

THE ABBEY NEWS



Advent and Christmas Edition



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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JANUARY 2025

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From the Pastor

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Dear friends,

Happy New Year! I pray this finds you all well, healthy, and settling into the New Year. Can you believe we are writing 2025 already? I sure can't! Maybe I'll get it down by mid-February.

Many thanks to Steve Moore, Nita, and others for leading worship while I was away the last week of December. I am grateful that my parents are still able to get up and go, and Ash and I enjoyed a few days in the mountains of Tennessee with them. Ahead of the trip, we knew we would probably go a different way, due to some of the devastation from Hurricane Helene. We set out, trusting the gps to guide us around any road (or park closures).

Unfortunately, we were already inching toward the entrance to the Smoky Mountain National park after it had been closed due to high winds. So after an hour of sitting in traffic, we made our way to the turn-around point. The kind ranger suggested we head back to Asheville to get to Pigeon Forge, but that was about as much as he could tell us. It was kind of like telling a newborn to just put one foot in front of the other and walk.

After many hours of a detour, we finally started recognizing a "way in the wilderness." We came out of probably the fifth "dragon's tail" road to some cell signal, and my sister, who had been tracking me, announced via text: "You're getting closer!" It was like a light shining in the night! We had made it. A stream in the wasteland to guide us to our destination.

If we're honest, our faith journey can feel a bit winding sometimes. We move in the direction that we believe God is guiding us, but then along comes a "closed" road or a detour that we have to navigate around. But, if we lift our eyes *beyond* the stormy waters, it is possible that we may just see this new thing God has promised.

What new thing is in store for you this year? For the church? For our community? I don't know, but I hope that I can look above and ahead to God's Light, which is always shining bright.

Grace and peace,

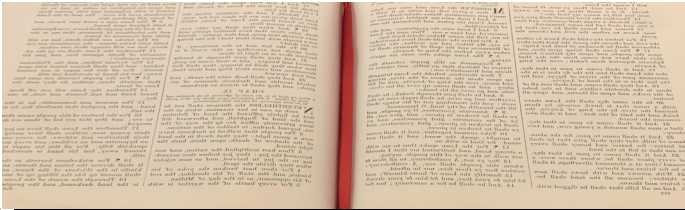
Rev. Audrey



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 January 5th during worship.



JANUARY SERMONS

5th: Cantata

12: "I Love You" Isaiah 43:1-7 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

19: Guest minister

26: "One Body, Many Parts" Psalm 19 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

HANGING OF THE GREENS



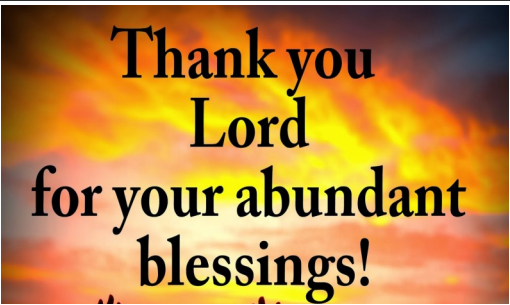
We were so blessed to celebrate the “Hanging of the Greens” once again this year! This beautiful service was brought to us by our dear friend Don Reid. Don’s readings and lyrics set to some beloved carols always help prepare our hearts for Christ’s Birth!

DECEMBER WORSHIP AND ADVENT BIBLE STUDY



TREASURER’S REPORT

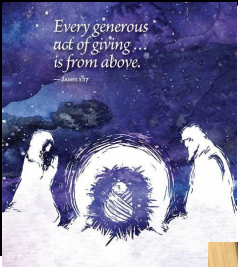
Nov receipts: \$ 27,016.65
expenses 9,950.04
+ 17,066.61
YTD receipts \$ 159,050.63
expenses 139,568.12
+ 19,482.51



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our annual Angel Tree! All proceeds went to our friends at Lakeview Assisted Living! Our gifts will ensure they have fresh fruits and vegetables each week! We are so blessed to be a blessing!

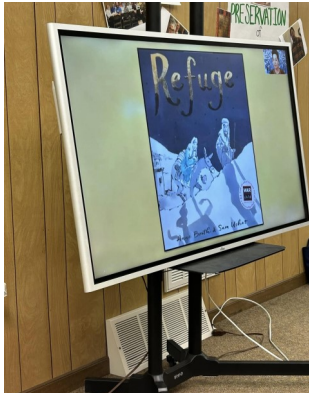


Thank you all so very much for your generous giving. Through your efforts, through God’s guidance, we can continue to serve as the Hands and Feet of Christ!



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual Joy Gift Offering. Thank you for your support of a most worthy mission!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Christmas Blessings at our Circle meeting tonight ❤️ 🙏 🌲 ! We were blessed with wonderful food, fun and fellowship. Nancy Johnston shared a precious children’s story, “Refuge”, with us. And we had a great time at our annual White Elephant ornament exchange 🎁
❤️ ! So much love and Christian friendship! God continues to bless us!



If you have not joined Circle, please give it a try! January is a GREAT time to start! We are picking up with Lesson 3 in our Bible Study, “The Spirit-Follower of Jesus”. Debbie Therriault will be our Bible Study leader on January 6th, 4:30 pm, in Gossett Hall. Bring a goodie to share or just bring yourself. You WILL be blessed! Our Circle does a tremendous amount of Bible Study, Mission Outreach, Congregational Care, Prayers, Cards and many other things. Come and join this wonderful group of ladies and be blessed. We look forward to seeing you in 2025!



January Flowers



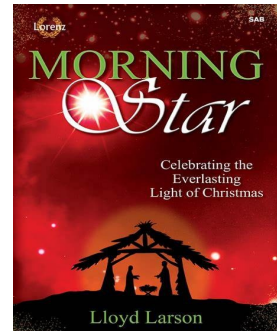
If you would like to place flowers in the church or give a monetary donation in honor or memory of someone in 2025, please contact Shepherd Chuites.

Get Into God's Word!

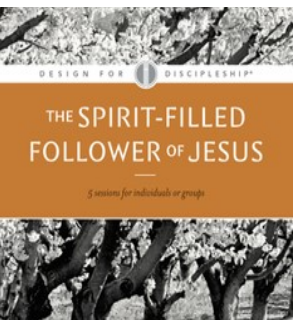


Rev. Audrey will be offering a **morning (9:30 am) devotional** once a week to introduce some of the topics she will cover in her sermons each week! This is a great time to get together and discuss topics on line and/or just hear a bit of encouragement to get you through the week!

Our next **Men's Bible study** will be **January 5th**. 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!



We will be presenting Lloyd Larson's "Morning Star" during worship on **Epiphany, January 5th**. There will also be parts of the cantata that we will ask the congregation to join us in singing! Mark your calendars for this most special service in the life of our church!



Ladies, please join us for Circle on **January 6th**, 4:30 pm, in Gossett Hall. We have an awesome Bible Study this year. We will continue with Chapter 3. Debbie Therriault will be our Bible Study leader. Bring a goodie to share or just bring yourself! We would LOVE to have you!!



It's that time of year again! We will begin our new Bible in a year study! The church has purchased a Bible for each family, so please pick yours up today!! **Let's stay in God's Word TOGETHER, EVERY DAY!!**

Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army!



Dot's Kitchen Heroes!



Dates to Remember!

- 5 Men’s Bible Study 10 am
Holy Communion
Christmas Cantata
Session 12:30, Gossett Hall
- 6 Presbyterian Women 4:30 pm
- 7 Dot’s Kitchen



January Birthdays

- 4 Robert McMillan
- 17 Billy Cooner
- 18 Bill Brockington,
Kenley Towe
- 21 Bonnie Sharron,
Laura Ann Moore
- 23 Hadley Towe
- 25 Patsy Morgan
- 29 Doug Chuites



Yoga with Kate

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

We meet every Tuesday evening at 5 pm.in Gossett



Tuesdays Yoga with Kate 5 pm in Gossett Hall

JANUARY WEEKLY BIBLE IN A YEAR

1. John 1:1-2:22, Zachariah 1:1-2:5, Psalm 1

2. John 2:23-4:38, Zechariah 2:6-4:14, Psalm 2

3. John 4:39-5:47, Zechariah 5:1-6:15, Psalm 19

4. John 6:1-7:1, Zechariah 7:1-8:23, Psalm 20

5. John 7:1-52, Zechariah 9:1-17, Psalm 21

6. John 7:53-8:59, Zechariah 10:-11:3, Psalm 22:1-18

7. John 9:1-10:21, Zechariah 11:4-12:14, Psalm 22:19-31

8. John 10:22-11:57, Zechariah 13:1-14-21, Psalm 23 + 24

9. John 12:1-13:17, 1 Peter 1:-2:3, Psalm 25

10. John 13:18-15:17, 1 Peter 2:4-25, Psalm 26

11. John 15:18-17:26, 1 Peter 3:1-22, Psalm 27

12. John18:1-40, 1 Peter 4:1-5:14, Psalm 28

13. John 19:1-42, 2 Peter 1:1-21, Psalm 29

14. John20:1-21 - 21:25, 2 Peter 2:1-3:18, Psalm 30

15. Genesis 1:1-2:25, Romans 1:1-32, Job 1:1-12
16. Genesis 3:1-4:24, Romans 2:1-3:8, Job 1:13-22

17. Genesis 4:25-6:22, Romans 3:9-4:10, Job 2:1-13

18. Genesis 7:1-9:29, Romans 4:11-5:21, Job 3:1-26

19. Genesis 10:1-11:26, Romans 6:1-7:25, Job 4:1-17

20. Genesis 11:27-13:18, Romans 8:1-39, Job 4:18-5:7

21: Genesis 14:1-16:16, Romans 9:1-10:4, Job 5:8-27

22. Genesis 17:1-18:15, Romans 10:5-11-12, Job 6:1-13

23. Genesis 18:16-19:38, Romans 11:13-12:21, Job 6:14-7:5

24. Genesis 20:1-21:34, Romans13:1-14, Job 7:6-21

25. Genesis 22:1-23:20, Romans 14:1-15:13, Job 8:1-22

26. Genesis 24:1-67, Romans 15:14-16-27, Job 9:1-13

27. Genesis 25:1-26:25, Obadiah 1-14, Job 9:14-31

28. Genesis 26:26-27:40, Obadiah 15-21, Job 9:32-10:7

29. Genesis27:41-29:14a, Revelation 1:-2:7, Job10:8-22

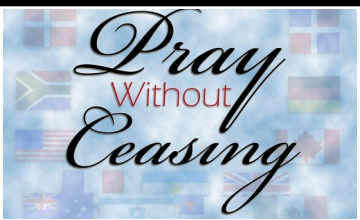
30. Genesis 29:14b-30:24, Revelation2:8-29, Job11:1-29

31. Genesis 30:25-31:42, Revelation 3:1-22, Job12:1-12

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (continued on page 6)



"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people" 1 Timothy 2:1



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!

Robbie McClure (Marie Dunnam’s brother) Elizabeth Christensen (Kathy Skillen’s niece), Arthur Skillen (Kathy Skillen’s brother) Bob and Debbie Hartness (Rev. Audrey’s parents), Clifton Mabry, Sam and Edna Dillard, Kathy Skillen, Al Belauskus, George Harper (former pastor at WPC), Marie Dunnam, Trey Bratcher (Clifton Mabry’s grandson), Barry Burden, Otto Tysland, Debbie Thrift, Anne and Jamie Hawkes (Martha Brancazio’s sister-in-law and brother), Nancy Dougherty, Patsy Morgan, and Martha Reid.



There was no Session meeting in December. We will meet on January 5th at 12:30 pm in Gossett Hall. Elders, please have your reports to Rev.



Ladies! Join us for “Women of the Church Day at the Lake”! This most special event will be held at the Clemson Outdoor Lab and Retreat Center located at 415 Charlie White Trail in Pendleton, SC 29670. Mark your calendars and save the date for **February 22, 2025**. The time of the event will be 10:00—2:00 pm. The cost is \$10 to offset the cost of the lunch. We will need to send in our reservations by our February Circle meeting on February 3rd. If you are not a Circle member, no problem! We can sign you up! Please see Nancy Johnston for more information on this fun day of fellowship. We would love to have a huge group attend!



Christmas Eve Services



Many thanks to Steven Dover who decorates our sanctuary so beautifully! We are so blessed to have you! Thank you to our musicians, singers, readers and Rev. Audrey for a wonderful celebration of our Savior’s Birth! Alleluia! The Light has Come!