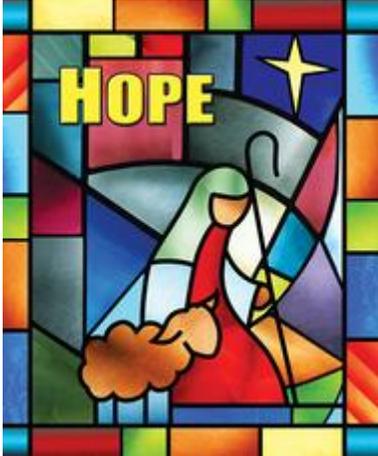


December 2017



Dear Wheat Ridge Family,

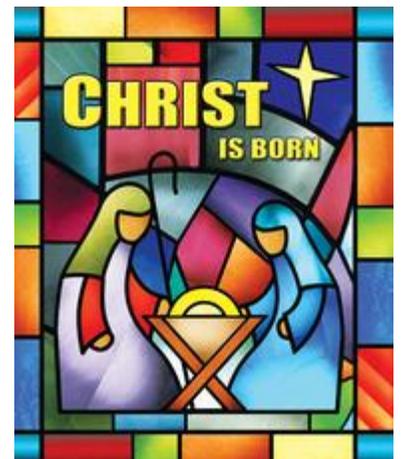
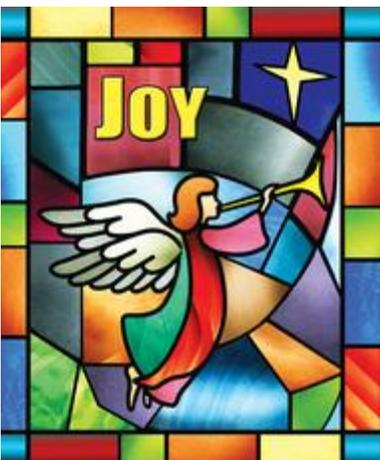
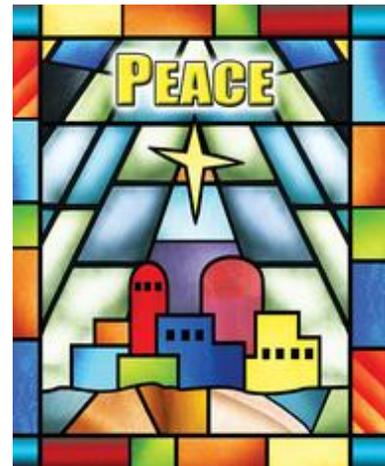
Through a quirk in the calendar, this year **the fourth Sunday in Advent is also Christmas Eve**. About 6 months ago, the Session agreed that, rather than have two services—at 10am plus later that day—on **Sunday, December 24**, there would be **only one service at 3pm** (no 10am service), so that people of all ages could gather as one to celebrate the birth of our savior.

Many of **WPC traditions** continue: **Hanging of the Greens** and **Intergenerational Advent Festival**, Saturday, December 2; **Adult Christmas Party**, Saturday, December 9; **Christmas caroling** at homebound members' residences followed by **potluck supper**, Sunday, December 10. Come mingle with our **Highland West Community** neighbors at their Christmas party on Wednesday, December 13 and hear our bell choir play! This year, a cast of children, youth, and adults present a **Christmas play, Believe!** on Sunday, December 17 at 2pm with a dessert reception following. Bring in the new year with worship back at **10am on New Year's Eve** and celebrate **Epiphany** on January 7, 2018.

All these might only be dates on a calendar, but they can be so much more than that. The marking of the **seasons of our lives**—birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, summer, autumn, winter and spring—includes the **seasons of the church year**. While every day is filled with resurrection life, we move through Lent, Holy Week and we celebrate Easter once a year to help us reflect in a more focused way on the power of the cross and empty grave.

The same is true of **Advent and Christmas**. We can know with our minds that God became flesh and made a home with us, but to spend several weeks in **anticipation** of that holy night deepens not only **the understanding of our minds** but **the experience of our hearts**. What does the **Incarnation**—God-with-us—Emmanuel mean to us at age 8, 18, 48, 88 and beyond? Returning to the **ancient and timeless Christmas story** year after year draws us to the **depth of God's love, vulnerability, and power** in the tiny hand of the Christ child. May this Advent lead you, **heart and mind**, to the manger shining with the **light of God's love** for the whole world.

Peace, *Laura*



**SESSION: Next meets Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**

The agenda for the November Session meeting was rather short, but important, as the main task was the approval of the 2018 Needs Budget. After discussion, review and adjustments the Needs Budget was approved and will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Congregational meeting on January 21, 2018. Remember the congregation does not vote on the 2018 Needs Budget. The congregation only votes on the "terms of call" for the minister. A note of thanks from the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund thanked Wheat Ridge Presbyterian for the check of \$3075.00. Finance Committee reported that Total Income through October 2017 of \$249.423, with the Total Expenses of \$220.250. Moving to the next phase of New Beginnings will be an informal meeting after worship/fellowship on November 19.



**COMMUNITY SPEAKER SUNDAY!**

Come **Sunday, December 3rd at 8:45 am** in **Fellowship Hall** and learn about **"Ecuador and the Galapagos,"** The speaker is traveler and student, **Luke Friedman.** Please **invite friends, family, and neighbors** to this community event.

**December Calendar of Upcoming Special Advent/Christmas Events**

Sat. Dec. 2	9:30 am	Adults arrive for Hanging of the Greens
	10:30 am	Intergenerational Advent Festival crafts, fun & decorating for children, families, and older adults
	11:45 am	Lunch (bring cookies to share) & carol sing
Tue. Dec. 5	11:30 am	4-F Christmas Luncheon at LCC
Sat. Dec. 9	5:30 pm	Adult Christmas Party at Eleanor Fowler's
Sun. Dec.10	3:00 pm	Caroling Party Potluck at Niquettes singing and delivering baskets to homebound members
Wed. Dec.13	2:00 pm	Highlands West Community party with music by WPC Choir & Ridge Ringers
Sun. Dec.17	2:00pm	"Believe" a Christmas Play followed by dessert reception
Sun. Dec.24	3:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service (no 10 am worship service)
Mon. Dec.25		Merry Christmas! Church office closed

**DEACONS: Deacons Invite a Shower of cards for Homebound or Far Away**

**Members** Help Us Spread the Holiday Spirit! The Deacons will be making Christmas baskets for many of our church homebound members and friends. But we sometimes feel alone during the holidays. We are asking you to help us shower those who are seldom able to attend WPC with love by sending them a Christmas card sometime during the Christmas season. Below you will find the names and addresses of people that would appreciate you thinking of them

**Bunny Brown**

**Leslie Coffman**

**Janet Decker**

**Bob Euser**

**Libby Fox**

**Dolores Freel**

**Shirley (& Virgil) Hill**

**Carole (& Walt) Pettit**

**Kristi Rizo**

**Gordon Swanson**

**Lynn Thatcher**

**Mary Wilcox**

**Don Wollenzien**

## DEACONS--A CARING REMINDER FROM THE

**DEACONS:** If your family suffers a loss or illness, or you would like to request prayer, please contact:

Laura 303-422-2355(church)

or 720-471-0751 (cell)

Church Office, 303-422-2354

Prayer Chain, Charlene Pierce

Deacon Co-Chairs: Linda Johnston & Dick

Remington.

**PRAYER CHAIN** – Prayer Chain is a quick way to have your prayer concerns passed on to part of the church family and enables the church to support you more rapidly in your time of need.

**Deacons meet Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 11:40 am** for the monthly meeting and to prepare the Christmas baskets.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

As the Advent season fast approaches we want to take this opportunity to invite everyone to WPC's

annual **multigenerational Advent Festival**, on **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at

**10:30am**, in the Fellowship Hall.

Children of all ages from 1 to 100

will enjoy making Christmas crafts, and decorating the Fellowship Hall. A delicious lunch will be served at 11:45am, along with a carol sing and yummy cookies!

This year Christian Education is very excited to present the **Christmas play "BELIEVE"**, on **December 17<sup>th</sup>**, at **2:00pm**, in the sanctuary. Please join us as we journey on a young boy's quest to regain the meaning of Christmas. Refreshments/with a cast meet and greet will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

We know the weeks leading up to Christmas are busy, filled with joy, wonder, and excitement as you prepare for this anticipated time of year with loved ones. So, we hope you will be able to take time out of your Christmas schedule to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Grace and peace,  
Linda

## INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT LUNCH

Hi all, for the festival I have decided that we will be having a taco bar. That will be our 11:45 am meal offering with cookies after for dessert. The taco bar will include: spiced ground beef, spiced shredded chicken, hard and soft-shell tortillas, lettuce, shredded cheese, salsa, onions, jalapeños, tomatoes, sour cream, guacamole, refried beans and Mexican rice. Can anyone think of other things that are traditionally served with



tacos? Also, does anyone have any good recipes for Mexican rice or refried beans? **If you would like to contribute or purchase** (for reimbursement or donation credit) and bring any of the above listed items, please let me know asap. Also, if you would like to prepare Mexican rice or refried beans ahead of time let me know that. We will serve coffee, ice water and hot cocoa for drinks. The hot cocoa and coffee will be made available during the cookie dessert time. Comments or ideas anyone? Nothing says Feliz Navidad like a taco bar!!!! - thanks-

Barbara Stimson

## COMMUNITY SPEAKER SUNDAY!

Come **December 3rd at 8:45 am** in

**Fellowship Hall** and learn about **"Ecuador and the Galapagos."** Traveler, **Luke Friedman** will share about these fascinating places!



**ADULT EDUCATION: December 10th & 17 at 8:45 am in Fellowship Hall**, Adult Education is

doing an Advent Study "A Season of Hope and Anticipation: Advent Themes in the Four Gospels" from *The Thoughtful Christian*. All are welcome!

**SATURDAY A.M. WOMEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY: Saturday, December 9 at 8:30 am, at Anne Baker's home.**

Bring a breakfast dish to share. All women of the church are invited. Please contact or Eileen Gardner ASAP if you're coming so they know how many are attending.

## WHIZ KIDS CHRISTMAS

- Thanks to all who took a slip to give gifts to WHIZ KIDS students and/or their siblings! **Those who took slips for Javier Boy 15, Chloe Girl 12, and Jackson Boy 7, please contact Betsy Smith.** She needs to know who is getting gifts for those children. Please **purchase the gift, wrap it and tape the little slip to the top of the package.** Please have them back to the church office **no later than December 10th** for our tutors to pick the up and deliver. In advance thank you all for your generous caring spirit in helping make sure all the children have a gift for Christmas.
- WHIZ KIDS meets December 4th for our usual session and December 11 will be the Christmas party. We will be on break until January.8th  
Whiz Kids Coordinator, Betsy Smith



## STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Committee sends a big thank you to all members and friends of WPC for their generous support for the 2018 Pledge Campaign **"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"**! As of the Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> Session Meeting, our total pledges were \$198, 429.00 which is 90% of our Needs Budget goal! Congratulations! 2017 has been a wonderfully productive year for WPC, thanks to all of you! We are now looking forward to what **2018** will bring us with the New Beginnings program underway, our wonderful music department, our creative staff, and **you, our committed congregation**. On **December 14<sup>th</sup>**, the Session will finalize and pass the 2018 Budget. Since we presently have a \$20,000.00 shortfall, we prayerfully request that all outstanding pledges be returned by then.

**MATTHEW 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world... **let your light shine** before others so that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."  
From Your Stewardship Committee



## WORSHIP

- We kick-off this special season with special events starting with the **Hanging of the Greens** and also the celebration of the **Intergenerational Advent Festival** on **Saturday morning, Dec. 2nd**, sponsored by Worship Committee and Christian Education Committee.
- **POINSETTIAS** Thanks to those who have ordered poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary. The poinsettias will be on display on Christmas Eve. Please leave your poinsettia at the church until **after the Christmas Eve Service**. Also, please check with a worship committee member before taking your plant.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE AFTERNOON SERVICE ONLY**  
Because Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday this year, there will be no 10:00 am service. The only Christmas Eve service will be **Sunday, Dec. 24th at 3:00 PM**. It is the most peaceful and inspiring service of the season and takes us out of the hustle and bustle of the busy world.



**WPC BRIDGE GROUP--Wed., Dec. 20 at 1:00 pm** at **Meridian Westland, 10695 W. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Lakewood, 80215**. **Shirley Jobin** hosts.



Please **RSVP** her so she knows how many tables to set up.



## Church Adult Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 9th at 5:30 pm**

This year our gracious hostess is  
**Eleanor Fowler**

**Please bring your favorite beverage and an appetizer or dessert to share.**

Please **call the church office 303-422-2354** if you'd like to attend but **need a ride**.

**For questions** please call or email  
**Eleanor Fowler**.

## MISSION COMMITTEE

- **Meets Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**
- Thanks again to all who contributed in any way to the success of the Mission Fair—to those who baked, canned, crafted, and to those who worked at the event and to those who made purchases
- Mission will have a **Giving Tree in Fellowship Hall** for the clients of Senior Support—suggested items: warm socks, gloves/mittens, warm caps/hats, underwear, slippers—all adult sizes primarily for men but Senior Support also helps some women living in downtown hotels.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Bob Brown	Dec. 9
Aftan Evelyn Clark	Dec. 9
Heather Johnston	Dec. 11
Patrick Cress	Dec. 14
Julie Pulliam	Dec. 16
Will Fowler	Dec. 16
Brenda Cavanaugh	Dec. 17
Jaime Yrastorza	Dec. 23

and if we have missed your birthday please notify the church office @ 303-422-2354.



## PRAYER REQUESTS & NOTES OF THANKSGIVING

### **With Concern . . .**

- While away visiting family in Texas, **Carolyn Steffen** had a fall and broke her right ankle. She has a compound fracture and will undergo a third surgery on it on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. The break will require physical therapy near her daughter in Tyler, Texas. She may be there past Christmas. Call the church office for updates.
- **Gordon Swanson was hospitalized at Lutheran Hospital, after developing pneumonia.** He is likely to go to rehab facility after the hospital.

### **With Sympathy . . .**

- **Jan Moore's mother, Barbara Moore, age 99** died on November 13th. **Barbara** was a longtime member at WPC, and she kept in touch even while living far away. Thankfully Jan visited her the weekend before and much of the family was gathered with her back in Ohio. Prayers for **Jan and the family** as they will miss her dearly.
- **Caroline Clovesko's sister, Sally** died November 19th. Sally had been under hospice care back East. Thankfully, Caroline was able to spend considerable time with her this summer. A memorial service is planned sometime this spring when the family will gather together in Ohio to celebrate Sally's life.

### **With Thanksgiving . . .**

- **Alice Datema** left a voicemail message Wed., Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> at the church that she was feeling better and expected to be home for Thanksgiving.
- **Neighbors, Nancy and Bruce Waring sent a donation and a note of thanks** for hosting the band concert this summer. "...thanks for having the boys ...to strum some tunes. You are always thoughtful, generous, and gracious! Your support of the boys and their musical efforts is appreciated! And such a beautiful place!"
- From **Pat Robbins' sister, Nancy Mitchell**, "...an enormous thank you for all you...did to make the October 18<sup>th</sup> reception for my sister Patsy, the lovely event it was...(she) would have been so pleased to know the love and support of her church family resulted in a special event to honor her."

## MUSIC—A few Notes from Choir Director, Katie Sakanai!



- We are off to a wonderful start with choir this fall. I feel lucky to have found this congregation and grateful I get to work with the wonderful folks in the choir. Have you thought about joining them? Repeated research shows that **singing in a group setting can alleviate stress and increase your well-being!** **New singers** are always **welcome**; feel free to drop in for a visit Sunday morning at 8:30 to see how fun it is to sing with your friends.
- We are excited to begin the Advent season with all the fun that Christmas music brings! Even if you can't join us each Sunday, feel free to participate in a few special events coming up in December. On **Sunday 12/10 at 3:00 p.m.** we will have the **Church Caroling and Potluck Dinner. Meet at the Niquette's at 3**, then **carpool to carol** for members of our church who are homebound. **Bring a dish to pass!** Then on **Wednesday 12/13 at 2:00 p.m.** we will carol at the **Highland West community.** We'll meet there at **1:50 p.m.**
- Finally, did you notice our average age took a little dip this month? Look for some **new faces in the choir** this **Advent season through Lent and Easter.** We are happy to welcome **three students from Denver School of the Arts** thanks to the Barry Smith Memorial Fund. **Wyatt Johnson**, junior, has returned to sing baritone along with new additions **Leah** (pronounced like the princess!) **Savin**, senior, on soprano and **Taylor Robinson**, junior, on alto. In December we will also welcome **Anna Johnston**, a junior at Pomona High School, who is granddaughter to Linda and Ron Johnston. We are also thrilled to have **Naomi Sugg** joining us on soprano as our youngest member! We love having their youthful energy in the group.
- **CHOIR PRACTICE:** There is a **special Christmas Eve Choir rehearsal at 1:30 pm** on **that Sunday before the 3 pm service.**

Blessings to all for the holiday season, and thank you for welcoming my family to the congregation.

**NO THURSDAY BOOK GROUP IN DECEMBER—Happy Holidays!**



## NEW BEGINNINGS



As many of you know, our church has been working through the New Beginnings process since May, first with an assessment of our church from an outside consultant; followed up by 'house' meetings attended by close to fifty people from our congregation, where they worked to discern what God is calling us to do in the greater community; and most recently, meeting to start brainstorming ideas that fit in with our vision of:

1. Invite greater usage of our facility by the community surrounding the church.
2. Focus on inter-generational mission—ministering to people at all ages and stages—and bringing those ages from the church and community together in different activities.

The ideas listed are being compiled, but include everything from concerts in our Outdoor Worship space to daycare to various classes to working more closely with middle schoolers and residents of Highland West Community.

The next step in our process will take place after Christmas, when a task force will be formed to go through these great ideas and narrow them down to what we have the passion and energy to take on. Please seriously consider and pray about whether you would like to be part of this group. Several of the assessment booklets are still available in the church office. Feel free to take one.

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## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

December is now upon us and as we turn toward the holidays, we need to remember those in need. The Christmas Joy offering takes place on the two Sundays before Christmas, **December 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Presbyterian congregations express profound appreciation for our clergy, both active and retired, who are struggling with urgent financial needs. The Christmas Joy Offering gives vital funding to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions as well as to Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic schools and colleges. You will see inserts some of the Advent Sundays in the bulletin explaining various ways your donations help those in need. Envelopes will be in the pews for your use. Thank you in advance for your generous consideration.



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**  
From Your Stewardship Committee

## COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- **Colorado Gives Day 2017 is Tuesday, December 5, 2017.** It is a year-round, online giving website featuring more than 2,000 Colorado nonprofit organizations. There is some gift matching.
  - The Action Center—giving food, support, job training, housing for needy in Jeffco
  - Friendship Bridge—empower women in Guatemala
  - Habitat for Humanity—which also supports The Carpenters Helpers Building homes for those in need.
  - Hope's Promise provides counseling and resources to women and men in crisis pregnancy as well as free training to medical staff, pregnancy centers, hospitals, women's clinics and other front-line workers serving men and women in crisis and educating them about the option of adoption. It gives health care/supplies to families & orphans in Zimbabwe (including **Lomagundi Clinic**), Kenya, Nepal, and Vietnam.
  - National Sports Center for the Disabled
  - Uplift Internationale
  - Whiz Kids Tutoring
  - Women's Bean Project—helps women/needy families sustain themselves in
- **Highland West Community invites** members and friends from **WPC** to the **HWC Holiday Party, Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.** The **WPC choir and the Ridge Ringers** will provide entertainment for the holiday celebration. Highland Community is one of our oldest missions dating back over 50 some years. Please help support our residents by attending the celebration. These residents are so appreciative of our support and they are such lovely people, so please come and mingle and get to know them better. Maxine Foster
- Don't miss ***Too Hot to Handel!*** on **Fri., Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> & Sat., Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm at Boettcher Concert Hall.** Performed by the Colorado Symphony and an amazing choir **including a few from the WPC choir.** Tickets can be purchased by going to the Colorado Symphony website or you can call the Box Office at 303.623.7876.
- **Uplift Internationale Fundraiser: *A Tribute to Frank Sinatra LIVE* at Ciancio's at Hyland Hills Golf Course Saturday January 27, 2018 7pm-10pm.** Visit Uplift Internationale's Facebook events page for tickets or call 303-707-1361.



# December 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						9:30 am Hanging of the Greens 10:30 am Intergenerational Advent Festival 11:45 am Lunch 1:00–4:00 pm <i>Believe!</i> Play Rehearsal
3 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am COMMUNITY SPEAKER “Ecuador & the Galapagos” Luke Friedman 8:45 am Church School for Children 10:00 am Worship/Communion 11:05 am Fellowship Time	4 9:00 am Budget Reconciliation meeting  3:30-5:00 pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	5 <b>COLORADO GIVES DAY</b> 9:00 am Staff meeting 11:30 am 4-F Christmas Party at Lakewood Country Club 6:00 pm Finance & Administration 7:00 pm Budget Reconciliation 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	6   7:00 pm Ridge Ringers	7   3:00 pm Mission Committee meeting	8   9:30 am–2:00 pm China Painter’s Potluck Lunch	9 8:30 am Sat. AM Women’s Breakfast/Bible Study at Anne Baker’s 1:00–4:00 pm <i>Believe!</i> Play Rehearsal 5:30pm Adult Christmas Party at Eleanor Fowler’s
10 10:00am Worship 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for all ages 11:05 am Fellowship Time 11:40 am Deacons meeting 3:00-5:00 pm Caroling Potluck at Niquettes	11  3:30-5:00 pm Whiz Kids Tutoring Christmas Party	12  2:30 pm Worship Committee 4:00 pm Girl Scouts Christmas Party 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	13 1:50 pm Choir & Ridge Ringers arrive at HW 2:00 pm Highland West Community Christmas Party All invited!  7:00 pm Ridge Ringers	14  7:00 pm SESSION MEETING  7:00 pm Citizens for a Healthy Wheat Ridge	15	16  1:00–4:00 pm <i>Believe!</i> Play Dress Rehearsal
17 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for all Ages 10:00 am Worship 11:05am Fellowship Time 2:00 pm <i>Believe!</i>	18  No Whiz Kids Tutoring Happy Holidays! Resumes January 8th	19  10:30 am Personnel Committee meeting  7:00 pm Pipers Practice	20 1:00 pm WPC Bridge Group at Meridian Westland	21 No Thursday Book Group this month	22	23
24 Christmas Eve No church school or 10:00 am service 1:30 pm Choir Practice 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Service  31 New Year’s Eve No church school 9 am choir practice 10:00 am Worship 11:05 Fellowship Time	25 Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed	26  Church Office Closed	27  No Ridge Ringers	28	29	30

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church  
9180 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Wheat Ridge CO 80033

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