

# Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)



January 4, 2026 ~ 9:30AM

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Epiphany Sunday

9:30AM

PRELUDE

*Ave Maria*

Schubert/Liszt

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor J. C. Austin

PASSING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT

*What Star Is This, with Beams so Bright*

Verse 1 Solo – David Merrill

G. Woodward

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Sue Hannahs

Leader: Arise, people of God, and shine, for your light is come!

**People: Let us follow God's light wherever it leads us;**

Leader: in the great corridors of power, and the small houses of the poor;

**People: in the places God has promised, and in the places we least expect.**

Leader: As the Magi came, let us come and pay homage to Christ our Lord;

**People: let us worship the child born in Bethlehem; come, let us worship God!**

\*PRAISE SONG

*Light of the Stable*

Selah

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Nancy Lincoln Reynolds

Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus Christ your light has come to us, filling the world with the brightness of your love. Yet we confess that we often shade our eyes and turn away. We seek the glow of easy comfort in our lives and in our faith. Forgive us, Lord, and empower us to be bearers of your light in the world. Help us to shine forth your justice, mercy, and peace, so that your love may be revealed in our lives. Through Christ we pray.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

*What Star Is This, with Beams so Bright*

Verse 4 – Adult Choir

G. Woodward

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI HYMN 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Joe Rose and Lindsey Miller, Coordinator for Children and Youth

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Sue Hannahs

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

SERMON

**"From the Rising"**

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor J. C. Austin

\*HYMN 150

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING**

Elder Sue Hannahs

A portion of today's offering supports Welcome ministry and Board of Deacons, who strive to grow and nurture the body of Christ that is Woods Church. This includes offering regular new member classes, coordinating pastoral care, Stephen Ministers, fellowship activities, and supportive outreach to people in times of need, grief, or loss.

To give: text **Woods** to 73256 or go to **"Give"** on **woodschurch.org** or use the **QR-Code** on the back of the bulletin.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Jesus Child*  
Adult Choir

J. Rutter

**\*DOXOLOGY HYMN 607**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

In the Presbyterian Church, communion is open to those who desire to meet with Christ, regardless of denominational affiliation. Mindful of our vows to nurture our children in the faith, we encourage parents to include their children at the Lord's Supper.

**The Invitation**

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just to give God thanks and praise.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing Bread and Cup**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor J. C. Austin

### \*PRAISE SONG

**God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings**

Praise Band

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

\*Please stand if you are able

Woods Church services are live streamed and available for public viewing via YouTube on our website ([www.woodschurch.org](http://www.woodschurch.org)). Current church activities and events are also available for viewing. Check us out!

A Stephen Minister will be available, to the side of the chancel by the Stephen Minister banner, at the end of the service to listen and to pray with you. 9:30AM John Dunham

## Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church Staff

**The Reverend  
J.C. Austin**

Lead Pastor  
[jaustin@woodschurch.org](mailto:jaustin@woodschurch.org)

**The Reverend  
Nancy Lincoln Reynolds**

Associate Pastor  
[nreynolds@woodschurch.org](mailto:nreynolds@woodschurch.org)

**Maureen Adams**

Administrative Assistant  
for Pastoral Care  
[madams@woodschurch.org](mailto:madams@woodschurch.org)

**Roxann Bartone**

Director of Woods Child Development Center  
[rbartone@woodscdc.org](mailto:rbartone@woodscdc.org)

**Alec Green**

Sound Engineer  
[agreen@woodschurch.org](mailto:agreen@woodschurch.org)

**Kat Green**

Director of Children's Ministry  
[kgreen@woodschurch.org](mailto:kgreen@woodschurch.org)

**Kathie Hamlett**

Administrative Assistant for Membership  
[khamlett@woodschurch.org](mailto:khamlett@woodschurch.org)

**Jason Jackson**

Director of Operations  
[jjackson@woodschurch.org](mailto:jjackson@woodschurch.org)

**Cornell Johnson**

Custodian

**Jerome Keemer**

Custodian

**Sarah Kent**

Director of Contemporary Music  
[skent@woodschurch.org](mailto:skent@woodschurch.org)

**David Merrill**

Director of Music and Arts  
[dmerrill@woodschurch.org](mailto:dmerrill@woodschurch.org)

**Lindsey Miller**

Coordinator for Children and Youth  
[lmiller@woodschurch.org](mailto:lmiller@woodschurch.org)

**Jeffery Pack**

Custodian

**Oliver Page**

Director of Youth  
[opage@woodschurch.org](mailto:opage@woodschurch.org)

**Jung-hoon Park**

Organist  
[jpark@woodschurch.org](mailto:jpark@woodschurch.org)

**Olivia Rivers**

Administrative Assistant  
for Property  
[orivers@woodschurch.org](mailto:orivers@woodschurch.org)

**Nancy Sullivan**

Coordinator Woods Counseling and  
Care Center  
[nancy.sullivan@woodsgccc.org](mailto:nancy.sullivan@woodsgccc.org)

**Pam Ward**

Office Administrator  
[pward@woodschurch.org](mailto:pward@woodschurch.org)

**Eric Willner**

Coordinator for Worship Technology  
[ewillner@woodschurch.org](mailto:ewillner@woodschurch.org)

**Sarah Wilson**

Interim Coordinator for Adult Education,  
Small Groups, & Pastoral Support  
[swilson@woodschurch.org](mailto:swilson@woodschurch.org)

**Parish Associate**

The Rev. Corinne Baker

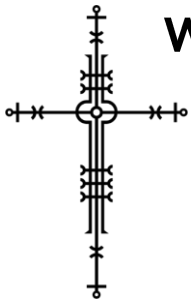


## WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

611 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park, Maryland 21146

Telephone: 410.647.2550 · E-mail: [info@woodschurch.org](mailto:info@woodschurch.org) · Website: [www.woodschurch.org](http://www.woodschurch.org)





# Welcome to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

## January 4, 2026

**Our Vision: To be a voice of faith transforming lives and society through Jesus Christ**

**Our Mission: Welcoming all to grow and serve in Christ**

The flowers today were arranged by Sue Hannahs and are given for the glory of God.

We are glad you are worshiping with us today.

Join us for bagels, coffee, and fellowship after the service in Fellowship Hall.

### Christian Education/Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday School Registration Forms are Located on the Welcome Desk

| Time                                   | Location           |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>8AM</b><br>Men's Bible Study        | Room 208/Virtual   |
| <b>9:30AM</b><br>Adult Bible Study     | Conference/Virtual |
| Nursery 0-2-year-olds                  | Room 150           |
| 2 & 3-year-olds                        | Room 150           |
| 4, year-olds – 5 <sup>th</sup> graders | Founders Room      |
| Middle & High School                   | Room 208/212       |

### Upcoming Events & Church News

**Congregational Meeting – Today at 10:30AM on Livestream.** There will only be one service on at 9:30AM on Sunday, January 4. The meeting is for the purpose of changing the bylaws to allow for a board of trustees between 6 and 12 members, elected through the standard nominating process for a 3-year term.

**Winter Relief Monday, January 19 through Monday, January 26.** You will be able to sign up to help after each Service in Fellowship Hall or online in Sign-Up Genius on the Church website. Sign-ups will continue live until we start. There are opportunities for meal prep, brown bag lunch prep, evening and overnight chaperones, drivers, shower escorts, Stephens Ministers, laundry support, youth volunteers, and snack donations. Please help us help the homeless. If you want more information about Winter Relief and how you can help, please contact Scott Wiley at 410.353.1491 or email [wilecoy2us@gmail.com](mailto:wilecoy2us@gmail.com). Thank you for helping with this important Mission.

**Interested in learning about membership here at Woods Church?** Join us for our next New Member Class – Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 10:45AM.

**Looking ahead...mark your calendar:**

**January 28, 2026** – Dinner Church all are welcome (5-6:30PM)

**February 17, 2026** – Pancake Supper all are welcome (5-6:30PM)

**February 18, 2026** – Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent

**March 13-15 & March 19-21, 2026** – The Prince of Egypt Musical

**March 29, 2026** – Palm Sunday

**April 5, 2026** – Easter Sunday

**July 6-20, 2026** – Children's Art and the Bible (extended hours)

**July 13-17, 2026** – Children's Day Camp and Vacation Bible School (extended hours)

### **Coming Soon! The Prince of Egypt – Tickets**

**Performance Dates:** March 13–15 and March 19–21, 2026

**Cost:** \$20.00 per ticket

Woods Church will be presenting **The Prince of Egypt**, a sweeping, epic musical featuring music and lyrics by Grammy and Academy Award winner **Stephen Schwartz**, with a book by **Philip LaZebnik**. This powerful story follows two brothers—one destined to rule as Pharaoh, the other called to rise up and free his true people. Both must confront a destiny that will change history forever.

#### **Important Notes:**

· Due to the inability to fully blackout all windows in the performance area, **matinee performances will have ambient sunlight** entering the space.

· **Content Advisory** – This production includes strobe lighting effects, loud noises, and scenes depicting fighting and stage combat.

· **Disclaimer** – This show is rated PG-13 for intense situations and thematic elements. While there are elements from the Disney film in the musical, and we have children in the cast, we want to stress that this is NOT a show for kids.

New Adult Ed Series – January 11 – February 18

## **MORE THAN TIME - MEASURING DAYS IN WISDOM**

Teach us O Lord to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.  
Psalm 90:12



NOT a class about time  
management

NOT a class about New  
Year's Resolutions

- What is a “heart of wisdom?”
- What is the role and purpose of time in God's creation?
- The difference between a busier life and a better life
- How does a person measure their life?

Led by David Lohff, whose eclectic journey as a pastor, hospice chaplain, business owner and fitness instructor may be helpful to point out scenery as we observe life together.

11 am, Room 208 and on Zoom