



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

NOVEMBER 2021

Happenings



† From the Pastor's Desk †

"Give thanks in ALL circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18(ESV)

In this season of gratitude, I would like us to consider a few "Thanksgiving celebrations" recorded in history:

1. Job loses his crops, cattle, and children in one day, and what do you imagine he did at the end of this horrible nightmare of a day? Job 1:20-21 records his reaction: *At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."*

2. Jonah finds himself enclosed in the belly of a great fish, cast into the great depths of the sea. In this place of certain doom, how does Jonah respond? *From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me...But, I, with a song of thanksgiving,*

will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD." Jonah 2:1-3,9
3. *How about the pilgrims? Charles Allen reminds us, "I've seen a picture of the pilgrims at the first American Thanksgiving. Do you know half of their number died the first year they were here? They had a hard time, and it was a cold winter. Dangers lurked everywhere, but those pilgrims didn't think of the death of their loved ones and the dangers and the cold weather. They didn't let that obscure the blessings of God. They went together, and they thanked the Lord for the blessings they had received. Sometimes we need to put down our assets alongside our losses. Every one of us is more blessed than we are hurt."* Another author, H. W. Westermeyer, comments, *"The pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts...nevertheless, [they] set aside a day of thanksgiving."* Under these difficult circumstances, the pilgrims made giving thanks to God their priority.

Do we find ourselves in situations in which we are tempted to complain, kicking and stomping our feet like a child throwing a temper tantrum?

(insert here anything having to do with COVID, masks, vaccines, and quarantines). If we can relate, perhaps we have simply lost our perspective, and maybe we have even lost our way. Consider all that the Lord has done for you and me. The very fact that we have air to breathe, that gravity keeps our feet planted on firm ground, and that the temperatures of the earth are set just right to sustain life--Then throw in with those miraculous truths the good news of God's grace extended to us through Jesus, who died, rose and ascended to the Father's side to speak on our behalf, bringing us forgiveness and favor from on high! And what about our future hope that we are reading about in Revelation 21-22 at this very time. God is awesome in majesty, wisdom, power, and glory. *Every one of us is more blessed than we are hurt.* Thanks be to God.

In His Grace,
Pastor Kevin

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November 2021 Sermons

- 7 – *Forever Blessed* Rev. 22:1-5
- 14 – *The Last Word* Rev. 22:6-21
- 21 – *A Portrait of a Thankful Life* Eph. 5:15-21
- 28 – *Finding Hope in Unexpected Places*
Matthew 1:1-17

...continued from the 'Pastor's Desk' on page 1

P.S.

Cindy and I loved the flock of sheep that we found in the front of the church on Sunday. After church, I went to round up the “flock” of sheep cards that you had made for us; but alas, they had all gone missing. As any shepherd would do, I went around looking for the sheep, but they were nowhere to be found, and I began to mournfully sing, “They are poor little sheep that have lost their way, baa, baa, baa.” Then on Tuesday, I came into my office and found the lost sheep had returned, and I reacted the way the shepherd did in the parable of the Lost Sheep: “Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’” Luke 15:6 (NIV). And I read the cards – wow.

Cindy and I are overwhelmed. Since coming to this church almost five years ago, you have not ceased to pour out upon us love and appreciation – most of which is so undeserved (as I am painfully aware -speaking of myself only - that I fall short so often. Now my amazing wife is another story). Please know that we are extremely grateful for the gifts and expressions of love you share with us not just one day a year but all year round. Thank you for all your generous words, prayers, and actions that lift us up and bless us on a regular basis.

Love, Kevin and Cindy



Advent Workshop

Saturday, November 20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Come and make an advent wreath to use at home during this advent season.

There will be a children’s craft, holiday music, light refreshments of cookies, popcorn, and a take-home devotional guide.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join you. All materials provided. (Please save toilet and paper towel rolls for Advent Workshop Craft)



Thanksgiving & Christmas Offerings

Each year, the EPC sponsors two special offerings during the year- end holiday season; one for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas. Each offering is designated for a special purpose.

The Thanksgiving Offering supports a project approved by the General Assembly each June, alternating between World Outreach and Church Planting and Revitalization. Gifts to the 2021 Thanksgiving Offering are designated for a World Outreach project.

The Christmas Offering supports the Gratitude Gift Fund, which helps retired EPC ministers and missionaries in need. When grief or pain impact the lives of these faithful shepherds, the blessing of financial assistance is a tangible way to show that others care.

Your support for both or either of these two special offerings is greatly needed and greatly appreciated. Just mark your check/envelope with Thanksgiving and/or Christmas Offering. You can also designate in the note section online.~

NOVEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:45 p.m. Vision Team Mtg	2	3 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	4 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	5 4:00 p.m. Stewardship Mtg	6
7 STANDARD TIME BEGINS 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 12 p.m. C.E. Mtg 3:00 p.m. Worship Mtg	8	9 7:00 p.m. Deacons & Session Mtgs	10 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	11 Veterans Day  OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 p.m. Missions Mtg	15 6:45 p.m. OIT Mtg	16	17 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	18 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	19 10:00 a.m. Membership Care Mtg	20 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Advent Workshop
21 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	22	23	24 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	25 THANKSGIVING DAY 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT  10:00 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 p.m. Harvest Meal	29	30				

Financial Report: Operating Budget

<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Beginning Balance	-39,889.58	-47,004.27
Receipts	14,586.31	15,525.00
Disbursements	19,992.00	19,743.31
Ending Balance	(45,295.27)	(51,222.58)
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance		
Receipts	146,564.41	148,855.65
Disbursements	191,859.68	200,078.23
Ending Balance	(45,295.27)	(51,222.58)

Financial Report: Invested Funds

<u>SEPTEMBER-</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Receipts	12,018.56	12,059.40
Disbursements	6,214.95	5,557.62
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance	234,891.03	301,828.02
Receipts	93,858.80	104,985.15
Disbursements	81,254.95	81,412.43
Ending Balance	247,494.88	325,400.74
NET FUNDS		
	202,199.61	274,178.16

Operation Christmas Child Shoebboxes

We want to thank everyone who came out on October 23 to pack a shoebox or two. We had so many volunteers that helped us pack 150 shoeboxes. Just a reminder that we are collecting money for the \$9.00 shipping cost per box or \$1350 total. We will deliver the boxes on Sunday, November 21.

Remember
to Set Your
Clocks Back
One Hour
November 7



Blessing Bag Items Still Needed!

Our Blessing Bags for those facing homelessness or difficult circumstances will be prepared on November 19.

Items still needed:

- ✓ Travel sized personal care items
- ✓ Non-perishable food & beverage items
- ✓ Clothing: socks, gloves, hats, scarves
- ✓ Monetary donations to purchase additional items. (Donate online or see Janet Syring.)

*A collection basket is in the church entry.
Thank you for your generosity!*

WPC T-shirts for Sale!

*We have two size extra-large WPC T-shirts available. The cost is \$15.00 each. Interested? They are new, available in the church office.
Don't miss out!*



November Birthdays & Anniversaries

November 1..... Gary & Janet Oyer
 3..... Elaine Blair
 14..... Sam LaPore
 17..... Pat Clock
 23..... Jim & Elaine Blair
 27..... Goni Laseke
 29..... Judy Peterson
 30..... Cal & Barbara Schurman
December 3..... Doug Ferguson
 4..... Janet Boon
 4..... Dick Pedersen

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



Carolyn Ford, Missionary

From her August 2021 Letter...



I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. Psalm 138:2 (NIV)

I am not sure how these ladies obtained their Kafa Bibles, because I couldn't get through the crowd of men to buy one myself! In the three months since the Bibles became available, 5,360 have sold. Praise God! That is a little more than half of what was published. We are thinking about a second printing. We plan to ask for another count of how many have sold in October and again next February. That will give us an idea of how quickly they will sell out. Please pray for wisdom as many decisions must be made: How many should be printed? Which printer should be used? Can we have them shipped directly to the Kafa area instead of needing to clear them in Port Djibouti?

Matt has successfully transitioned from SIM to Wycliffe Ethiopia and is acting as a translation consultant for several teams. He had planned to work with the Tsara translation team first, but because it is rainy season, they were not able to find transport to meet with him. Instead, he began checking the Inor translation of John's Gospel. Inor is a dialect of the Gurage language, my first translation assignment back in the mid-1970s. It is on the edge of Gurage and is different enough from the central dialect to need its own translation. It thrills me that he is working with the same language group that I began with! At the same time, he also helped to check John's Gospel for the Zwai language team.

One of my dreams is to have a Kafa-Bible-based radio program to reach Kafa-speakers. A listener to the Gurage radio program, which has been on the air for several years, said in July: "When I first heard your program, I was very happy because it's my mother-tongue language. I felt very happy and began asking others to listen to the word of God with me. Please pray for me to be a faithful witness."

Praise God with us for:

- 600 more micro-SD cards on which to put the audio Kafa Bible
- 5,360 Kafa Bibles sold, and the possibility of a second printing next year
- Matt's ministry as a translation consultant with Wycliffe Ethiopia

Please pray with us for:

- People to read and listen to the Kafa Scriptures daily, resulting in transformed lives
- God to make a way for the Kafa Scriptures to be read and preached and sung via radio
- God's direction and provision in every detail as we consider a second printing of the Kafa Bible
- Peace in Ethiopia and an end to ethnic strife

Rejoicing in Him,

Carolyn Ford

Carolyn Ford

To support the Kafa Linguistics Project, give on line: <https://www.simusa.org/give?id=092402-091@dsg=Project> OR send a check made payable to SIM USA with designation "for Kafa Linguistics Project #092402 (Ethiopia)" to: SIM USA; P.O. Box 7900; Charlotte, NC 28241-7900



Harvest Meal Outreach Opportunity

Sunday, November 28, 12 p.m.

Please join us for a wonderful harvest meal as we will gather together on Sunday, November 28. We will provide the turkey and ask that you sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. We will have a sign-up sheet at church.

We will be inviting the residents of the Stevens Moorage RV Camp to join us for our worship service and meal afterwards, as our guests. We want to get to know the families that live there and come alongside them to help meet their needs and share the love of Christ with them.

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