



EXALT

EQUIP

ENGAGE

Sunday Worship
Worship: 10 a.m. (in person or
www.woodlandpresbyterian.org
)

756 Park Street
Woodland, WA 98674
360-225-8941



WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025 Happenings



✠ From the Pastor's Desk ✠

WARNING: THIS MESSAGE INITIALLY MAY BRING SADNESS. BE SURE TO KEEP READING.

It is no secret that the holiday season can initiate feelings of sadness, grief, loneliness, and even depression. There are many of us who might often quip, "I can't wait until the Christmas season is over!" It is also true that the ending of the holiday season might cause some of us to feel sad. Perhaps we have enjoyed a special time with family and friends, we have enjoyed exchanging gifts and hugs, and have cherished the moments we feel occur all too infrequently. Then comes the down time. Gifts are put away, boxes and wrapping go in the trash. Our loved ones have left. The lights that so beautifully illuminated our neighborhood have suddenly disappeared. The music of the season suddenly stops playing. There is only a trace of the delicious cookie crumbs left on the plate. It's over until next year, and if we are honest, we feel a bit sad and lonely.

How do we get over this? I suggest that we take an inventory of the season, looking back over what we have just experienced. We need to recall the reason we gathered with those we love.

We must recall why we entered into the festivities and entertained guests. We think back on our devotions, the weekly Advent lightings and passages that were read. It all takes us back to the truth that we rejoice in – the truth of the incarnation of Christ.

We return to the reason why Jesus, the Son of God, came to us. He didn't come to leave us with a gift and then depart until the next Christmas season. He came for keeps! We read in Matthew 1:22-23, *All this happened so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: "The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they will name Him Immanuel," which means "God is with us."*

In her book, *Praying the Names of God for 52 Weeks*, Ann Spangler writes, *In fact, the Bible is nothing if not the story of God's persistent desire to dwell with His people. In Jesus, God succeeded in a unique way, becoming a man in order to save the world not from the outside, but from the inside. Immanuel, God with us, to rescue, redeem, and restore our relationship with Him.*


As we say goodbye to 2024 and head into a new year, we can be sure of this – that we will go into the new year with the One who has declared to us, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5). Jesus made a promise in Matthew 28:20 that He will be with us ALWAYS, to the end of the age (meaning, He is with us now and will be with us until the first heaven and earth pass away and we enter into the era of the new heaven and new earth – a time of perfect and everlasting fellowship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit). In the toughest days we will encounter this new year, we can be confident that the One who was made flesh and made His dwelling among us, is still with us. That is the message of the vision in Revelation 1:12-13: Jesus is ever walking among the seven golden lampstands (which represent the churches of God – His people – you and me and all who believe in Him!).

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When others have to leave to go back home, Jesus remains. After our gifts have all been exchanged, His gift of salvation continues to delight, bless, and surprise. Yes, the holiday lights come down, but His light is always blazing and dispelling the darkness. We may run out of Christmas cookies very soon, but we will never cease to enjoy the richest of the spiritual feast that He has prepared for us (Isaiah 55).

I leave you with this passages from Isaiah 49:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵ *“Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.”* ¹⁶ *Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.”*

In His Grace, Pastor Kevin 

Sunday Morning Live

Sunday Mornings, 9 a.m.

In the Upper Room

We are studying “Discipleship-The Study,” Season 3, by Ray Vander Lann, looking at the cultural and historical call to be a follower of Christ through the lens of Scripture.

Would love to have you join us.

Women’s Wellness Clinic

The Women’s Wellness Clinic is a local ministry supported by our church. The Women’s Wellness Clinic of Woodland is the intersection of God’s Love, high quality medical services, and medically accurate education that empowers women to be informed and supported in all aspects of their lives. The clinic exists to heal, restore, and build up women and families in our community through Jesus Christ. The 2025 goal of WWC is to launch a mobile unit, which will allow them to expand their outreach. They will be able to provide care and support where it’s needed most throughout the community. WWC’s goal is to reach \$100,000 by June of 2025.

In the month of January, we will have **baby bottles** available to fill with change, cash, or checks (check payable to: Women’s Wellness Clinic of Woodland, Inc.). Please **return** your baby bottle by **Sunday, January 26**. Also, there is a great need for **baby wipes** and **diapers**. The proceeds collected will be given to the clinic. If you want to donate directly to WWC, the mailing address is:
P.O. Box 223, Woodland, WA 98674.

Epiphany

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God’s Son is the Light of the whole world.



2025 Northwest MissionConnexion

MissionConnexion is the premier Missions Conference in the Pacific Northwest. It features world class speakers, dozens of workshops that cover a wide variety of topics, exhibits from mission organizations from around the world (and you get to interact with as many as you want), and great worship as well. Words really cannot express how educational and uplifting this is. This year MissionConnexion will be held at Sunset Church in Portland on January 17-18. Registration is free. Register at Northwest MissionConnexion. If you are interested or have questions, contact Mike Ferguson or Karen Wilson.



JANUARY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">Epiphany</p>						
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	2 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	3 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	4 11:00 a.m. Prayer Walk
5 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>Communion</i>	6 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10 a.m. C.E. Mtg	7	8 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10:00 a.m. Stewardship Comm. Mtg	9 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Missions Mtg 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	10 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	11 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
12 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	13 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class ...	14 7:00 p.m. Session & Deacons Mtgs	15 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	16 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	17 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10 a.m. Fellowship Comm. Mtg	18 2025 NW Mission Connexion Conferance Sunset Church, Portland
19 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	21	22 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	23 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	24 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	25 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
26 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:15 a.m. Annual Mtg/Auction	27 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	28	29 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	30 Presbytery – Kent, WA 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	31 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	

Financial Report: Summary

SEPTEMBER	September 2024	January 2024
Assets		
Total Assets	\$274,318.79	\$209,723.20
Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	(\$3,990.00)	\$2,780.39
Net Assets		
Total Net Assets	\$276,904.44	\$205,538.46
Liabilities & Net Assets	\$272,914.44	\$208,318.85

January Prayer Families

Week of...

January	5	Barbara Curry Martha Swanstrum
January	12	Kirsten Marie Dean Bonnie Swanson
January	19	Jean Eddy John & Cynthia Svensson
January	26	Charlotte Ellis Brian & Margaret Sukkari



January Sermons

- 5 – *Your Place at the Table*
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- 12 – *Rejected & Received*
Mark 3:20-35
- 19 – *Sower, Seeds, & Soils*
Mark 4:1-20
- 26 – *The Blessings of Belief*
Mark 4:21-34



Deacons Fund

The Deacons Fund is used to help church members and community members with one time or ongoing expenses that they are having trouble meeting financially. Each month, we give out at least a \$1250 a month to those in need. In order to keep meeting those needs, we are reminding you of our Deacons Fund and asking if you are able to do so, to consider making a donation to the deacons fund on our Communion Sunday.
Thank you.



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Dirk & Darlene Muyskens
- 2 Jim Ferguson
- 3 Cliff Campbell
- 5 Dirk Muyskens
- 7 Jeri Stocker
- 10 Rachel Marugg
- 12 Barbara Curry
- 13 Shirley Reed
- 17 Connie Watson
- 29 Toni LaPore
- 29 Jean Cowden
- 29 Steve & Cindy Wallace



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

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 26

It's Back! A Gift Basket Auction is again going to be held at the Annual Meeting this year. Various groups and individuals in the church are welcome to make up themed gift baskets that will be auctioned off. Additionally, individual auction items may be donated to our silent auction table! Want to make up a basket or be a part of the silent auction? Be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center in January with your name and the theme of your gift basket or gift item. Plan on attending the Annual Meeting and join in the fun after church on January 26! Bid on a basket for yourself or as a gift for someone else. It's going to be GREAT!

Your Fellowship Committee and Outreach Team



From...Carolyn Ford, Missionary

From her November 2024 Letter...

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ Let anyone who hears this say, ‘Come.’ Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.” Revelation 22:17 (NLT)

Because Jesus came to earth, conquered sin and death at the cross, and rose again in victory, the invitation is open to all: Come, drink from the water of life which Jesus offers. I am grateful.

Please praise God with me:

- In the past 20 years, translation has started in over 2000 languages that previously had no Scripture! You have had a part in that through your prayers and support. Thank you!
- As the spiritual battle rages everywhere, as war increases, as evil abounds, God is building His Kingdom among all peoples. Those who do not love their lives so much as to shrink from death continue to overcome Satan and his forces by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony (Revelation 12:11).
- The audio recording of the Zay New Testament in Ethiopia is completed, and the Tsara New Testament is to be recorded next. Please pray for a quality recording.
- Matt and another Wycliffe-Ethiopia member have completed the revised translation of an important textbook used for training mother-tongue translators.
- Matt is now consultant-checking the translation of Mark’s Gospel into the Muhir dialect, spoken on the edge of the Gurage area where I was first involved in Bible translation.
- Tewabech, a member of Wycliffe-Ethiopia who is passionate about reaching children with the Good News, visited me November 18-21 and was able to share her vision with many. She continues to develop children’s curriculum for Sunday School and wants to produce a children’s Bible in Amharic, the most widely used language in Ethiopia. To date there is no children’s Bible in any Ethiopian language. She also ministers to children who have experienced trauma, helping them find healing through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- I am into 2017 with drafting my memoirs. Please keep praying for me in this endeavor.

Please continue to pray for God’s Word to reach every tribe and people and language and nation. May all of us who love Him persevere regardless of circumstances, and may His Kingdom come, His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Wishing you a joyous celebration of the Incarnation,

Carolyn Ford

Carolyn.ford@sim.org; www.carolynford.org; 1218 Dahomey St, Sebring, FL 33875

To support my ongoing ministry, give online at: simusa.org/give/ Type my name into the box marked “Select Designation,” click on Carolyn Ford – **Ministry**. OR send a check made payable to SIM USA with designation “for Carolyn Ford – **Ministry** Account #19489” to:
SIM USA; 14830 Choate Circle; Charlotte NC 28273

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JANUARY 2025

Happenings

WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)

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