



What's Up Wickliffe!

JANUARY 2024

SEEING CHRIST LEADS TO GIVING MORE OF OURSELVES

The medieval church in the 4th century set Dec. 25 as Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. In the years that followed, the church expanded the celebration of Christmas to a 12-day festival, running from Dec. 25 to Jan. 6, the observance of Epiphany. For Presbyterians, Epiphany is key to our discipleship of Jesus in the world God so loves.

The event of the Epiphany in the Gospel of [Matthew \(2:1–12\)](#) refers to God's self-revelation in the baby Jesus, recognized by the Magi after their journey from the East. The star they followed led them to Jesus, King of the Jews, revealed as their Savior — indeed, the Savior of all people. When the Magi saw Jesus with Mary, they were overwhelmed with joy. Who wouldn't be after a long journey for promised salvation?

These days, we celebrate Epiphany because it reminds us of who we are called to be as followers of Jesus. We are formed as people who see, recognize and point to God's saving presence in this world. We strive to give ourselves and our lives to God in joy, just as the Magi did. The celebration of Epiphany also gives us an opportunity to consider what it means to live out the difference the birth of Jesus makes for us and the world.

But are we fully celebrating Epiphany if we don't ponder — and live out — the complete reorientation of our lives to Jesus? Have we really been changed by the Christ Child — reorienting our words and deeds — if we pay no attention to imprisoned migrant children at our southern border?

We know from the Bible that unless we seek justice for all people, especially the vulnerable, our worship is meaningless to God. We read in James 1:27 that "religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

We see even in their return home, the Magi are guided by God, away from Herod's worship of power. Where we invest our worship, we invest our lives. And where we invest our lives, we invest our journeys.

We see in the Magi, too, a reflection of our longing to see the God in whom we believe. As the Magi understood, Jesus is the savior of all. This includes our sibling children of God who are immigrants, widows, orphans

and the poor, as we read over and over again in the Scriptures. This is at the heart of our Presbyterian faith. So how will we join the Magi this year?

Our worship celebrations of Epiphany might include acting out the readings of the day, especially the story of the Magi. There might be hymn sings or Sunday feasts or dropping slips of paper in the offering plates or baskets, describing what we will offer to God with our lives. Gathered in homes, friends and families might open presents on Epiphany, Jan. 6.

The star the Magi followed reveals the light that shines for all people. No matter how your worshiping community marks Epiphany — and maybe it doesn't — you can mark it for yourself as a disciple of Jesus. You might light a candle and read Matthew 2:1–12 and imagine that these Magi are your siblings in Christ and that you are on the long, hard journey with them. Together you are overwhelmed with joy because you see that the King of the Jews, the Savior of all people, has been born into the world. You might spend time in prayer for all those in God's world who long for that healing and salvation: refugees, victims and survivors of violence, and those who have been starved by drought.

When that joy of seeing Christ, and wanting to share Christ with others, leads to the question "What can I give?" we will then find that actions that communicate God's healing to others become a part of our life. And then, the whole world can see the star, follow it to Jesus and be overwhelmed with joy at finally seeing God's salvation.

Michelle Bartel, Transitional Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Lebanon, Indiana.

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JANUARY SCHEDULE

- January 7 **Baptism of the Lord**
- January 14 **2nd Sunday After Epiphany**
 ♦ **Support Meeting**
- January 21 **3rd Sunday After Epiphany**
- January 28 **4th Sunday After Epiphany**



January 1	Beverly 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

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 P: 330-792-6441 F: 330-792-1006

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




2024 Per Capita remains \$32.50. Per Capita information flyers are available at the church.




The Deacons have been very busy collecting, sorting and distributing many items for the needy at Christmas. We packed one Thanksgiving food basket this year to help a needy family. Thanks to the amazing generosity of the wonderful people of Wickliffe, we supported three different missions. The Deacons gave 8 Christmas Shoeboxes to children, 28 presents of toys and gifts to Protestant Family Services and 85 items including gloves, scarves, socks, mittens to Needles Eye to be given to needy children. None of this would be possible without you! Thank you so much for helping and bringing joy to others at Christmas.

Communion will be served at our Christmas Eve service Dec. 24 at 4 PM. Hope you can attend. Merry Christmas and God bless you all! Love, Your Deacons



If anyone is interested in calling members for the Prayer Chain, please contact Bev Bagoly at 330-559-7202. The need is for calling only half the list.




Did you stop by **Fellows Riverside Garden's Festival of Trees**? This is a photo of **TLCC Preschool's** offering!

If you didn't get there yet, you still have time! The display runs through January 2, 2024. Go and see the ornaments that the children of all ages made.

What a wonderful opportunity to view the talent of all the kids!



TLCC Preschool's Christmas Tree



Holy Humor

A sense of humor may be the most important thing to wear when you go out in public.

~Dianna Booher

Laughter loves company even more than misery loves company.

~Jim Pelley

An onion makes people cry, but there has never been a vegetable invented to make them laugh.

~Will Rogers

Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator, but among those whom I love, I can—all of them make me laugh.

~W.H. Auden

Excerpts from Holy Humor provided by Sherry Yacucci



STUFFED CABBAGE SOUP

- 1-2 lbs. Ground Beef
- 1 Head of Cabbage, cut up
- 1 Onion, diced
- 2 Large Cans Tomato Sauce
- 2 Cans Tomato Soup plus 2 Cans Water
- 1/2 Cup Uncooked Rice
- 1/4 Cup Brown Sugar



In a soup pot, brown ground beef and drain the fat. Add cabbage, onion, tomato sauce, tomato soup and water. Simmer on low. More water may be added as necessary. Add rice, stirring often. Add brown sugar (to cut the acidity). Total cook time: 2-3 hours. Serve with warm, buttered crusty rolls. Enjoy!

Submitted by Audrey Covault

**Want to submit a recipe for a future newsletter? We welcome your great ideas!
Just send an e-mail to wickliffepc@gmail.com or drop it off on Sunday.**

**GOODTIMERS will meet Wednesday,
January 3rd at 11:30 AM at
Denny's on Mahoning Ave.
~Grace Brown**

**DISCOVERY GROUP will meet
January 23rd at 12:30 PM at the
church.
~ Grace Brown**

**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be
held Sunday, February 11, 2024 with
Reverend Barry Chance.
~Nancy O'Hara
WPC Clerk of Session**

Needle's Eye Soup Ministry


Please remember to donate cans of soup, or jars of peanut butter for our Good Neighbors at Needle's Eye. We can add joy to OTHERS and OURSELVES when we do simple acts of kindness by donating. If everyone brings one can or one jar, just think how much we will give to Needle's Eye!

Thank you in His Name! Donna Cooper






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.




“POP TABS—Reminder”
Ronald McDonald House

This is a reminder that you take time to collect **Pop Tabs** for our **RONALD McDONALD HOUSE Outreach**. You will find the tall plastic container in the Narthex. Let's please see how fast we can fill the jug this time. Blessings to all for your support of this worthy cause!
~ Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session

REQUEST FROM JEFF—Reminder

Jeff Bryant is collecting **aluminum cans** for a project with the VFW called **“Cans for Vets”**. Please bring your cans to the church (garbage can is placed near the door). Jeff will be collecting the cans for the remainder of the year. Thank you in advance for your Christian generosity!



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3 11:30 AM Goodtimers Denny's 4927 Mahoning Ave.	4 5:45 PM Tops	5	6 
7 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	8 6:00 PM TLCC Board Mtg.	9	10	11 5:45 PM Tops	12	13
14 10:00 AM Worship Service Support Mtg. 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	15 Annual Report Deadline	16 6:00 PM Session Mtg.	17	18 5:45 PM Tops	19	20
21 10:00 AM Worship Service Per Capita Sunday 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 12:30 PM Discovery Group-WPC	24	25 5:45 PM Tops	26	27
28 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	29	30	31			