

**The Work of Christmas**  
 When the song of the angels is stilled,  
 When the star in the sky is gone,  
 When the kings and princes are home,  
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
 The work of Christmas begins:  
     To find the lost,  
     To heal the broken,  
     To feed the hungry,  
     To release the prisoner,  
     To rebuild the nations,  
 To bring peace among others,  
 To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



# NEWSLETTER

WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Rev. Robert H. Lapp, Interim Pastor

JANUARY 2026

Cheryl Brinkley, Editor

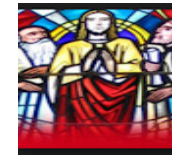


## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF RULING ELDERS Sunday, January 4

During worship on Sunday, January 4, the session will ordain and install Ruling Elders in the Class of 2028. These elders have completed a time of officer training and been examined by the session. They are responding to God's call through the voice of our congregation to serve as our spiritual leaders in worship, ministry, outreach, nurture, and stewardship.

To be ordained and installed: Kristin Cottle and Dwight Hall

To be installed: Susan Carone



*Session*

## OUR SESSION FOR 2026

Robert H. Lapp, Moderator  
 Hope Turnbull, Clerk

### Class of 2026

Kevin Johnson  
 Royal Johnson  
 Nell Sloan

### Class of 2027

Karla Casteen  
 Geneva Maready  
 Devan Riley

### Class of 2028

Susan Carone  
 Kristin Cottle  
 Dwight Hall

Please keep the members of our session in your prayers as they lead us in ministry and the discernment of God's will for our church.



## Birthdays in January

Happy Birthday to you!!

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 2. Will Fussell     | 11. Curtis Simpson |
| 5. Fred Burroughs   | 15. Annie Johnson  |
| 9. Megan Strickland | Diane Knowles      |
| 10. Mike Teachey    | 29. Mary Browder   |





Beloved,

On Sunday, January 4 WPC will celebrate Epiphany in a BIG way!

Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of God’s salvation to the whole world. Just as the magi followed the light of the star in the east to worship the newborn king so we are guided by the light of Christ today. We encourage you to pick up one of the Epiphany Star words to guide your thoughts as you begin the new year (see article for more details).

We will also ordain and install our elders in the class of 2028: Susan Carone, Kristin Cottle, and Dwight Hall. All of us in the church are called by Jesus Christ through baptism to serve, however there are some who are called to particular service such as elders. Ordination helps to assure that Christ’s ministry continues in the world.

And we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. At WPC we receive the sacrament quarterly on the first Sunday of the months of January, April, July, and October and then again on Christmas Eve. Communion and Baptism are the two sacraments in our church. They serve as outward signs of God’s invisible grace to us. Baptism is our welcome into the family of God and the Lord’s Supper is the family meal that nourishes us for our journey of faith.

We pray that you will give generously of yourselves again this year as you have in the past to the vision and mission of WPC.

**Vision**

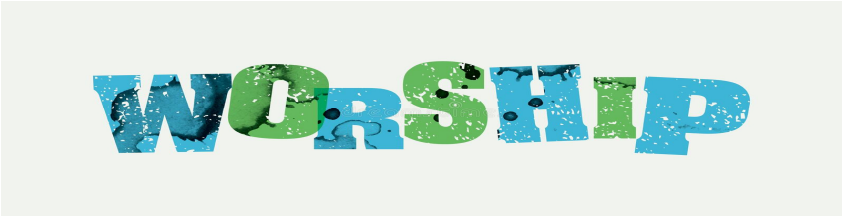
At Wallace Presbyterian Church, we envision a community where faith, friendship, and service intertwine to embody God’s love and grace. We strive to create a nurturing environment and develop ministries where individuals of all ages can grow spiritually, form meaningful relationships, and actively participate in acts of compassion and service, both locally and beyond.

**Mission**

To carry on Christ’s mission today by enriching the lives of our church and community, nurturing the faith of children and youth, fostering meaningful relationships across all ages, and serving through dedicated outreach and support.

Faithfully,

Pastor Robb



**JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS**

| DATE                  | ELDER          | PREACHER  |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| January 4 (Communion) | Geneva Maready | Robb Lapp |
| January 11            | Royal Johnson  | Robb Lapp |
| January 18            | Devan Riley    | Robb Lapp |
| January 25            | Kevin Johnson  | Robb Lapp |



We thank Sandy Cobb (Worship & Music), Debbie Price (Christian Education), and Blake Wallace (Building & Grounds), members of the session’s Class of 2025, who have rotated off active service on the session. They have been faithful leaders for our congregation for the past three years. Thanks!



**2026 Ministry Teams**

**Christian Education:** Kristin Cottle  
**Building & Grounds:** Royal Johnson, Dwight Hall  
**Worship & Music:** Karla Casteen, Susan Carone  
**Personnel:** Royal Johnson  
**Stewardship & Finance:** Devan Riley,  
**Congregational Care:** Nell Sloan, Geneva Maready  
**Outreach:** Kevin Johnson



**FEED OUR HUNGRY CHILDREN  
BACKPACK MINISTRY OFFERING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25**



We will receive our monthly Feed Our Hungry Children/Backpack Ministry Offering on Sunday, January 25. This offering provides school lunches and weekend food for students in Duplin County Public Schools. Thank you for your generous and faithful support.



**Pastor Led Bible Study** will resume on Wednesday, January 7, at 10 am in room 304. Together we will examine the lectionary text for the following Sunday's sermon. We look forward to you joining us. The scripture for each week is listed below:

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| January 7:  | Matthew 3:13-17 |
| January 14: | John 1:29-42    |
| January 21: | Matthew 4:12-23 |
| January 28: | Matthew 5:1-12  |



**January 2026**

|            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| January 4  | Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18 |
| January 12 | Matthew 3:13-17       |
| January 18 | John 1:29-42          |
| January 25 | Matthew 4:12-23       |

The sermon texts are provided so you can read them and pray about them before worship. Please keep our congregation and pastor in your prayers as we read and hear God's Word during the month of January.



**JANUARY**



01/04: Tonya & Emory Landen Patram  
01/11: Danielle Sills & Hope Turnbull  
01/18: Christy Johnson & Payton Westbrook  
01/25: Parker & Courtenay Thompson

**OPENING CHURCH BUILDING**

January 1-15: Charley Farrior  
January 16-31: Curt Simpson

Fred Burroughs, Head  
Bill & Susan Walters Jan Peterson

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

01/04: Bailey Riley  
01/11: Danielle Sills  
01/18: Sara Matthews  
01/25: Jennifer Johnson

**CHURCH NEWS . . . For Your Information**

- \* **We will celebrate** the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during worship on Sunday, January 4. All are welcome at the table.
- \* **The session** will meet on Tuesday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 304. If you have any business or concerns for the session to consider, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor.
- \* **We will receive** our monthly (school year) Feed Our Hungry Children/Backpack Ministry offering during worship on Sunday, January 26.



**THE SACRAMENT OF  
THE LORD'S SUPPER  
Sunday  
January 4, 2026**

**We will celebrate the  
Sacrament of the Lord's  
Supper during worship on  
Sunday, January 5. All are  
welcome at the table!**

*This is My blood of the covenant,  
which is poured out for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Matthew 26-28*





**Epiphany Star Words**

Epiphany star words are a spiritual practice, where individuals receive a single "guiding word" for the New Year. These words, associated with the star that led the Magi, will be made available at the church. They are meant to offer a theme for prayer, reflection, and spiritual guidance throughout the New Year.

**How the practice works**

- The practice begins with the Epiphany season (January 6) and is linked to the biblical story of the Magi following a star to find baby Jesus.
- Participants receive a "star word" by drawing a paper star with a word written on it.
- The word is intended to be a source of guidance for the New Year, and people are encouraged to place it somewhere they can see it regularly.
- Reflection is key, with individuals encouraged to pray about the word, explore its meaning through scripture or other research, and notice how it appears in their lives.

**What to do with your star word**

- Display it: Place your star word in a visible location, like on a mirror or a desk, to remind you to think about it daily.
- Study it: Research its meaning in the Bible, in literature, or through a word study, and consider its synonyms or antonyms.
- Pray about it: Ask questions like, "How might God be speaking to me through this word?" or "What might I need to pay attention to if I take this word seriously?"
- Connect it to your life: Reflect on how the word relates to your experiences, memories, and goals for the year.
- If you don't like it, consider a "holy mulligan": While encouraged to trust the word, some churches allow a "trade" if the word feels overwhelming or strange.



**The Men's Retreat at YMCA Camp Kirkwood is back this January 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>**—and yes, it's still the perfect mix of relaxation, good food, meaningful conversation, and just enough manual labor to feel proud of yourself afterward. **Kick back** on Friday with dinner, a great keynote from Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Rick Stidley, and some quality cabin downtime with a solid group of guys who appreciate a weekend in the woods.

Then on Saturday, **give back** to the place that's given us so many great memories. We'll tackle a few service projects around camp—think power tools, teamwork, fresh air, a little sawdust, and plenty of moments where someone says, "Hey, watch this..."

Thanks to Greg Miller and DJMPS, **the entire retreat is free.** Just bring yourself and a willingness to unplug for a bit.

**RETREAT SCHEDULE**

**Friday**

- Arrival 5PM & Dinner 6PM
- Evening Speaker & Keynote
- Settle into one cabin

**Saturday**

- Breakfast – 7:30 AM
- Volunteer Wor
- k Projects – 8:15 AM–12:00 PM
- Supported by Camp Kirkwood Staff*
- Grab-and-Go Lunch – 12:00 PM
- Wrap-Up – 1:00 PM

If you've joined us before, you already know—good things happen when a bunch of men get a chance to step away from the grind and spend a night in the woods. And this year, we'd love for you to **bring someone along**—a friend, coworker, neighbor, or anyone who could use a short getaway, a few good laughs, and an excuse to swing a hammer.

**Reserve your spot today:** [Men's Retreat 2026 - YMCA of Southeastern North Carolina](#)



**Membership** - Those interested in joining WPC, please contact Robert Lapp. There will be a new member orientation on Sunday, January 11 at 9:45 am in the pastor's study, the session will receive new members at 10:30 am, and those who are joining the church will be welcomed in the worship service at 11:00 am.



### Happy New Year!

Brush away old heartaches.  
 Learn from our mistakes.  
 Another year is finally over.  
 A new dawn awakes.  
 Let the old year out.  
 Welcome the new one in.  
 Bury the bad things of the past  
 As a new year now begins.  
 Make your New Year wishes  
 As simple as you can.  
 Pray for peace and love,  
 Not for wealth or fame.  
 Pray for health and happiness.  
 Pray for your fellow man.  
 Pray for all the ones you love.  
 Pray for those who've lost their way.  
 As the midnight hour chimes,  
 We leave the old and embrace the new.  
 I wish the things you wish for yourself,  
 And may God's love stay with you.



## Reality of Money Returns to Duplin County High Schools

**The Reality of Money** - Duplin County Schools and the State Employees Credit Union will again offer the Reality of Money seminars for all high school juniors to help them learn about making real world choices about money. It takes about 30 volunteers for each session. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Below are the dates and links to sign up.

**Wallace Rose Hill: January 21, 2026 -**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844AAA829AAFF2-60764156-wallace>

**North Duplin/Duplin Early College: January 22, 2026 -**

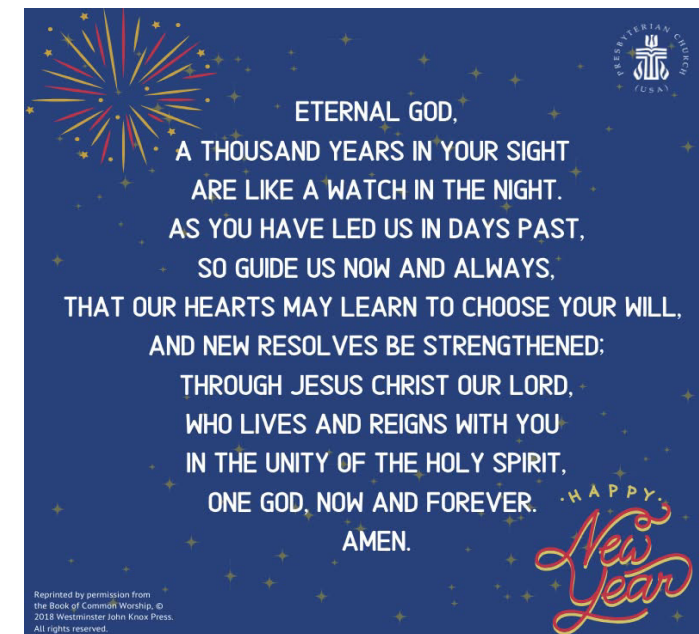
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844AAA829AAFF2-60764270-north>

**East Duplin: January 26, 2026 -**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844AAA829AAFF2-60763776-east>

**James Kenan: January 27, 2026 -**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844AAA829AAFF2-60763994-james>



# January 2026 JANUARY

DECEMBER 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  |
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |

FEBRUARY 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

| Sun   | Mon           | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri                 | Sat |
|---|---------------|--|--|--|---------------------|-----|
|   | 29            | 30   | 31   | 1 New Year's Day                                     | 2                   | 3   |
|   | Office Closed |  |  |  | Office Closed       |     |
| 4<br>9:00 am Choir Practice<br>9:45 am Adult S. School,<br>10:00 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Fellowship<br>11am Worship/ Sacrament of<br>The Lord's Supper/ The<br>Ordination & Installation of<br>Elders<br>5:00 pm Cub Scouts, Pack 35 | 5             | 6<br>10:30 am Morning Circle<br>Fellowship Hall<br>6:00 pm Evening Circle<br>Fellowship Hall | 7<br>10am Bible Study-Room 304<br>6pm Handbells  | 8<br>1:30 pm East Community<br>COM Meeting, Room 304 | 9<br>Office Closed  | 10  |
| 11<br>9:00 am Choir Practice<br>9:45 am Adult S. School<br>9:45 am New Member Class<br>10:00 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Session Meeting<br>10:30 am Fellowship<br>11am Worship<br>5:00 pm Cub Scouts, Pack 35                           | 12            | 13   | 14<br>10am Bible Study-Room 304<br>6pm Handbells | 15   | 16<br>Office Closed | 17  |
| 18<br>9:00 am Choir Practice<br>9:45 am Adult S. School<br>10:00 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Fellowship<br>11am Worship<br>5:00 pm Cub Scouts, Pack 35   | 19            | 20<br>6pm Session Meeting,<br>Room 304   | 21<br>10am Bible Study-Room 304<br>6pm Handbells | 22   | 23<br>Office Closed | 24  |
| 25<br>9:45 am Adult S. School<br>10:00 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Fellowship<br>11am Worship/Feed Our<br>Hungry Children Offering<br>5:00 pm Cub Scouts, Pack 35  | 26            | 27   | 28<br>10am Bible Study-Room 304<br>6pm Handbells | 29   | 30<br>Office Closed | 31  |

HAPPY  
*New Year*