

THE ABBEY NEWS



DECEMBER 2023

INSIDE THIS

From the Pastor Sermons	1
NOVEMBER Happenings	2
Financial Report	3
Mission Projects	3
Presbyterian Women/ Thornwell and Collins Children	3
Church Offerings/A Little WPC History	4
In Our Prayers	7
Happy Birthdays!	6
Dates to Remember	6
Bible in a Year Daily Scriptures	6

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



FROM THE PASTOR

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."~Revelation 1:8

Dear friends,

I have a confession to make. When we have come upon Revelation in the traditional lectionary cycle of preaching, I have very rarely chosen that particular passage. Often there's another New Testament or an Old Testament passage that seems to be "softer," or "easier," or "more understandable" than this mysterious book. So, until now, I have never taken on spending an extensive amount of time with this last book of

the Bible.

Until now. And here's another confession: I'm a little intimidated by this task. But, I'm committed (or too stubborn to give up now) to approaching this book with an open mind, and I encourage you to do the same. My goal is let go of the things I *think* I know, and open myself to what God wants to reveal to me through this book. Identified as one letter to seven churches, the book is rich with imagery and calls on us to awaken our senses and our imaginations to this revelation.

So, with the help of Eugene Peterson and N.T. Wright, we will dive into it together. Verse 8 provides a thematic truth of all the letters: God is the beginning and the end. God, as revealed to us in Jesus Christ, is the same yesterday and today and forever. That, we have already read and should understand. Eugene Peterson points out that the letters Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. He suggests, and I agree, that God is the first and the last, and every letter in between the two. This is what we know to be true.

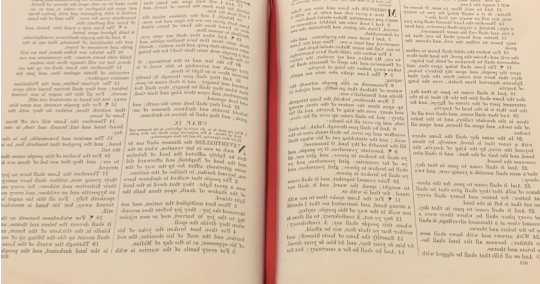
What do we want to know? What I hope to learn is how this book provides hope while we wait. While we wait for the end of violence and war in the Middle East, on holy and sacred ground. While we wait for the intersection of justice and compassion to be realized. While we wait for swords to be turned into plowshares, where do we see Christ revealed? Our God is the beginning and the end, the one who is coming to save the world.

Grace and peace,

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 December 3rd in worship!



DECEMBER SERMONS

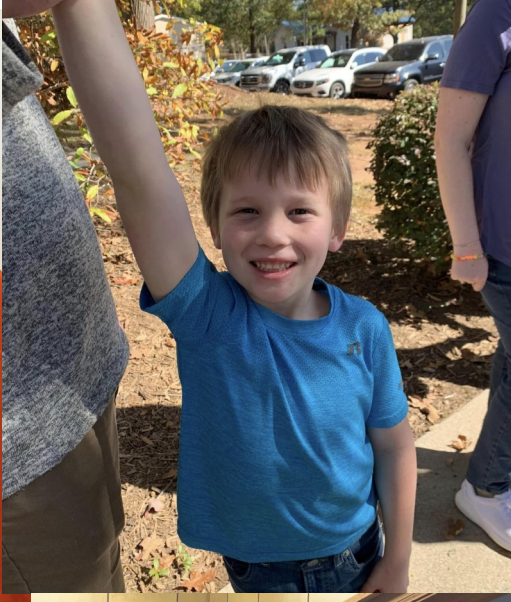
3: Revelation 1:1-8
"Look! He is Coming!"

10: Revelation 2:1-7
"The Test of Our Love"

17: Cantata

24: Revelation 15:1-8
"The Good News of God's Judgement"

31: Guest Preacher



‘And the Word became flesh and took up residence among us, and we saw his glory, glory as of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth.’
John 1:14





TREASURER’S REPORT

October receipts: \$ 9,622.99
expenses 14,948.24
- 5,325.25
YTD receipts: \$ 118,962.93
expenses 125,068.61
- 6,105.68

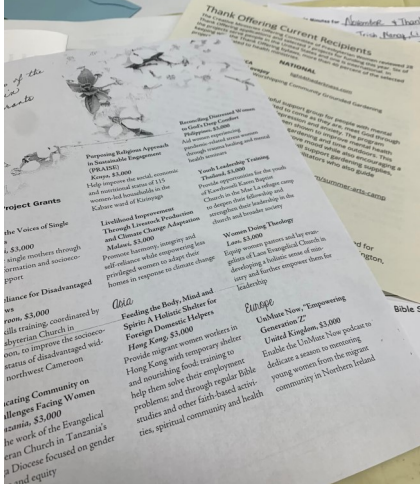
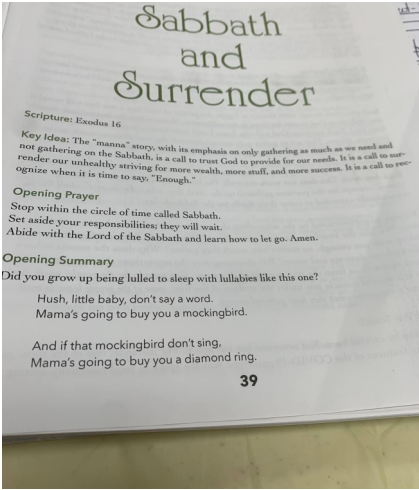
This year we have had some significant unbudgeted expenses, including tree removal, Vacation Bible School, and mission trips. We encourage you to remember the ministry of Westminster Presbyterian in your giving as we come to the end of another year together.



Thank you all so much for your generous giving! We raised \$820.00! You have touched and enriched the lives of so many of God’s children!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women were blessed with another wonderful evening of Christian Sister fellowship! Chapter 4 of our “Celebrating Sabbath” was led by Shepherd Chuites and we all gained new perspectives on surrendering to the Sabbath. Many thanks to Nancy Johnston who prepared a lovely celebration of our annual Thank Offering. Please join us December 5th at 4:30pm in Gossett Hall! Nancy Johnston will be the Bible Study leader and we will dive into Chapters 5, “Sabbath and Servitude”. We will also have our “White Elephant” ornament exchange if you would like to participate! Just bring a wrapped ornament and join in the fun! Bring a goodie to share or just bring yourself and be Blessed!!



Here is a portion of scripture from our Chapter 4 Lesson:
Exodus 16:16 New King James Version (NKJV) 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.”



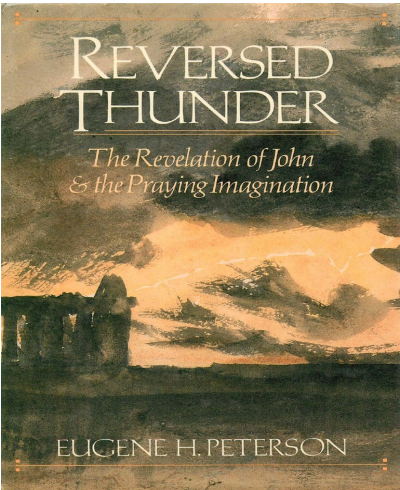
A Little History of our Church



This month, we are looking into some more “recent” history of our church. Have you ever noticed the rail between the choir and the pulpit? Here’s a little history for you! We were blessed with an AWESOME interim pastor, Dr. Charles Dougherty. He had “retired” many times from many different churches but God, in His infinite wisdom, called our beloved Dr. D to WPC at a time when God knew we needed him the most. Not only did Dr. D. bring us amazing sermons each Sunday, he brought a new life, a new joy and wonderful smiles and warm hugs to our congregation! Another wonderful blessing is his wife, Nancy!

Dr. D. began to have a little trouble maneuvering the steps up to the pulpit. God then called on our master carpenter, Pat Roeder, to create and install this beautiful handrail for Dr. D to use! Pat did an awesome job on this most needed detail in our church. It looks like it has always been there!

When we were given the new Glory to God hymnals, Pat stepped up again to make sure there would be a place for all our hymnals! Another beautiful detail from the hands of Pat Roeder. Pat has been a faithful servant of WPC for many years. He currently serves as one of our Trustees of the church. Thank you so much Pat! We love you!



Rev. Audrey will host an Advent Soup and Study Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in Gossett beginning Wednesday, November 29th!

We will be reading through *Reversed Thunder* by Eugene Peterson. *Peterson's eloquent meditation on the Revelation of St. John engages the imagination and awakens the intellect to the vitality and relevance of the last words on scripture, Christ, church, worship, evil, prayer, witness, politics, judgement, salvation, and heaven.*

Books are \$15.00 and checks may be made payable to the church. Please let Rev. Audrey know if you would like to order one. For those who prefer to read using an e-reader, you can find the kindle version on Amazon.



Rev. Audrey will be offering a **morning** (9:30 am) devotional once a week to introduce some of the topics she will cover in her sermons each week! This is a great time to get together and discuss topics on line and/or just hear a bit of encouragement to get you through the week!



Our next Men’s Bible study will be December 3rd. All men will meet at the church beginning at 10 am. Don’t miss this this awesome opportunity to share how God is working in your life, prayer requests and praise reports while diving into God’s Holy Word! Thanks Jim McMillan for your service and dedication!



Dates to Remember!

Happy Birthday for the month of December

- 12/4 PW Circle 4:30 Gossett
- 12/6 Dot’s Kitchen and Soup and Study (5:30 Gossett)
- 12/10 Called Session Meeting
- 12/12 Dot’s Kitchen
- 12/13 Soup and Study 5:30 Gossett
- 12/17 Cantata and Joy Lunch
- 12/20 Soup and Study
- 12/24 Celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and reception into membership, 11 am worship service

Christmas Eve Candlelight with Communion 7 PM



- 6 Ford Pearse
- 16 Willem Orlowski
- 28 Nita McMillan
- 29 Russell McCall
- 30 Al Belauskas



**Early birthdays in January: Robert McMillan 4th

FINISHING WELL SEMINAR

It was such a joy to host the Rock Steady Parkinson’s boxing support group for our Finishing Well workshop this evening in Gossett! The group got lots of great information and truly appreciated our hospitality. This is what being the hands and feet of Christ is all about!



BIBLE IN A YEAR SCRIPTURES

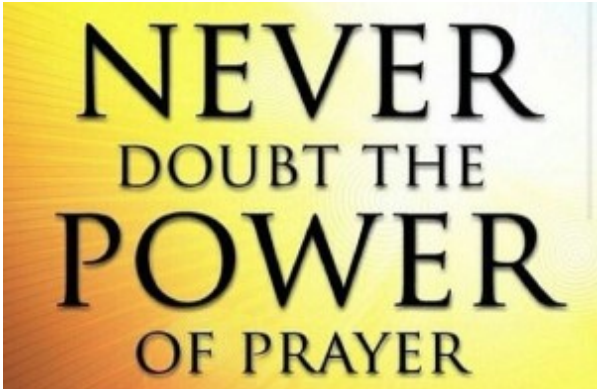
12/1	Daniel 8:1-27	1 John 1:2:1-17	Psalm 120:1-7	Proverbs 28:25-26
12/2	Daniel 9:1-11:1	1 John 2:18-3:6	Psalm 121:1-8	Proverbs 28:27-28
12/3	Daniel 11:2-35	1 John 3:7-24	Psalm 122:1-9	Proverbs 29:1
12/4	Daniel 11:36-12:13	1 John 4:1-21	Psalm 123:1-4	Proverbs 29:2-4
12/5	Hosea 1:1-3:5	1 John 5:1-21	Psalm 124:1-8	Proverbs 29:5-8
12/6	Hosea 4:1-5:15	2 John 1-13	Psalm 125:1-5	Proverbs 29:9-11
12/7	Hosea 6:1-9:17	3 John 1-15	Psalm 126:1-6	Proverbs 29:12-14
12/8	Hosea 10:1-14:9	Jude 1-25	Psalm 127:1-5	Proverbs 29:15-17
12/9	Joel 1:1-3:21	Revelation 1:1-20	Psalm 128:1-6	Proverbs 29:18
12/10	Amos 1:1-3:15	Revelation 2:1-17	Psalm 129:1-8	Proverbs 29:19-20
12/11	Amos 4:1-6:14	Revelation 2:18-3:6	Psalm 130:1-8	Proverbs 29:21-22
12/12	Amos 7:1-9:15	Revelation 3:7-22	Psalm 131:1-3	Proverbs 29:23
12/13	Obadiah 1-21	Revelation 4:1-11	Psalm 132:1-18	Proverbs 29:24-25
12/14	Jonah 1:1-4:11	Revelation 5:1-14	Psalm 133:1-3	Proverbs 29:26-27
12/15	Micah 1:1-4:13	Revelation 6:1-17	Psalm 134:1-3	Proverbs 30:1-4
12/16	Micah 5:1-7:20	Revelation 7:1-17	Psalm 135:1-21	Proverbs 30:5-6
12/17	Naham 1:1-3:19	Revelation 8:1-13	Psalm 136:1-26	Proverbs 30:7-9
12/18	Habakkuk1:1-3:19	Revelation 9:1-21	Psalm 137:1-9	Proverbs 30:10
12/19	Zephaniah1:1-3:20	Revelation 10:1-11	Psalm 138:1-8	Proverbs 30:11-14
12/20	Haggai 1:1-2:23	Revelation 11:1-19	Psalm 139:1-24	Proverbs 30:15-16
12/21	Zechariah 1:1-21	Revelation 12:1-17	Psalm 140:1-13	Proverbs 30:17
12/22	Zechariah 2:1-3:10	Revelation 13:1-18	Psalm 141:1-10	Proverbs 30:18-20
12/23	Zechariah 4:1-5:11	Revelation14:1-20	Psalm 142:1-7	Proverbs 30:21-23
12/24	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Revelation 15:1-8	Psalm 143:1-12	Proverbs 30:24-28
12/25	Zechariah 8:1-12	Revelation 16:1-21	Psalm 144:1-15	Proverbs 30:29-30
12/26	Zechariah 9:1-17	Revelation 17:1-18	Psalm 145:1-21	Proverbs 30:32
12/27	Zechariah 10:1-11:17	Revelation 18:1-24	Psalm 146:1-10	Proverbs 30:33
12/28	Zechariah 12:1-13:9	Revelation 19:1-21	Psalm 147:1-20	Proverbs 31:1-7
12/29	Zechariah 14:1-21	Revelation 20:1-15	Psalm 148:1-14	Proverbs 31:8-9
12/30	Malachi 1:1-2:17	Revelation 21:1-27	Psalm 149:1-9	Proverbs 31:10-24
12/31	Malachi 3:1-4:6	Revelation 22:1-21	Psalm 150:1-6	Proverbs 31:25-31



HANGING OF THE GREENS



PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!



Town Prayer Meeting! Join us for prayer every Tuesday morning at 9 am at the gazebo in downtown Westminster. Rev. Audrey has served as a guest minister! Come join us!

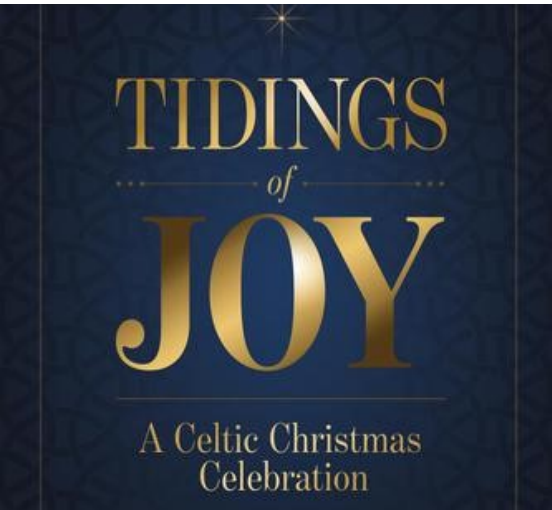
Robbie McClure (Marie Dunnam’s brother) Elizabeth Christensen (Kathy Skillen’s niece), Arthur Skillen (Kathy Skillen’s brother) Bob Hartness (Rev. Audrey’s dad), Clifton Mabry, John Davis, Sam and Edna Dillard, Kathy Skillen, Joel Thrift, Al Belauskus, Sue Costa, (Paula Meades and Shari Waldo’s friend), Arlene Touart (Sherry Moats’ aunt), Bently Carver (son of a friend of James Lawson) and Alston Gordon (Henry Gordon’s brother).



We are pleased to welcome Elders-elect Joey Roeder, Brad Stancil, and Steve Wray onto Session in 2024! We are excited to see how God calls them into service alongside our current ruling elders, and look forward to watching God work in their lives and ministry!

We give thanks for the gifts of Kim Burden and John Johnston, who have faithfully served a three year term and rotate off this year. Their gifts and discernment have been a blessing to the Session and the congregation. Congratulations to all!

Debbie Therriault has placed the names of all church members in the narthex at church. Please take a name, or a few names, and pray earnestly for them! You don’t have to bring them back, Debbie will refill the bowl as needed. Also, there is a container for you to leave your spoken or unspoken prayer request.



The choir will present their annual Christmas cantata on December 17th during worship! We are so excited to bring you this beautiful collection of

Celtic music celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We are so thankful that through your generous giving , we were able to purchase the needed sound equipment to sing this with an orchestral CD accompaniment. Please invite your friends and join us for a morning of beautiful music in Christ’s service!



Westminster Hope will meet again in the New Year to discern next steps regarding property and start to formulate a plan for moving forward. We appreciate your prayers for this ministry.

December Flowers

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 3- Poinsettias | 24-Poinsettias |
| 10- Poinsettias | 31- Poinsettias |
| 17- Poinsettias | |

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



Join us for our annual **Joy Gift Luncheon** immediately following the Christmas cantata on **December 17th**. We will meet in Gossett Hall for a delicious meal and lots of great Christian fellowship! The meat, drinks and paper products will be provided. Please bring your favorite dessert and/or side dish and join us!