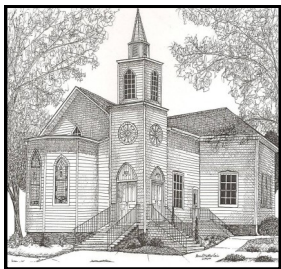


THE ABBEY NEWS



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NOVEMBER 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Pastor	1
November	1
October Happenings	2
Angel Tree	3
Hanging of the Greens	3
Treasurer's	
Presbyterian Women	4
Sit and Sipl	4



FROM THE PASTOR

“Out of the Hardest Things, Beautiful Things Bloom”

*“For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”
Psalm 30:5*

2020 has tested all of us. Recently, I had the opportunity to go watch the Bands of West-Oak perform in their community performance. They have a wonderful tradition of presenting each member with a pendant to remember the year by. We started this at West-Oak my last year as their color guard instructor, so I was pleased to see the tradition was still going. The band director, in making this presentation, said that these young people had shown so much resilience in the face of 2020. I couldn’t agree more—young people are indeed resilient, and I think band kids, student athletes, and those involved in extra-curriculars are perhaps the *most* resilient. But as I was driving home, I thought about how we as Christians have faced some of the hardest things.

Certainly 2020 has tested our resolve with the hardest things. Even the most expected hardest things like death and illness have been made even harder by the restrictions the pandemic has placed on us. Things that used to bring us joy like theater, live music, *hugs* even, have been taken away from us. Gatherings have become socially distant, and “air hugs” are a new thing.

And yet, hope springs eternal. And yet, we are promised by the psalmist that while weeping may last for the night, JOY comes in the morning! What an amazing promise. What a gift from God.

The end of November marks the beginning of Advent, a time of waiting and anticipating the coming of Christmas, and the birth of the Christ-child. Tempted as though I may be this year to decorate early, or turn on the Hallmark Christmas movies, I think it’s important for us to practice this spiritual discipline of waiting. This year we are going to journey through Advent by talking about how out of the hardest things, we can and do experience hope, joy, peace, love, and indeed Christ himself. Out of the hardest things, we grow. Out of the hardest things, something beautiful blooms.

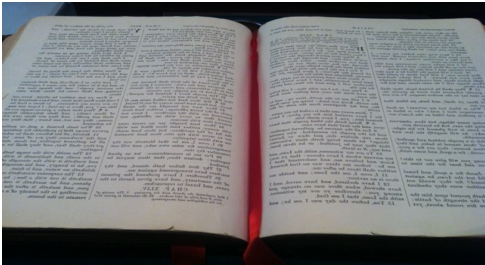
It’s going to look different this year. That’s something that we have grown accustomed to. But my challenge for you this season is to find hope. Experience joy. Know God’s peace. Share God’s love. Seek out with the wise men the Christ child, so that out of the hardest things, beauty blooms.

God’s grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Audrey



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!



We will celebrate Holy Communion on Sunday, November 29th during Morning Worship, 11:00 am.

NOVEMBER SERMONS

1: Isaiah 25:6-10 and John 6:37-40
“There’s a Place for Us”

8: (Guest preacher)

15: Psalm 123 and Matthew 25:14-30
“Use What God Gives You”

22: Psalm 100 and Matthew 25:31-46:
“Love Others Well”

29: Hanging of the Greens: Isaiah 64:1-8
“The Hardest Things to Hope For”



Our doors are open again to our beautiful sanctuary! It is such a blessing to see our church family members each Sunday! We are blessed with wonderful donors who have generously given to enhance our Virtual worship experience as well! Whether you are watching our service at home or sitting in our pews, God is there! God is with us, blessing us and holding each of us in the palm of His hand! God Bless you ALL!



TREASURER'S REPORT

Sept receipts: \$11,318.79
expenses 8,113.67
+ 3,205.12

YTD receipts \$ 110,568.36
expenses 88,683.19
+ 21,885.17



We will be collecting donations for our annual Thornwell Offering during the month of November which proceeds go to the Thornwell Home for Children.

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.

November Flowers



11/1/2020	Virginia	Gordon
11/8/2020	Shepherd	Chuites
11/15/2020	Audrey	Reese
11/22/2020	Nita	McMillan
11/29/2020	Hanging of Greens	

If you would like to make a donation to a favorite charity or to our church in lieu of flowers, please let Rev. Audrey or Nita know so we can acknowledge it in the bulletin! God bless you!



Join us for this most special service! We will hang the greens in our beautiful sanctuary, worship and sing treasured carols, celebrate Holy Communion and praise God with blessed Christian fellowship! Mark your calendars now for this awesome worship opportunity!



Session met on Sunday, October 25 in Gossett Hall and determined that we will remain in phase 1. Some highlights from our discussion include:

Stewardship 2020: Our stewardship theme is "Each day is God's gift to you - What you do with it is your gift to God." 2021 pledge cards will be mailed out in November. Please prayerfully consider continuing to support the vibrant life and ministry of WPC. Because of remaining in phase one, we will not have a stewardship dinner this fall.

Advent 2020: Our theme will be "Out of the Hardest Things." We will mail out devotional booklets to each family, and we will have a socially distanced weekly study beginning Wednesday, December 2.

Christian Education: We have enjoyed the two "Sit and Sips" this fall, and will look for one more opportunity this year. Donations to the library are still being accepted, just contact Rev. Audrey if you have some books!

Mission/Outreach: Our 2020 giving tree recipient will be Lakeview Assisted Living.

"MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!" UPDATE



Our Choir Chime Ensemble will be playing at our Hanging of the Greens service! You will be amazed at their progress! We enjoy sharing our talents with the congregation and hope it will be one of many offerings to come! It is never too late to join us! If you would like to be a part of this awesome group, just meet

us in the sanctuary each Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 pm and we will hook you up! It is always fun to make music together and give God all the glory!

The Angel Tree Project 2020



Our Angel Tree Project this year will be a donation drive to benefit Lakeview Assisted Living right here in Westminster! It is a wonderful mission that helps older folks in need of assistance in their everyday living. We will have a collection box in the sanctuary with a list of needed items for the residents. We will also have envelopes for monetary donations.



WHAT A GREAT IDEA!

Do YOU have a great idea that you feel would make our worship more meaningful? We encourage you to share it with one of our session members or Rev. Audrey! Some of our most memorable services began with one great idea! Some ideas were, Hanging of the Greens, Christmas in July, choir chimes, etc.



A Time for Prayer

Prayer is the most powerful weapon we have. The prayer of a righteous person has great power..." (James 5:16)



Come and join our little town in a moment of Prayer! Rev. Audrey was asked to give the devotional this month. There are different area ministers that lead a prayer for our community and our world. Meet at the Westminster Depot at 9 am each Tuesday! We would love to see you there!

Praying for You

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



Presbyterian Women

We are offering our meetings via Zoom for your convenience! The circles are also meeting face-to-face as well. If you have not joined a circle, now is the time! We would LOVE to have you! Our next meeting is November 2nd! Hope to see you there!



Are you looking for opportunities to share the love of Christ in our community? There are many of our church members that would love to tell you about these two awesome organizations! See Linda White or Joey Roeder for Dot's and De French about Oconee United Ministries.

Sit and Sip!



We had a wonderful time at our first Sit and Sip! We each shared a book that we loved, swapped some around, and just enjoyed the amazing weather and one another's company!



Dates to Remember!

- | | |
|-------|----------------|
| 11-2 | PW Circles |
| 11-4 | Dot's Kitchen |
| 11-10 | Dot's Kitchen |
| 11-29 | Holy Communion |



Come join us for fun and fellowship!

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. We hope to see you there!

