

THE ABBEY NEWS



DECEMBER 2024

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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!



From the Pastor

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Dear friends,

Merry Advent! Advent is indeed upon us, and with it comes a season of oxymorons. It's intended to be a season of waiting and preparation. Those words connote peaceful mornings of solitude and quiet, prayerful reflection, time to sip your coffee and take deep breaths, breathing in the Spirit of God, experiencing the breath of God breathing upon you. And, I sincerely hope that you have moments like that.

But in reality, Advent in the life of the church is a *busy one!* The first Sunday of Advent alone has many calendar notifications: Men's Bible Study, Communion, Hanging of the Greens, and Congregational meeting. One that got overlooked this morning was finishing up the December Newsletter. Nothing causes you to pause quite like waiting for a computer you just shut down to boot back up again!

I think the question becomes, then, how can we faithfully and authentically live into this season of oxymorons? How can we embrace everything this season brings, and also sit, wait, and prepare our hearts to once again receive the Christ child? I'd like to suggest that we take time to reflect on the weeks of Advent and their symbolism:

Week 1, which begins today, is all about hope. What do you hope for? How does hope help you face your fears? Where can you bear witness to hope realized in the love of Jesus Christ?

Week 2 is all about peace: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, comes upon us. How can we embrace that peace? How can we practice being peacemakers, doing our part to advance the kingdom of God?

Week 3 is all about joy! The joy of the season is coming soon! The joy of new birth is a reminder that all is not lost, we do have hope in things to come, and we can experience God's peace on earth. Where can you sing, together with Mary, "My soul magnifies the Lord?"

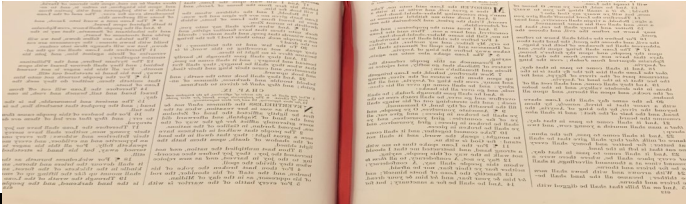
Week 4 is all about love, the Love that comes from God. One Christmas song that I love, which is in the *Glory to God* Hymnal, is "Love Has Come."

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

As you hustle and bustle from one gathering to another, preparing your homes, gifts, and casseroles, take time this season to reflect on these 4 themes: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Then, celebrate the birth of Christ anew!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Audrey



DECEMBER SERMONS

December 1: Hanging of the Greens

December 8: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent, Luke 1:5-25

December 15: Gabriel Clls, Mary Responds Luke 1:26-38

December 22: Mary, Elizbeth, and a Song of Joy, Luke 1:39-55

December 24: Full of Grace and Truth, John 1:1-14

December 29: Guest Minister



We will Celebrate Holy Communion on December 1st during Hanging of the Greens!



NOVEMBER WORSHIP AND WPC LUNCH BUNCH!



We are so blessed to have the opportunity to worship each and every Sunday morning! On November 10th, we met at Puerto Nuevo for a time of fellowship, fun and great food!

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY!



November 24th was our “Bring A Friend to Church” Sunday! Every Sunday is a great Sunday to bring a friend! Let’s all share our wonderful church family with EVERYONE!



TREASURER’S REPORT

Oct receipts: \$ 9991.95
expenses 12092.60
- 2100.65
YTD receipts \$ 132,033.98
expenses 129,618.08
+ 2415.90



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our annual Thornell mission drive during the month of November! We are so blessed to be a blessing to others!



Dot’s Kitchen Fun!



We are so blessed to have awesome teams to work at Dot’s Kitchen! Being the Hands and Feet of Christ in our community! If you would like to help this wonderful mission, please talk with Joey Roeder or Linda White and they will hook you up!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Our PW Circle will held its meeting in November and was blessed with another evening of great Sister fellowship! A big thank you to Nancy Johnston for preparing a wonderful Thank Offering Celebration for us. It is so humbling to know that our dollars are going literally around the globe to help so many souls in need. We are all so very blessed to be able to say “Thank You” to our awesome pastor as well! And as always, thank you to all the ladies for bringing some delicious goodies to share! Join us for some Christmas fun at our next meeting on **December 2nd**, 4:30 pm in Gossett Hall. We will be hearing a great children’s Christmas story and will have our ornament exchange. “White Elephant” style! It’s always a load of fun!



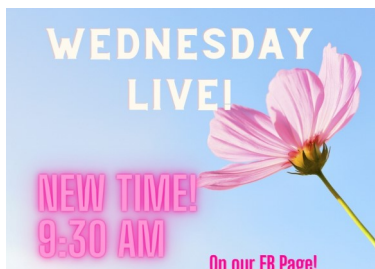


December Flowers



Our sanctuary will be adorned with beautiful poinsettias during the Advent and Christmas season. If you would like to place flowers in the church or give a monetary donation in honor or memory of someone in 2025, please contact Shepherd Chuites.

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 **December 1st**. 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!



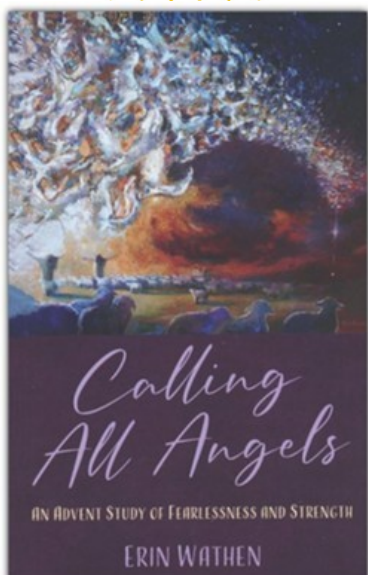
Ladies, please consider joining us for Circle each month. This month Nancy Johnston will share a wonderful Christmas story with us. Our ornament exchange, "White Elephant" style, is always so much fun! We will meet on **December 2nd, 4:30 pm** in Gossett Hall. Bring a goody to share or just bring yourself! We would LOVE to have you!



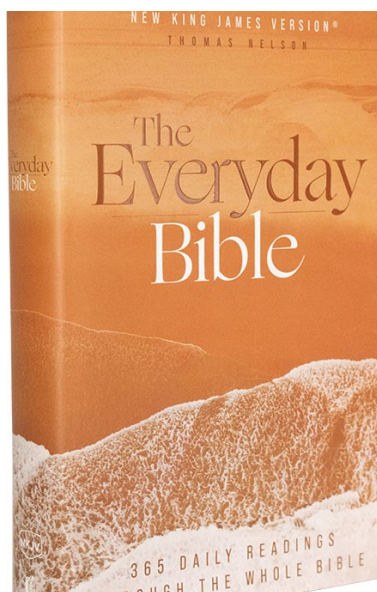
Would you like to **"Ring the Bell"** for our local Salvation Army? See Joey Roeder and she will hook you up! It is so much fun and such a wonderful mission for our church! We had so many participate last year and pray we will have another great turn out this year!



Starting on **December 1**, our children will join us in the sanctuary when worship begins. Rev. Audrey will have a children's message for them and then, after that time, they will join Mrs. Linda for an awesome Bible lesson. Linda is such a blessing to our children.



Join us for our Advent Soup and Study! We will meet each **Wednesday** of Advent (with the exception of Christmas Eve) **5:30 pm** in Gossett Hall.



Can you believe you read the Bible through this year!! We are almost there! Our prayer is that you keep reading the Bible through each and every year. You will find something new in God's Holy Word each time you read it through!



Dates to Remember!

- 1
- Men’s Bible Study 10 am
- Holy Communion
- Hanging of the Greens
- 2
- Presbyterian Women 4:30 pm
- 4 and 10
- Dot’s Kitchen
- 15
- Joy Gift Luncheon following worship
- 24
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 7 pm
- 25
- CHRISTMAS DAY!
- Tuesdays
- Yoga with Kate 6 pm in Gossett Hall



December Birthdays

- 6 Ford Pearce
- 28 Nita McMillan
- 29 Russell McCall
- 30 Al Belauskas



DECEMBER WEEKLY BIBLE IN A YEAR SCRIPTURES

1. Daniel 5:1-6:28, Psalm 136:10-26, Proverbs 29:12-13, 2 Peter 2:1-22
2. Daniel 7:1-8:27, Psalm 137:1-6, Proverbs 29:14, 2 Peter 3:1-18
3. Daniel 9:1-10:21, Psalm 137:7-9 Proverbs 29:15, 1 John 1:1-10
4. Daniel 11:1-12:13, Psalm 138:1-3, Proverbs 29:16, 1 John 2:1-29
5. Hosea 1:1-2:23, Psalm 138:4-6, Proverbs 29:17, 1 John 3:1-24
6. Hosea 3:1-4:19, Psalm 138:7-8, Proverbs 29:18, 1 John 4:1-21
7. Hosea 5:1-6:11, Psalm 139:1-6, Proverbs 29:19, 1 John 5:1-21
8. Hosea 7:1-8:14, Psalm 139:7-12, Proverbs 29:20, 2 John 1-13
9. Hosea 9:1-10:15, Psalm 139:13-16, Proverbs 29:21, 3 John 1-14
10. Hosea 11:1-12:14, Psalm 139:17-24, Proverbs 29:22, Jude 1-25
11. Hosea 13:1-14:9, Psalm 140:1-5, Proverbs 29:23, Revelation 1:1-20
12. Joel 1:1-3:21, Psalm 140:6-13, Proverbs 29:24, Revelation 2:1-29
13. Amos 1:1-3:15, Psalm 141:1-4, Proverbs 29:25, Revelation 3:1-22
14. Amos 4:1-5:27, Psalm 141:5-10, Proverbs29:26, Revelation 4:1-11
15. Amos 6:1-7:17, Psalm 142:1-7, Proverbs 29:27, Revelation 5:1-14
16. Amos 8:1-9:15, Psalm 143:1-6, Proverbs 30:1-4, Revelation 6:1-17
17. Obadiah 1-21, Psalm 143:7-12, Proverbs 30:5, Revelation 7:1-17
18. Jonah 1:1-4:11, Psalm 144:1-8, Proverbs 30:6-9, Revelation 8:1-13
19. Micah 1:1-3:12, Psalm 144:9-15, Proverbs 30:10, Revelation 9:1-21
20. Micah 4:1-5:15, Psalm 145:1-9, Proverbs 30:11-14, Revelation 10:1-11
21. Micah 6:1-7:20, Psalm 145:10-16, Proverbs 30:15, Revelation 11:1-19
22. Nahum 1:1-3:19, Psalm 145:17-21, Proverbs 30:16, Revelation 12:1-17
23. Habakkuk 1:1-3:19, Psalm 146:1-10, Proverbs 30:17, Revelation 13:1-18
24. Zephaniah 1:1-3:20, Psalm 147:1-6, Proverbs 30:18-19, Revelation 14:1-20
25. Haggai 1:1-2:23, Psalm 147:7-11, Proverbs 30:20, Revelation15:1-8
26. Zachariah 1:1-3:10, Psalm 147:12-20, Proverbs 30:21-23, Revelation16:1-21
27. Zachariah 4:1-6:15, Psalm 148:1-6, Proverbs 30:24-28, Revelation 17:1-18
28. Zachariah 7:1-9:17, Psalm 148:7-14, Proverbs 30:29-31, Revelation 18:1-24
29. Zachariah 10:1-12:14, Psalm 149:1-4, Proverbs 30:32-33, Revelation 19:1-21
30. Zachariah 13:1-14:21, Psalm 149:5-9, Proverbs 31:1-9, Revelation 20:1-15
31. Malachi 1:1-4:6, Psalm 150:1-6, Proverbs 31:10-31, Revelation 21:1-22:21

Yoga with Kate



Grab your yoga mat and come on to Gossett Hall for “Yoga with Kate!”.

We meet every Tuesday evening at 6 pm.in Gossett Hall. We would love to have you!



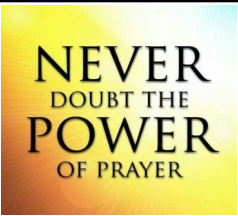
Choir Notes

We will be presenting Lloyd Larson’s “Morning Star” during worship on **Epiphany, January 5th**. Mark your calendars for this most special service in the life of our church!



Join us for our annual Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We will meet in the sanctuary at 7pm, December 24th. Don’t miss this most special service in God’s Word and Song!

Philippians 4:6 - “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”



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, Al Belauskus, Sue Costa, (Paula Meades and Shari Waldo’s friend), Dr. George Harper, Marie Dunnam, Debbie Thrift, Martha Reid, Otto Tysland, Marie Dunnam.



Session met on November 3rd and continued work on the 2025 budget. We will have a congregational meeting immediately following worship on December 1st. Please continue to keep our church family, Elders and our minister in your daily prayers. God is blessing us each and everyday. We know that prayer is so very important as we discern God’s Will for our wonderful church.



Our Angel Tree recipient this year will be our friends at Lakeview Assisted Living! During the Advent season, we will be collecting monetary donations for the residents. We spoke with the administrator of the facility and she told us that their biggest need was for fresh fruit and vegetables. Lakeview is a very small facility and the commodity food comes in large quantities which spoils. They are asking for Walmart gift cards that can be used for weekly grocery pickup. Angels with envelopes will be hung on the tree where you can either place money, check to WPC (memo Lakeview) or a Walmart gift card. You can drop these in the donation box or in the offering plates. Thank you for your giving!

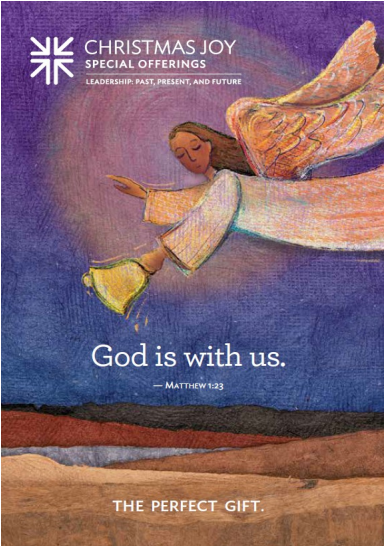


“Hanging of the Greens” December 1st

Save the date for our annual “Hanging of the Greens” service. Don’t miss this most special service that was introduced to our church years ago by our dear friend Don Reid. We will decorate our already beautiful sanctuary with all the wonderful Christmon decorations! We will celebrate the wonderful tradition on Sunday, December 1st, during our worship service.



JOY GIFT LUNCHEON—DECEMBER 15TH



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, Present and future leaders of the church.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

We will be collecting during the season of Advent for this most worthy mission. WPC has supported giving to the Joy Gift offering for many years. Please prayerfully consider giving this year. You can make your check payable to WPC and memo “Joy Gift” on your check. Thank you and God Bless You!

Immediately following worship on **December 15th**, we will meet in Gossett Hall for a delicious luncheon. Please bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share! Meat and drinks will be provided. We look forward to an abundance of fellowship, fun and delicious food! See you there!