



EXALT
EQUIP
ENGAGE

Sunday Worship
Adult Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Worship: 10 a.m. (in person or
www.woodlandpresbyterian.
org/worship)
756 Park Street
Woodland, WA 98674
360-225-8941



WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023 *Happenings*



✠ From the Pastor's Desk ✠

CARING FOR OTHERS

"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive. ²⁴ Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

The season of Lent should always bring us into a season of reflection and examination. It is a time to evaluate our thoughts, actions, and attitudes in order to see if we are truly walking by the Spirit of God. Actually, this ought to be a daily examination no matter what season of the church year we are observing.

One of the greatest struggles that I have in my Christian life is in the area of self-denial for the sake of Christ and His body, the Church. It is sinful human nature that often leads me to make decisions based on my personal wants, likes, and dislikes. People have a tendency to fight for their rights. Christians have the same tendencies, though we often couch this self-absorption in phrases that make our selfish pursuits seem so "Christian."

During Lent, it is a good practice to read through the Gospel

narratives, being reminded of the love, compassion, and concern Jesus had for people. In Hebrews 12:2, we are told, *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* What was the joy set before our Savior? Was it not to do the will of the Father and secure the redemption of His people through Christ's death and resurrection? Jesus' joy is the Church, the saved and sanctified people that He will one day present to His Father as His Bride.

If that is Jesus' joy, it should be our joy as well. Paul's point in 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 is that though we now have great freedom in Christ, it is not a freedom that tramples over other people so that we can do whatever we desire. We have been set free to build up and love the Bride of Christ, just as He loves His Church. After all, Jesus

taught us that the two greatest commandments are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, strength, mind and soul and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This is the joy set before us – to love as Christ has loved us.

Before we act or say anything in the body of Christ, our first question ought to be, *"Am I saying or doing this because of my wants or because I desire to build up the body of Christ?"* After prayerful examination, if our motives for action are determined to be the latter, then proceed.

I find great joy in seeing our church grow in the grace of Jesus in this particular area: Learning to love the Church as Christ loves us and practicing the denial of one's self in order to build up the body of Christ. God gave us the grace during the COVID pandemic to live out this kind of love in the body of Christ as we learned to

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February 2023 Sermons

- 5 – No Two Ways About It Romans 2:1-16
- 12 – Dead Religion Romans 2:17-29
- 19 – It Doesn't Seem Fair Romans 3:1-8
- 26 – You Can't Work It Out Romans 3:9-20

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defer to the other's interest (and concern) before our own. Did we do this perfectly? No. But, from my viewpoint, the Lord certainly challenged us and taught us to think differently and to live biblically when it comes to learning to care for the other's interests above our own.

Here is a final thought from Dan Bernard:
"Remember putting your face above a headless frame painted to represent a muscle man, a clown, or even a bathing beauty? Many of us have had our pictures taken this way, and the photos are humorous because the head doesn't fit the body. If we could picture Christ as the head of our local body of believers, would the world laugh at the misfit? Or would they stand in awe of a human body so closely related to a divine head?"

In God's Grace, 
Pastor Kevin

...the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.



EPHESIANS 3:6, NRSV

HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The goal of the HeartCry Missionary Society is to glorify God and bring the greatest possible good to humankind through the preaching of the gospel and the establishment of biblical churches throughout the world by means of equipping and mobilizing indigenous churches and missionaries, especially in areas that have little or no gospel presence. Indigenous missionaries are those who are native to their country and culture. They do not have to learn a foreign language or the nuances of the culture. As a result, they can be much more effective and much more quickly than non-indigenous missionaries. The goal of Heartcry is also that God's name would be great among the nations, and that all people from all people groups will come to worship Him, and this will be accomplished as the Great Commission is fulfilled. In addition, Heartcry has the goal to plant biblical churches that will proclaim God's Word throughout the world. Most of the missionaries in the world go to areas that are already reached. The need is critical and urgent to have indigenous missionaries go to these unreached people groups. Pray for the Heartcry Missionary Society, and pray that all peoples of the world will have the opportunity to hear the glorious news of the gospel.



February Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 4 Margaret Morrison
- 9 Cal Schurman
- 10 Ann Norton
- 20 Bob & Bette Krueger
- 24 Bette Krueger
- 25 Sally Hager

The people listed in the Birthday and Anniversary list are members of WPC


FEBRUARY 2023


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	3 4:00 p.m. Stewardship Mtg	4 9:30 a.m. Worshp Mtg 11:00 a.m. Prayer Walk 11:30 a.m. C.E. Mtg
5 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	6 6:45 p.m. Vision Team	7	8	9 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	10	11 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
12 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Mission Mtg	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY  7:00 p.m. Session & Deacons Mtgs	15	16 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	17 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Committee	18
19 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	20 OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENTS DAY  6:45 p.m. OIT Mtg	21	22	23 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	24	25 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
26 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	27	28				

Financial Report: Operating Budget

<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Beginning Balance	-49,663.51	-64,099.87
Receipts	27,578.61	23,185.00
Disbursements	<u>30,414.03</u>	<u>33,629.62</u>
Ending Balance	(52,498.93)	(74,544.49)
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance	-	-
Receipts	216,048.93	222,794.87
Disbursements	<u>268,547.86</u>	<u>297,339.36</u>
Ending Balance	(52,498.93)	(74,544.49)

Financial Report: Invested Funds

<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Beginning Balance	320,602.50	246,902.55
Receipts	15,896.78	11,035.01
Disbursements	<u>2,397.12</u>	<u>4,841.95</u>
Ending Balance	334,102.16	253,095.61
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance	247,279.95	234,333.75
Receipts	132,941.33	122,394.05
Disbursements	<u>46,119.12</u>	<u>103,632.19</u>
Ending Balance	334,102.16	253,095.61
NET FUNDS	<u>281,603.23</u>	<u>178,551.12</u>

February Prayer Families

Week of...

February 5 Pat & Janet Clock
Steve & Cindy Wallace
February 12 Randy & Carol Brown
Matt Tricola
February 19 Jean Cowden
Sean Taylor
February 26 Barbara Curry
Steve Taxon



Prayer Walk

Come and join us in a prayer walk on **February 4, at 11 a.m.**, in front of the Woodland Presbyterian Church, to walk and pray over the community of Woodland. Last time we walked around the downtown area; past government buildings, small businesses, schools, churches, and private homes. At significant spots, we stopped and prayed through scripture that pertained to the area we were in. We had such a great turnout and such a wonderful time of prayer, we've decided to do it again! If you can't walk very far let us know. We can take the van and be out and about town meeting up with our walkers to pray over the lives and work and play of the people in this community.

“Where Do We Draw the Line?”

Submitted by Mike Ferguson

There are many issues that are controversial in our culture and in the church. What does the Bible teach about these topics? Getting down to the specifics, where do we as individuals and as a church draw the line? We will be beginning a new series for **Sunday Morning Live** (Adult Sunday School) **beginning February 19**. This is one of the most important classes that we have ever had and is extremely important for everyone at WPC to attend. Following are some topics that we will cover:

- Abortion
- Homosexuality/Same Sex Marriage/Transgenderism
- The Christian and politics/Christian Nationalism
- A Christian view of Marriage and Dating
- Church Attendance
- Dealing with sin in our congregation
- Women in Leadership
- Lying
- More...

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On each of the topics, we will discuss the biblical teaching, and then we will get down to specific questions relating to each topic. Following are a few examples of questions we will be discussing:

What is abortion? Is being for abortion a defensible position for the Christian? Is abortion permissible for rape? For incest? When a child has disabilities? Is it permissible to vote for a candidate who supports abortion?

What does the Bible teach about homosexuality? Is God okay with same sex marriage as long as the people are in love and in a committed relationship? Is it appropriate for a Christian to go to a same sex or transgender wedding? Should we accept a person's preferred pronoun if it is contrary to their birth sex? Is it acceptable for a Christian undergoing sex change surgery and sex hormones to alter their biological sex? Where do you draw the line on watching TV shows and movies that feature gay characters?

Is it okay for a Christian to date an unbeliever? Marry an unbeliever? Is it okay for Christians to live together before marriage or to live together without getting married? Does God approve of interracial dating and marriage?

Should Christians publicly endorse a political party or candidate? Should a Christian endorse a candidate who endorses abortion, same sex marriage or other issues that are contrary to the Bible? What is Christian Nationalism and should we support it? Where do you draw the line?

Is church attendance optional for the Christian (who is physically able to come)?

Is it okay for a Christian to gamble? Place sports bets? Buy lottery tickets? Make a personal bet with another person?

Is it okay for a Christian to read horoscopes? Can we as Christians support the death penalty? Is it okay for a Christian to own guns? What are forms of idolatry in our church and society that we may not consider idols? Where do we draw the line on TV shows, movies, and other forms of entertainment that we watch/listen to that are contrary to our biblical values? What are lies that we listen to or even tolerate as Christians? How do we define "lying"? Are any personal lies acceptable? How do these lies undermine our republic and faith in our public/government institutions? How do we respond to subtle or even outright lies without sounding like a loon?

We will discuss these and more questions that are where "the rubber meets the road" questions. If you have additional topics and/or questions you would like us to address, please contact Mike Ferguson, Richard Benney, or Sally Hager.

COVID Reminder

If you are experiencing COVID, flu, or cold-like symptoms, please refrain from attending Worship or church activities. This is especially important in our church community, as we have many seniors and immune-compromised individuals.

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