



**EXALT**

**EQUIP**

**ENGAGE**

Sunday Worship

Adult Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
Worship: 10 a.m. (in person or  
[www.woodlandpresbyterian.org/worship](http://www.woodlandpresbyterian.org/worship))

756 Park Street  
Woodland, WA 98674  
360-225-8941



**WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

**JANUARY 2023**  
**Happenings**



**From the Pastor's Desk**



**TRUST AND OBEY**

I am hoping that every member in our church family will be making a commitment to engage with God's Word on a daily basis. Matthew 7:21: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' Matthew then relates various parables of Jesus and encounters Jesus has with others to instruct his readers about the importance of faith in, and obedience to, God. If we are going to be obedient, we need to know what God instructs us to do. Where do we find His instructions? The Bible. And it is as we meet with the Lord in His word, we will develop an ever deepening relationship with Him. Faith requires obedience; obedience means acting on the basis of our

faith in the Lord. We cannot follow Jesus without obedience—otherwise, it is an empty, or false, faith. When James says that faith without works is dead (James 2:18,20,26), he is speaking of the subject of obedience. Note in the passage above that our Lord makes it clear that it is not our works that will save us ("did we not prophesy, cast our demons, and do mighty works in your name?"). However, when a life is transformed by the Lord, we are given a heart of obedience. The outworking of obedience is our works, or our "good fruit" (as Jesus often calls to the "good works" of his followers). The conclusion of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5-8 is clear: If we are to be followers of Christ, then following and obeying Him must be our priority in life.

The Barna Research Group is constantly polling among pastors and church members to determine the level of commitment of churchgoers. A few years back, this is what they discovered:

*"Based on interviews with a representative national sample of 627*

*Protestant pastors, the Barna study discovered that pastors believe a large majority of their congregants deem their faith in God to be the highest priority in their life. On average, pastors contend that 70% of the adults in their church consider their personal faith in God to transcend all other priorities. Amazingly, as many as one out of every six pastors (16%) contends that 90% or more of the adults in their church hold their relationship with God as their top life priority! ... In contrast to the upbeat pastoral view of people's faith, a nationally representative sample of 1002 adults was asked the same question – i.e., to identify their top priority in life – and a very different perspective emerged. Only one out of every seven adults (15%) placed their faith in God at the top of their priority list. To make an apples-to-apples comparison, the survey isolated those who attend Protestant churches and found that even among that segment of adults, not quite one out of every four (23%) named their faith in God as their top priority in life."*

*Continue next page...*



## **January 2023 Sermons**

- 1 – *Facing the Giants* I Samuel 17
- 8 – *A Convincing Witness* Romans 1:7
- 15 – *A Glorious Gospel* Romans 1:8-17
- 22 – *A Reasonable Wrath* Romans 1:18-23
- 29 – *An Obvious Result* Romans 1:24-32

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

I would have to say that I would be in that category of pastors who believe that a majority of this church family does consider their faith to be first priority. I could be wrong; but, there is a lot of evidence when I consider the commitment – and the fruit – I see in our church. But I have to ask: Is Jesus Christ the priority in your life and in your home? If not, what changes can you make to change your priorities in 2023, so that your life reflects the life of a true, growing, authentic disciple of Jesus?

One of many steps one could make to ensure that faith is the number one priority in life is in the area of prayerful reading and application of Scripture on a daily basis. God will require a lot from us in 2023, and we need to be ready. Will you join me in making growth in our faith in Christ a priority this year?

In His Grace,  
Pastor Kevin



## **Mission Connexion 2023**

**January 20-21, 2023**  
**Sunset Church, Beaverton, OR**

*“Here I Am...What’s Next?”*

Plenary Session speakers include: Dr. Eric Anthony Joseph, Will Graham, Steve Richardson, Mary Ho

100+ Workshops, 80 Mission Exhibits  
Exponential opportunity to network with mission leaders like no other annual event on the West Coast!

Is Free, but you need to register at  
[www.MissionConnexion.global](http://www.MissionConnexion.global)

## **MISSION UPDATE ON FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP**

We, at EPC in Woodland, were privileged to welcome Jonna Reeder from Frontier Fellowship to speak at our church on March 12, 2022. At that time she shared with us her work with Afghan refugees in the Seattle area. From her November newsletter she states: “I recently visited an Afghan refugee family in Seattle again—a single mother with six sons...As we talked...it became clear the family does not have winter clothing and shoes at a time when Seattle’s fall rain and chilly weather is beginning.” Jonna is working with another Christian family to locate “clothing closets” in the area where this Afghan family will be provided with items they need. “Because I have language skills to be able to listen to Afghans tell their stories, that is in my prayers for the coming year.” This is just a part of Jonna’s responsibilities as she serves with Frontier Fellowship. Please pray for Jonna and the refugee families she is currently helping as she shares the gospel with them.

## **Sunday Morning Live**

The Adult Sunday School class will start up again on January 8, 2023.

We will be studying a DVD series called “Irresistible—Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed for the World,” by Andy Stanley. What made the first-century Christian’s message so compelling, so defensible, and so irresistible? Come, and join us Sunday mornings, at 9 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Found**

We have found a Bible at the church in the last few weeks where the Information Desk was in the Narthex. If you lost a Bible recently, please call the church office.

# JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
<b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	<b>2 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>6</b> 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class  4:00 p.m. Stewardship Mtg	<b>7</b> 9:30 a.m. Worshp Mtg <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Prayer Walk 11:30 a.m. C.E. Mtg
<b>8</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Mission Mtg	<b>9</b> 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class  6:45 p.m. Vision Team	<b>10</b>  7:00 p.m. Session & Deacons Mtgs	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>13</b> 10:30 a.m. S.A.I.L Exercise Class	<b>14</b>  10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
<b>15</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	<b>16 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>20</b> 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Committee  "Mission Connection" In Beaverton	<b>21</b> 10:00 a.m. Bread-Making Class
<b>22</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live (Adult S.S.) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
<b>29</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <b>11:15 a.m.</b> Annual Mtg	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## Financial Report: Operating Budget

<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Beginning Balance	-49,550.93	-47,277.22
Receipts	18,294.00	15,397.00
Disbursements	<u>17,906.58</u>	<u>32,219.65</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>(49,163.51)</b>	<b>(64,099.87)</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		
Beginning Balance	-	-
Receipts	188,470.32	199,609.87
Disbursements	<u>238,133.83</u>	<u>263,709.74</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>(49,663.51)</b>	<b>(64,099.87)</b>

## Financial Report: Invested Funds

<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts	15,896.78	15,118.09
Disbursements	<u>2,397.12</u>	<u>7,163.52</u>
<b>Year to Date</b>		
Beginning Balance	247,279.95	234,333.75
Receipts	132,941.33	111,359.04
Disbursements	<u>46,119.12</u>	<u>98,790.24</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>334,102.16</b>	<b>246,902.55</b>
<b>NET FUNDS</b>		
	<b><u>284,438.65</u></b>	<b><u>182,802.68</u></b>



## January Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 Dirk & Darlene Muyskens
- 2 Jim Ferguson
- 3 Cliff Campbell
- 5 Dirk Muyskens
- 7 Jeri Stocker
- 10 Rachel Marugg
- 12 Barbara Curry
- 13 Shirley Reed
- 17 Connie Watson
- 29 Toni LaPore
- 29 Jean Cowden
- 29 Steve & Cindy Wallace

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

## January Prayer Families

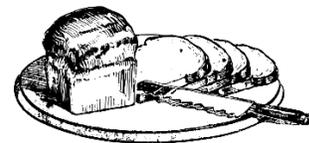
### Week of...

- January 1 David & Sherry Bozorth  
Jim & Karen Wilson
- January 8 Tom Brannan  
Claralee Williams
- January 15 Larry & Portia Brown  
Ruth Wendt
- January 22 Debbie Caffall  
Connie Watson
- January 29 Cliff Campbell  
Lloyd Walton



## Prayer Walk

Come and join us in a prayer walk on **January 7, 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.



## 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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## **From...Carolyn Ford, Missionary**

From her November 2022 Letter...

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*“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Thank you for praying for us as Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole passed through Sebring! We lost electricity for four days with Ian's visit, but Nicole settled down to a tropical storm by the time she reached us. We had little structural damage, just lots of wind; some downed trees & limbs; and some extra moisture in a few walls of apartments that got dried out using a dehumidifier. Some of our retirees helped clean up debris in places harder hit along the coast, and as a result of their testimony, some came to faith in the Lord Jesus. Praise God!

Matt has been working again with the Tsara translation team, but I have not heard from him this month. Praise God for providing the computer he needed for typesetting Scripture. It also works well for his consultant work. A couple I had known in Ethiopia took the computer to him. Glenn is a builder and went to help Wycliffe Ethiopia plan and begin implementation of renovations on a school property they had bought. His wife Sofia is very computer-savvy, so was a great help in making sure the computer was set up properly. When they arrived in Ethiopia, they learned Wycliffe Ethiopia had not been able to take possession of the property due to some vacillation on the part of the seller, but the LORD intervened, and now Glenn and Sofia have two months to complete their part in the work, only having lost one month in the waiting. Wycliffe wants to have offices for the staff, a guest house, and I am not sure what else.

Praise God that a peace agreement was signed between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front early this month. Please continue to pray that the agreement is honored by both parties as well as by the government of Eritrea to the north; that humanitarian aid will reach those who need it; and that communication systems, banks, and other essential services will resume in the Tigray area.

Today I am especially thankful for:

- The Incarnation – that the LORD of Heaven came in human flesh to reveal Himself to us, take the judgment for our sin, and conquer all that stood between us and eternity in His presence;
- The many peoples who are hearing the Good News of forgiveness and freedom in Jesus Christ and responding with faith and gratitude;
- The many who are sharing the Good News with people who are otherwise without hope;
- The wonderful family and friends with whom God has blessed me from all over the world;
- The relatively good health He continues to bestow on me. Despite macular degeneration, I can still read and drive as necessary, though I do not drive at night and prefer to stay within the borders of Sebring.
- Your faithful prayers, friendship, financial support, and ministries.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and new year,

*Carolyn Ford*

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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.

**WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)**

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**