



WCC UPDATE

JANUARY 2024

THANK YOU CHURCH!

Thanks to everyone for making all of our Advent and Christmas activities so extraordinary!

- To Dr. Teresa Crane; the kids of our children's ministry for their play, and the adult choir for their cantata performance.
- To all who so generously donated supplies for our Food Pantry and gift cards for Hope House.
- To all who assisted in the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

THANK YOU CONGREGATION!

Thanks for the warm Christmas wishes and the gifts with which you blessed us!

FROM TERESA, KAREN, MATT, AND RICO

PERSONALLY FROM THE PASTOR

Did any of you make resolutions for 2024? I have to be honest that I stopped making resolutions several years ago because I realized that I always fail to maintain them! So in lieu of making resolutions, Krista and I started a new tradition a few years ago: on New Year's Eve, we each come up with a single word that we want to define our vision for the upcoming year. It's been a beneficial practice as it has allowed us to still pursue growth and change without having to worry about strictly adhering to a specific goal!

Over the past few weeks, I've been praying that God would help me come up with a word that would likewise help define the church's vision for 2024. And the word I keep coming back to is, "Relationships." I know that seems incredibly basic, considering that most of us attend church for the purpose of learning how to grow in our relationships with God and other people! But the reality is that we live in a broken world, which means that we can find it difficult to maintain relational health, even in our best relationships. N.T. Wright says it well:

"We are made for each other. Yet making relationships work, let alone making them flourish, is often remarkably difficult . . . we all know that we belong in communities, that we were made to be social creatures. Yet there are many times when we are tempted to slam the door and stomp off into the night by ourselves, simultaneously making the statement that we don't belong anymore and that we want someone to take pity on us, to come to the rescue and comfort us. We all know we belong in relationships, but we can't quite work out how to get them right . . ."

In light of this, we'll begin the year with a short sermon series about God's faithfulness to us; His unwavering consistency, reliability, trustworthiness, and commitment is the bedrock of *all* relationships. Then in February, we'll begin another sermon series in which we will probe the

Bible's wisdom as it relates to living peaceably with all. I also plan to host a variety of seminars throughout the year that will focus on cultivating and maintaining relational health in a variety of specific contexts (i.e., marriage, parenthood, friendships, and so on).

I'm so excited to see how God will work in and through us this year!

In Christ,
Matt Stiveson

General Board Meeting

All Elders and Deacons are required to attend our first general board meeting of the year, which is on **Sunday, January 7, at 11:30 am.**

2024 Ministry Teams

We are in the process of organizing our ministry teams for 2024 and will be calling for new participants in the next few weeks.

All Wednesday Activities Resume on January 17!

Adults, we will be continuing our study of Church History in Plain Language—chapters 37 and 38.

2023 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2023 will be available for you to pick up in the Narthex on Sunday, January 28. Thank you for all of your contributions throughout the year!

Facebook Messenger On-Line Prayer Group

Our church is blessed to have a very active prayer chain via Facebook Messenger. If you are interested in joining, please let Matt know or send an email to the church office.

Contact Information/Church Directory

If you have recent changes or would like to be included in the church directory, please let us know. You can use the information card in the pews or send an email to the church office.

**Every morning lean thine arms awhile
Upon the windowsill of heaven
And gaze upon thy Lord.
Then, with the vision in thy heart,
Turn strong to meet thy day.
—Thomas Blake**



MUSIC AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

Hello Church Family!

What a beautiful Christmas season we all had at WCC! I am so incredibly pleased with how beautifully the choir sang the Christmas cantata. The choir worked so hard and even came to rehearse on Saturdays for the big event. I am grateful for our choir and the bond that we all share together. I have wonderful memories at this church and cannot wait to make new ones!

The kids' play was hilariously adorable, as usual. Ross Wasserman made a fantastic donkey and was truly the hit of the play. I think the kids have such a good time with these plays, and I hope we can bring you many more of these fun events in the future. We had an end of the year graham cracker house decorating party which was a blast! It's so fun to pretend to be a kid once a week!

I am extremely thankful for every one of you. Your Christmas cards and gifts were so incredibly generous. I am always amazed every year at the generosity of this congregation. Thank you especially to Matt for always being easy-going, open-minded and supportive of all that we do. I really appreciate you!

God bless all of you and Happy New Year!
Teresa

Dr. Teresa Crane, D.M.A.

WCC WOMENS GROUP

We will have our first of the year, Women's Group meeting on **Saturday, February 3, at 10:00** at the church.

The topic will be:
"LIVING LIFE AS AN EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY CHRISTIAN"
What does this mean, and how can it be lived?

We will discuss and explore the correlation between spiritual and emotional health followed by some group interaction. Refreshments will be provided, and guests are welcome.

Presented by **Dr. Melissa Luzzi**, a Christian family counselor and therapist and member of our church.

SCRIPTURE READING SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Sunday, January 7—Genesis 3:1-21
Sunday, January 14—Genesis 9:1-17
Sunday, January 21—Genesis 21:1-7
Sunday, January 28—Genesis 22:1-19

CHURCH HISTORY IN PLAIN LANGUAGE READING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Wednesday, January 17—Chapters 37 and 38
Wednesday, January 24—Chapters 38 and 39
Wednesday, January 31— Chapters 40 and 41



Sunday, January 7 Genesis 3:1-21	We collect Pocket Change offerings on the first Sunday of every month and use the money given to this program to promote and purchase materials for the church.	
	9:30 am	Worship Installation of 2024 Church Officers
	11:30 am	General Board Meeting
Sunday, January 14 Genesis 9:1-17	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday mornings	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study —Book of Luke—meeting at IHOP at 221 W. 104 th Ave., Northglenn. See Steve Cancino for information.
Wednesday, January 17 Wednesday night activities resume	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Potluck dinner (bring main, side, or dessert dish to share) Adult Bible Study, Church History in Plain Language, (Chapters 37 and 38), and Youth Group Choir
Saturday, January 20	12:00 – 2:00 pm	Lessons in Grief Group —please bring a sack lunch with you. Contact Sharon Keel or Kay Stevens for more information.
Sunday, January 21 Genesis 21:1-7	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, January 23	9:30 am	Church Women United —join the ladies of our church and other local churches as they create items to give to local care centers.
Sunday, January 28 Genesis 22:1-19	9:30 am	Worship
	11:30 am	First Steps Class —if you are new to our church and are interested in learning more, this class will answer all of your questions. Lunch will be provided; please RSVP via the signup sheet in the bulletin.