



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 2022
Happenings



From the Pastor's Desk



NO SMALL MATTER

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁹ "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. ¹⁰ "Who despises the day of small things? Men will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel." (These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range throughout the earth.)" Zechariah 4:8-10 (NIV)

“So, how big is your church?” This is usually the first question that is asked at pastor conferences. The answers given are usually inflated numbers that are meant to impress their pastoral peers. Pastors are notorious for buying into the “bigger is better” mentality when it comes to church ministry. This “bigger mentality” is instilled in our psyche when in seminary chapel gatherings and at church conferences, all the keynote speakers who address the audience are the “successful leaders” who have grown their churches into megachurches.

In my pastoral career, I have served in four churches. All four churches have been churches of 120 people or less (weekly attendance). In all of these ministries, God has showered abundant blessings upon me and my family. Yet, too often, I find myself wondering, “What am I doing wrong that the church is not growing?”

Karl Vaters is an author and speaker who is a pastor of a small church in the land of megachurches (Orange County, CA). He came to his

church and applied all the church growth techniques, thinking, “Surely it has to work here (in Orange County).” It didn’t work for his church, and this led Vaters to descend into a “confidence crisis.” He then decided to invest in learning about small church ministry. He discovered that 90% of churches in the US are 200 in weekly attendance or below. Further, 80% of churches in the US are under 100 people in attendance. That means that the vast majority of churches are not - nor will they ever be - ‘large’ or ‘mega’ churches.

A few weeks ago, I joined 30 EPC pastors in Orlando for a small church summit. What a relief to be with a group of pastors and not have the first question be - “So, how big is your church?” We spent three days together in prayer, discussion - sharing thoughts and ideas for small church ministry. Understand, this was not a pity party of envious pastors who talked despairingly about those big, successful megachurches. We ought to always be grateful for the large churches which partner with us in the spreading of the Good News and which participate with

the small churches in the Kingdom work of God. But the ministry of a large church is far different from the ministry of the small church. There is great value in the small church ministry, and we need to encourage it and build upon those valuable traits. As Karl Vaters states, “*Being a small church is not a problem (to be solved), nor a virtue (not better than big churches), nor an excuse (to keep us from pursuing change).*” Just because we're small doesn't mean we can't do great ministry. So we ask questions like, “What can we do right now at the size we are right now?”

One of the examples that was used in our discussion was the comparison between IKEA and Starbucks. On the one hand, you have IKEA (like a megachurch), a big box store that attracts people from miles around and provides furniture for the masses. On the other hand, you have Starbucks (like the small church), many small shops scattered throughout communities and ensures that people have a local place to provide their daily caffeine fix.

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November 2022 Sermons

6 – *Blessing in the Mess* Matthew 5:10-12

13 – *Lightly Salted*, Matthew 5:13-14

20 – *It Begins and Ends with Thanksgiving*
Colossians 1:9-14

27 – *The Stump Speech* Isaiah 11:1-10

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

They both are successful in their own way, and they both provide for the needs of the community.

I came away from the summit more grateful for several things. First, I am grateful to the EPC for using resources to put on this summit and to let the small church pastors know that they care for us and want to be a resource to us in our ministries. I also am so thankful to have peers in the ministry who understand the ups and downs of small church ministry and desire to work together to help one another. Finally, I came away filled with praise to God for WPC and the privilege we have been given to minister in Woodland and the surrounding area. Grateful for a healthy (though not perfect) ministry and for a congregation that has their eyes on Christ and deeply cares for their church family. Of course, we continue to pray for and work towards renewal. However, by attending this small church summit, I have gained a better perspective on church ministry. Bigger is not necessarily better. Healthier is better, and that is what we ought to pursue. Again, Vaters has it right when he says, *“There are so many discouraged small church pastors (and church members) out there who have been told that if your church is healthy, it should be getting bigger. And if it's not getting bigger, then you're doing something wrong. Small is not broken. And getting bigger won't fix your problems. My thing is, I don't want churches to be small. I want small churches to be great. And I absolutely believe that small churches can be great.”* God has given the family of Woodland Presbyterian Church a great gift of ministry, and we need to remember that as we pursue being rooted and nurtured in the love of Christ, then and only then will we be ready to make a significant impact in our community. This is not a ‘small’ matter.

In God's Grace,
Pastor Kevin



THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HOLIDAY 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 specific purpose. The EPC's annual Thanksgiving Offering alternates each year between a church planting/church health project, and an EPC World Outreach emphasis. There will be more information about the designation closer to the holidays. Thank you for your support of these special causes in EPC life!



JESSE TREE ADVENT DEVOTIONS

For Advent Devotions this year, we will be using the Jesse Tree, a 29-day devotional from November 27-December 25. It is based on Isaiah 11:1, “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse.” The daily devotions refer to the Old and New Testament promises that point to the birth of our Savior. We will have two workshops to make the Jesse Tree display and ornaments. The first will be for our church family after church on November 20. A meal will be provided followed by the workshop. The second workshop will be on Saturday, November 26 (time to be determined) and will be a way to bless our community, inviting them to come and make a Jesse Tree and ornaments. Please be thinking about who you might invite. The daily devotional will be given out at both events.

Thank you

Last Sunday afternoon, Cindy and I took some time together to read through the cards you wrote to us for Pastor's Appreciation. We were so touched, and we are so very grateful to the Lord for our church family.

Thank you for your love and care.
Pastor Kevin & Cindy

NOVEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	4 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class 4:00 p.m. Stewardship Mtg	5 9 a.m. Worship Mtg 10:00 a.m. Shoebox Packing Party 11:00 a.m. Prayer Walk 11:30 a.m. C.E. Mtg
6  9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	7 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class 6:45 p.m. Vision Team	8 7:00 p.m. Session & Deacons Mtg	9	10 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	11  10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class	12 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
13 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 p.m. Mission Mtg	14 <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i> 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class	15	16	17 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	18 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Committee 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class	19 9 a.m.-3 p.m. WPC Bazaar Fellowship Hall
20 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:15 a.m. Jesse Tree Workshop	21 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class 6:45 p.m. OIT	22	23	24 	25 <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>	26 Community Jesse Tree Worshop
27 <i>1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	28 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class	29	30			

Financial Report: Operating Budget

<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Beginning Balance	-47,004.27	-46,344.96
Receipts	15,525.00	17,014.00
Disbursements	19,743.31	24,139.03
Ending Balance	(51,222.58)	(53,469.99)
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance	-	-
Receipts	148,855.65	159,289.91
Disbursements	200,078.23	212,759.90
Ending Balance	(51,222.58)	(53,469.99)

Financial Report: Invested Funds

<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts	12,059.40	11,939.95
Disbursements	5,557.62	239.58
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance	247,279.95	234,333.75
Receipts	104,985.15	92,799.83
Disbursements	26,864.36	90,525.55
Ending Balance	325,400.74	236,608.03
NET FUNDS		
	274,178.16	183,138.04

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party

Saturday, November 5, 10 a.m.
See Juanita MacMahan for more information.



November Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 Gary & Janet Oyer
- 3 Elaine Blair
- 14 Sam LaPore
- 17 Pat Clock
- 23 Jim & Elaine Blair
- 27 Goni Laseke

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

November Prayer Families

Week of...

- November 6 Thom Mattison
Acenath Morgan
- November 13 Rick May
Jim & Marilyn Miller
- November 20 Yvonne Barker
Melinda McTaggart
- November 27 Jeanne Beesley
Sandy Wyzanowski



Thank you

Dear WPC Family,
Thank you so much for your generosity and kind words of encouragement. We look forward to serving with you in the future as God leads. Thank you for welcoming us into the fellowship. We have been blessed to worship and learn with you.
In Christ, Steve and Cindy Wallace



Like to Donate Your Handcrafted Items to the November 19 Bazaar?

We are going to have a table to sell handmade items made by...YOU! This is a great way to make items that unleash your creativity and bring joy to others! Whether it be building, sewing, painting, printing, jewelry making, handcrafting, growing...you name it, we would love to sell at the bazaar. All proceeds from the donated items sold will be going toward our Renovation Project. Contact Janet Syring.

Renovation Project Update

Change Is In The Air (And Under Our Feet)...

Something was happening in the church while Cindy and I were away. When we left for Texas on October 20, our minds were on Katie's wedding and the time we would spend with friends and family. During our time away, I started getting some texts and pictures from the Syringes. First, there were pictures of the narthex and then of my office. When we returned home, I went to check out all the activity that was going on in the church in our absence. What a difference a week makes! What a great job the flooring people did as they transformed the offices, glass chapel, and the narthex. I offer thanks to the Lord for the progress on our renovation project, and I also thank all those who moved things around in preparation for the laying down of the new flooring (It seems we timed our vacation just right so that we left the church before the laying down of the new flooring, and we arrived back just as the project was being completed). We have also been blessed to work with some very fine, respectful, and thoughtful professionals who have made this renovation project a joy rather than a burden. There is still some work to be completed because of the delay in delivery of the chairs. The appearance of the sanctuary will be in the "under construction" mode until after the first of the year. However, it gives us something to look forward to as we anticipate the completion of our project



"The Ornaments of Christmas"

Ladies!!! Start looking through your Christmas cookie recipes and mark your calendar for Saturday, **December 17, at 9:30 a.m.** for our **Christmas Tea and Cookie Exchange** with the theme, "The Ornaments of Christmas." There will be a game, songs, and a cookie and ornament exchange along with the wonderful Christmas devotion for the event. This is also the perfect opportunity to invite along a friend and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Shining Star Bazaar

Our Shining Star Bazaar is almost here! We are very excited to host this new community event on **Saturday, November 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** We have over 20 vendors bringing their wares to sell. **WPC will also be selling your handmade craft items and homemade baked goods**, which are individually wrapped; **providing an excellent homestyle lunch** of homemade soups (minestrone, clam chowder, and African chicken peanut), home baked rolls, and a cookie; and **providing free gift-wrapping station** (donations appreciated!). It is going to be fun day!

As you can imagine, an event this big will need lots of helpers! **There will be a sign-up sheet for the various areas needing volunteers.** We will begin getting ready on Friday, November 18, starting at 11:30 a.m. This will be to set up table areas and for you to bring in your items to price and display. On Saturday, we are looking for helpers to work at the various craft tables, greet shoppers with a friendly smile, and other hands-on help. Sign up early to pick your spot! Of course, we will also need a clean-up crew beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Maybe bring them to lunch, too!

Your Fellowship Committee
(Formerly Membership Care)

NOVEMBER 2022 Happenings

Daylight Savings

Time Ends

Don't forget to turn your clocks
back one hour on Sunday,
November 6



10th Annual Free Community

Thanksgiving Dinner for those in Need

Daddy D's BBQ Restaurant, in Woodland, is providing a Thanksgiving Meal for those in our community who are in need. (The Meal will be at Grace Community Church on Saturday, November 19, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., open to all)

If you'd like to donate any of the following items, you may do so at Daddy D's Restaurant, 1243 N Goerig St.

Needed Items:

Turkey, Ham (bone in), Instant Potatoes, Gravy, Canned Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce, Milk, Butter, Dinner Rolls.

~ Thank you ~

WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)

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