



EXALT

EQUIP

ENGAGE

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

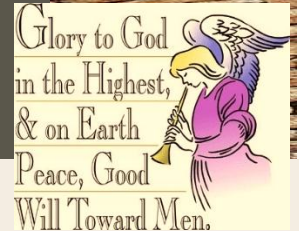
756 Park Street
Woodland, WA 98674
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WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2025 Happenings



✝ From the Pastor's Desk ✝

COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

Christmas time is filled with memories of past holiday seasons when we gathered with loved ones. I reminisce upon those early years of my life, being surrounded with family at Christmas, experiencing that perfect “Currier and Ives” holiday. The only problem is that I have this little flaw – I tend to romanticize the past, making it much more idealistic than it really was.

It is the theme of many Christmas movies and the yearning of many hearts: To gather with family at Christmas and share in that perfect holiday scene. There is good reason that this theme seems to evoke a universal pining for the perfect homecoming. It is because we were created to enjoy a blissful harmony with one another and with God. It was Augustine who famously said, “O God, You have made us for Yourself and our hearts are restless until we find rest in You.” And so, as long as we are separated from God, there is a restlessness in our hearts, because we long to be at home with God and with all His people.

We may think it is the genius of creative screen writers or

novelists that have developed and have tapped into this holiday fascination with coming home for Christmas. However, as we can see, the greatest Author has written the script and placed within our hearts – that we might experience this beautiful drama of a perfect and complete reunion.

“Jesus” is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name, “Joshua,” which means, “God is salvation.” It was Joshua, the successor to Moses, who was tasked with the daunting assignment to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land. While there were some successes along with defeats, Joshua could not truly bring them home – not in the full and complete sense. As Hebrews 4:8-10 reminds us: *For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.*

Once again, we enter the season that recalls the initiation of the homecoming for which the world was waiting and longing (though, this plan was set before the foundations of the world were laid).

It comes through the one named Jesus, “God is salvation.” It was our sinful disavowal and repudiation of God that fractured our relationship with our loving Creator. And though He had every right to simply wipe us out, he did something so wonderful and so amazing. He sent us a Savior. And not just any savior. He sent us His Son, gave Him the name ‘Jesus,’ so that in that beautiful name, we might ever be reminded that God Himself has saved us from our sins and has brought us back into the family fold. As Isaiah 40:1-2 announces, *“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.”*

And so, as we enter into the Advent and Christmas season, I look forward to the occasions to gather with you, my family, to enjoy this gift that Jesus our Savior has given us – a homecoming celebration that is not just for this holiday season, but one which is for all eternity.

In God’s Grace,
Pastor Kevin



Carolyn Ford, Missionary

My sister Peggy, my only sibling, was diagnosed with metastasized cancer in late October and went on Hospice care. I had given up traveling 3½ years ago, but I flew out west to visit her for six days. She had been praying according to Romans 15:13 for some time, and when the diagnosis came, the LORD answered her prayer, filling her with all joy and peace. She is not in pain, and up to this point, is able to get around with a walker. We praise God for the way He has worked in and through her. She is sharing her testimony at every opportunity and spending quality time with family and friends. Please praise God with us. Please pray for her husband Charlie, that he, too, may experience joy and peace from the LORD even as he grieves over the impending loss of his wife of almost 60 years. I am so grateful to have had that time with them, and for our phone conversations since I returned to Sebring. Please pray that Peggy will continue to experience God's joy and peace even if days of pain and deteriorating abilities come. We all want to finish well. We know that our God is faithful. Her testimony is recorded at this link: https://youtu.be/gB57LoBWNG8?si=GnAofAz_vA7LoRSC in case you would like to watch and hear it.

I have not worked on my memoirs this month, but I am up to 2021 with the first draft. I would really like to get through 2021 and then begin revising the resulting manuscript. Please pray for the Lord's enabling, and for His ordering of my priorities.

Matt has been making needed revisions to the maps and other helps that will be included in the Tsara New Testament. He is currently taking an online course in typesetting with the goal of helping speed up the process between completion of a translation and its publication.

As we look toward Thanksgiving and Christmas, I am reminded that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace in whom the nations will put their hope; and that hope will not disappoint us. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him throughout this season. I thank Him for you and the blessing you have been to me. My cup overflows!

Let all that I am, praise the LORD!
Carolyn Ford

Woodland Action Center

Woodland Action Center is a nonprofit community action organization that provides basic needs to individuals and families. In addition to providing food to people in need, they also provide personal hygiene items and employment training. They also operate a food bank.

With dignity and compassion, Woodland Action Center also provides basic human resources, nutritional education and opportunities for self-sufficiency for people in need and people in crisis. Through a partnership with the city of Woodland, they also offer emergency housing funding, rental assistance and overnight emergency shelter options for people in need.

Our church supports Woodland Action Center and they gladly accept donations (money and food) as well as volunteers. Monthly our church provides bags to put food items in and then these are given once a month to Woodland Action Center.


Northwest MissionConnexion 2026

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 16-17. Registration is free. Register at Northwest MissionConnexion. If you are interested or have questions, contact Mike Ferguson or Karen Wilson.



DECEMBER 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	2 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class Chair Yoga	3 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10:00 a.m. Stewardship Comm. Mtg	4 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class Chair Yoga 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	5 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 6:00 p.m. Parent's Night Out	6
7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. S.S 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>Communion</i>	8 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 6:00 p.m. Session & Deacons Dinner & Mtgs	9 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class Chair Yoga	10 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 1:30 p.m. Game Day	11 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class Chair Yoga 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	12 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	13 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. S.S 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	15 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class ...	16 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class Chair Yoga	17 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	18 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class Chair Yoga 10 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	19 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	20
21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. S.S 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	22 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
28 9:00 a.m. S.S 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Gratitude Bag Sunday	29 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class			

Financial Report: Summary

FINANCIAL POSITION	OCTOBER 2025	DECEMBER 2024
Total Assets	\$80,588.63	\$231,013.89
Total Liabilities	-\$2,095.00	-\$555.00
Total Net Assets	\$82,683.63	\$231,568.89
Liabilities & Net Assets	\$80,588.63	\$231,013.89

December Prayer Families



Week of...

December 7	Pat Clock Rick & Janet Syring
December 14	Jean Cowden Martha Swanstrum
December 21	Barbara Curry Bonnie Swanson
December 28	Kirsten Dean John & Cynthia Svensson



December Sermons

- 7 – *The Light of Men*, John 1:4-5
- 14 – *The Light of the World*, John 1:6-13
- 21 – *The Word Became Flesh*, John 1:14-18
- 24 – “Lessons in Carols,” Christmas Eve
- 28 – Guest Pastor

TRUTH RISING

CHOOSE TO SEE...CHOOSE TO
BELIEVE...CHOOSE TO ACT

We are living at an epic turning point – one where our society will either renew or collapse. That is why Focus on the Family and the Colson Center are excited to introduce TRUTH RISING - a powerful 90-minute documentary film examining the decline of truth in our Western Civilization.

This groundbreaking film will expose the civilizational crisis shaking the foundations of faith, identity, and morality. This timely documentary equips you to embrace your calling in a civilizational moment – seeking the truth as reality, not opinion.

TRUTH RISING features bold perspectives of prominent speakers from all over the world. It is hosted by Oz Guinness. This is an important and critical film which addresses the major challenges that are facing our country and Western civilization. It is a challenge to be informed and also to act.

We are showing the film after church this Sunday, November 2. Starting the following Sunday, November 9, we will be having a 4-part teaching series as a part of our adult Sunday School and ‘What’s Now’ Classes.

For more information, go to TruthRising.com.
You can also view this online.



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 Doug Ferguson
- 4 Janet Boon
- 4 Dick Pedersen
- 5 Kirsten Marie Dean
- 6 Bob Norton
- 9 Chuck & Patty Graybill
- 9 Linda Green
- 12 Randy Brown
- 13 Jim Wilson
- 14 LaVerna Ruckman
- 18 David & Sherry Bozorth
- 19 Nathan Hager

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

Candles That Tell A Story

Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent.

Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The Wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The Four Candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.
- **Purple Candles:** In ancient times, purple candles were expensive and were considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue Candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.

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- **The Pink Candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The White Candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — “the light of the world.”

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.

TheNewsletterNewsletter/ChurchArtPro

Collecting Shoebox Items

January-Hats, Gloves, Scarves

February-Accessories (sunglasses, watches, hair items, jewelry)

March-Quality Crafts (pillow cases, tote bags...)

April-Stuffed animals

May-Hygiene items (washcloths, soap, toothbrushes, comb, hairbrush, deodorant)

June-Toys

July-Clothing items (socks, shoes, t-shirts, dresses...)

August-School supplies

September-Games

October-Letter & photo

November-\$9 Donation for postage

December-Prayer



Coming in January!

The new year is almost here! This year, at the Annual Meeting and Potluck, in January, will be the return of the Service Auction and Basket Auction! So much fun!

What is a Service Auction? You know you are a gifted and unique person, right? This is your chance to share your gift with someone else! What is your specialty? Can you teach someone how to knit or quilt? How about taking someone fishing? Maybe you would like to help someone organize their kitchen, or help plant their garden or ??? The list is never ending! Start thinking about sharing one of your talents with someone! Be watching for more information to come!

Your Fellowship Committee

WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025 Happenings



Save the Date

.....*For These Upcoming Events!*

- Parents Night Out, December 5, 6 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Dinner, 6 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.



WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)

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