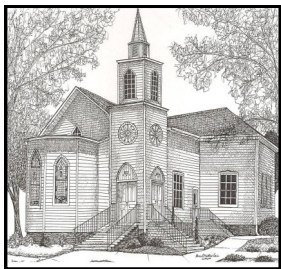


THE ABBEY NEWS



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



DECEMBER 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Pastor	1
December Sermons	1
November Happenings	2
Angel Tree	3
Hanging of the Greens	3
Treasurer's	
Presbyterian Women	4



FROM THE PASTOR

"Weeping lasts for the night, but joy comes in the morning." ~ Psalm 30:5

As we journey through Advent together in 2020, we may experience this season in a new way. Unexpected grief may bubble up. Fear and anxiety might seem crushing. Depression could set in for no very clear reason. First and foremost, I want to encourage you to be gentle with yourselves during this season. Be gentle with others in your life as well. Take time at the beginning of each day to center yourself in God's Word. Use the Advent devotions as a way to begin and end your day in prayer and Scripture. Have discussions with your family at dinner about how God surprises us with unexpected moments of hope, joy, peace, and love. Take heart in the psalmists promise: weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

Think seriously about this: what brings you joy? Family, friends, good food, pets that make us laugh, right? Perhaps you experience joy in worship, and engaging in the life of the congregation. Maybe a beautiful sunrise causes joy to burst forth from your soul. All of these things can bring joy in the morning. Find them. Seek them out. Know and experience joy in new and creative ways.

As I have been preparing sermons and reflections during the Advent season, there is one person that comes to my mind over and over again when I'm reflecting on joy. Dr. D. was a source of joy to all who knew him. His smile was infectious, and even in the midst of hard things, Dr. D. always found a reason to give thanks to God. He always found a reason to smile, sometimes through tears. Dr. D. and Nancy experienced their own fair share of the hardest things. And yet, even then, Dr. D. exuded this joy that was contagious. I hope that if this season brings up uneasy feelings, you can find that joy that exuded from Dr. D. I pray that you can experience the healing power of humor, and find reasons to laugh and smile, and spread joy.

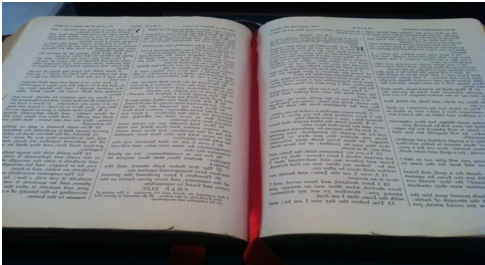
Each of you also brings me great joy. It is such an honor to be your pastor, and to call each one of you church family. Ash and I are unbelievably blessed to be with you all in worship and fellowship. Thank you so much to each and every one of you for the joy that you bring to our lives. May your Advent and Christmas be filled with hope, joy, peace, love, and above all, experiences with God that touch your heart.

Blessings,

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 Christmas Eve, December 24th during worship.

DECEMBER SERMONS

- 6: Isaiah 40:1-11 "The Hardest Time to Know Joy"
- 13: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 "The Hardest Prayer for Peace"
- 20: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 "The Hardest People to Love"
- 24: John 1:1-14 "The Hardest Things: Experiencing God Now"
- 27:



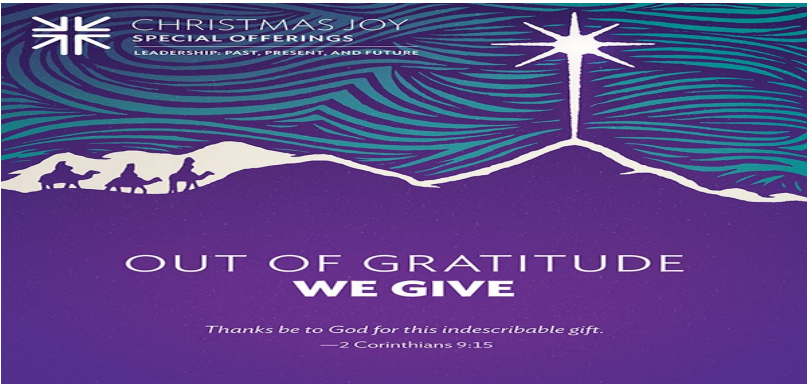
Our doors are open again to our beautiful sanctuary! It is such a blessing to see our church family members each Sunday! We are blessed with wonderful donors who have generously given to enhance our Virtual worship experience as well! Whether you are watching our service at home or sitting in our pews, 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

October receipts: \$ 9,927.81
expenses 9,356.83
+ 570.98

YTD receipts \$ 120,496.17
expenses 98,040.02
+ 22,456.15



We will be collecting for our annual Joy Gift Offering during the month !

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.

December Flowers

During the Advent season, we will have poinsettias grace our sanctuary in preparation of our King’s birth!



HANGING OF THE GREENS



Session met for our regular stated meeting on Sunday, November 22nd. We finalized plans for the Advent and Christmas season and committed to remaining in Phase 1 for the remainder of the year. Christmas Eve service will be a hybrid of in-person, drive-in, and virtual worship on Dec. 24th at 7 PM. If you would like to RSVP to worship in the sanctuary that evening, please pay attention to emails or let Rev. Audrey know. Communion will be offered to all in attendance safely, and if you are worshipping from home you are encouraged to have juice and a cracker to participate.

“MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!”



Our Choir Chime Ensemble played at our Hanging of the Greens service! We will be playing for the morning worship on December 20th as well!! 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!

We also received a donation of \$1,000.00 from anonymous donors from Florida who saw the food distribution that took place in Westminster last month. The donation was designated “to feed the hungry” so we authorized our Treasurer Linda White to give Dot’s Kitchen this gift. We are grateful to God for this gift.

Unless a need arises, Session is in recess until January. Many thanks to our outgoing Elders, Michael Meades and Martha Brancazio, for their faithful service to the life of WPC. We are so grateful for your leadership and service!

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! There are Angels on the tree with resident’s names and wish lists attached. Please take one and fill a bag for them! There is also an electronic list where you can purchase much needed day-to-day items for the home. God Bless You!!



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



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 December 7th! 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.



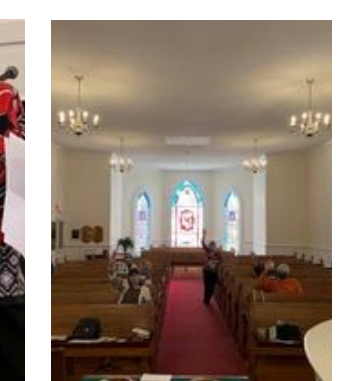
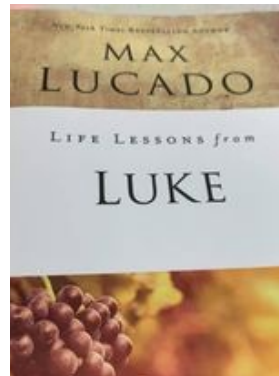
Advent Soup and Study!



In an effort to maintain our distance and continue to offer spiritual formation, the Christian Education Committee has decided to have our weekly Wednesday Soup and Study via Zoom this year. We will be using the Advent Devotional that each of you either has received or will soon receive in the mail. We will gather weekly at 5:30, beginning this Wednesday. The Zoom link should be the same for each week, If you need help with Zoom, or if

you would like to come to Gossett to use the church's wifi, just let me know and we can space people out safely.

Come join us for fun and fellowship!



Dates to Remember!

12-7	PW Circles
12- 2	Dot's Kitchen
12- 8	Dot's Kitchen
12-24	Holy Communion



Merry Christmas!