



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

DECEMBER 2021

Happenings



† From the Pastor's Desk †

¹⁰ *And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"* Luke 2:10-14 (ESV)

Wouldn't it have been glorious to hear the rejoicing of angels? To witness the rending of the heavens and the skies breaking forth with splendid light? How great would it have been to receive the announcement from the angel, *"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* (Lk. 2:10-11, ESV). Try to imagine the scene - how brilliant and how terrifying it would have been. If only there were angelic announcements like this today.

Do you realize that we have something far better than the heavenly chorus that sang the news to the shepherds? I'm talking about a choir of "gospel singers" led by the greatest Director the world has ever known. Personally, there have been several members of this new chorus who brought the message of salvation to me.

Early in my life, it was a faithful disciple of Jesus whose name was Irma Leach - my grandmother. She told me stories of the Savior, taught me to pray, and lived out her faith before my eyes. Later, a friend joined the choir, inviting me to join the church youth group. Then another person came along, singing a beautiful song about Jesus and in the song, my Sunday school teacher included an invitation to follow him - and I accepted the invitation, repented of my sins and committed my life to the Lord. The Hallelujah Chorus rang out as this underserving sinner was graciously welcomed into this Good News chorale. Others in my life have joined this vast chorus. In fact, these gospel singers in my life are only a tiny fraction of the vast choir that announces the Good News. You have your own experiences as various singers sang the melodies of Jesus to you. Some members of this choir go way, way back and have

been singing for years. New vocalists are joining every day. Some of the members have given their lives for the sake of bringing the song of salvation to others - I would call them the featured soloists because of the profound impact their testimonies have made on our world. You know people in this choir that I have never met. Yet, they are all part of the same company of singers.

As magnificent as it would have been to hear the angels singing in the fields of Bethlehem, we ought to consider ourselves abundantly blessed to have heard the message sung by the saints, those who are recipients of the good tidings of great joy. In 1 Peter 1:12, Peter writes of the prophets of old: *It was revealed to them [the prophets] that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the ...*

Continue next page...



December 2021 Sermons

- 5 – *Displaying Hope in Our Disappointments*
Matthew 1:18-21
- 12 – *Maintaining Hope in Troubled Times*
Matthew 2:1-12
- 19 – *Seeing Hope through Our Tears*
Matthew 2:13-23
- 26 – TBD

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

Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. Angels long to look into these things (of the Gospel). The message concerning Jesus the Savior is not for angels, it is a song reserved for people. While the initial announcement of his birth was sung by the heavenly beings, the responsibility of singing this chorale is given to you and to me. That means we, the ones who have been saved by grace, are the members of the chorus. You say you can't sing? This is one song that we can and must sing! It is time to rehearse and perform. It is time to sing out the song of redemption because somebody is waiting to hear – needs to hear – the song of Jesus our Lord and Savior! People are longing to hear this song and yearning for the hope that only Christ can bring them. Let's take the risk and boldly sing the song of salvation to someone this Christmas season.

In His Grace,
Pastor Kevin



Looking For a Few Good Men

Are there a few men in the church who would like to organize a monthly Men's Breakfast? This would involve planning the meals and deciding on a monthly topic and/or speaker. If you are a man who like to plan, let me know. This ministry would be a blessing to other men within and outside our church family.

For God's Glory,
Pastor Kevin

Table Church

From Andy Withrow

Sabbatical

My family enjoyed a 3-month sabbatical this past year from May to July. We bought a camperized bus, pulled the kids out of school a little early, and crossed the border to the US. We travelled through Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. We hit up the Sawtooth Range in Stanley, ID (google it!), The Grand Tetons, and Yellowstone National Park.

It has been a longtime dream for Katie and me to take our kids, Savannah (12), Emmett (10), and Ira (6), to Yellowstone. We had such a great time showing them beautiful sights and wildlife. I'm sure we saw over 500 buffalo!

It was a gift to take a break after 12 years of work at The Table Church!

Return to "normal"? Not quite

Upon our return, we had the joy of restrictions being lifted and going back to in-person gathering. However, because of some transience and not everyone being fully ready to return to in-person events, we're running at about 65% of pre-pandemic attendance.

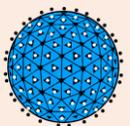
But we'll take it! It is so energizing to be together again after mostly being "online" for 16 months. And, we're seeing new faces! A number of individuals and families, some new to the city since the beginning of the pandemic, are looking for a church home. Please pray that The Table will become a home to many of these new connections.

Pray for the lost and lonely of Victoria

The pandemic has been hard and isolating for so many. Please pray for the lost and lonely of our city and that The Table would hold out a clear and bold presentation of the gospel in this season. I believe this is a strategic season for us as it is for many churches.

Thank you so much for your prayer and support of this mission in Victoria, Canada!

DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE						
			1 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	2 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	3 4:00 p.m. Stewardship Mtg	4 9 a.m.-12 p.m. HANGING OF THE GREENS
5 2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT  10:00 a.m. Worship Service	6 6:45 p.m. Vision Team Mtg	7 6:00 p.m. Deacons & Session Mtgs	8 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	9 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT  10:00 a.m. Worship Service	13	14	15 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	16 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT  10:00 a.m. Worship Service	20	21 <i>WINTER BEGINS</i>	22 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00 p.m. Soup Meal 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 
26 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	27 <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>	28	29 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	30	31 <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>  <i>New Year's Eve</i>	

Financial Report: Operating Budget

<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Beginning Balance	-45,295.27	-51,222.58
Receipts	16,607.16	21,320.67
Disbursements	18,621.66	19,649.02
Ending Balance	(47,309.77)	(49,550.93)
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance	0.00	0.00
Receipts	163,171.57	170,176.32
Disbursements	210,481.34	219,727.25
Ending Balance	(47,309.77)	(49,550.93)

Financial Report: Invested Funds

<u>OCTOBER-</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Receipts	14,025.16	6,598.32
Disbursements	5,110.37	16,857.64
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance	234,891.03	301,828.02
Receipts	107,883.96	111,583.47
Disbursements	86,365.32	98,270.07
Ending Balance	256,409.67	315,141.42
NET FUNDS	209,099.90	265,590.49

Baking Buddies

Coming Back in 2022

Baking Buddies return! Buddy up with a friend, and be one of the first to sign up to be a Baking Buddy team! Fellowship time is so important to our church family and is always even more enjoyable when munching on wonderful homemade treats. So, sign up on the list by the office, and let's put the Fun back in our Fellowship!

Blessing Bags Ready!

The Blessing Bags are filled and ready to disperse! The bags are for those you encounter who are experiencing homelessness or difficult times. Each bag contains socks, a warm hat or scarf, personal care items, and a few snacks. These colorful bags are located at the church entrance for you to take, hand out, and engage with those less fortunate. Take one or more, and share God's love!

Thank you all for your generous donations!

~ Your Membership Care Committee



December Birthdays & Anniversaries



- December 3..... Doug Ferguson
 4 Janet Boon
 4 Dick Pedersen
 5 Kirsten Marie Dean
 6 Bob Norton
 9 Chuck & Patty Graybill
 13 Jim Wilson
 14..... LaVerna Ruckman
 18..... David & Sherry Bozorth
 19..... Nathan Hager
- January 1..... Dirk & Darlene Muyskens
 2 Jim Ferguson
 3..... Cliff Campbell

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

WINGS Annual Giving

For the last several years, WINGS (Women IN God's Service) has made an annual mission giving gift from their funds. This year we sent a \$1000 contribution to World Relief for Welcome Kits, which outfit a room or kitchen for those Afghan refugees who are resettling in the United States. EPC is cooperating with World Relief in response to this current need. We are thankful and blessed to be able to assist in this important mission.



Carolyn Ford, Missionary

From her November 2021 Letter...

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. Isaiah 9:6-7

These words take on deeper meaning as the conflict in northern Ethiopia escalates. Ethiopia's Justice Minister has stated, "Our country is facing a grave danger to its existence, sovereignty and unity." Our hope is in the Prince of Peace, and we cry out to Him to intervene in this devastating crisis. Matt and Tefera, Director of Wycliffe Ethiopia (WE), traveled in October to Bonga, where the Kafa Bible was dedicated. Bethlehem Girma was with them and shared these reports from Kafa church members: "There is nothing like hearing the word of God in your mother-tongue. I am now studying the Bible every day! There is a really big difference between hearing the scripture from someone else and being able to read it for yourself." "Some of the church leaders were afraid that some important connotations would be lost in translation during this process, but that was not the case. In fact, the people now have greater understanding of theological teachings." "It drew non-believers to the church just because of how novel it was to have something printed entirely in their language. The church members also became more interested in the Bible translation work." Even those unable to read express their joy and listen to the audio version daily. They understand passages whose meanings previously seemed hidden. They say there are now no barriers between them and their creator. They can communicate directly with him and he answers them in their own language. Matt completed the consultant check of Matthew, John, and part of Acts with the Tsara translation team. Tsara is spoken in a remote mountainous area south of Kafa. Matt is one of three Bible translation consultants with WE, and there are 20 translation projects, so he is quite busy. Please pray that he will take time to keep in close communion with the LORD and also to minister to his family.

Praise God with us for:

- Completion of the consultant check for Matthew and John in the Tsara language
- The difference the Kafa Bible is making in the understanding, attitudes, and practices of Kafa believers and non-believers
- Slow, but sure, progress on writing my memoirs

Please pray with us for:

- God's miraculous intervention to stop the atrocities, starvation, and despair which have increased significantly as the conflict in the north of Ethiopia intensifies and spreads
- More 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, preached, and sung via radio
- God's direction and provision in every detail as we consider a second printing of the Kafa Bible
- My cataract surgeries, the first scheduled for November 4

Thank you for your partnership. As the return of our Prince of Peace draws near, may we take time to worship Him. May our hearts be filled with thanksgiving and our mouths with praise to this One who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows all the way to the cross. That is why He came. That is why we celebrate Christmas

Wishing you joy in Him,

Carolyn Ford

Carolyn Ford

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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.~



*You Are Invited to Join Us
Christmas Eve for our
Annual 6 p.m. Soup Meal &
7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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