

THE ABBEY NEWS



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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FROM THE PASTOR

"For what was written in the former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." ~Romans 15:4

Many of you know that around five years ago, I was introduced to a method of Scripture memorization that went beyond just memorizing a verse or two. The method is called "interiorizing the Scripture," and the implication is that the Word of God gets almost embedded on your heart. And usually, I come back from my favorite conference, the Wee Kirk Conference in Montreat that occurs in October, and I dabble in it for a few weeks before I just stop finding time to do the work. Because it is work. There is a process that has many steps to it. First, I read the passage three times to myself. Then, I read it aloud three to five times. Then, I try to go verse by verse and write it down from memory. Then, underneath each verse, I do what has come to be known as "story-boarding" where I draw little pictures underneath the words that help me with the "getting it on my heart piece." I spend a significant amount of time on this process. It starts on Mondays, and if the week goes as planned, by Thursday whatever I'm preaching on is settling in my heart.

But our weeks don't always go as planned, right? So often, I find myself staring at the modern-day, made-up hieroglyphics on Thursday or Friday and wondering "What was I thinking when I drew that picture for that word?" Or, at worst, I find myself actually sitting down to start the process late in the week. It is my goal to finish the year doing this method of Scripture study. Because next year's goal is a church-wide goal!

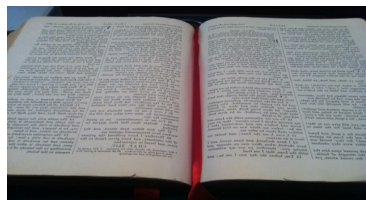
Don't worry—I'm not going to ask you to do what I do as you read the Bible. If you *are* interested, please reach out! I'd love to share the process with you! But, beginning on January 1st, we are going to read through the Bible together for a year. Each week's sermons will highlight one or two of the readings you have read during the week, with a particular theme that arises out of study. Each day's readings include an Old Testament Passage, a New Testament Passage, and passages from the book of Psalms and Proverbs. The goal, of course, is to increase our biblical literacy over the course of one year.

Why is this important? Because, as Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome, we find our hope in the steadfastness and encouragement of Scripture. These timeless passages have something to offer us now, in our modern-day world, that we can't find in a thirty minute sitcom or a page turning suspense novel. They offer us real and tangible hope that can only come from the Word of God.

We will also be reading from the same Bible—these have been purchased for you and can be picked up or delivered to you. The English Standard Version is a version of the Bible that was translated into English in as close to the original language as the authors could provide, in a much more common English version than most. I hope you'll take this journey with me, and enjoy it as much as I have. Let the encouragement of the Scriptures give you hope.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Audrey



We will

Celebrate Holy Communion

December 24th at our Christmas Eve candlelight service. 7:00 pm



DECEMBER SERMONS

December 4: A Tangible Hope
Isaiah 11:1-10 and Romans 15:4-13

December 11: Cantata

December 18: Emmanuel is Here
Isaiah 7:10-16 and Romans 1:1-7

December 24: A Feast of Light
Lessons and Carols

December 25: The Meaning behind the
12 Days of Christmas



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!





“This will be a sign unto you, you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger”.....Luke 2: 12



TREASURER'S REPORT

October receipts:	\$ 12,499.67
expenses	11,883.14
	+ 616.53
YTD receipts:	\$ 127,496.69
expenses	115,750.83
	+ 11,745.86



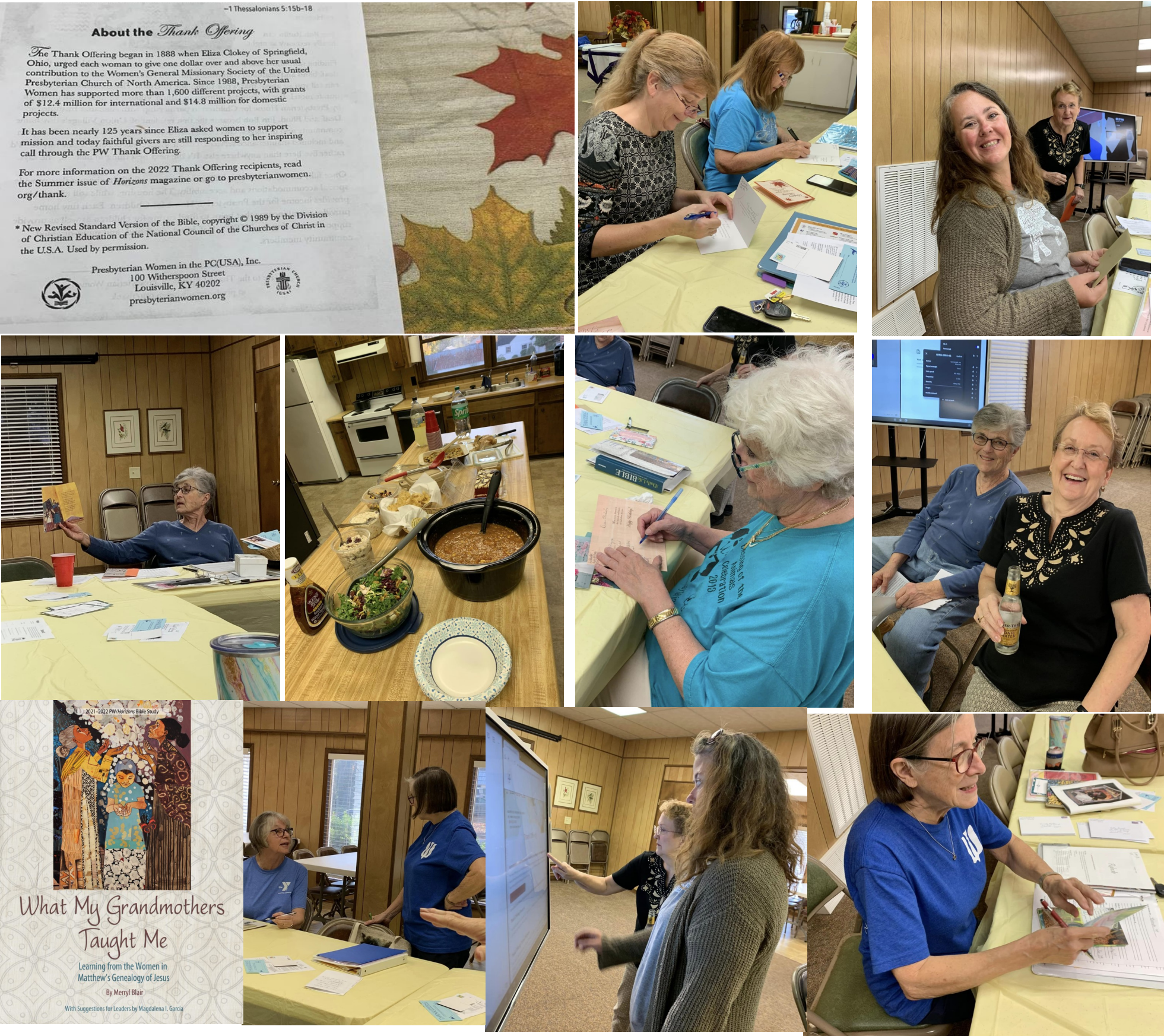
Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our Thanksgiving special offering! Our church raised \$550.00 and our Session approved adding \$450.00 from the operational fund to enable us to give each mission \$500.00 each! God bless you all!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We were blessed with another wonderful afternoon of sister fellowship, awesome Bible study and tasty treats at our October Circle meeting! We also had our annual Thank Offering meeting as well. Thanks to Nancy Johnston for putting this all together! Thank you to Linda White for our Bible study on Rahab. Thanks to all the ladies for the delicious meal. If you haven't joined Circle, give it a try! You will be blessed!

Our next meeting will be **December 5th at 4:30 pm** in Gossett Hall. We will be studying Chapter 4 "Ruth" in our study book, What My Grandmothers Taught Me. Rev. Audrey will be our Bible study leader. Bring a goodie to share if you would like! Hope to see you there! **We will also have an ornament exchange! (White Elephant style)** Bring one and join the fun!





Christmas Eve Service—December 24, 7 pm

Join us for Lessons and Carols and the beautifully, meaningful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Christmas Day Service—December 25,

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, and what better way to celebrate Christ's birth than gathering for worship! We will gather for worship at 11 am on Sunday, Dec. 25th. Rev. Audrey will lead us through the 12 Days of Christmas, which actually begins on Christmas Day!

Scenes from Hanging of the Greens— November 27th ,11 am

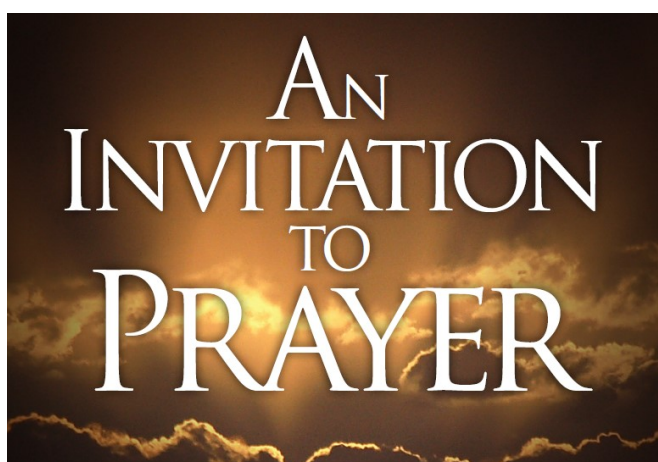




Fun at Dot's Kitchen!



Many thanks to all of our Dot's Kitchen workers, captains, and all around awesome folks who keep preparing those wonderful meals for folks in need right here in our hometown. God bless you all and God Bless Dot's Kitchen in the mission of "until they are all fed....."



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 week. This was started by one person who felt the need for prayer in our town. It has grown and continues to be a light in our community!



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, Kathy Skillen, Sam and Edna Dillard, Paula Meades and Shari Waldo's friend, Jim, Al and Annie Belauskus, and Sherry Moates, and Erin Wood (Wendy Linhart's daughter)

Please continue to pray for Peace in our world and protection for all that are oppressed and in harms way.

Pray for our police, firemen and first responders, doctors and nurses as they put themselves in harms way to help us.



Dates to Remember!

Dot's Kitchen

Dot's Kitchen

Session Reports
Due

Session Meeting

12/5 Presbyterian Women 4:30pm

WHC Meeting



Happy Birthday for the month of December

6 Ford Pearse
28 Nita McMillan
29 Russell McCall
30 Al Belauskas



**Early birthdays in January are: 4th—Robert McMillan



CHRISTMAS CANTATA &
JOY GIFT LUNCH
DECEMBER 11TH

Join us Sunday, December 11th, for our annual Christmas cantata. This year we will be singing Rober Lau's "Let Us Adore Him". It is a beautiful cantata that offers our congregation the opportunity to join us in song!

After worship, we will meet in Gossett Hall for our Joy Gift lunch. Please bring your favorite side/(s) and or a dessert to share! Meat and drinks will be provided.



It seems we have been flooded with special offerings over the last few months. Your generosity has been exceptional! We will be excepting offerings toward the Joy Gift initiative again this year but will not be promoting it to the extent we have with the other offerings this

year. It is our hope to focus on the Joy Gift offering in "23 with less emphasis on the Pentecost offering. Both are so very important, but we feel that we can do more good in focusing on one big one per year!

SECRET PRAYER SISTER REVEAL



On Sunday, January 1st, 2023, we will reveal who "We Prayed For In "22" This will be just a fun time of letting our prayer sister know that we kept her in our prayers throughout the year! We will meet after worship for a short time of prayer and thanksgiving!



January Flowers

*Contact Shepherd Chuites if you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary.



We are grateful for this year's Session for the discernment and service they have brought to the life of our congregation! We give a special thanks to the three ruling Elders who rotate off at the end of the year and join our ever-growing "college" of Elders!

Brad Stancil has served as Clerk of Session for the past three years. Brad has given us a strong sense of leadership and direction, allowing himself to be continually guided by God's call on his life. He has faithfully recorded our minutes each month, and has been diligent in ensuring the minutes are read each year by Foothills Presbytery. Thank you, Brad, for your service!

Virginia Gordon has served as Worship Elder for the past three years. Virginia rotated back onto Session in a role that was new to her, and she quickly learned all the things that simply "get done!" She has added new elements to our worship space, like bulletin boards and hand delivering packets to those who can't make it to worship. Virginia has been surrounded by a faithful group of servants who often do things we never even realize. Thank you, Virginia, for being open to God's call on your life!

Lou Haynes has served as our Christian Education elder for the past three years. Lou has been vital in envisioning ways to use some of our unused space, including having beautiful bookshelves and chairs donated to our downstairs Gossett space. Lou has also been open to hearing the Spirit of God in exploring new ways to gather, such as some of our outdoor book club type gatherings, an Easter Egg Hunt, and more. Thank you, Lou, for answering God's call!

No one knew what the world would hold for us three years ago, but your Session has constantly discerned how God is calling us to do church during and after the pandemic. For their willingness and openness to serve, we are forever grateful!

We welcome three new elders-elect on December 4th!

The nominating committee has collected and discerned the nominations submitted by each of you for a new class of Elders! Upon election by the congregation, Debbie Therriault, Leslie (Les) McCall, and Shepherd Chuites will begin their three year term in January. A service of ordination and installation will be planned for **January 8, 2023 during worship, with a Session meeting to follow.**