



## **ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

5320 Limestone Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808  
302-239-2100  
[www.stphilips.us](http://www.stphilips.us)

*"As an inclusive and caring congregation, our mission is to make disciples,  
praise God, and serve the community."*

**December 29, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

*How Good It Is to Worship the Lord!!....Thank you for worshiping with us this morning. We pray that you would sense Christ's presence among us as we open our spirits to God.*

**If You Are Visiting with Us Today ...Welcome!!** Please be so kind as to sign our guest book and introduce yourself to the Pastor as you leave. We ask **everyone** to sign the red fellowship pads as they are passed down the pew. Only visitors need to put their address and phone number. Additionally, in your pew rack, there is a bible. We believe we are called not only to proclaim God's Word, but to give it away. So, should you need a copy of God's Word, we invite you to take a bible as a gift from our congregation.

**Nursery Care:** Jesus said, "Let the little children come." So, living in our baptismal promises, we welcome and encourage children to worship with us. However, we understand that children often wiggle during the service, so if you so desire, parents are invited to go for a walk in the narthex or to take children (thru age 4 years) to the nursery, which is in the room just off the narthex.

**Ministers**

The People of St. Philip's

**Senior Pastor**

Rev. Patrick V. Downes

**Associate Pastor**

Rev. Amy Wright

**Organist /Music Director**

Dr. Stephen Benscoter, CAGO

**Director of Choir Ministry**

Dr. Lauren Conrad

**Office Assistant**

Lisa Kalinowski

**Council Officers & Members:**

President.....Gerry Butler

Vice President.....Amanda DeWeese

Treasurer .....Teri Suddard

Secretary.....Liz Freburger

Coleman Bye

Carol Johnson

David Kenney

Mary Kay LaRue

John Longo

Debbi Miller

Dave Porter

Mike Rosen

Jim Stevens

**Sunday Morning Schedule**

8:00 A.M. Worship Service in Sanctuary

10:30 A.M. Worship Service in Sanctuary

\*\* Holy Communion Celebrated Each Week at Both Worship Services

**Church Office Hours:**

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

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# The Order of Worship

First Sunday of Christmas - December 29, 2024

## The Prelude

*"The First Nowell" C. Burton*

### \* The Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

C: **We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. For give us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### \* The Gathering Hymn

*"Once in Royal David's City"*

*Next Page ►*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



## \* The Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## \* Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray . . . Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom. O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## The Old Testament Lesson

*1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26*

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, ‘May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord’; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 148*

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup> **Praise him, all his angels;**

**praise him, all his host!**

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

<sup>4</sup> **Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**

*(The Responsorial Psalm continues on the Next Page ►)*

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup> **He established them for ever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!

<sup>10</sup> **Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**

<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup> **Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> **He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the Lord!**

## **The New Testament Lesson**      *Colossians 3:12-17*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

<sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

<sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**A:**      The word of the Lord.

**C:**      **Thanks be to God.**

## \* Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \* The Gospel Lesson *Luke 2:41-52*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke the second chapter.

C: **Glory to you O, Lord.**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' <sup>49</sup>He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# Children's Sermon

## The Sermon

Rev. Amy Wright

### \* Hymn of the Day

*"In a Lowly Manger Born"*

ELW 718



1 In a low - ly man - ger born, hum - ble life be - gun in scorn;  
2 Vis - it - ing the lone and lost, stead - y - ing the tem - pest - tossed,  
3 Then, to res - cue you and me, Je - sus died up - on the tree.



un - der Jo - seph's watch - ful eye, Je - sus grew as you and I;  
giv - ing of him - self in love, call - ing minds to things a - bove.  
See in him God's love re - vealed; by his pas - sion we are healed.



knew the suf - f'ring of the weak, knew the pa - tience of the meek,  
Sin - ners glad - ly hear his call; pub - li - cans be - fore him fall,  
Now he lives in glo - ry bright, lives a - gain in pow'r and might;



hun - gered as but poor folk can; this is he. Be - hold the man!  
for in him new life be - gan; this is he. Be - hold the man!  
come and take the path he trod, son of Mar - y, Son of God.



## \* Apostles' Creed

P: Responding to the good news of God's grace, let us confess our faith together.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit**

**the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## \* The Prayers of the Church

*Congregation responds to each petition with: **Your mercy is great.***

## \* Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*The congregation is invited to share a sign of God's peace with your neighbors in whatever way you are mutually comfortable with: handshakes, hugs, elbow bumps, "peace signs," or words of peace and grace.*

## Greetings and Announcements

*At this time the Pastors will lift up some of the relevant events/happenings in the congregation. Offering plates are no longer passed around. Instead the offering plate is near the baptismal font. At some point this morning you may deposit your offering in the offering plate or you may continue to mail, automatically deposit, or use the website to continue your generous giving. Thank you so much for all you do for the ministry we are all a part of here at St. Philip's.*

## \* Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray . . . Good and loving God,

C: **we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## \* The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places . . . We praise your name and join their unending hymn of praise.

## \* Sanctus (*"Holy, Holy, Holy"*)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \* The Words of Institution

P: Holy God, in the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Almighty Father, by your Spirit bless this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, both now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## \* The Lord's Prayer

P: Joined together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

P: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Agnus Dei

("Lamb of God")



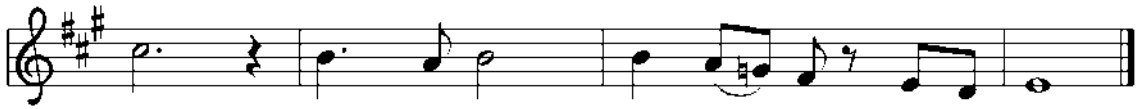
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## The Reception of Communion

*The pastors will give direction on how communion will proceed this morning. Remain seated until directions are given.*

## Communion Distribution Hymns

*As you are waiting to come forward to receive the bread and the wine and/or after you are seated again, we ask you to join us in singing together the following hymns during the distribution of the Eucharist.*



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.  
 2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.  
 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders  
 All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.  
 In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the  
 But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en  
 And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the  
 light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est  
 birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.  
 hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.  
 spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

### \* Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray . . . Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

C: Amen

### \* Blessing

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
May the Lord look on you with favor + give you peace.

C: Amen

### \* Closing Hymn

*"Go Tell it on the Mountain"*

ELW 290

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

*The Hymn is Continued on Next Page ►*

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

**\* Sending**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*"Echo Noel" L. D'Aquin*



## Remember Us When You Pray

*We believe in the power of prayer, so please remember to keep the following persons and their families in your prayers. Even if you do not know them it means so much to them to know that they are remembered in our daily prayer lives. Also, it would be a wonderful gift for them to hear from their church family:*

### ***We Pray for the Members of St. Philip's:***

Ron Henry, Judi Parsons, John & Barb Williams, Charles & Ruth Bowles, Lois Hardy, Carol Ruckle, Sharon Smith, Louise James, Helga Kissell, Bob O'Brien, Sherry Thompson, Eleanor Georgiana, Dave Frampton, Amy Papili, Donna Hokanson, Lynn Pouser, Bev Reedy, Elizabeth Stirk, Paul & Barbara Stadelberger, Jeff Stirk, Charlie Boss, Debra Gelesh, Richard Braun, Ellen Lenker, Janette Saxton, Phyllis Bolgiano, Donna Daugherty, Yvonne Cilento, Shelly Meador, Danny Mason, Kim Longo, John Reichley, Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pysher, Suzanne Bradley

***We Pray for our Loved Ones:*** *(Though we do not explicitly name these beloved ones in worship during our prayer time, please lift up their names in prayer aloud or silently during the time set aside for other intercessions):* **Our soldiers serving overseas and their families; Sgt. Tyler Harris**, nephew of

Susan Mack; **Ruth DiDonato, Family of Earl & Irene Meyer, Christina Ruble & Family**, family of Linda Burkum; **Emily Ruckle & Tina Davis**, family of Carol Ruckle; **John & Carly Hoeni**, family of Lynn Muller; **Beckie McNelly**, sister of Bob Gibble & Barb Williams; **Lou Cookson**, father of Nick Cookson; **Beth Cookson**, mother of Nick Cookson; **Dorothy Owens**, sister of Ruth Henry; **Stuart Emerson & Family**, friends of the Swift Family; **Jacob Buckworth & Dawn Cupsie**, grandson & daughter of Lamont & Sharon Smith; **Donald Oesterbo, Jr.**, son of Carol Oesterbo; **Linda Allen**, friend of Faith Simperts; **Mary Jane Myers**, mother of Mark Myers; **Joe Cilento, Jr.**, son of Yvonne Cilento; **Paul Budd, Sr.**, father of Scott, & **Lee & Patricia Craig**, friends of The Budds; **David Martin, Diane Balinski, Debra Jennings, & Barney Jennings**, family of Donna Hokanson; **Molly Wagner**, granddaughter of Margaret Wagner; **Jermaine & Joslyn Sanders**, friends of Nancy Zinnato; **Norman Richards & Phyllis Mensinger**, family of Mark & Marge Davis; **Mildred Marine**, grandmother of Heather Stirk; **John, Sr. & Anna Longo**, parents of John Longo; **Lew & Donna Longhenry**, parents & **Brad Oliver**, brother-in-law of Bryan Longhenry; **The Family of Robert Schuh**, family of Diana Longhenry; **Martin Page & Family**, friends of Mike Rosen; **Craig Shechter**, father of Amanda DeWeese; **Alistair Black**, grandson of Bob & Delores Wardwell; **Mike & Jeanie Kelly**, friends, & **Family of Rosemary Herron**, Loved ones of Edna Basilio; **Carol Henzy**, sister & **Bill Molnar**, husband of Beth Molnar; **Zoe Kenaley**, great-granddaughter of Vic Brick; **John Lehne**, friend of Carol Goodman; **Henry Houtmann**, grandson & **Doris S. & Kathleen K.**, friends of Anne Hamilton; **Frank Kulick**, brother of Ruth Bowles; **Christopher Longo**, son of John & Kim Longo; **Lisa Santak**, daughter of Marion Santak; **Michele Levanduski**, Family of Paul Gelesh; **Kristi Barnett**, friend of Angela Klemens; **Rick Ricciardi**, brother of Nancy Warner; **Henry Jones**, father of Derrick Thompson, **Carla Solano and Family**, cousin of Bonnie Anderson; **Michelle Nevins**, wife of David Nevins; **Craig Florschutz**, husband of Jennifer Florschutz; **Mark Doyle**, friend of Harold and Sharon Holeman; **Mark & Jeanne Favreau**, family of Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pysher

## What's Happening At St. Philip's

**Today's Altar Flowers** are dedicated to the glory of God and "Joy to the world, the Lord is come... Let Heaven and Nature Sing!", by Donna and Monika Daugherty.

**Pastor Patrick is on vacation this week** for his and Dawn's 30th Wedding Anniversary trip. He will return to the church office January 6th.

**Every year we provide the members the chance** to sign up to dedicate chancel flowers (we used to call them altar flowers when they sat on the altar, but now they are on the shelf in the chancel area) in memory or in honor of loved ones. In order to make it easy for you to sign up for flowers for the 2024 Calendar Year, below is a link to a sign up genius form that will allow you to dedicate flowers for the coming year. **The flowers for 2025 will be \$50.** You will pick the date you want to sign-up for and then it will ask you to type in your dedication and then click the submit button. Like last year, we are asking that you please mail in your payment for the flowers **AT THE TIME YOU FILL OUT THIS DEDICATION SIGNUP.** The only reason we are asking this is that many people forget that they signed up and then forget to send the money in. Altar Guild is trying to avoid coming after the dedication money months afterwards. Thank you so much. To make a dedication, click here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9AE29A57-52711374-flower#/>

### *Making Disciples*

**O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, January 14th.** This group is geared towards retirees in the congregation that would like to engage in a time of food, fellowship, and light learning. The next meeting will be held **January 14th from 11:30 am to 1 pm.** Amy Papili will be our speaker. She will be discussing Computer Safety!! Especially in this time when there are so many computer and internet scams, laws will be changing in 2025 regarding privacy and safety. Come to hear how to operate more safely online as things speed up with technology each year. Bring your own lunch and we'll provide the fellowship and learning. See you then!!

**The Women's Evening Book Club** meets on the second Friday of the month at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall or individual homes. Our time together is much like a happy hour with good friends! Feel free to bring a snack or beverage to share. **Our next meeting is January 10th.** If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Downes or Donna Daugherty. Mark your calendars and plan to come . . . We hope you will join us. Everyone is welcome!

**Women, Wine, and Whine** - Just booked our next wine social gathering for Sunday afternoon, **January 19th, from 2 to 5 p.m., at Acadian Winery in West Grove.** There will be music!

### **Making Disciples (Continued . . .)**

**Koinonia:** If you're looking for a small group that has fellowship, food and support for one another a koinonia group (Greek for fellowship) might be right for you! The **first Koinonia Group** that meets at St. Philip's will be **meeting, Sunday, January 12th at 6:30 p.m.** we will be studying the book of Parables. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. A **second group** that meets with the Mueller's will meet on **Sunday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mueller's home.** We are going to read Luke in one sitting ahead of time and discuss. Questions about Koinonia? Contact Sharon Kittle.

**The Young at Heart Group** will be meeting on **Saturday, January 18, 2025, 1:30-3 p.m.,** at Gigi's. New people are always welcome! Please RSVP to Gigi.

**The Daytime Book Group** will next meet on Tuesday, January 21st at 12:30 p.m. Our book for discussion is FROZEN RIVER, by Ariel Lawhon. February 18th will be MYSTERY OF MRS CHRISTIE, by Marie Benedict. March 18th will be HOMEFRONT, by Kristin Hannah, and April 15th is THE SILENT PATIENT.

### **Praising God**

**Worship Assistants Are Needed!!!** In particular we are in need of Assisting Ministers. This is an easy job because the pastor helps you during the entire service. Assisting with communion and the prayers. Let Pastor Patrick or Louise James know if you are interested.

**Remembrance of Baptism Worship Service** is Sunday, January 12, 2024 - At both worship services, we will celebrate The Baptism of our Lord by, once again, having a Remembrance of Baptism service. In previous years, this worship experience was loved by those who attended it. We'll be focusing our worship on how we are saved through our Baptism into Jesus' own death and resurrection. Be sure to join us!!

### **Serving the Community**

**Attention Widows, Widowers, and Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones!!** If you have lost a spouse, partner, or close loved one and would like to have some fellowship and support, there is now a support group meeting for fellowship and to provide comfort and support through this life transition. The next gathering is **January 9th at 12:30 p.m. lunch/1 p.m. meeting** in the Social Hall here at church. If you are interested in being a part or learning more, contact Sally Krapf.

### **Serving the Community (continued...)**

**Kenya Culture Night** - Want to know more about Kenya and the Water is Life Kenya water project St. Philip's is sponsoring? The WILK Committee is hosting a Kenyan Cultural Night on **January 11 at 5:00-8:00pm**. All are welcome to gather beginning with a traditional dinner of beef stew and goat stew along with sides (please feel free to bring food along for yourself or children if you feel this may not be to your liking). Following dinner there will be an exciting night filled with singing, dancing, games, crafts and more! Please RSVP to let us know if you are coming so we can have enough food. **The deadline to signup is January 5th.**

To signup, use this link:

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-53718961-wilk>**

**SAUERKRAUT!!** Make room in your freezer as **the Sauerkraut Sale started on Sunday, December 15th**, between and after services. We are holding the price at **\$3/bag**, but of course we will have our very popular **special which is 3 bags for \$10 . . . Hee hee!**

**New Supplies needed for Care Kits for the Homeless.** As the seasons are changing our winter kits need to be refreshed with new supplies. Please consider signing up below to help replenish supplies. Also, kits can be found under the coat rack in the narthex. Consider picking up one or two to share with homeless persons you may encounter in your travels.

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-53363560-homeless>**

**Food Insecurity continues to be a problem in our community! Can you help?** Food demand still continues to be very high. If you are at the grocery store or if someone goes for you, you can pick up needed items and drop them in the box in the narthex. We are especially in need of: **Pasta, Pasta Sauce** (cans are best and Dollar Store has good prices), **Shelf Milk (2%, Almond Breeze, Whole, or Soy** – Again, the Dollar Store is a good source), **Mac & Cheese, Cereal, Canned Vegetables, Toilet Paper, Salt & Pepper, Crackers, Coffee, Tea Bags, Cake Mix/Frosting.** Thank you so much for your generosity!!

**Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group Continues to Meet at St. Philip's** - The Alzheimer's Assn. of the Delaware Valley is sponsoring a monthly support group for anyone who has a loved one with any form of dementia, including Alzheimer's. Living with or caring for a person with dementia can be extremely challenging, overwhelming and exhausting. The group offers education, support, and the opportunity to connect with others in a similar situation. Free and open to the public, the group will meet on the **second Tuesday of the month**. The next meeting will be on **January 14th at 1 p.m.** in Room #128. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.

### **Serving the Community (continued...)**

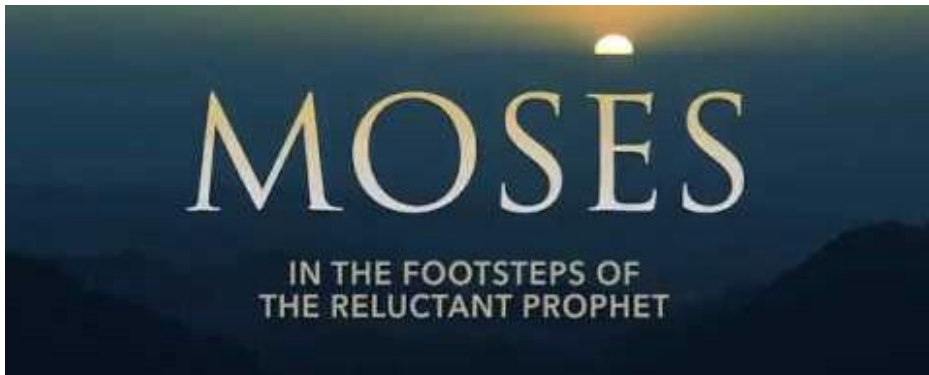
**Stephen Ministry Training** - Have you ever thought about wanting to help people during their times of need but didn't know what to say or how to help? That is what Stephen Ministers do for us here at St. Philip's. If you might have interest in serving one another in that way, there will be a Stephen Ministry training class starting in January of 2025 and running through April. If you are interested in being a part or just in getting more information let Gigi Mueller (Stephen Leader) know.

**Join the HABITAT RESTORATION CREW!** The current project is removing invasive plants and vines from around the trees and in meadow areas. Upcoming work dates follow a **first Saturday, third Wednesday of each month** pattern, **10:00 a.m. to Noon** each day. Mark your calendars now!! Helpful tools to bring: Large loppers, large digging shovels, sturdy hand-held garden pruners, small bow or pruning saw, sturdy leather [or other thorn-resistant] gloves, leaf and grass rakes. Be sure to mark your personal tools. Contact Phil Duncan to let him know you are coming.

**Family Promise - St. Philips Next Host Week: January 19th -25th** Our next host week will be January 19-25. Sign up posters will be in the Narthex with menus listing food you can provide in late December. Below is a Sign-Up Genius link for those who are able to contribute non-perishable items.

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-54055916-family>

Thank you in advance for your continued support. Feel free to contact Rebecca Bardenhagen or Marty Budd with any questions.



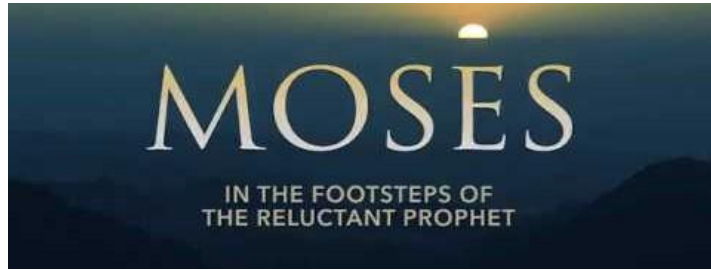
**Join us For A Special Winter Video Series Journey  
Alongside the first Biblical Prophet, Moses**

On Sunday Mornings January 12 - February 23, 2024 at 9:15 am  
Classes will be held in the Social Hall Led By Pastor Patrick  
and are all about The Life and Impact of the Prophet, Moses.

The Birth of Moses  
Two Moments that Defined the Man  
The Exodus  
The Ten Commandments  
Lessons from the Wilderness  
Don't forget . . . Pass it On  
The Legacy of Moses

Everyone is invited to this class, whether you were registered for small groups  
or not. This is a whole church experience.





**Session 1 January 12th: The Birth of Moses**

We know the story, but what were the significant details of Moses birth and raising?

**Session 2 January 19th: Two Moments that Defined the Man**

Moses may have been born an Israelite, but two things change the course of his life and the salvation history of an entire people,

**Session 3: January 26th: The Exodus**

The most significant event in the history of Moses' people.

**Session 4 February 2nd: The Ten Commandments**

Laws to be sure, but more a sense of commitment to each other.

**Session 5 February 9th: Lessons from the Wilderness**

What we do in life when we are "going nowhere."

**Session 6 February 16th: Don't Forget . . . Pass it On**

The events in the wilderness have shaped the Jewish People.

**Session 7 February 23rd: The Legacy of Moses**

The Enduring Impact of Moses on People of Faith

**On Sunday,  
January 26, 2025  
we will hold our  
Annual  
Congregational  
Celebration**

**Join us as we continue  
to celebrate the  
wonderful  
ministry that God has  
called us to here  
at St. Philip's!**

**Make this one of  
the  
first items you  
mark down on  
your  
2025 calendar!**



**St. Philip's CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION!!**

**Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.**

**In the Sanctuary**



# THOSE WHO SERVE

**PRESIDING MINISTER**

Rev. Amy Wright

**PREACHER**

Rev. Amy Wright

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Dr. Stephen Benscoter, CAGO

**CHOIR DIRECTOR/VOCALIST**

Dr. Lauren Conrad

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

Teri Suddard

(8:00 a.m.)

Paul Gelesh

(10:30 a.m.)

**LAY READER**

Jane Newcomer

(8:00 a.m.)

Donna Daugherty

(10:30 a.m.)

**USHERS**

Faith Simperts and

Cindy Hoyt

(8:00 a.m.)

Doug Larson and

Debbi Miller

(10:30 a.m.)

**GREETERS**

Faith Simperts and

Cindy Hoyt

(8:00 a.m.)

Michael Imgarten and

Janet Shechter

(10:30 a.m.)

**ACOLYTE**

Luke DeWeese

(10:30 a.m.)

**GROWING IN THE GOSPEL**

No Growing in the Gospel this Week!





