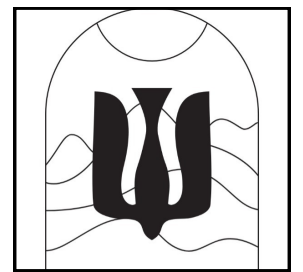


THE ABBEY NEWS



FEBRUARY 2026

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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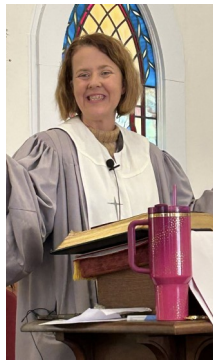
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If you would like to be a part of this family, we would LOVE to have you! You are only a visitor once at WPC! There are so many offerings of service through our church. There is one for YOU!



From the Pastor

"Jesus told her, 'Your brother will rise again.'" ~John 11:23

"Lord, are you going to wash my feet" ~John 13:6

"What is truth?' Pilate asked." ~John 18:38

Expect the Unexpected

Why is it that the unexpected always catches us off guard? Maybe it's just that simple—it's so out of the realm of our thinking that we don't see it coming. And yet, Jesus demonstrates how we can experience unexpectedness throughout his three year ministry! There are unexpected healings, unexpected weather changes, and unexpected party saves!

This Lent, we are going to dig into some of the ways that unexpected life and unexpected hope show up in the Christian narrative—not just while Jesus was on earth, but perhaps we will even see where this unexpected life pops up today as well. Rooted in the Gospel of John, we will keep the Evangelist's prologue in mind: *"the Light shined in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it"* (John 1:5). We will remember Jesus' grief, and life rising up in Lazarus after he had been dead for three days. We'll remember Jesus' service to his disciples, and the unexpected way he showed his love. We'll even uncover an unexpected ally in Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor who didn't *want* to sentence Jesus to death, but felt pressure from the crowd to do so.

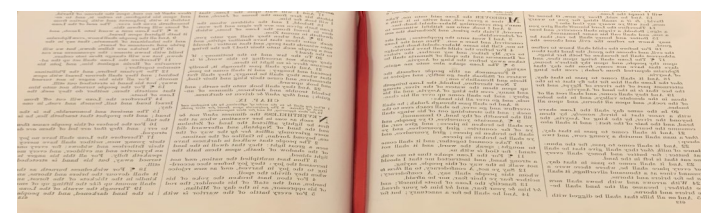
And maybe, just maybe, we'll discover new life in unexpected places. Maybe some of our stories we share will spark unexpected joy. Perhaps the Scriptures we read will unearth unexpected hope during a time that seems so dark and hopeless.

It is my prayer that through the liturgy of our Lenten wreath, the Scriptures, and the sermon reflections, we will experience God's light, love, and hope springing forth from unexpected places.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Audrey



We will Celebrate Holy Communion on **February 1st** during Worship.



FEBRUARY SERMONS

2/1: The Road Less Travelled
John 4:1-42

2/8: Cease from What? John 5:1-18

2/15: The Unexpected Preacher
John 9:1-41

2/22: Expect the Unexpected
John 11:1-44



JANUARY WORSHIP



Welcome to our
new Class of
Elders!

Shepherd Chuites
Virginia Gordon
Otto Tysland

Many thanks to Steve
Moore and Rev.
Debbie Foster for
leading us in worship
while Rev. Audrey was
away on January
18th.

FUN AT DOT'S KITCHEN!



“The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” John 21:17

TREASURER’S REPORT

December receipts: \$25,670.76
expenses 36,913.17
- 11,242.41
YTD receipts: \$ 192,493.14
expenses 176,819.71
+ 15,673.43

We give thanks to God for the abundance of generosity displayed through the people of Westminster Presbyterian Church!

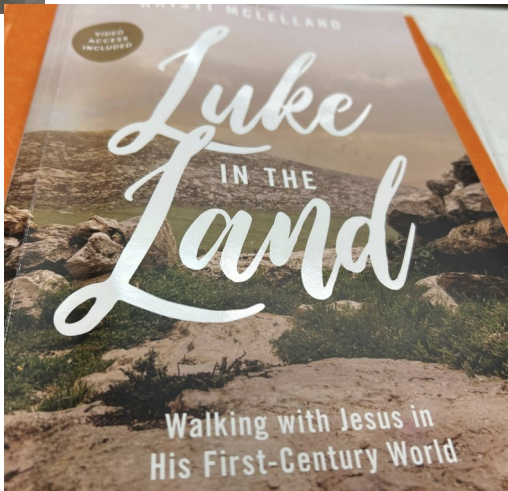


Our PW mission project for January was the “SHINE” program at Collins. We sent \$300.00 to this most worthy mission!



We were blessed with another evening of PW Circle sister love and fellowship. We have been so blessed to BE a blessing to so many worthy missions! Circle sent \$300 to a wonderful mission called “SHINE” that houses children who age out of the Collins Home for Children!

Our next meeting will be held on **February 2nd** , 4:30 pm in Gossett Hall. We will be studying Lesson 5 “Partnership” in our Luke in the Land study. Virginia Gordon will be the Bible study leader. Join us! We would love to have you!



February Flowers

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, or if you would like to make a donation to our church for memorials or honorariums, please see Nancy Johnston.



The Season of Lent



Lent is the season of the church year when we prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus’ death and resurrection. It is the 40 days preceding Easter, excluding Sundays. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, the day when we recall our need for God, remembering our own mortality – “dust you are and to dust you shall return.” Lenten devotional booklets are available on the table in the narthex with readings and prayers to assist you in a prayerful Lenten journey.

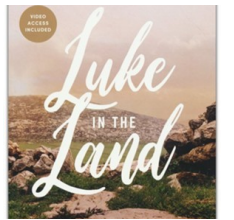
Get Into God's Word!



Our next **Men's Bible study** will be **February 1st**. All men will meet at Gossett Hall beginning at 9:30 am. God continues to bless us with Spirit-filled discussions and fellowship. 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 Word!



Our next meeting will be held on **February 2nd**, 4:30 pm in Gossett Hall. We will be studying Lesson 5 "Partnership" in our Luke in the Land study. Virginia Gordon will be the Bible study leader. Join us! We would love to have you!



This month our Adult Sunday School class will meet on **February 8th and 15th**. We will have a time for prayer requests, fellowship, Bible Study and share how God is working in our lives. Come be a part of this awesome offering for us all to grow in Christ!



Rev. Audrey will offer recaps and discussions on the readings in our chronological Bible in a Year on the 4th Sunday each month. The first offering will be **February 22nd**.



We will be offering Sunday School WEEKLY beginning this month! We are still waiting for completed surveys at the time of this publication, but we will offer classes on the 2nd and 5th Sundays at 9:30 am in Gossett Hall.

"How I Listen to God & How God Listens to Me"

Happy New Year church family! It's 2026, can you believe it? I've gotten to the point of saying "About five, ten years ago..." thinking that I'm referring to something that happened around 2006 (yikes!)....Time marches on.

Friend, as we enter into 2026, let's enter into it with the Lord Jesus Christ leading the way. Let Him be your Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father & Prince of Peace. Don't run out ahead of Him and try to go it alone. Don't stoically carry your burdens and be crushed under the weight.

It's a good thing at the beginning of the year to "empty out our pockets," so to speak. Lay out everything before God and let Him sort it out. What is important and what can be thrown away. Only He can do the sorting. I think back to 2019 when something very strange happened to me; God saved my soul. I had pockets full of sin, regret and so many worthless, worldly distractions. At enmity with God with no peace in my heart. In other words; lost.

Lost and refusing to empty out my pockets and expose these things to the Light (John 3:19-20). At the lowest point of my life....God broke through and met me where I was. It was painful for sure. I had to have my pockets turned inside out. It sure wasn't fun, but God brought me to the end of myself and granted me repentance and gave me a new heart, faith in Jesus Christ alone as my Savior and Lord and peace (Romans 5:1-10) Saved forever from the wrath to come (Romans 8:1). AND He can do the same for YO, friend! If you hear his voice today, don't harden your heart! (Hebrews 3:15)

Dr. Bob Cook from the old Walk With The King radio show retold a story from a friend's childhood that drives the point home. He grew up in a beautiful old southern plantation house with a mother that ran a very tight ship. Everything was kept in order and immaculate. She had dazzlingly white bedspreads on the beds made from cotton harvested from the old plantation. One day when he was around 6 years old, he sat outside the bedroom window making mud pies in the dirt. Out of 6 year old boy impulsivity, he looked through that open window and saw the white bed....(you mothers can see where this story is heading)...he immediately crawled through the window and jumped right onto the bed! Mud and all!

That was so much fun that he jumped around some more and rolled around on the (formerly) white bedspread. You can imagine what a mess he made. Just then, he heard the door open and there was mother with something in her hand; She was about to apply the board of education to the seat of knowledge.

He knew exactly what was about to happen and covered his face in terror. But something very strange happened; his older brother, walking by the window and seeing the scene unfolding, jumped into the room and laid himself down over the top of him! He said "Lay it on me, I'll take the whipping for him!"

Friend, this is exactly what Jesus, our Older Brother, has done for us on the cross of Calvary. God is a loving God and rich in mercy, but He is also holy and just. He will not set aside His justice to merely look the other way at our sin. Someone has to answer! It's either Jesus paid the full penalty for your sins as your Substitute....or you will pay, forever. God's Word tells us without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22) This is bad news for us because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

The good news is; God's Word also tells us that He (God) made Him(Jesus) Who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (1 Corinthians 5:21)

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. (1 Timothy 1:15)

If you will turn from your sins (repent) and put your faith in Jesus Christ alone (saving faith), believing that He came, lived the perfect life you and I could never live in a million lifetimes, died on the cross in your place for your sins and was rose to life on the third day for your justification (the Resurrection) you will be saved! This is the Gospel.

If you are a Christian, then resolve this year to share the Gospel with as many people as you possibly can! That's one great New Year's resolution.

God bless you!

Jim McMillan

Dates to Remember!

- 1 Men’s Bible Study 10 am
- 1 Communion Sunday 11 am
- 2 PW Circle 4:30 pm
- 4&10 Dot’s Kitchen
- 4 Session Reports Due
- 8 Session Meeting 12:30 pm
- 8 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am
- 15 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am
- 17 Shrove Tuesday Pancake 6:00 pm
- 18 Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins
- 22 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am

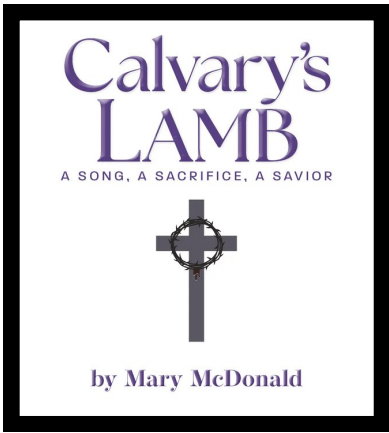


Yoga
with
Kate

Grab your yoga mat and come on to Gossett Hall for “Yoga with Kate!” Tuesdays at 4:00 pm



February 17th—6:00 pm—Gossett Hall
Join us as we begin our Lenten season together!



Our choir has begun rehearsing for our annual Palm Sunday cantata. We will present Mary McDonald’s beautiful cantata “Calvary’s Lamb” on March 29th during worship. Our narrators will be Rev. Audrey and Pat Roeder. Our children will also have a part in our cantata this year! Don’t miss this special time in the life of our church! **Rehearsals begin February 1st!!**



Mark Your Calendar!
Palm Sunday Cantata—March 29
Maundy Thursday—April 2
Good Friday—April 3
Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast—April 5

February Birthdays

- 2 Tonya Stancil
- 9 Nancy Dougherty
- 11 Steven Dover
- 15 Barry Burden
- 17 John Merritt
- 19 Debbie Hartness
- 24 Rowan Orlowski



“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” – Psalm 139:13-14
Happy Birthday! God Bless You!

WEEKLY BIBLE IN A YEAR SCRIPTURES

- 2/1: Exodus 1:1-25, 1 Chronicles 6:1-3a, Exodus 3:1-4:17
- 2/2: Exodus 4:18-7:13
- 2/3: Exodus 7:14-9:35
- 2/4: Exodus 10:1-12:51
- 2/5: Exodus 13:1-15:27
- 2/6: Exodus 16:1-19:25
- 2/7: Exodus 20:1-22:16
- 2/8: Exodus 22:16-24:18 2/9: Exodus 25:1-28:43
- 2/10: Exodus 29:1-31:18
- 2/11: Exodus 32:1-34:35
- 2/12: Exodus 35:1-36:38
- 2/13: Exodus 37:1-39:31
- 2/14: Exodus 39:32-40:30; Numbers 9:15-23
- 2/15: Numbers 7:1-89
- 2/16: Numbers 8:1-9:14; Leviticus 1:1-3:17
- 2/17: Leviticus 4:1-6:30
- 2/18: Leviticus 7:1-8:36
- 2/19: Leviticus 9:1-11:47
- 2/20: Leviticus 12:1-14:32
- 2/21: Leviticus 14:33-16:34
- 2/22: Leviticus 17:1-19:37
- 2/23: Leviticus 20:1-22:33
- 2/24: Leviticus 23:1-25:23
- 2/25: Leviticus 25:24-26:46
- 2/26: Leviticus 27:1-34; Numbers 1:1-54
- 2/27: Numbers 2:1-3:51
- 2/28: Numbers 4:1-5:31

“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” **James 5:16**



PRAYER

Town Prayer Meeting! Join us for prayer every Tuesday morning at 9 am at the gazebo in downtown Westminster.



In Our Prayers

Robbie McClure (Marie Dunnam’s brother) Elizabeth Christensen (Kathy Skillen’s niece), Bob and Debbie Hartness (Rev. Audrey’s parents), Clifton Mabry, Sam and Edna Dillard, Kathy Skillen, Marie Dunnam, Trey Bratcher (Clifton Mabry’s grandson), Nancy Dougherty, Martha Reid, Lou Haynes, Ed Black, Henry and Virginia Gordon.

PLEASE KEEP THESE MISSIONS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS



SESSION

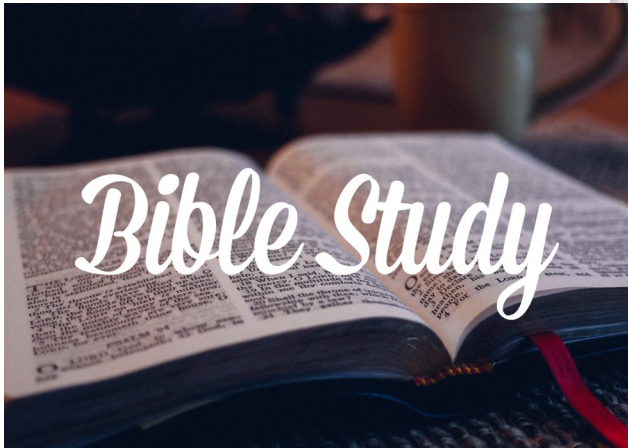
Clerk: Brad Stancil
Mission/Outreach: Virginia Gordon
Christian Education: Nita McMillan
Property: Shepherd Chuites
Stewardship/Finance: Michael Meades
Congregational Care: Joey Roeder
Worship Elder: Otto Tysland

Your Session met after worship on January 11th. Many exciting activities are coming soon in the life of our church! Thank you to all of our Elders for saying, “Yes” to God’s call to serve our church family.

Please keep your Session in your daily prayers. And please contact any Elder with questions, concerns or ideas you may have to enhance our worship!



Scenes from Sunday School and Upcoming Offerings!



We are so blessed to have so many willing servants to offer their talents to bring us Sunday School lessons **each Sunday at 9:30 am in Gossett Hall!** A survey was sent out to all the congregation for their input into offerings for weekly Sunday School. We had some GREAT ideas and hopefully, with God’s help, we will be able to offer everyone a greater love and understanding of God’s Word. Here is the plan:

1st Sunday –Jim McMillan (and any others who feel led) will continue to teach the Men’s Bible Study

2nd Sunday—Nita McMillan will take the February study and rotate with others throughout the year

3rd Sunday—Jim McMillan (and others who feel led) will continue the Adult class

4th Sunday—Rev. Audrey will recap the daily Bible readings from our new chronological study and we will have discussion time with selected passages from the past month.

5th Sunday—There are 4 months with 5 Sundays this year. Pictured above are the possible activities!