



West End

presbyterian church

**The Second Sunday after
Christmas, approaching Epiphany**

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. Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on January 6, after the close of the 12 days of Christmas. Epiphany is a time that helps us to remember Jesus as the long-awaited Hebrew Messiah and His mission to the nations. Epiphany has a particular focus on Jesus as the Light of the World and "God with us," and the Church's role in proclaiming that Jesus is Lord.

Psalm 136:1

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.

Invocation

Asking God to be with us.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

STUBBORN LOVE

"There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness... The only place outside of heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is hell."

--C.S. Lewis

"If the common faith and hope is the theological bond of the Christian community, love is its practical bond. If faith and hope are what give the community its identity as God's chosen people, love is the visible outworking of that identity."

—J. Ramsey Michaels

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever.

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

GOD IS LOVE, LET HEAVEN ADORE HIM

1. God is love, let heav'n a - dore Him, God is love let earth re -
2. God is love and love en - folds us, all the world in one em -
3. God is love and though with blind - ness sin af - flicts all hu - man

joice! Let cre - a - tion sing be - fore Him, and ex - alt Him with one -
brace. With un - fail - ing grasp, God holds us, ev - ery child of ev - ery -
life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness guides us through our earth - ly -

— voice! God who laid the earth's foun - da - tion, God who spread the
— race. And when hu - man hearts are break - ing un - der sor - row's
— strife. Sin and death and hell shall ne - ver o'er us fin - al

heav'ns a - bove, God who breathes through all cre - a - tion,
i - ron rod, then we find that self - same ach - ing
tri - umph gain, God is love so love for - ev - er

God is love, e - ter - nal love, God is love e - ter - nal love!
deep with - in the heart of God, deep with - in the heart of God.
o'er the un - i - verse shall reign, o'er the un - i - verse shall reign!

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.

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." 1 John 4:8

Words:

Timothy Rees.
Music: Alex Mejias. ©2008
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DECLARATION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed
(2nd century)*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come 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.**

REFLECTING ON THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Heidelberg Catechism,
Q&A 26 (1563)*

What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth"?

That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son. I trust God so much that I do not doubt He will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity He sends upon me in this sad world. God is able to do this because He is almighty God, and desires to do this because He is a faithful Father.

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

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him;
if we endure, we will also reign with Him;
if we deny Him, He also will deny us;
if we are faithless, He remains faithful—

for He cannot deny himself.

II Timothy 2:8-13

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Epiphany is a season that helps us to pray for Christ's mission to the nations and the Church's role in proclaiming that Jesus is Lord. This week, pray for West End Presbyterian Church as we endeavor to reach out with the Good News of Jesus Christ:

Led by WEPC Elder Roger Johnson

- **Evangelism:** *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
Matthew 28:19-20
- **Mercy:** *For WEPC's Deacons and Deacon Assistants*
- **Church Planting:** *For the James River Presbytery; give thanks for 12 new churches planted in the last 20 years, and pray for 10 new congregations in the next decade. reachmetrорichmond.com*
- **World Mission:** *For South Asians living in the United Kingdom; and for WEPC Mission Partners AM & SM, and Matt & Jenn Irvine serving with Serge in that country. wepc.org/outreach/missions*

OFFERING

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).



"You have
been...a
refuge for
the needy in
his distress."
Isaiah 25:4

JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL



1. Je - sus, Lo - ver of my soul, let me to Thy bo - som -
2. Oth - er re - fuge have I none, I help-less, hang on -
3. Thou, O Christ, are all I want, here more than all I -
4. Plen-teous grace with Thee is found, grace to co - ver all my -



— fly, while the near - rer wa - ters roll, while the
— Thee; leave, oh leave me not a - lone, sup -
— find; raise the fal - len, cheer the faint, heal the
— sin; let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and



temp-est still is — high: hide me, O my Sa - vior, hide,
port and com - fort — me! All my trust on Thee is stayed, all
sick and lead the — blind. Just and ho - ly is Thy name; I am
keep me pure with - in. Thou of life the foun - tain art;



'till life's storm is — past, safe in - to the
help from Thee I — bring; co - ver my de -
all un - right - eous - ness; false and full of
let me take of — Thee; spring Thou up with -



ha - ven guide, re - ceive my soul at — last.
fense - less head in the sha - dow of Thy — wing.
sin I am, Thou art full of truth and — grace.
in my heart, for all e - ter - ni - ty.

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Wesley
(1740); Tune:
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CHILDREN's Message (10:30am)

Children, ages 4 through 2nd grade, are invited to the front of the Sanctuary prior to the sermon for a Bible lesson. Since there is no Children's Worship today, children will join their parents back at their seats in the Sanctuary after the Bible lesson.

GOD THE SON RENEWS US THROUGH HIS WORD & SACRAMENT

SCRIPTURE Reading

¹In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband....

Ruth 1:1-5, 16-17

¹⁶But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."

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

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

1 Timothy 3:9; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, 10:16-17, 15:3-4; from the Book of Common Prayer

CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

Almighty and merciful Father, You called us to be Your people and made us one body, Your beloved. Yet we have not lived like we are one. We confess that we have not loved one another as we ought. Selfish ambition has gripped us, and we have failed to look out for others' interests above our own. We confess that we have been ruled by pride, and we have separated from our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have not treated one another as those in whom Christ dwells. We confess that our anger and fear has kept us from loving our enemies. Forgive us for these offenses against You, and go on to subdue everything in us that is contrary to Your purposes. By the power of Your Spirit make us a community that shows forth Your courage, mercy, and love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

1 John 4:9-10

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

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. For a list of ingredients in the wafers, see www.wepc.org/communion.

If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please contact the WEPC office.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God." I John 3:1

Stuart Townend
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1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how
2. Be - hold the Man u - pon a cross, my
3. I will not boast in an - y - thing; no

vast be - yond all mea - sure that He should give His on - ly Son to
sin up - on His shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: His

make a wretch His trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss. The
out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held Him there un -
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from His re - ward? I

Fa - ther turns His face a - way as
til it was ac - com - plished; His
can - not give an an - swer. But

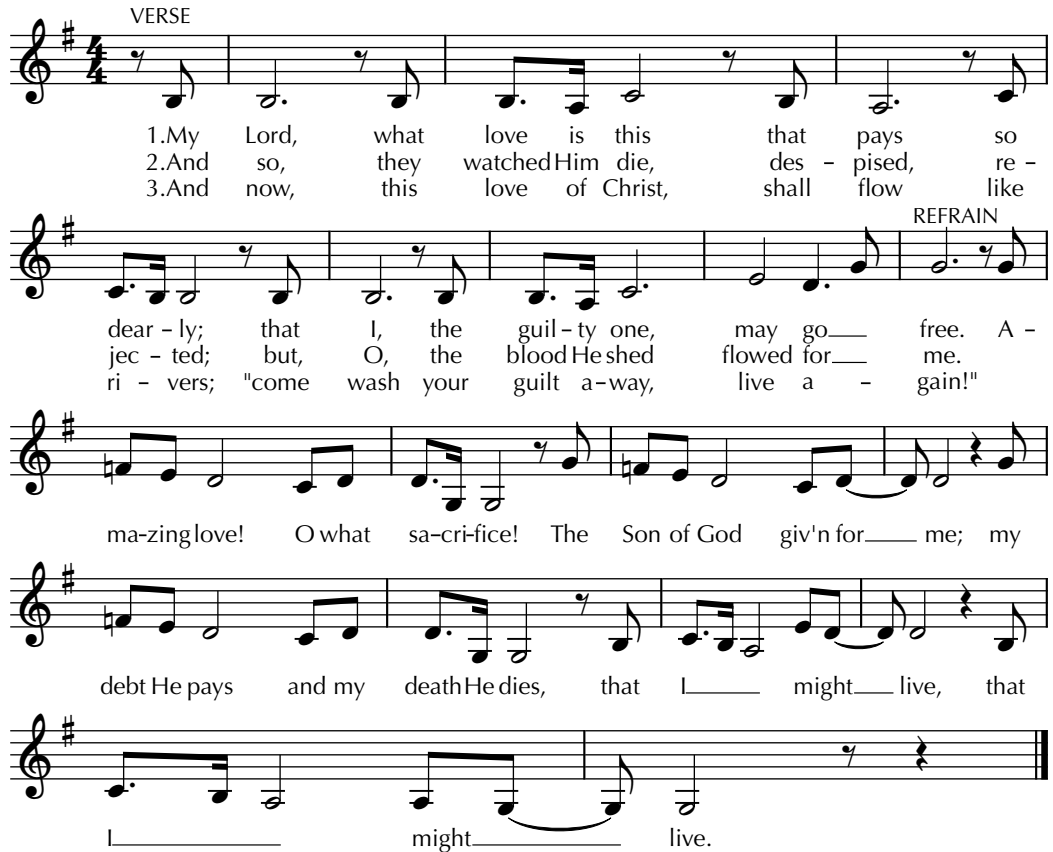
wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
dy - ing breath that brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran - som.

*"But God
demonstrates his own
love for us in this:
While we were still
sinners, Christ died for
us." Romans 5:8*

Graham Kendrick
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AMAZING LOVE

VERSE



1. My Lord, what love is this that pays so
2. And so, they watched Him die, des - pised, re -
3. And now, this love of Christ, shall flow like

REFRAIN

dear - ly; that I, the guil - ty one, may go free. A -
jec - ted; but, O, the blood He shed flowed for me.
ri - vers; "come wash your guilt a - way, live a - gain!"

ma-zing love! O what sa - cri - fice! The Son of God giv'n for me; my
debt He pays and my death He dies, that I might live, that
I might live.

IN CHRIST ALONE

"Jesus... there is salvation in no one else." Acts 4:11-12

Keith Getty
Stuart Townend
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1. In Christ a - lone, my hope is found, He is my light my strength_ my song. This Cor - ner
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full-nes of God in help - less Babe. This gift of
3. There in the ground, His bo - dy lay, Light of the world by dark - ness slain. Then, burs-ting
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ,_ in me. From life's first

stone, this so - lid ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of
love, and right-eous ness, scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Til on that
forth, in glor - ious day, up from the grave He rose__ a - gain. And as He
cry, to fin - al breath, Je - sus com mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of

love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when stri-vings cease; my Com-fort
cross, as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is - fied. For ev' - ry
stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost, its grip on me. For I am
hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His hand; 'til He re-

er my All in All, here in the love of Christ__ I stand.
sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.
His and He is mine, bought with the pre-cious blood__ of Christ.
turns, or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ__ I'll stand.

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

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

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.

DOXOLOGY

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

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.

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. **Trey Wickham, Sarah Shrader, Ross Bruning, James Long, and Troy Arnold** led this morning's congregational singing. **Jay Smith** and **Chris Malak** managed today's audio and video live stream. **AJ Anonick** managed the in-house video system. **Children's Ministry Director Audrey Snyder** gave the Children's Message.*

Sermon Notes

Announcements

ADULT MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/adults

Sunday Morning Discipleship: 9AM / Room 810 Prophet, Priest, and King: January 4-25

Who do you say that He is? This four-week standalone class focuses on exploring the doctrinal truths of Jesus Christ's identity as revealed through scripture. The class is designed to provide a theological foundation before transitioning to a study of the Gospel of Mark in February. Taught by Elder Matt Bouknight. Contact: Matt (matt@wepc.org)

Men's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/men

WEPC Men's Retreat

January 30-February 1, 2025

Crossroads Camp & Conference Center

Join other men from WEPC as we go deeper in the Word, get to know others in a relaxed environment, step away from "everyday life," and have some great fellowship. Register [HERE](#). Contact: Mike (atfmanhokie89@yahoo.com) or Matt (matt@wepc.org)

Wednesday Night Fellowship

The Book of Jeremiah: Gladness from Sorrow

www.wepc.org/WNF

January 14 - March 25 / 6-7:30 PM / Chapel

The prophet Jeremiah's life was marked by grief and suffering, yet he knew the presence and perseverance of God. Join us as we grow in the wisdom, faithfulness, and compassion of Jesus Christ. Led by Kevin Greene, Matt Wilks, and Becca Wethered. Contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

Women's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/women

Wellspring & Restore Bible Studies will resume on January 13 & 14

Wellspring: Tues AM / Restore: Wed PM

All women are welcome to join us for our study "SHE IS..." Register [HERE](#) Contact: Brice Bowman (brice@wepc.org)

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **First Sunday Breakfast:** 9 AM / Youth Lounge
- **Youth Group:** January 7
Middle School: 6-7:30 PM
High School: 7:30-9 PM

14 January 4, 2026

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)
- **Nursing Mom's Room** (service audio available during both services)

Wednesdays: Club 4/5 will resume on January 14.

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Give the Gift of Tutoring

Please consider donating 1 hour/week of your time (you choose the day and time) to tutor a Kindergarten-5th Grade student from the neighborhood around the church. Contact: Talya (talya@wepc.org).

Hiring for ESL Nursery Coordinator

The Neighborhood Outreach Team is looking for an ESL Nursery Coordinator to manage the ESL Nursery and care for little ones. It is a paid position for 10-12 hours a week, mostly Tuesdays/Thursdays. However, there is room for discussion of added hours and responsibilities. For more info, visit our [website](#) or contact Heather Glissman (heatheresl@wepc.org).

WEPC CHRISTIAN SEASONS Calendar & BLOG

Join us as we reflect on the story of Jesus and His Church through a Christian Seasons Calendar & Weekly Devotional during 2025-2026. From His Advent to the ascension of Christ, this unique calendar unfolds the Christian story through Scripture, liturgical themes, and artwork from WEPC artists. Each WEPC household is gifted a calendar, contact Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org) if you haven't received yours. If you would like additional calendars, please [CLICK HERE](#) to purchase them for \$20 each.

To access the free Weekly Scripture Readings, Reflection, & Song that accompany the calendar, visit wepcchristianseasons.com.

General Information

Deacons of the Week

David Creasy, EJ Fogarty, Rick McMahon, & Matt Mailloux

Financial Peace University Class

January 8-March 12 / 6 PM / Room 35

Financial Peace University is a biblically-based personal finance program that teaches people how to budget, get out of debt, save, invest, and build wealth through a 9-week course, using video lessons, group discussions, and practical tools. Contact & to register: Bill Shirey (bill.shirey1@gmail.com / 804.617.0221)

James River Presbytery Church Planting Summit

January 24 / 9 AM-12:30 PM

Stony Point Church (2330 Buford Road, 23235)

Speaker: Dr. Robert Kim, Associate Professor at Covenant Seminary

Join a collaboration of pastors and church members who are partnering together for church planting. Women, men, and youth are invited to 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. Registration is free at <https://tinyurl.com/4z728d69>. Contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

Night to Shine 2026--Volunteers Needed

February 6 / 6-9 PM / WEPC

Join us as WEPC hosts Night to Shine, a prom-night experience centered on God's love for people with disabilities. We need many volunteers to help, including buddies, dining room servers, welcome team, and more! Register at www.nighttoshinerva.com to volunteer. Contact Heather Jarvis (heather.p.jarvis@gmail.com) or Mollie Greenhill (nighttoshine@wepc.org).

Inclement Weather Reminder

For updates on closings and delays, visit wepc.org or call the office at (804) 741-6562. You may also visit nbc12.com. In case of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, WEPC will meet for the 10:30 AM service.

La Gran Comisión Conference

March 10-11, 2026 / Hosted by Stony Point Church, 2330 Buford Road, 23235

Our Presbytery is actively developing new Hispanic leaders and planting new churches that are reaching Richmond's Hispanic population! Join us for this bilingual (Spanish/English) Mission to North America gathering focusing on encouragement, relationships, practical tools, and teaching. Spanish/English packets are available in the Life at WEPC display in the WEPC Gallery. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/La-Gran-Comision-Conference>
Contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

FOOD PANTRY

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

Food Items Needed

Please continue to check our weekly list to help keep the shelves stocked for our neighbors.

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
- ◇ Young Adult Ministry
- ◇ Childrens Ministry
- ◇ Youth Ministry
- ◇ Adult Classes
- ◇ Small 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.