

THE ABBEY NEWS



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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OCTOBER 2021

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POINTS TO PONDER

"When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.'" ~John 2:3-4

One of the perks of being a pastor, as I have talked about before, is receiving books from other pastors as they downgrade their library. I have so many books on my shelves that I have never read, but when I'm feeling like I'm in a preaching "slump," I peruse the titles of the unread and unfamiliar books in my office. Every now and then, a title jumps out at me, and I am instantly inspired. As I was contemplating sermons for the month, nothing was jumping out at me. Then my eyes landed on *The Humor of Jesus* by Henri Cormier. You can probably guess which gentle saint gave me this book. Yep! Our beloved Dr. D!

I was interested as soon as I read the first page, in which Jean Leclercq writes "How could Jesus have managed to attract children, women, simple people, if he was always aloof and serious?...We have such a vivid awareness of his divinity that we are almost inclined to deny the reality of his human nature." Cormier goes on to illustrate how Jesus is *funny*! He takes several passages of Scripture and demonstrates Jesus' sense of humor at work. The first story we are going to explore is the wedding in Cana, where it can be easy to interpret Jesus' words to Mary as insulting or cutting. But what if they're not? What if Jesus' words are more playful: "What would you have me to do about it, Ma'am?" Reading Jesus' tone as one displaying his humor makes this story so much more interesting!

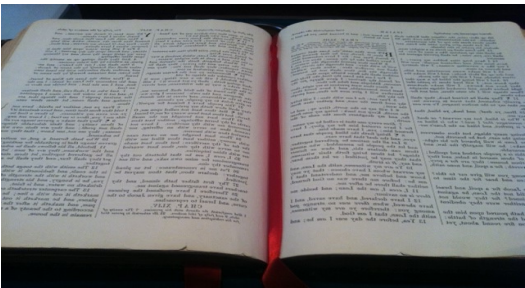
We know what happens next, right? Mary looks at the servants and says, "Do whatever he tells you." This tells us that Mary is in on the joke, because she knows what's coming! Jesus continues to show his funny side with how he deals with the servants. He tells them to get these barrels and fill them with water. Then the pious trick is played, and the party goes on. Jesus surely isn't one to deny us a good time!

This month, we are going to explore, in Dr. D's words, "the healing power of humor," by looking at several stories in the Bible with a new lens. This new lens will be one of humor. Our Old Testament Scriptures are coming from the book of Job, which is not at all a funny story, but maybe we will see glimpses of God's humor as well.

I hope we all find a way to see the Bible with a sense of Jesus' humor! We always say that "God has a sense of humor" when we think we know what's best and God shows us otherwise. What would it mean to explore Jesus' humor on full display in familiar stories? Hopefully, it will reveal God's grace, love and mercy for us all.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Audrey



We will
Celebrate
Holy
Communion
On the 31st
during morning
Worship!



OCTOBER SERMONS

- 10/3: "Christian Courage" Psalm 4:1-8 and Luke 6:20-26 (Joe Ellers preaching)
- 10/10: "Jesus Plays a Trick"
Job 23:1-9, 16-17, and John 2:1-12
- 10/17: "Jesus Jokes at the Well"
Job 38:1-7 and John 4:4-42
- 10/24: "Jokes Quiet a Mob"
Job 42:1-6, 10-17 and John 8:2-11
- 10/31: "Jesus Puts Us in Our Place"
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 and Luke 7:36-50



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 are so very blessed here at Westminster Presbyterian! We have a wonderful family of friends and servants of Christ to worship and praise God for all of His many, many blessings! We are so thankful that we are able to meet face-to-face as well as virtually. God is so very good!



TREASURER’S REPORT

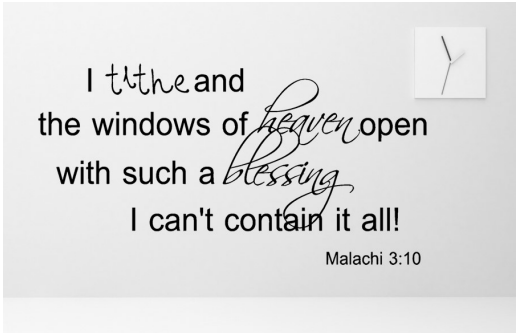
August Receipts: \$18,150.65
YTD: \$104,887.93
YTD: + \$7,645.65
August Expenses: \$10,505.00
YTD: \$93,503.45
YTD: + \$11,384.48



October Flowers



10-3: Nancy Johnston
10-10: Rev. Audrey
10-24: Trish McCoy
10-31: Wendy Linhart



NEW MEMBER LUNCH OCTOBER 24

We are so blessed to have some “new” faces among us! Rev. Audrey will be hosting a new member social Sunday, October 24th right after worship. We will have sub sandwiches and share some history about the church, answer questions that you may have, and get to know one another. This will be a very informal time of fellowship! If you are interested in attending, please email Rev. Audrey at revaudrehyreese@gmail.com by Sunday, October 17th!



2021 APPLE FESTIVAL TIME



Many thanks to all who helped with our 2021 Apple Festival! Whether you made filling, helped assemble the pies, sat at the booth, or lifted our volunteers in prayer during the festival, we are so grateful! Debbie Therriault lead us with energy, enthusiasm, imagination, and love! We were able to raise over \$1,100.00 for Dot’s Kitchen! Thanks be to God!





2 Corinthians 12:9, ESV “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

Town Prayer Meeting

Join us for prayer every Tuesday morning at 9 am at the gazebo in downtown Westminster. There will be a guest minister each



Imogene Giles, Kathy Darnell, Robbie McClure (Marie Dunnam’s brother) Elizabeth Christensen (Kathy Skillen’s niece), Arthur Skillen (Kathy Skillen’s brother), Joanne Mason, Bob Hartness (Rev. Audrey’s dad), Clifton Mabry, and Sam and Edna Dillard.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We are so happy to report that our circles have combined into one happy family! We meet each month at 4:30 pm in Gossett Hall. Many thanks to those who provided delicious goodies for our August 30th meeting, and Rev. Audrey for leading us in Bible Study of Ephesians!

We will meet Monday, October 4 ! Trish McCoy will be our Bible study leader and we will be exploring chapters 4-6 of our book, *Understanding Your Blessings in Christ*, by Elizabeth George.



Dates to Remember!

- 10-6 Dot’s Kitchen
- 10-12 Dot’s Kitchen
- 10-31 Holy Communion



PUERTO RICO TRIP OCTOBER 1-8



Rev. Audrey, Ash, and Debbie Therriault are off to Guanica and Aibonito. Puerto Rico this month with the Tabernacle Puerto Rico! Please keep them and their team in your prayers as the minister and serve to the communities! In Aibonito, we will be serving families through building relationships and sharing the Gospel with the community. In Guanica, Rev. Audrey will be able to introduce Debbie and Ash to her

friends on La Cancha, where she served in April! We will be putting some tile down, and hopefully put some windows and doors in Don Ernesto’s home to finish it up! We will also have the opportunity to spend time with our dear friend Lizy and take her shopping for materials for her new apartment in Guanica! We will share pictures often! We are so grateful to our wonderful congregation for your love, prayers, and support of this very special ministry!



Sharing God’s Love

Are you looking for opportunities to share the love of Christ in our community? See Linda White or Joey Roeder for Dot’s and De French about Oconee United Ministries.



Please reach out to your Session with any concerns or needs.
Clerk: Brad Stancil
Kim Burden: Stewardship/Finance
Mission/Outreach: Trish McCoy
Worship: Virginia Gordon
Christian Education: Lou Haynes
Property: John Merritt
John Johnston: Congregational Care

