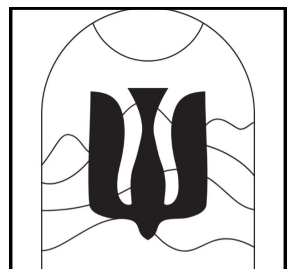


THE ABBEY NEWS



MARCH 2026

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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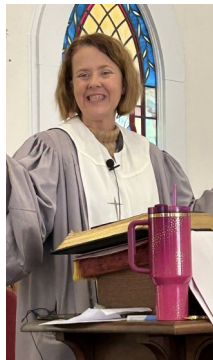
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From the Pastor

"If you stop trampling the Sabbath, stop doing whatever you want on my holy day, and consider the Sabbath a delight, sacred to the Lord, honored, and honor it instead of doing things your way, seeking what you want and doing business as usual, then you will take delight in the Lord. I will let you ride on the heights of the earth; I will sustain you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob. The mouth of the Lord has spoken."

~Isaiah 58:13-14, CEB

Our Lenten Soup & Study kicked off this past Wednesday, and we learned that the author of our study, Dr. Travis West, wants his readers to live into this call from Isaiah, to find the Sabbath a "delight." I love the way the Common English Bible translates the Hebrew here, because it gets to the root meaning of the Hebrew word *shabbat*, which means, quite literally, "to cease."

I think too often we believe we are meant to constantly be doing more, making more of a difference, giving more here and there and everywhere. While our intentions are not necessarily *wrong*, they often leave us feeling utterly drained and exhausted. Perhaps we come into our Sabbath day so spent that we can barely keep our eyes open in church. But that's just not what God wants, friends. So, we have to find ways to orient our daily lives around the Sabbath, to find moments to take a breath, kind of like God does in Genesis 1, and declare, "It is good."

Whatever it is. It is good. And if it's not, we can name that too. Perhaps, though, we might be able to name it with the hope and the confidence that God will *make* whatever is not good, somehow, good.

Rhythms of rest and recreation are good for the soul. We aren't meant to trudge through what should be a holy day already looking to the tasks of next week. Sometimes, we do bring that energy into the sanctuary. Often, when I pick up on it (and I'm not adding to it inadvertently), I'll pause, just at the beginning, after the welcome, and wait for us to sort of settle. Then we can begin to prepare our hearts for worship. I wonder how our Sabbath days might look different, if we could experience them as delight? I bet we'd have a lot of fun, because usually we are together!

For me, as the leader of your Sabbath day worship, I have to find additional time to take Sabbath. I'm so grateful for a Session and a congregation that understands this. One of my colleagues wrote in a book that he knew several pastors whose Sessions would fire him if he broke any 9 of the 10 Commandments, but they may fire him if he kept 1—honoring the Sabbath. I'm so beyond blessed to *not* serve a church with that expectation. You all approve a terms of call that honors the rhythms of rest, delight, and recreation that I as your pastor need. Your approval of my terms of call every year is not just about the dollars, it's about time away and time present. My current terms of call allow for 4 weeks of paid vacation and 2 weeks away for continuing education. These get used in a variety of ways—some include time with my family, some include running half and full marathons, and some include big trips. Others include worship in different communities so that I can learn and grow as a pastor. But all of them include one common thing: Delight!

So, the next couple of months I will be taking two of those Sabbath Sundays: March 7th Ash and I will be in Myrtle Beach to run a Half Marathon together, and April 20th I will run the 130th Boston Marathon! Believe it or not, running 26.2 miles does bring me delight. I'm grateful to our Session for allowing this time away, and I hope that my example of being intentional about Sabbath can help you cultivate delight on your Sabbath!



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 **March 1st** during Worship.



MARCH SERMONS

3/1: The Unexpected Servant,
John 13:1-17

3/8: Mel Davis Preaching

3/15: The Unexpected Truth
John 18:28-40

3/22: Unexpected Allies
John 19:1-16a

3/29: Cantata



FEBRUARY WORSHIP



FUN AT DOT'S KITCHEN!



Matthew 23:11

“The greatest among you shall be your servant.”

TREASURER'S REPORT

January receipts: \$7,123.29
expenses \$13,326.81

YTD receipts: \$ 7,123.29
expenses \$ 13,326.81
+/-: -\$6,203.52

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



BACKPACK PROGRAM



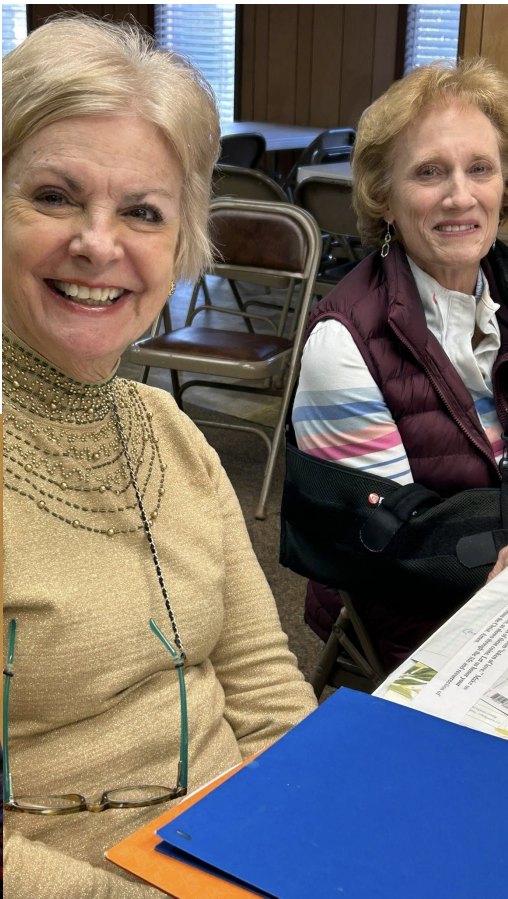
BECAUSE HUNGER DOESN'T END ON THE WEEKENDS

Our PW mission project this month was the SCOC Back Pack Program! We sent \$320 to purchase 2 backpacks for this most worthy



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 \$320 to the School District of Oconee Backpack program! This program sends pre-packaged meals home for children to have food over the weekends and holidays.

Our next meeting will be held on **March 2nd**, 4:30 pm in Gossett Hall. This will be our Passover Meal and Holy Communion Celebration. Don't miss this most special service We would love to have you!



WOMENS SPIRITUAL RETREAT
MARCH 7 | 10 - 2 pm
Ellenburg Hall at Providence Presbyterian
4000 Highway 153, Greenville
Gather with women from across
Foothills Presbytery
for fellowship, worship, and spiritual renewal.
Julie Schaaf, pastor at Nazareth
Presbyterian, will lead a
Lenten Retreat,
"Miracles in Plain Sight."
Cost of lunch is \$12
Register by scanning this code:
Or register on our website:
<https://foothillspresbytery.org/event/foothills->

Here's another opportunity to celebrate our Presbyterian sisterhood! Let Nancy Johnston know if you would like to attend. Respond with a text 832 656 3086.

During the season of Lent, we will not have live flowers in the sanctuary. Please reflect on the crosses and remember Christ's love and sacrifice for the remission of our sins.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Celebrating Rev. Audrey's #13!



Get Into God's Word!



Our next **Men's Bible study** will be **March 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!



Rev. Audrey will offer a Lenten Soup and Study. Join us in Gossett Hall at 5:00 pm each Wednesday in Lent. We will meet on March 4, 11, 16 and 25. She will be using the "The Sabbath Way" by Travis West. Please let Audrey know if you would like a book. We have preordered seven copies but can order more if needed.



This month our Adult Sunday School class will meet on **March 8th (Barry Burden) and 15th (Nita McMillan)**. 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! Come join the fun, fellowship and thankfulness to God for enjoying the freedom to study His Word!



Rev. Audrey will offer recaps and discussions on the readings in our chronological Bible in a Year on the 4th Sunday each month. This study will be **March 22nd**.



March 29th will be our first "5th Sunday Celebration!". This will also be Palm Sunday and our annual cantata! We will be offering a **Morning of Prayer**. Light refreshments will be served. Let's Pray together!

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

MY GOD IS SO GOOD!

When my family returned from a 3 year tour in Germany with the Army, we settled into a brand new subdivision of the starter homes in College Park, Georgia—a suburb of Atlanta. Our church was 3 blocks away and a lot of members were our neighbors. One friend I met had 2 daughters the same ages as my 2 daughters and we became close friends, allowing our preschool daughters to play together. Being near the big city and multiple religions, we were often visited by Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons, among others. While visiting one day, my friend asked me how we could tell that our way of worshipping was the correct way. The old adage, "That's what my parents taught me", did not seem to cut it. So, I earnestly prayed to God that He would give me a testimony that would prove beyond a doubt how to worship Him. Our children were 5, 3 and nearly 1 and each one would have died if God had not "shown up"!

God started with my baby boy. He was napping while I was preparing supper on October 23, 1968. Chicken was frying in a deep dish electric fry pan when Mike woke up. I changed his diaper but did not dress him because the chicken needed to be turned over. He sat on the kitchen floor playing with tools while I flipped over the chicken, turned down the heat from 350 to 250 and covered the pan. At that moment, Karen, my 3 year old, hollered that she could not cut off the water in the bathroom sink, so I went to her. As soon as I cut the water off I heard a loud crash and my son screaming. Immediately, I yelled "God Noooo!" Rushing back to the kitchen, I found Mike sitting on the floor—oil all over him, a huge gash on his forehead, and chicken pieces all around him. Old frying pans had long cords, and while I was covering the chicken, I must have allowed the cord to be seen and grabbed by my 9 month old. He was just sitting there, so I unplugged the fry pan, grabbed him, and ran to the bathtub. Cold water made a slimy mess, so I changed to warm soapy water, grabbed a towel and took him to his crib. He was perfectly fine, no gash, no burns. I was a nervous wreck—could not stop shaking. God did it!! When I got back to the kitchen, the chicken was still too hot to touch.

One morning our across the street 6 year old neighbor had come to play in our fenced in back yard. He left the gate open and Karen followed him home. A man in a sports car was looking for house numbers and did not see her until he had hit her. I happened to be near the open front window and heard the squeal of brakes and saw it. Again I screamed, "God Noooo!" When I got to the street, the man was in front of his car looking under it. Karen was crawling out from between the front wheels. She was not even dirty or hurt! She said, "Where is my baby doll?" It had been hit so hard that it was across the other lane against the curb.

Our 5 year old, Lisa, had 2 "God events". She tumbled down a flight of stairs, head over heels and landed on her back. I yelled. "God Noooo!" again and got on top of her. She had her eyes open but only the whites were visible. She was convulsing up and down, but just stopped moving. She looked at me and asked, "Why are you on top of me?" We were at a friend's swimming pool and all of the kids were climbing up the stairs and jumping in the shallow end, over and over. I was holding Mike on a lounge chair watching the kids play. I missed Lisa, looked into the deep end and saw her on the bottom in the corner. I tossed Mike to my friend and jumped into the water. I was able to get her out, hold her upside down letting water rush out, and then she was fine! Of course, I had yelled, "God Nooo!:" as I was jumping in the water.

The trauma of nearly losing all of my children caused me to thank God over and over for his deliverance. I had used my testimonies numerous times. So I changed my prayer to Please, Please, Please, just keep my children safe—I did not need any more miracles.

God has often shown me His power and I will be forever grateful. Things only God could do have popped up over and over. I know that the God I pray to is the REAL one! Just ask me and I will tell you other miracles I have seen. **MY GOD IS SO GOOD!**

Linda White

Dates to Remember!

- 1 Men’s Bible Study 10 am
- 1 Communion Sunday 11 am
- 2 PW Circle 4:30 pm Last Supper
- 4&10 Dot’s Kitchen
- 4 Session Reports Due
- 4,11, 18, 25 Lent Soup and Study 5:00 pm
- 15 Session Meeting 12:30 pm
- Adult Sunday School 9:30 am
- 15 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am
- 22 Adult Sunday School 9:30
- 29 5th Sunday Sundry School! 9:30
- 29 Palm Sunday Cantata 11 am



Yoga
with
Kate

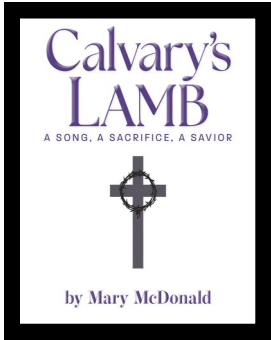
Grab your yoga mat and come on to Gossett Hall for “Yoga with Kate!” Tuesdays at 4:00 pm

2026 Ecumenical Lenten Services

Wednesdays at noon

Date	Host Church	Preacher	Title/Text
Feb 18	Trinity Baptist 504 S. Oak St.	Jim Caprell (Seneca Presbyterian)	A Crowd at the Table, John 12:1-8
Feb 25	Ebenezer Baptist 502 E.S. 2 nd St.	Ray Tavenner (Ann Hope UMC)	Hosanna in the Streets, John 12:12-19
Mar 4	Ann Hope UMC (702 Goddard Ave.)	W.C. Honeycutt (Ebenezer Baptist)	A House in Crisis, Mark 11:15-18
Mar 11	Ascension Episcopal (214 Northhampton Rd.)	Ryan Wilson (Trinity Baptist)	When truth divides the crowd, Matt. 21:23-23:39
Mar 18	TBD	TBD	One Bread, One Cup Luke 22:14-20
Mar 25	Seneca Presbyterian (115 W.S. 1 st St.)	Alex Stevenson (Saint Mark UMC)	Torches in the Garden John 18:1-12
Apr 1	Saint Mark UMC 616 Quincy Rd.	Joel Hafer (Ascension Episcopal)	Crucify Him Luke 23:13-25

“Gathered on the Way to the Cross”



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!

March Birthdays

- 4 De French
- 11 Audrey Reese
- 11 Sherry Moats
- 16 Paula Meades
- 18 Montez McCall
- 26 Ashley Towe
- 27 Bob Hartness
- 30 Ellen Stancil



“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
—Ephesians 2:10
Happy Birthday! God Bless You!

WEEKLY BIBLE IN A YEAR SCRIPTURES

- 3/1: Numbers 6:1-27; Numbers 10:1-36
- 3/2: Numbers 11:1-13:33
- 3/3: Numbers 14:1-15:41
- 3/4: Numbers 16:1-18:32
- 3/5: Numbers 19:1-21:35
- 3/6: Numbers 22:1-24:25
- 3/7: Numbers 25:1-26:65
- 3-8: Numbers 27:1-29:40 3/9: Numbers 30:1-31:54
- 3/10: Numbers 32:1-33:56 3/11: Numbers 34:1-36:13
- 3/12: Deuteronomy 1:1-3:20
- 3/13: Deuteronomy 3:21-5:33
- 3/14: Deuteronomy 6:1-9:29
- 3/15: Deuteronomy 10:1-12:32
- 3/16: Deuteronomy 13:1-16:17
- 3/17: Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9
- 3/18: Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19
- 3/19: Deuteronomy 26:1-29:1
- 3/20: Deuteronomy 29:2-31:29
- 3/21: 31:30-32:52; Psalm 90
- 3/22: Deuteronomy 33:1-34:1; Joshua 1:1-2:24
- 3/23: Joshua 3:1-6:27
- 3/24: Joshua 7:1; 1 Chronicles 2:7; Joshua 7:2-9:27
- 3/25: Joshua 10:1-12:6
- 3/26: Joshua 12:7-15:19
- 3/27: Joshua 15:20-17:18
- 3/28: Joshua 18:1-19:48
- 3/29: Joshua 19:49-21:45
- 3/30: Joshua 22:1-24:33
- 3/31: Judges 1:1-3:30



- Mark Your Calendar!**
- Maundy Thursday—April 2 (Seneca Pres) 7 pm**
 - Good Friday—April 3 (WPC) 7 pm**
 - Easter Sunrise Service and Living Cross Decorating Breakfast—April 5—7 am**
 - Easter Sunday Worship and Holy Communion — April 5 — 11 am**

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;”
Colossians 4:2



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 February 22nd.
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!



Go to our Facebook page or Youtube to Listen to our Sunday School and PW Lessons!



Sunday School Schedule 9:30am Gossett Hall
March 1—Men’s Bible Study—Jim
March 8—Adult Sunday School - Barry
March 15— Adult Sunday School—Nita
March 22—Chronological Bible Review—Rev. Audrey
March 29—5th Sunday Celebration is “A Morning of Prayer”

