025

WAITING...WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS

(Summary: On Christmas Day, a store owner follows a strange urge to open her shop despite the cold. She finds two needy boys waiting for her, wanting to buy skates for the younger brother. Miraculously, a pair of skates fits perfectly, and their gratitude fills her heart with the true spirit of Christmas.)

Herman and I finally locked our store and dragged ourselves home. It was 11 p.m. Christmas Eve. We'd sold almost all of our toys; and all of the layaway, except one package, had been picked up. But the person who had put a dollar down on that package never appeared.

Early Christmas morning our 12 year old son, Tom, Herman and I were out under the tree opening up gifts. But there was something humdrum about this Christmas. Tom was grown up, and I missed his childish exuberance of past years. As soon as breakfast was over, he left to visit friends and Herman disappeared into the bedroom, mumbling, "I'm going back to sleep."

So there I was alone. It was nearly 9 a.m. Sleet mixed with snow cut the air outside. "Sure glad I don't have to go out on a day like today," I thought to myself. And then it began—something I'd never experienced before. A strange, persistent urge. "Go to the store," it seemed to say. "That's crazy," I said to myself, "no one opens shop on Christmas day." For an hour I fought that strange feeling. Finally, I could stand it no longer. I got dressed. I put on my wool coat, placed my hat on my head, then my galoshes, scarf and gloves. Once outside, the wind cut right through me and sleet stung my cheeks. I felt ridiculous. I had no business being out in the bitter chill.

There was the store just ahead. "But, what in the world?" I wondered. In front of the store stood two little boys—huddled together, poorly dressed, and half frozen. One was about nine, the other six.

"Here she comes!" yelled the older one. "See, I told you she would come," he said. The younger one's face was wet with tears, but when he saw me his eyes opened wide and his sobbing stopped.

"What are you two children doing out here?" I scolded, hurrying them into the store.

"We've been waiting for you," replied the older. "My little brother Jimmy didn't get any Christmas gifts. We want to

buy some skates. That's what he wants."

I looked at the three dollars in his hand and at their expectant faces. Then I looked around the store. "I'm sorry" I said, "but we have no ska...." Then my eye caught sight of the layaway shelf with its lone package. Could it be? I walked over and unwrapped the package. Miracles of miracles, there was a pair of skates!

Jimmy reached for them. "Lord," I said silently, "let them be his size." And miracle added upon miracle. They were his size. When the older boy finished tying the laces and saw that the skates fit perfectly, he stood up and presented the dollars to me.

"No, I'm not going to take your money," I told him. "I want you to have these skates and use your money to get some gloves for your hands." What I saw in Jimmy's eyes was like a blessing. It was pure joy, and it was beautiful. My low spirits rose.

As I locked the door, I turned to the older brother and said, "How lucky that I happened to come along when I did. How did you boys know I would come?"

I wasn't prepared for his reply. His gaze was steady, and he answered me softly. "I knew you would come. I asked Jesus to send you."

The tingles in my spine weren't from the cold. I knew God had planned this. As we waved good-bye, I returned home to a brighter Christmas than I had left.

by Elizabeth English

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What's Up Wickliffe!

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

December 7 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 14 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 21 4th Sunday of Advent

December 24 Christmas Eve
♦ Worship Service with
Communion to be held at
Hubbard Pres. Church

December 28 1st Sunday of Christmas
♦ Benevolence Sunday

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



Happy Birthday!

December 2 Rich Truslow

December 2 Sandie Wayland

December 8 Barbara McKinney

December 15 Al Bagoly

December 15 Glenn Johnson

December 17 Patti Cramer

December 20 Jamie Bryant

December 21 Marty Mayer

December 22 Edith Muzenic

December 23 Neil Truslow





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



IN STEP WITH SESSION-MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 20th

It was our last Session meeting for 2025 and I am very proud to say that all of our Elders were in attendance. Thank You for a wonderful year. I also want to thank Rev. Amber Balista for being our moderator.

The following were discussed: Two hall rentals by TLCC staff were approved, Election of Bill Cooper for Commissioner to Presbytery and presenting the membership rolls.

We also approved the 2026 Budget. If you have not sent in your pledges in yet for 2026, it is not too late. Our Church is small but mighty, but we need your help as we move forward. For those who have already pledged, Thank You for your generosity.

As we moved into the business portion of our meeting, we listened to the chairs of the following committees:

CE: Grace is still looking for more volunteers for Children's Sunday School

Growth: Donna still wants to find a way to have a Kids fun day so parents can go shopping.

Nominating: I am going to work with Tracy to make sure we have the correct information on leadership. Working on filling 1 Elder, 1 Deacon and 1 person for TLCC board.

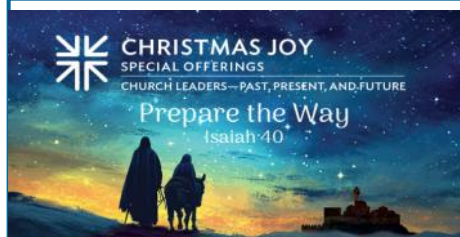
Service: Jeff will be going off as Elder and Jamie agreed to head Service.

Worship: Ruth and Grace are serving Communion to Sick and Shut Ins. Ruth will be changing flowers for Christmas Season. Concerned that we aren't getting more sign-ups for coffee hour.

As for other business, we set the Annual Congregational Meeting date for February 8th with Installation of Officers for February 22nd. A reminder was given to Elders pertaining to "A Night with Mark Elsdon" at Firestone Park Pres in Akron. He will address issues with small churches. It will be held on Dec 10th.

Please join us in Worship on Sunday Mornings. We will be having Christmas Eve Service at Hubbard at 4 PM and our Service for those reading my article is at 10 AM. Everyone is welcomed.

Blessings, Nancy O'Hara-Clerk of Session



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING PREPARE THE WAY ISAIAH 40

Each year during the Advent Season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership. But these leaders need to be supported by other communities as well.

This offering also supports leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

Please consider what you can donate and remember that **"A LITTLE ADDS UP TO A LOT!"**

~ Donna Cooper



Deacon Ministry

Thanks for the 9 Christmas Boxes that were delivered for the needy children.

Please bring in all your unwrapped gifts for Protestant Family services and hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for Needles Eye by Dec. 7th.

I will be delivering them during the week. Deacons appreciate your generosity for all your donations. The spirit of giving and sharing love with others makes your heart warm at Christmas.

Thanks to all of Wickliffe,
~ Debby Fabian and the Deacons

THANKS FROM THE DEACONS!

Our Church easels are missing! If borrowed, please return to the Narthex!!



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

NOTE FROM YOUR WPC SECRETARY

Our WPC Congregational Meeting will be held **Sunday, February 8, 2026.**

Please send your Annual Reports to me no later than **Thursday, January 15, 2026.**

Thank you much,
Audrey Covault

Praying for



PEACE

~A SPECIAL NOTE FROM YOUR SESSION~



On **Christmas Eve, December 24**, Wickliffe has been invited to First Presbyterian Church of Hubbard for a joint worship service. The Service will begin at **4:00 PM** and **Communion** will be served.

Please plan to attend! The address for the Hubbard Church is:

**22 Westview Avenue
Hubbard, OH 44425**





The M&M Christmas Story

"As you hold these candies in your hand, and turn them you will see the M becomes a W, an E and then a 3.

They tell the Christmas story, it's one I'm sure you know. It took place in a stable a long, long time ago.

The **E** is for the East, where the star shone so bright.

The **M** is for the manger where Baby Jesus slept that night.

The **3** is for the wisemen, bearing gifts they say they came.

The **W** is for worship, hallelujah, praise His name.

So as you eat these candies or share them with a friend, remember the meaning of Christmas. It's a love story that never ends." Pam Ridenour

Submitted by Sherry Yacucci



THE MEANING OF THE SNOWMAN

The **white snow** represents God's forgiveness of our sins.

The circular **snowballs** show the everlasting life God promises us.

The **carrot nose** shows us that God has given us the Earth and all living things.

The **black coal mouth** reminds us to give God praise.



The **scarf** keeps us warm, just as God's love does.

The **top hat** reminds us to honor God above all things.

The **twig arms** are open to hold us the way God does when we need Him.



There is a Flower Chart in the narthex for WPC members to purchase altar flowers in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

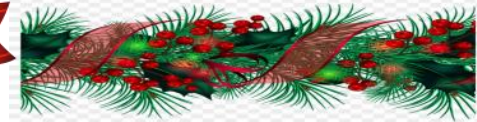
I have established an agreement with **Crystal Vase Florist**, 5623 Mahoning Ave., Austintown. Their phone number is **330-793-4545**. They have our Tax Exempt number. If you order flowers, you need to pay for them. **Do Not Charge the Church.**

Contact me and I will pick them up on the Saturday before church. If I am not available, then you will need to pick them up yourself and deliver them to the church.

~ Grace Brown

Simple Gifts Choir Presents in Joyous Song! Hubbard Presbyterian Church, 22 Westview Avenue, Hubbard OH 44425, invites all to attend this hour-long program on December 7th at 4:00 p.m. that will feature the 60-voice choir singing traditional and contemporary anthems observing the Advent and Christmas season. Hymns and carols afford opportunity for the audience to sing along with the choir, soloists and guest musicians. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit The Hubbard Community Supply Pantry. Admission is free! Following the program, all are invited for fellowship and light refreshments in the church hall.





NOMINATING COMMITTEE REQUEST

It is that time of the year, that we ask you to consider helping your church with your talent. We are looking for Elders, Deacons and TLCC board members. If you would like to be

nominated or would like to nominate someone or have questions, please get in touch with me or a nominating committee member.

Thank you, Tracy Martin

330-941-0130



Needle's Eye Soup Ministry

PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE ELDERLY STILL NEED OUR DONATIONS!

CANS OF SOUP AND BEANS AND JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER STILL NEEDED!

THANK YOU!

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

~Donna Cooper



GOODTIMERS will meet for our Christmas Party
Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025 at 11:30 AM at Ruby Tuesday, 5555 Mahoning Ave., Austintown.
~Grace Brown

The DISCOVERY GROUP will meet Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 12:30 PM.
~Grace Brown



A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true King of peace. In You alone is found freedom. Please free our world from conflict, especially in the Mideast and Ukraine.

Bring unity to troubled nations. Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart. Dispel all darkness and evil. Protect the dignity of every human life. Replace hatred with Your love. Give wisdom to world leaders. Free them from selfish ambition. Eliminate all violence and war. Glorious Virgin Mary, Saint Michael the Archangel, every angel and saint: please pray for peace. Pray for unity amongst nations. Pray for unity amongst all people. Pray for the most vulnerable. Pray for those suffering. Pray for the fearful. Pray for those most in need. Pray for us all. Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on us. Jesus, hear our prayers. Jesus, I trust in You! Amen.



Coins for Church

We are continuing our Coins for Church drive. A collection jar is located in the Narthex for you to drop your change in. This money is being used for building repairs.
Thank you for your continued support of our coin drive.

~ Tracy Martin

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 12:30 PM Discovery Group	3	4 5:45 PM TOPS	5	6
7 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	8	9	10 11:30 AM Goodtimers Christmas Party Ruby Tuesday Austintown	11 5:45 PM TOPS	12	13
14 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	15	16	17	18 5:45 PM TOPS	19	20
21 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	22 Newsletter Deadline TLCC Closed Today Through Jan. 5, 2026	23	24 4:00 PM Worship Hubbard Pres. Church 	25 	26	27
28 10:00 AM Worship Service  8:00 PM AA Mtg.	29	30	31 			