



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 2022
Happenings



✠ **From the Pastor's Desk** ✠

MOUNTAIN

This is what the LORD says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain." Zechariah 8:3 (NIV)

"Why do people climb mountains?" That is the famous question, to which comes the reply, "Because it's there!" But to me, that answer is not sufficient. I've seen plenty of mountains. We live very close to one of the tallest mountains in the United States. I have been well aware of the presence of that mountain before me. And yet, I have never had a desire to climb it simply because it is there.

There must be a different reason for people to climb mountains. It has to do with a need inside some people – a need or desire to see the beauty of creation from a viewpoint that most people will never experience. Or perhaps the need is merely a sense of conquering a difficult challenge – so that one can proudly proclaim, "I saw, I came, and I conquered" ("Veni, Vidi, Vici" for those who know Latin).

The reality is that people climb mountains not simply because

they are there, but because they have a need to climb; an inward desire to make it to the top.

Why do people celebrate Christmas? I imagine most people would probably answer, "Because it's there." And that is how most celebrate Christmas – no sense of why they celebrate, no real meaning to the celebration. Understandably, the Christmas season is one of the most depressing seasons of the year for many. That is, in part, due to a twisted and deficient view of Christmas.

Why do Christians celebrate Christmas? We all know why, but the hustle and bustle of the season, the mixed messages that are given, can confuse us or cause us to take our minds off the true reason we celebrate.

The truth is that we celebrate Christmas so that we can climb a mountain. It is not just any mountain. It is the mountain of the Lord. I want to climb that

mountain, don't you?

Psalm 24:3-5 reads, "**Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.**" Uh oh! I'm looking at my hands right now, and they are not that clean. Too much of my life has been spent pursuing false idol. If I am honest, I don't have to probe very deeply into my heart before I find an excess of impurities. I guess that means my short-lived mountain climbing days are over. Maybe the same is true for you.

Don't be too hasty to break down base camp and head home just yet. Christmas is that time when we are certainly reminded of our failures and inadequacies when it comes to climbing the mountain of the Lord.

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December 2022 Sermons

- 4 – *The Sacrifice* Genesis 22:1-14
- 11 – *The King* 2 Samuel 5:1-5
- 18 – *The Deliverer...* Daniel 6:16-28
- 24 – *...Has Come!* Luke 2:1-7
- 25 – *Now Go!* Luke 2:8-20

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

But, it is also the time when we recall once again the One whose hands are perfectly clean hands and who is pure of heart. He has gone before us to pave the way for us to scale the mountain. We do not want to miss this trek that Jesus has made possible for us because of what it holds. Isaiah 11 tells us about the quality of life on the Mountain of the Lord:

Isaiah 11:6-9 (ESV)

6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. 9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? Who can climb to the top of the holy mountain? Because of the incarnation of Christ, we can. Because of the death and resurrection of the Lord, the path up the mountain has been cleared for us and by His grace, we will make summit, and there we will dwell forever with the Lord. Now that's the reason we celebrate Christmas.

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!

November 27 Prayer Service Rescheduled to...

We will hold our prayer service on Sunday, **December 11, at 3 p.m.** Let us join together as a church family to lift up our prayers, petitions, and songs to the Lord.



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.

If you have not picked up your Advent Devotional, they are available in the Church office.

Toy Drive

A reminder that we are collecting toys through December 7 for infants up to age 18, for the Randal Children's Hospital in Portland. You can leave your donation gifts in the Narthex, unwrapped.
Thank you!



DECEMBER 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	2 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class 4:00 p.m. Stewardship Mtg	3 9:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens 11:00 a.m. Prayer Walk 11:30 a.m. C.E. Mtg
4 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	5 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class 6:45 p.m. Vision Team	6	7	8 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	9 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class	10 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
11 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 3:00 p.m. Prayer Service	12 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class	13 6:00 p.m. Session & Deacons Potluck & Mtgs (7 p.m.)	14	15 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	16 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Committee	17 9:30 a.m. Christmas Tea & Cookie Exchange
18 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	19	20	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00 p.m. Soup Meal 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Financial Report: Operating Budget

<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Beginning Balance	-51,222.58	-54,108.22
Receipts	21,320.67	24,922.96
Disbursements	19,649.02	18,091.96
Ending Balance	(49,550.93)	(47,277.22)
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance	-	-
Receipts	170,176.32	184,212.87
Disbursements	219,727.25	231,490.09
Ending Balance	(49,550.93)	(47,277.22)

Financial Report: Invested Funds

<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts	12,059.40	3,170.12
Disbursements	16,857.64	1,101.17
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance	247,279.95	234,333.75
Receipts	117,044.55	96,240.95
Disbursements	43,722.00	91,626.72
Ending Balance	320,602.50	238,947.98
NET FUNDS	271,051.57	191,670.76

December Prayer Families

Week of...

December 4	Richard & Janet Benney Carolynn Woodward
December 11	Jim & Elaine Blair Bill & Gail Woodard
December 18	Dale & Janet Boon Donnie Womelsdorf
December 25	Betty Bottemmiller Jason & Sarah Wolk



Prayer Walk

Come and join us in a prayer walk on **December 3, at 11 a.m.**, in front of the Woodland Presbyterian Church, to walk and pray over the community of Woodland. Last time we walked around the downtown area; past government buildings, small businesses, schools, churches, and private homes. At significant spots, we stopped and prayed through scripture that pertained to the area we were in. We had such a great turnout and such a wonderful time of prayer, we've decided to do it again! If you can't walk very far let us know. We can take the van and be out and about town meeting up with our walkers to pray over the lives and work and play of the people in this community.



December Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

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



“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.

From...Carolyn Ford, Missionary

From her September 2022 Letter...



“All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn for he has done it.” Psalm 22:27-28, 31

Earlier this month at our semi-annual Bible and Missionary Conference, local pastor Dustin Woods pointed out that Israelite boys memorized the whole book of Deuteronomy and many other Scriptures before the age of 12. It makes sense that they would also memorize many of the psalms, since that was their hymnbook. Thus, in daily conversation, they might quote the first verse of a familiar passage, and it would bring the entire passage to the minds of their listeners. He suggested that Jesus, in quoting the first verse of Psalm 22, “My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me?”, was reminding Himself and everyone around Him of the entire Psalm, which is not only a graphic description of His suffering on the cross, but also a triumphant hymn of praise. This makes sense to me, especially considering Jesus’ words just before he died, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). Compare the last clause of the psalm, “for he has done it.” This encourages me so much. Whatever we may need to suffer as Jesus’ followers, we can confidently remember that He has triumphed over sin and death, and He rules over the nations. In Him, we, too, will be victorious. Hallelu-Yah!

Please pray:

- for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to the Tsara translators so that they truly understand the Gospel and apply it in their daily lives.
- that the Kafa pastors will read the Kafa Scriptures to their congregations and preach from them.
- for God’s provision of a computer for Matt, which is adequate to use in typesetting Scripture.
- that I will use effectively for God’s Kingdom the time, strength, and resources He gives me.

Victorious in Him,

Carolyn Ford



Holiday Events in December



Saturday, 3rd— Hanging of the Greens, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sunday, 4th— *Second Sunday of Advent*

Congregational Participation in Ringing Chimes to a Hymn

Sunday, 11th— *Third Sunday of Advent*

3 p.m. Prayer Service

Saturday, 17th—9:30 a.m. Ladies’ Tea & Cookie Exchange

Sunday, 18th—*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Choir & Bells, “We Welcome Him”

Saturday, 24th—6 p.m. Soup Meal

7 p.m. Candlelight *Christmas Eve Service*

Sunday, 25th—10 a.m. *Christmas Day Sunday Worship Service*



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COVID Reminder

If you are experiencing COVID, flu, or cold-like symptoms, please refrain from attending Worship or church activities. This is especially important in our church community, as we have many seniors and immune-compromised individuals.

January Breadmaking Class



Love the smell of freshly baked bread? Love to eat it, too? Here is your chance! Plans are in the works for a breadmaking class on **Saturday, January 21, beginning at 10 a.m.** Goni will be guiding us as we go from baking bread to breaking bread together! You won't want to miss this!



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