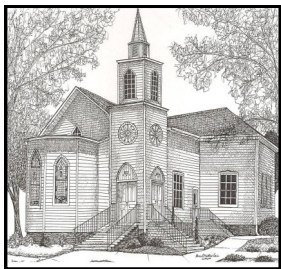


THE ABBEY NEWS



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JANUARY 2021

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FROM THE PASTOR

“Q 1. What is your only comfort, in life and in death?”

A. That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesu Christ.” ~The Heidelberg Catechism.

“For I am convinced that nothing...can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.” ~Romans 8

Happy New Year, friends! It may feel like a decade has passed since we last shared that greeting with one another. However, I for one, am very excited about 2021! One of the things that most excites me is our new sermon series! We will be taking a look at some of the creeds, confessions, and catechisms that have been pivotal to the church Universal as well as the Reformed tradition throughout the centuries.

The Heidelberg Catechism might be one of my favorites, because of its personal nature. In the very first question, the answer is in first person, which makes it much more intimate than some of the other statements. This catechism is the confession of personal piety and individual faith. However, it was published as part of a new liturgy, so its doctrinal instruction is intimately linked to the corporate worship of God. Its focus is on enduring questions of human existence rather than complicated theological arguments, so it became a confessional standard for Reformed churches in many lands.

We won't be talking about this catechism until later in January, but I wanted to give you just a taste of some of the richness we can expect to experience during this time of worship. I hope you'll learn a little bit about the reformed tradition, as well as come to a greater understanding of what it means to be a “church reformed, always reforming,” which is a motto of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Being able to articulate what we believe is central to being a Presbyterian. I encourage you as we travel through these creeds to maybe consider writing a statement of faith in your own words. What do you believe about God, and the persons of the trinity? What do you believe about sin and Jesus' redemption of us? What do you believe about the sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper? Consider journaling each week as a part of your devotional experience. Writing out what you believe in your own words can be a great exercise in spiritual formation. Maybe, like me, you'll find phrases in some of our ancient creeds and confessions that speak to you. Feel free to include those phrases in your own statement!

We will also have a seven week virtual study on the Confessions. If you're interested in having a copy of the Book of Confessions, please let me know, and I'll be glad to purchase one for you if need be. The library in Gossett (upstairs) does have a few copies for use.

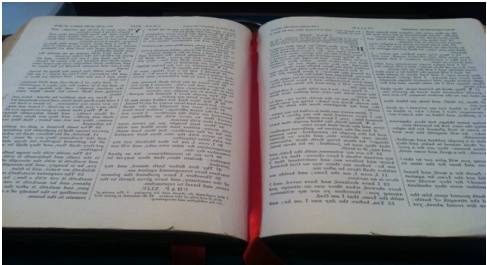
I pray that we will learn and grow together even more in 2021!

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 January 31st, during worship.

JANUARY SERMONS

January 3: “The Nicene Creed,” Matthew 2:1-11 and John 14:15-27.

January 10: “The Apostle's Creed,” 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

January 17: “The Heidelberg Catechism,” 1 Corinthians 6:19, Romans 8, and Hebrews 9:27.

January 24: “The Westminster Confession and Catechisms” Psalm 139

January 31: “The Theological Declaration of Barmen,” Matthew 20:25-26 and Ephesians 4:15-16.

happy new year



God bless you all throughout the coming New Year 2021! May we always keep His Word close to our hearts and live in the knowledge that our Savior holds us in the palm of His hands.



TREASURER’S REPORT

November receipts: \$12,036.11
November expenses: \$17,759.29
- \$5,723.18
YTD receipts: \$132,532.28
YTD expenses: \$115,799.31
YTD: + \$16,732.97



January Flowers

1/3	Annie	Belauskas
1/10	Nita	McMillan
1/17	Shepherd	Chuites
1/24	Debbie	Thrift
1/31	Linda	White



Session will gather in a hybrid meeting on Sunday, January 3rd to determine whether or not to return to phase 1 of in-person worship. Much of this will be determined by when we can expect the heating unit to be repaired in the sanctuary. Please stay tuned to Facebook and our Weekly Updates for information.

Please reach out to your Session with any concerns or needs. They are willing to serve in any way they can!
Clerk: Brad Stancil
Kim Burden
Mission/Outreach: Trish McCoy
Worship: Virginia Gordon
Christian Education: Lou Haynes
Property: John Merritt
John Johnston
**Session will be communicating via email and telephone to discern the best scenario for the health of our members.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service



Wherever we worshipped on Christmas Eve, home or sanctuary, God was there!

“MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!”

Our choir chime ensemble will resume rehearsals on January 6th at 3:30 pm in the sanctuary! If you have not joined our fun group, now is the time!



God Bless you all for your giving!





A Time for Prayer

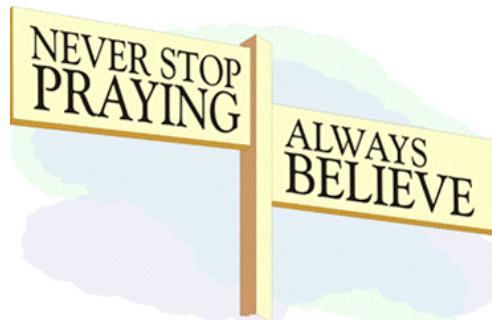
Prayer is the most powerful weapon we have. The prayer of a righteous person has great power..." (James 5:16)



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 enjoyed our December Christmas meeting so very much! We are offering our meetings via Zoom for your convenience! If you have not joined a circle, now is the time! We would LOVE to have you! Our next meeting is January 4th! Hope to see you, via Zoom, there!

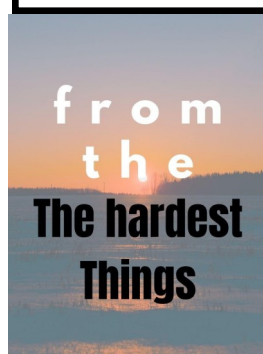


Are you looking for opportunities to share the love of Christ in our community?

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.



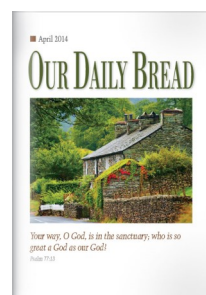
Advent Soup and Study!



Thank you to Rev. Audrey who made sure to offer an Advent study for us all even in the midst of a pandemic! We look forward to the day of having our study complete with great food and face to face fellowship!

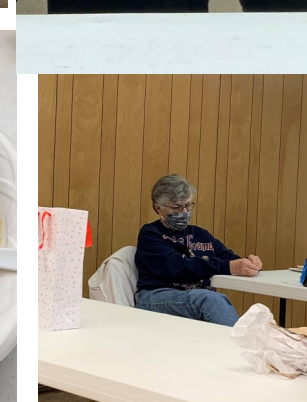
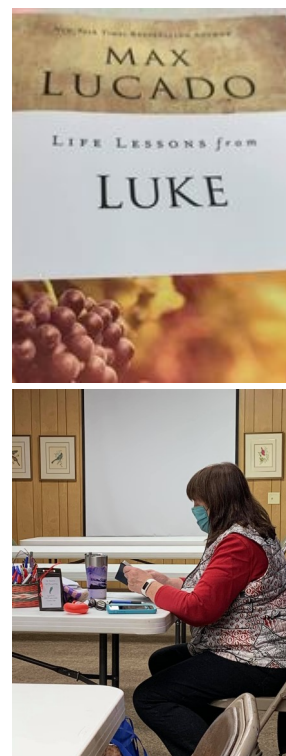


2021 Read the Bible in a Year!



Start the New Year off RIGHT! If you haven't picked up a copy of the Our Daily Bread devotional located in the narthex of the church, please let us know so we can mail one to you! Start your New Year with the greatest Book of all time: The Holy Bible! The devotional has a wonderful guide to help you complete the Bible in a Year!

More Scenes from Christmas Eve



Dates to Remember!

1-4	PW Circles
1-6	Dot's Kitchen
1-12	Dot's Kitchen
1-31	Holy Communion

