



West End

presbyterian church

The First Sunday after Christmas

We are now celebrating the Season of Christmas, a time that helps us to remember Christ's birth and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. It also teaches us to look eagerly for His promised return when He will come to redeem His creation and exercise His authority.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

HOPE IN THE LORD

"God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"

--*1 Corinthians 1:27-31*

"Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared
And the soul felt its worth
The thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
And yonder breaks a new and glorious morn"
--*Placide Cappeau*

"When we cease to hanker for the world we begin hoping in the Lord. O Lord, as a parent weans a child, so do thou wean me, and then shall I fix all my hope on thee alone."

--*Charles Spurgeon*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 52:8-10

The First Word

We believe that God always initiates with sinners, so we begin worship with His Word: His invitation to us to gather in His name.

The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
For eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem,
For the Lord has comforted His people;

**He has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared His holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
And all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.**

INVOCATION

Invocation.
Asking God to be
with us.

SONG OF ADORATION

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

1. God rest you mer - ry gen - tle - men, let no - thing you dis - may, re -
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bles - sed an - gel came; and
3. Fear not, then said the an - gel, let no - thing you af - fright; this

mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas day, to
un - to cer - tain Sa - shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same; how
day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright, to

save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray O - ti - dings of
that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
free all those who trust in Him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might.

com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O - ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

Adoration.
The God who meets
with us in worship is
good and powerful.
We recognize
His greatness and
remember His
amazing works
together in song.

*"Do not be afraid.
I bring you good
news of great joy
that will be for all the
people." Luke 2:10*

English Carol (18th
century); Tune:
Traditional English
Melody. Public
Domain

Welcome

We are glad you have joined us this morning! If you are visiting our church for the first time, or are a regular attender or church member, we encourage you to use our online or paper Keep in Touch form to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church. Following the service, please introduce yourself to Pastor Steve Shelby either in the Gallery or on the front sidewalk.

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 1:16-21

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come."

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
With all our heart and with all our mind,
let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve in wisdom, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person. For President Biden, for President-elect Trump, for the leaders of the nations, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth, we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Richmond, the Commonwealth of Virginia, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphaned, all homes which are broken or torn by strife, and for the sick, the wounded, and the suffering. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in the midst of their troubles, and bring them the joy of Your salvation.
We pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who have lost, in death, the ones they love. For all who continue in the hope of the resurrection of the dead, we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For You to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,
we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have struggled in the faith, that they may rest in the truth of the Gospel,
we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation,
we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who endeavor to do us harm, we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

That it may please You to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts to You in repentance,
we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all whom we have injured or offended.
For the forgiveness and remission of our sins,
we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness she may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to You, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

OFFERING

The offering isn't just about money. Our response to the Gospel goes much deeper; God demands our whole selves. The act of giving in worship is a part of offering ourselves as "living sacrifices" to God (Romans 12:1).

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy." Luke 2:10

Martin Luther (1535),
trans. Arthru Russell
(1848); Tune: Sandra
McCracken, © 2010
Drink Your Tea Music
(ASCAP); Used by
permission.
CCLI #708363

You can place your offering and/or tear-off as the plates pass. Please visit www.wepc.org/giving or scan the QR code for online giving options, or mail your offering to the church office (9008 Quioccasin Road, Henrico, VA, 23229).



THIS IS THE CHRIST

VERSE

1. Good news from heav-en the an-gels bring, glad ti - dings to the
2. All hail, thou no - ble guest this morn, whose love did not the

earth they sing: "To us this day a Child is giv'n, to crown
sin-ner scorn. In my dis-tress Thou come'st to me, what thanks

REFRAIN

us with the joy of heav'n." This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
shall I re - turn to Thee?

Who in all need shall aid af - ford; He will Him - self our Sav - ior be,
and from our sins will set us free. 3. Were earth a thou-sand

times as fair, be set with gold and jew-els rare. She yet were far
to poor to be, a nar - row cra - dle, Lord, for Thee. Praise God u - pon.

His heav - en - ly throne, who gave. to us His on - ly Son, for this

TO REFRAIN

His hosts. on joy - ful wing, a bless - ed New Year. of mer - cy sing...

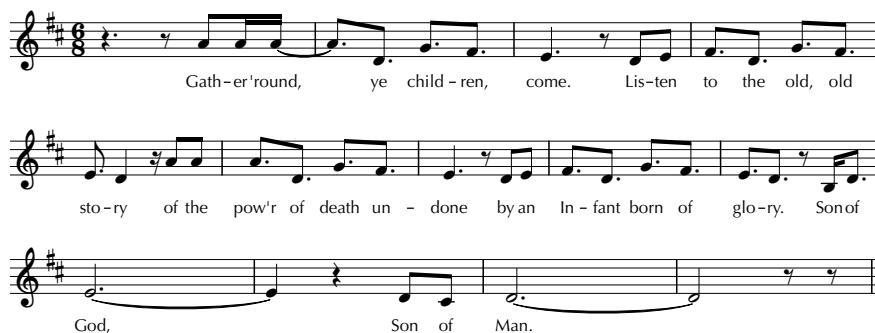
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30am)

Children, age 4 through 2nd grade, will be dismissed prior to the sermon for a Bible Lesson, activity, and fellowship. Pick up from Room 121.

www.wepc.org/grow/children

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (10:30am)

GATHER ROUND YE CHILDREN, COME



"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'"
Matthew 19:14

Andrew Peterson
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CCLI #708363

GOD THE SON RENEWS US THROUGH HIS WORD & SACRAMENT

SCRIPTURE Reading

¹O LORD, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.
²But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.
³O Israel, hope in the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore.

Psalm 131. A song of ascents. Of David.

Sermon

A Worship Guide with sermon questions is posted each Sunday at <https://wepc.org/worship/sermons-media>. You can also find the sermon audio on [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Spotify](#) under "West End Presbyterian Church RVA."

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

From Mark 14:16-25

The disciples prepared the Passover. And when it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And they were reclining at the table and as they were eating, He took bread. And after blessing it, He broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Lutheran Prayer (1536)

Confession & Encouragement

Often we find that our hearts worship something other than God. In confessing our sins, the Holy Spirit probes our hearts and minds and graciously shows us what we mistakenly believe will give us life. Jesus is good to lead us from sorrow over our sin to the sweetness of His grace.

I am a poor sinner, I confess before You, my God and Creator, that I have grievously sinned against You in many ways, not only by gross outward sins, but much more through inward natural blindness, unbelief, doubts, despondency, impatience, pride, covetousness, secret envy, hatred, malice, and other sinful affections which You see in me, my Lord and God, and which, alas, I cannot always see in myself. I repent of these, and cry to You for Your mercy, through Your beloved Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Matthew 11:28-29

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel, to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us. The Elders presiding over the Supper are praying for you as the congregation participates in the sacrament.

At each communion station, grape juice is served in purple cups, wine is served in clear cups, and gluten-free bread is served in a separate tray.

At the center aisle station, double-cups are also available, where the small gluten-free wafer is found in the bottom cup. Again, grape juice is in the purple cups and wine is in the clear cups. For a list of ingredients in the wafers, see www.wepc.org/communion.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit." Isaiah 11:1

German Hymn,
15th Century. Tune:
ES IST EIN' ROS'
ENSPRUNGEN.
Words: Harriet
R. Spaeth (1875),
Theodore Baker
(1894), John C.
Mattes (1914).
Public Domain.

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing,
2. Is - ai - ah 'twas fore - told it,
3. O flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der,
4. O Sav - ior, Child of Mar - y

from ten - der - stem hath sprung. Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing,
the rose I have in mind, with Mar - y we be - hold it,
with sweet - ness fills the air, dis - pel with glor - ious splen - dor
who felt our hu - man woe. O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry,

as men of old have sung. It came a flow'r - et bright,
the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right,
the dark - ness ev - ery - where. True man, yet ve - ry God,
who dost our weak - ness know. Bring us at length, we pray -

a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half spent - was the night.
she bore to men a Sav - ior when half spent - was the night.
from sin and death now save us, and share our ev - every load.
to the bright courts of hea - ven and to the end - less day.

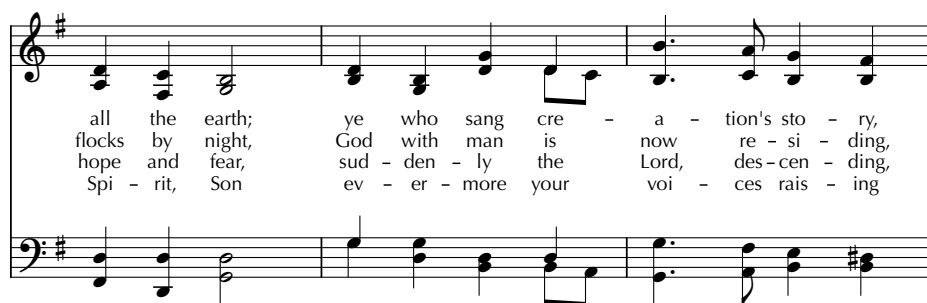
ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

*"They saw the Child with
His mother Mary, and
they bowed down and
worshiped Him."
Matthew 2:11*

James Montgomery (1816)
Tune: REGENT SQUARE,
Henry T. Smart (1867).
Public domain



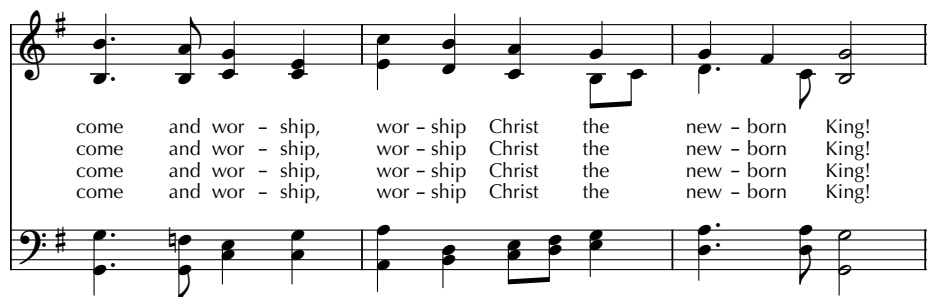
1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2. Shep-herds, in the field a - bi - ding, watch - ing o'er your
3. Saints be - fore the al - tar ben - ding, watch - ing long in
4. All cre - a - tion, join in prai - sing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with man is now re - si - ding,
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, des - cen - ding,
Spi - rit, Son ev - er - more your voi - ces rais - ing



now pro - claim Me - ssi - ah's birth: Come and wor - ship,
yon - der shines the In - fant Light: Come and wor - ship,
in His tem - ple shall a - ppear: Come and wor - ship,
to th'e - ter - nal Three in One: Come and wor - ship,



come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ the new - born King!
come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ the new - born King!
come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ the new - born King!
come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ the new - born King!

"Shout for joy to the
LORD, all the earth."
Psalm 98:4

Isaac Watts (1719);
tune: ANTIOCH,
George Frideric
Handel (1742).
Public domain.

JOY TO THE WORLD

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let all their songs em -
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King. Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him
play, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -

room, and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

INTRO
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
heaven and na - ture sing,

DOXOLOGY

*"Let everything that
has breath praise the
LORD." Psalm 150:6*

Text: Thomas Ken
(1709) Tune: OLD
HUNDREDTH
(Bourgeois, 1551)

Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures
here be - low Praise Him a - bove ye heav - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

What does "doxology" mean?

It's derived from two Greek words meaning "glory" and "word." A doxology, then, is a spoken word or song that ascribes glory to God. Today's doxology calls all of creation to praise God as the source of all blessing and acknowledges His Trinitarian (three-in-one) nature.

Benediction

A team is available for prayer at the front of the Sanctuary following the 9 AM & 10:30 AM services.

***Pastor Steve Shelby** preached today's sermon and administered the Lord's Supper. **Pastor Kevin Greene** led worship. **Erin Bouknight, Andrew Bogle, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Elder Tom Krieger, Sonya & Donald Smith, and Paul Cho** led this morning's congregational singing. **Andy Becker** and **Scott Hoyer** managed today's audio and video live stream. **Micah Andrews** managed the in-house video system.*

The Last Word

God always has the last word in our worship. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing.

Announcements

ADULT MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/adults

Adult Sunday School: 9 AM / Room 810

- **Advent: Waiting / through Dec 29**

Advent asks us to patiently wait on the hope found in the birth of Christ. What if we are missing something in the waiting? What if it is a gift? With Advent hymns and songs as our guide, we'll learn how rich waiting can be. Contact: matt@wepc.org

- **One Small Step / Jan 5 - 26**

There is often a desire or push at this time of year to make life changes to better ourselves. Although exercising more, eating less, and drinking water throughout the day are all great things - we all could use a more focused walk with Christ. This class will look at four ways in which we can strengthen our walk by taking "one small step" in the right direction.

Contact: matt@wepc.org

Young Adult Ministry

Young Adults at WEPC is for those in their 20s & 30s looking for a space to grow in their faith and connect with others. We currently meet every other Thursday night for a potluck dinner. To find out more info, contact Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org).

Wednesday Night Fellowship

The Cross-Shaped Life: What the Cross of Christ Tells Us about God and about Following Jesus

www.wepc.org/WNF

Wednesdays / Jan 15 - April 2 / 6:30-8 PM
WEPC Chapel

The Cross of Christ is the heart of God and the way we live as disciples. Led by Kevin Greene, Brian Wilcox, and Becca Wethered.

Contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

Women's Ministry: 2025 Women's Retreat

www.wepc.org/grow/women

March 1 at 9 AM - March 2 at 11 AM
Roslyn Retreat Center

Registration begins January 5, 2025.

\$150 (Early Registration) Jan. 5 - Jan. 31, 2025

\$180 (Late Registration) Feb. 1 - Feb. 14, 2025

Price includes meals and overnight accommodations. Scholarships are available.

Contact: Heather Oberle (hoberle@wepc.org)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/children

Sundays

- **9 AM:** Nursery (infant-3 years old)
- **10:30 AM:** Nursery (infant-3 years old) & Children's Message or Worship (4 years-2nd grade; Children's Worship does not meet on the 1st Sunday of the month. Instead, there will be a Children's Message during the 10:30 AM worship service.)
- **Nursing Mom's Room** (service audio available during both services)

Kids Club

Wednesdays / 6-7:30PM / Kindergarten-5th Grade

***Kids Club resumes on Jan 15**

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **Sunday School:** 9 AM / Youth Lounge
- **Homework Time:** Tuesdays / 6-8 PM
- **Youth Group:** ***No Youth Group on Wed 1/1**

MISSIONS

www.wepc.org/outreach/missions

Málaga, Spain English Camp

June 26 - July 6, 2025

This trip will run an English camp for children & youth and initiate contacts to aid evangelism and future church planting. Cost: \$880 + airfare
Application [here](#). Deadline for application is January 1, 2025. More information [here](#).

Contact: Rebecca Perry (we4perrys@gmail.com)

1823 COLLEGE-AGED MINISTRY

Winter Break Gatherings!

Sundays through January 5 / 9 AM / Rm 35

ALL young adults (approx. ages 18-23, post high school, in college, working, taking a gap year) are invited to join us during the Sunday School hour for some fellowship and Bible study. Also, plans are being made for a couple of lunch or dinner outings. Contact: Kristin Tetterton (kdstetterton@gmail.com)

FOOD PANTRY

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

Please continue to check our [weekly list](#) to help keep the shelves stocked for our neighbors.

Food Item Teams:

Reach for Team Peach! (canned peaches)

Give the Fry Team a try! (oil & salt)

Team Garbanzo, you rock! (dry or canned)

Way to Go, Team Tomato! (canned tomatoes)

Shine! Join Team Star Baker! (flour & sugar)

General Information

Deacons of the Week

Jon Greenhill, Davison Long, & Chris May

Congregational Meeting

January 5 / 12 PM / Sanctuary

Please join us for the purpose of voting to call Assistant Pastor Isaiah Thomas as an Associate Pastor, with no change in the terms of his call. All are welcome to attend; church members will vote.

Join us for the James River Presbytery Church Planting Summit!

February 2, 2025 / 5:30 - 7:15 PM

Interested in hearing more about our ministry of starting new churches across Metro Richmond and the surrounding region? Everyone is welcome to join us as we learn about church-planting initiatives, collaborate on future opportunities to reach communities with the Gospel, and pray for the Spirit's leading in multiplying congregations. Food and drink provided. RSVP to Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

Night to Shine 2025

February 7, 2025 / WEPC

Join us for a prom-night experience centered on God's love for people with disabilities. Registration is now open for guests & volunteers at www.nighttoshinerva.com. We need many volunteers to help, from buddies to dining room servers, welcome team, and more! Contact: Blair Brown (blairmb@gmail.com) or Heather Jarvis (heather.p.jarvis@gmail.com) or visit the table in the Gallery to learn more!

2025 DivorceCare Men & Women's Group

Tuesdays, February 4 - April 29 / 7:30-9 PM

Join us for a 13-week Christ-centered program addressing the complexity of life when facing marital separation or divorce. The program includes video teaching from over 50 leading Christian counselors, teachers, and pastors, group discussion, and personal Bible study. Register at www.divorcecare.org/findagroup, and click on the "More Info" tab for West End Presbyterian Church. Contact: Bryan Finch (Bryanlfinch@gmail.com) or Matt Osenga (Osengam@hotmail.com)

Fiscal Year Giving Report (as of 12/22/2024):

Operating gifts YTD: \$1,182,872.01

Forecasted gifts YTD: \$1,206,572.48

% of expected budget received: 98.04%

WEPC Community Preschool

www.wepc.org/preschool

We're hiring!

Do you love Jesus and love working with young children? We are hiring for a 1 or 2-day toddler class assistant teacher. Would you (or someone you know) like to work at the WEPC Community Preschool? If so, please visit our website (wepc.org/preschool) and click on employment) or reach out to the preschool director, Casey Zollinhofer, for more details (casey@wepc.org).

Keep in Touch

Especially if this is your first Sunday with us —welcome!



Date: _____

Name: _____

Children's Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Who invited you to WEPC? How did you first hear about us?

◇ Check if this is NEW contact information for you.

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| ◇ Visitor | Age: |
| ◇ Male | ◇ 20 or younger |
| ◇ Female | ◇ 21-26 |
| ◇ Single | ◇ 27-34 |
| ◇ Student (Grade ____) | ◇ 35-49 |
| ◇ Student (College) | ◇ 50-64 |
| ◇ Married | ◇ 65 and older |
| ◇ Parent | |
| ◇ Widowed | |

I would like info about:

- ◇ WEPC
- ◇ Women's Ministry
- ◇ Men's Ministry
- ◇ Childrens Ministry
- ◇ Youth Ministry
- ◇ Adult Classes
- ◇ Home Groups
- ◇ Neighborhood Outreach
- ◇ Becoming a member of WEPC
- ◇ Other: _____

◇ Please include me on the WEPC email list.

◇ I am interested in learning more about becoming a Christian.

Prayer Requests:

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment, and forgiving me. I run from my sins—my old life living for myself—and receive you as Savior. Amen.