

THE ABBEY NEWS

CHRISTMAS IN JULY EDITION



JULY 2024

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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FROM THE PASTOR

*“Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them, and make our home with them.”
~John 14:23*

Many of you know that for several years now, I have attended the Wee Kirk at Montreat Conference every October. This year, I have been chosen to be the conference preacher, and I am beyond excited about this opportunity. The theme of the conference is “Emmanuel Living,” and the Scriptural foundation will be John 14:23. This has become sort of a “hallmark verse” for me; it’s one that refer back to often in my own personal devotions, as well as in sermon preparation. So, I’m incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to preach three different times, to the same audience, with this as a keynote verse.

Since the time the decision was made back in March, I’ve been reflecting on this concept of God dwelling within us. Later in the month of July, we’ll read an interesting interaction between God, Nathan (as God’s mouthpiece), and David about David’s desire to build a “dwelling” for God. God’s sovereignty is at play in this story, as God tells Nathan in no uncertain terms that David will not in fact be the one to build God’s “house.”

But what’s really cool about this story, at least to me, is that God illustrates how God has dwelt with the people from the moment of his first calling them “God’s people.” From the first inception of the very first covenant, God hasn’t needed a “house of cedar” in order to be present with the Israelites.

It does make me wonder about how we understand and value “God’s house.” If we take Jesus’ words seriously, God dwells within us who love God and keep God’s Word on our hearts. We take great pride in our beautiful historic building. At the end of June I had a great time taking our CultivaTeen campers on a tour one afternoon, and pointing out all of the cool facts about this beautiful sanctuary. In a few years, we will celebrate our 150th year of being a congregation! All of this is very special, and taking pride in our buildings is important.

But, like we talked about with worship, it’s meaningless if we don’t also make room for God in our own hearts. I think, and you can help me flesh this out more in the coming months, that *this* is what makes God’s House a home—how we love, serve, and obey God’s Word. This month, I encourage you to seriously reflect on what kind of room you’ve made for God. Together, we can welcome the Godhead home.

Grace and peace,

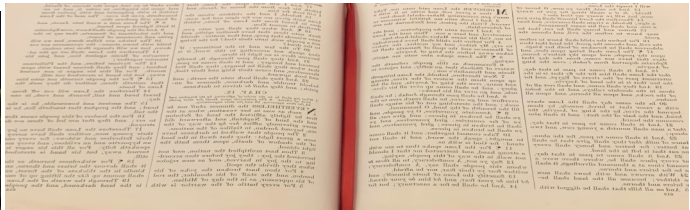
Rev. Audrey



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 July 7th during worship!



JULY SERMONS

- 7: God Saves: 1 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
- 14: God Unites: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
- 21: God Dwells: 2 Samuel 7:1-14
- 28: Christmas in July







TREASURER’S REPORT

May receipts: \$ 13,017.28
expenses 11,137.01
+ 1,880.27

YTD receipts \$ 66,149.13
expenses 69,381.61
- 3,232.48



In January, we paid annual insurance premium of \$10,731.00, along with other annual or quarterly contributions that are budgeted. As is standard for the first quarter of the year, our giving is lower than these expenses. We greatly appreciate your gifts of time, talent and treasure to the life and ministry of WPC. If you sense God calling you to help bridge this financial gap, know that your gifts will help us continue to be the hands and feet of Christ on earth.



One of the wonderful projects that we participate in during our Christmas in July celebration is our Angel Tree! This year, we decided to help a most worthy project called “Sleep In Heavenly Peace”. This is a national initiative which brings beds to school aged children. As a teacher, I have seen how this project is changing the lives of so many precious children who sleep on the floor, dirty couches, etc... Two teachers at Westminster Elementary has formed a SIHP group just for the 29693 zip code and in just a few months has provided beds for over 40 children! We hope to sponsor a “bed-build” here at WPC in the near future! Angels will be hung on the tree for donations. Please give generously!



Christmas in July

Save the date and join us as we celebrate “Christmas In July” on July 28th during worship! It is always a great time to celebrate the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We will be using the ABC’s of Christmas service that we used a few years back. It is sure to be a blessing to us all! After worship, we will meet in Gossett Hall for a homestyle Christmas dinner complete with Turkey, Ham and all the Christmas trimmings! Don’t miss this most special service in the life of our church. You will be blessed! Merry Christmas!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Our PW Circle is on Summer Break! We will resume our monthly meetings on August 5th at 4:30 pm in Gossett Hall. If you have not joined circle, give it a try! You will be blessed!

Circle Sisters, if you have an idea or suggestion about our Bible study for the coming year, please let Nancy Johnston or Nita McMillan know!

Please continue to keep our Circle in your daily prayers as we discern God’s will for our future mission projects and how we can continue to be His Hands and Feet here on earth.



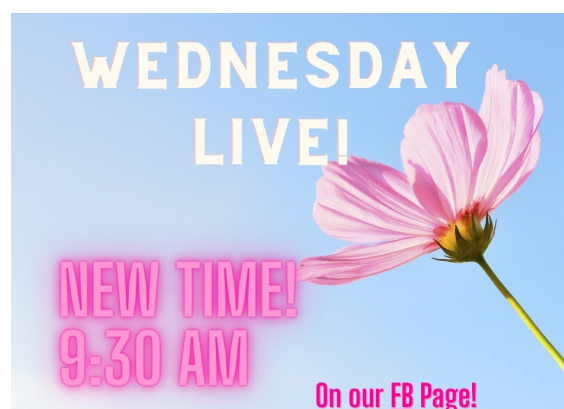


VBS START THE PARTY 2024!



Many thanks to everyone who made our VBS such a wonderful event! There were a LOT of happy kiddos enjoying Music, Games, Crafts, Awesome Food and of course, studying God's Word together! It takes ALL of us to offer such a special time for our children! Thank you EVERYONE! Check out some pictures from the event throughout the newsletter and on the bulletin board in the narthex!

Get Into God's Word!



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 July 7th. All men will meet at Gossett Hall beginning at 10 am. We will continue our study of the Book of Romans. Don't miss this awesome opportunity to share how God is working in your life, prayer requests and praise reports while diving into God's Holy Word!

Join us for 40 Days
of Prayer
beginning May 19th!



Contact Rev. Audrey
for details!

It has been a blessing to see and hear so many of our church family participating in the 40 Days of Prayer! God listens to our every prayer and God is always there to hear our heart as well! We pray that this 40 days of prayer has instilled a new love of praying daily to help you meet all your needs. If you have always started and ended your day in prayer, we pray that this has rekindled your love and need for prayer in your lives. Keep it going! Prayer is not the only thing, it is the EVERYTHING!!!



Happy 4th of July! Please keep our wonderful country in your daily prayers. We are so thankful and blessed to live in a country where we can worship freely in our House of Worship. God has truly blessed us and we need to thank Him daily for His grace, guidance and love for us all!



Dates to Remember!

7/3	Dot's Kitchen Wednesday Live
7/9	Dot's Kitchen
7/10	Wednesday Live
7/17	Wednesday Live
7/21	Wednesday Live
7/28	Christmas in July

July Birthdays



- 2– Steve Moore
- 4– Jane Thomas
- 5– Sam Dillard
- 6-Marie Dunnam
- 12-Clayton Haynes
- 21-Jom McMillan
- 27-Anna Marie Moore
- 27-Sandra Powell



****Early birthdays in August****
6-Debbie Therriault



JULY WEEKLY BIBLE IN A YEAR SCRIPTURES

- 1 Samuel 4:1-5:12, Psalms 54:1-7, Proverbs 15:12-13, Luke 21:1-19
- 1 Samuel 6:1-7:17, Psalms 55:1-8, Proverbs 15:14, Luke 21:20-38
- 1 Samuel 8:1-9:27, Psalms 55:9-15, Proverbs 15:15-17, Luke 22:1-23
- 1 Samuel 10:1-11:15, Psalms 55:16-23, Proverbs 15:18-20, Luke 22:24-46
- 1 Samuel 12:1-13:23, Psalms 56:1-13, Proverbs 15:21-23, Luke 22:47-71
- 1 Samuel 14:1-15:35, Psalms 57:1-3, Proverbs 15:24-25, Luke 23:1-25
- 1 Samuel 16:1-17:58, Psalms 57:4-11, Proverbs 15:26, Luke 23:26-56
- 1 Samuel 18:1-19:24, Psalms 58:1-11, Proverbs 15:27-30, Luke 24:1-35
- 1 Samuel 20:1-21:15, Psalms 59:1-5, Proverbs 15:31-33, Luke 24:36-53
- 1 Samuel 22:1-23:29, Psalms 59:6-17, Proverbs 16:1-2, John 1:1-28
- 1 Samuel 24:1-25:44, Psalms 60:1-5, Proverbs 16:3, John 1:29-51
- 1 Samuel 26:1-27:12, Psalms 60:6-12, Proverbs 16:4-5, John 2:1-25
- 1 Samuel 28:1-25, Psalms 61:1-4, Proverbs 16:6, John 3:1-17
- 1 Samuel 29:1-31:13, Psalms 61:5-8, Proverbs 16:7-9, John 3:18-36
- 2 Samuel 1:1-2:23, Psalms 62:1-4, Proverbs 16:10-12, John 4:1-30
- 2 Samuel 3:1-4:12, Psalms 62:5-12, Proverbs 16:13-15, John 4:31-54
- 2 Samuel 5:1-6:23, Psalms 63:1-11, Proverbs 16:16-17, John 5:1-23
- 2 Samuel 7:1-8:18, Psalms 64:1-10, Proverbs 16:18-19, John 5:24-27
- 2 Samuel 9:1-10:19, Psalms 65:1-8, Proverbs 16:20-21, John 6:1-21
- 2 Samuel 11:1-12:31, Psalms 65:9-13, Proverbs 16:22-24, John 6:22-51
- 2 Samuel 13:1-14:33, Psalms 66:1-7, Proverbs 16:25-26, John 6:52-71
- 2 Samuel 15:1-16:23, Psalms 66:8-15, Proverbs 16:27-30, John 7:1-27
- 2 Samuel 17:1-18:23, Psalms 66:16-20, Proverbs 16:31-32, John 7:28-53
- 2 Samuel 19:1-20:26, Psalms 67:1-7, Proverbs 16:33-17:1, John 8:1-27
- 2 Samuel 21:1-22:51, Psalms 68:1-6, Proverbs 17:2-4, John 8:28-59
- 2 Samuel 23:1-24:25, Psalms 68:7-10, Proverbs 17:5-6, John 9:1-23
- 1 Kings 1:1-2:46, Psalms 68:11-14, Proverbs 17:7-9, John 9:24-41
- 1 Kings 3:1-4:34, Psalms 68:15-20, Proverbs 17:10-12, John 10:1-21
- 1 Kings 5:1-6:38, Psalms 68:21-27, Proverbs 17:13-15, John 10:22-42
- 1 Kings 7:1-8:66, Psalms 68:28-35, Proverbs 17:16-17, John 11:1-27
- 1 Kings 9:1-10:29, Psalms 69:1-4, Proverbs 17:18-19, John 11:28-57

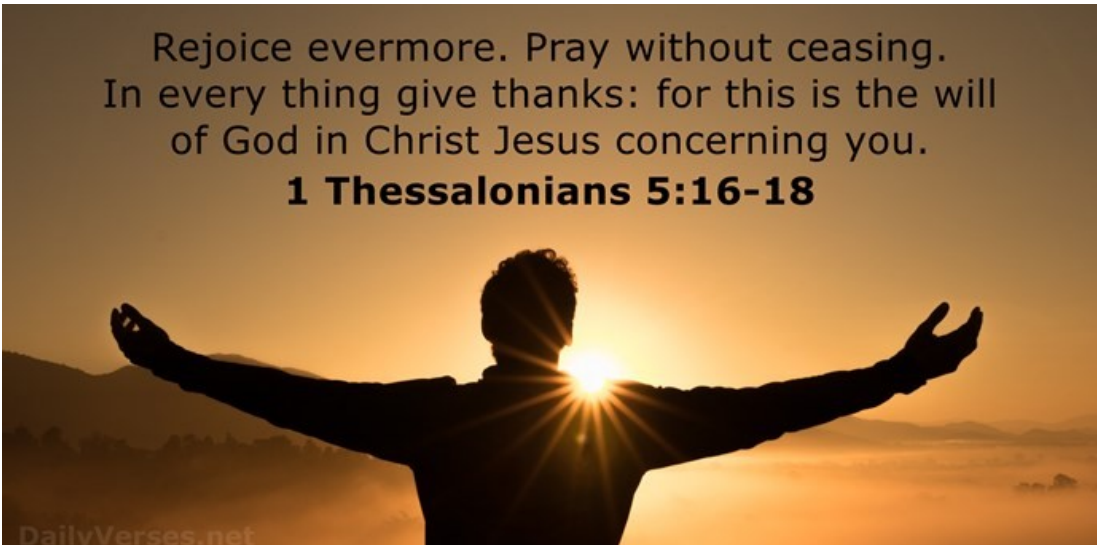
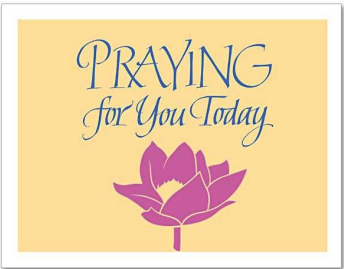


1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



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, Sam and Edna Dillard, Kathy Skillen, Joel Thrift, Al Belauskus, Sue Costa, (Paula Meades and Shari Waldo’s friend), Arlene Touart (Sherry Moats’ aunt), Ed Black (cousin of De French), Bently Carver (son of a friend of James Lawson) Dr. George Harper, Jack Harper (Nita’s cousin), Marie Dunnam, Nancy Dougherty.



We have daily opportunity for prayer with the 40 Days of Prayer challenge, weekly opportunities for prayer at worship and on Wednesday during the Wednesday lives, and a special community prayer group on Tuesdays at 9 am at the Depot in downtown Westminster! Guest ministers and lay leaders offer a devotion and prayer, community members lift up prayer concerns, and we pray for our city, country, and world. Feel free to join this group of faithful servants some time, or every week!



Your Session continues to discern God’s Will for our church. We are so pleased to have a renewed focus on the gift of Prayer for our congregation. We pray that you all participate in the 40 days of prayer and continue to pray long after the 40 days are over! Prayer should be an essential part of your life!



- SESSION
- Clerk: Brad Stancil
- Mission/Outreach: Nita McMillan
- Christian Faith & Development: Debbie Therriault
- Property: John Merritt
- Stewardship/Finance: Shepherd Chuites
- Congregational Care: Joey Roeder
- Worship: Steve Wray

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!

July Flowers

Please contact Shepherd Chuites if you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary or make a donation in honor or memory of someone or your favorite charity.



Many great things are happening with WHC! Our wonderful servants are hard at work making this dream a reality. There are so many parts moving at this time and we pray to have more to share in the near future. Keep this mission in your prayers!



2024 VBS "START THE PARTY"



DAY 3

Jesus' Parable of the Lost Son
Luke 15:11-32

Celebrate the good news.

START the PARTY

▶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16, NIV

DAY 1

Matthew's Party
Luke 5:27-32

Jesus is a good reason to have a party.