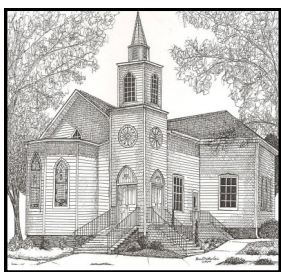


THE ABBEY NEWS



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
100 W. ABBEY STREET
OFFICE: 204 N. ISUNDEGA
WESTMINSTER, SC 29693
WWW.WESTMINSTERPRESCHURCH.ORG



JULY 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Pastor	1
July Sermons	1
June Happenings	2
Choir	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Presbyterian Women	4
Laughter is Good for the Soul!	4



We are so blessed to have a loving and caring church family here at WPC! If you would like to be a part of this family, we would LOVE to have you! You are only a visitor once at WPC! There are so many offerings of service through our church. There is one for YOU!

FROM THE PASTOR

The Importance of Sabbath



“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” ~Matthew 11:28-29

I have a confession. I love a good nap, especially those sacred naps on Sunday afternoons. When my family wants to catch up with me on the phone, they’ve gotten used to calling either before 2:00 or after 4:00, because that is the High Holy Hour of Napping for pastors. There’s an energy that we expend when we worship, whether we are leading worship or participating in worship. It’s an energy that needs to be refueled, and a nice nap is the perfect way to do that. Two hours might be a bit much, but our bodies tell us what they need right?

To say we are weary and carrying heavy burdens feels right during this season. And Jesus, knowing that we would have times of great stress, heaviness, and anxiety, calls us to come to him, lay our burdens down, and take a spiritual nap. Society contradicts much of what we find in Scripture, and this is a perfect example. Western culture would have us to believe we must be on the go all the time, get everything on our to-do lists done, prep items and meals for the next day, and then we can rest. The business world has a reputation for encouraging us in a backhanded way: “You can sleep when you die.” But this is so antithetical to the Bible’s emphasis on Sabbath, friends. We are called, and indeed designed, to take sabbath.

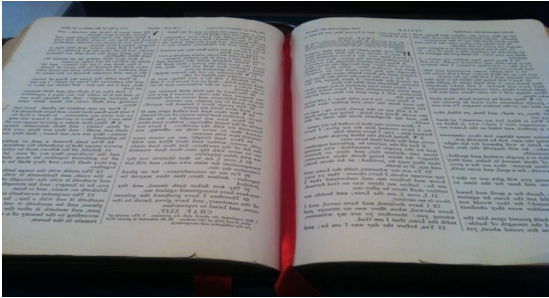
Is Sabbath a part of your spiritual discipline, beyond just Sundays? If not, I encourage you to find time to simply be still, and rest in God’s presence. That might be a nap, or it might be reading your Bible and prayer. I hope it’s all of those things. Because if we are going to stand on God’s promises, sometimes we have to refill our tanks, and we can only do that if we rest in God, and lay our burdens at Jesus’ feet.

Feel the lightness of Christ, friends. Take a deep breath. Inhale. Now exhale, and feel the holy rest of God descending upon you. Let worship be a time of sabbath as well. Clear your mind and focus only on what God is speaking to you.

The importance of Sabbath is that we get refilled, and by default become capable of helping to refill others’ tanks. Your Sabbath might not look like a mid-day nap, but I hope that you find time to rest in God’s presence this month. Turn off the news, unplug from your devices, and simply rest.

God’s grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Audrey



We will celebrate Holy Communion Sunday, July 26th during Morning Worship, 11:00 am.

JULY SERMONS

July 5: “Rest in Christ” Psalm 46:10 and Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 12: “What Type of Soil are You?” Matthew 13:1-23
July 19: You are Known” Psalm 139:1-13 and Romans 8:12-25
July 26: “When Words Fail Us” Genesis 29:15-28 and Romans 8:26-39





TREASURER’S REPORT

May receipts: \$ 12,207.22
expenses 7,706.28
+4,500.94

YTD receipts \$ 61,395.42
expenses 50,985.98
+ 10,409.44



Please reach out to your Session with any concerns or needs. They are willing to serve in any way they can!

Clerk: Brad Stancil
Congregational Care: Martha Brancazio
Mission/Outreach: Trish McCoy
Worship: Virginia Gordon
Christian Education: Lou Haynes
Property: John Merritt
Stewardship/Finance: Michael Meades

****Session will be communicating via email and telephone to discern the best scenario for the health of our members.**

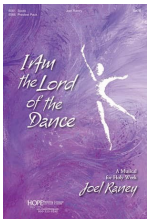
 **Your giving to WPC directly affects the ministry and programs of our church. We are grateful for all that you give in your time, talents and money!**

July Flowers



7/5: De French
7/12: Lou Haynes
7/19: Nita McMillan
7/26:

OUR DOORS ARE OPEN!



Choir members! Continue to listen to your CD and sing through the cantata!!

SESSION NOTES

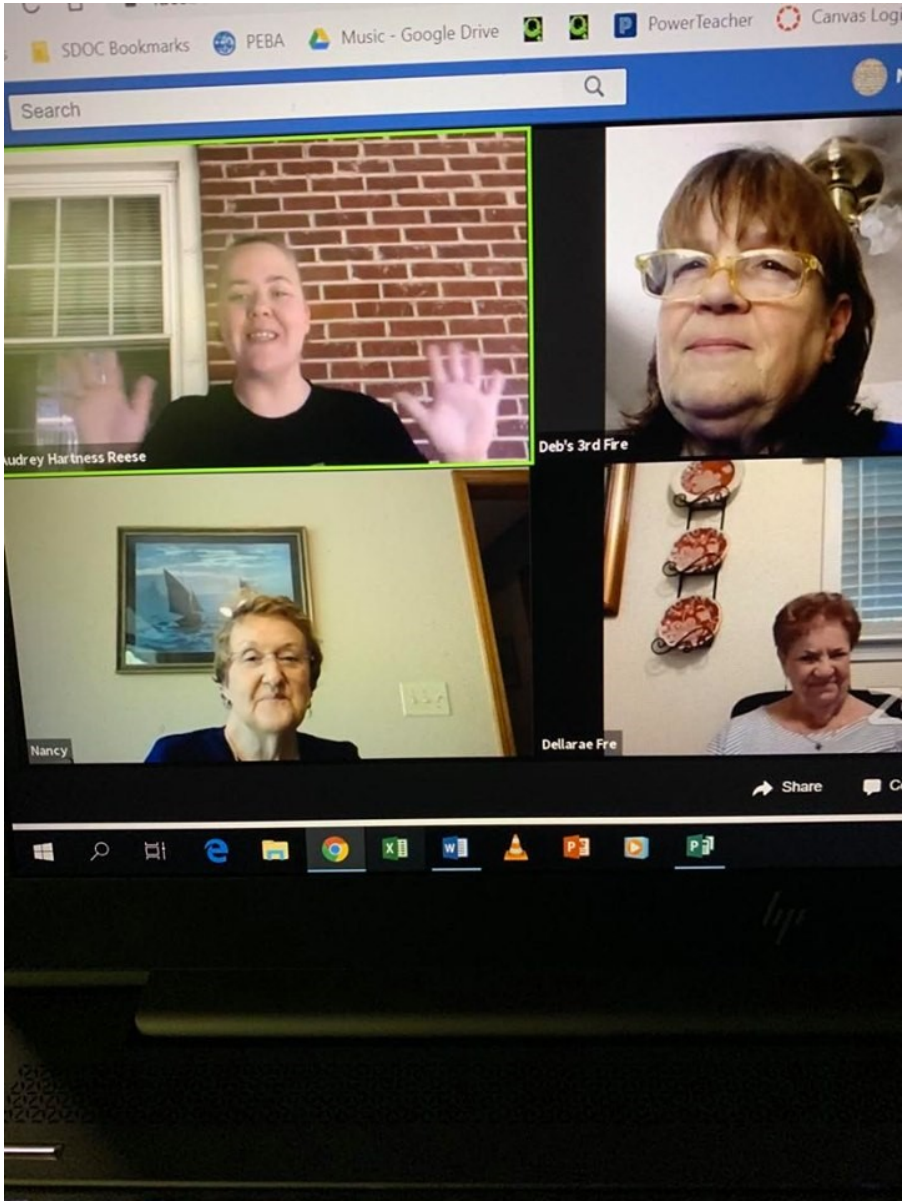
Your Session has continued to monitor and discuss how we worship through the summer. Due to a significant increase in cases in Oconee County and an increase in percent positive COVID-19 cases, we are remaining in Phase One through the month of July. This means a couple of things:

- 1. Masks will continue to be required, understanding that you may need to take a “mask break” when not singing or speaking aloud.
- 2. Social distancing the entire time we are together will be strongly encouraged.
- 3. Passing of the peace will be stationary.
- 4. Offering plates will not be passed; the plates are on the Communion table and a lock box is at the main entrance.
- 5. Sunday School is postponed during this time.
- 6. Fellowship meals are suspended during this time.

Sadly, this means that we will not celebrate Christmas in July this year. Session will continue to monitor the information we receive from SCDHEC, CDC, and other local and federal agencies. Please continue to pray for your Session as they seek God’s guidance and wisdom on how best to move forward.

Good news! Thanks to a generous donation, we are making improvements to our virtual worship services! We now have WiFi in the sanctuary, a sound system to help with amplification, and a new digital camera! Many thanks to the generous donors for helping to improve how we worship!

On Sunday, June 7th, we opened our doors for Worship once again! It was an incredibly moving service and there was no doubt that the Holy Spirit was with us! May we NEVER take for granted the opportunity to gather in God’s House!



Join Rev. Audrey each Wednesday at Noon for a time of Virtual Prayer, Bible Study and Fellowship! If you would like to join in, please let Rev. Audrey know and she will send you an invitation to join the Zoom Meeting!



Laughter is Good for the Soul!

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

"The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible." -- George Burns

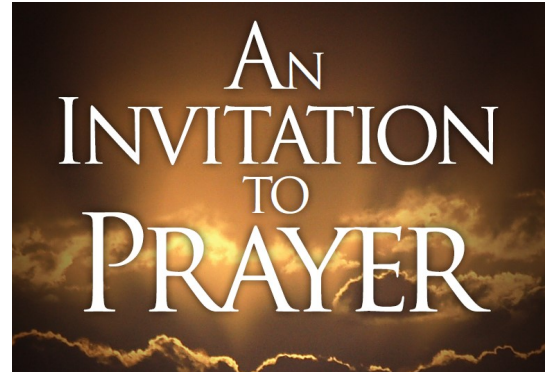
A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping"

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote 'Revelation 3:20' on the back of it and stuck it in the door. When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, 'Genesis 3:10.' Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.' Genesis 3:10 reads, 'I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked.'

Praying for You

Imogene Giles
Ruth Payne
Kathy Darnell
Robbie McClure (Marie
Dunnam's brother)
Nancy Dougherty



Presbyterian Women



We will not be holding our monthly meetings during the months of June and July. We will pick up our meetings in August if everything goes well with the virus. Please keep sending cards and notes of encouragement to our shut ins and all of our church family! Also, if you have any ideas for service projects for consideration in our new year, please bring them to our next meeting! As always, continue praying for all of the concerns within our community, country and world. We all know the POWER of PRAYER! Love to you all and see you again in August!

Library Donations Welcome!

The Christian Education Committee has been working hard during COVID-19, from a distance! We have two new beautiful bookshelves in the downstairs area of Gossett, with several new chairs for comfortable sitting. Now, all we need are some books! If you have gently used books that you would like to donate, please contact Rev. Audrey to arrange a time to drop them off! We are grateful for the generous donations, and look forward with much anticipation to the day that we can use this "new" space for folks to have a quiet, peaceful place to read.



How much time do you spend studying God's Word? Have you considered beginning a daily devotional, setting a special time aside and growing in the beauty of Christ's Instructions for living life to it's fullest? We offer a wonderful opportunity for you to start your day or end your day in God's Word. Please pick up an "Our Daily Bread" (located in the narthex) and begin your journey! You can start with the daily devotional with daily scriptures and then you could even begin reading the Bible in a Year study that is offered in the daily devotionals as well! Dr. D used to tell us every week during his sermons to "Spend some time reading God's Word **daily**, even if it's just one verse! And never forget to thank God at least 10 times **everyday**!" It will change your life!

