



EXALT

EQUIP

ENGAGE

Sunday Worship
Worship: 10 a.m. (in person or
www.woodlandpresbyterian.org)

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



WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023 Happenings



From the Pastor's Desk



KNOWING WHEN TO PUNT

It has started. Great numbers of people packing themselves into massive stadiums, elbow to elbow with few seats to spare – if any. Bonding, celebrating, and commiserating with complete strangers. Wearing clothes to identify your loyalties. Even painting your face or wearing a costume. Willing to spare no expense just to partake in the experience. Nancy Guthrie describes this phenomenon in her book on Revelation entitled, “Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation”:

“I’ve only been to one college football game. (And I know that as you read that, some of you feel a great deal of pity for me or wonder what planet I’ve been living on.) A number of years ago the University of Oregon Ducks played against the University of Tennessee Volunteers in Knoxville. David’s sister and her husband, both of whom are big Duck fans, came to Tennessee, and we drove over to Knoxville, where our son was a student at the time, for the game. It was quite an experience.

Squeezed into my place among the fans in the bleachers, what struck me most was the sense that I was at a worship service. People streamed into the stadium from all over the country, not because anyone made them come, but because they couldn’t imagine being anywhere else on game day. There was preparation and anticipation and identification with the object of worship in attire, temporary tattoos, and face paint. People got there early because they didn’t want to miss anything. Being there was expensive; it required sacrifice. But it was a sacrifice gladly given. There was a liturgy to the event that included a song that everyone knew the lyrics to and sang with gusto. And when the team took the field, no one had to be told to stand and cheer. I’m not sure I have ever witnessed so much unhindered passion and devotion. It seemed that nothing could dampen the sheer joy and exuberance about being a part of what was happening in that stadium. It was worth the cost, worth the inconvenience, worth fighting the crowds, worth enduring the thunderstorm that drenched us. Being gathered in a great circle around the

team on the field was worth everything it took to be there. Of course, it isn’t just at a college football game that we can witness this kind of glad participation and identification. We see it at political rallies, at product sales conventions, at concerts, and in other arenas of life. The worth of the candidate, the product, and the music make everything it took to be there worth whatever it cost.” (Guthrie, Nancy. *Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation* (pp. 92-93). Crossway. Kindle Edition).

The things we devote ourselves to with passion! It might be a favorite team, or musician, or actor, or social influencer (ask your child or grandchild what that is), or politician. I am not suggesting that it is a bad thing to enjoy good entertainment. This past summer, the Taylor Swift concert series became all the rage. I have heard reports of people attending her concerts and describing the event as a religious experience:

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If this description of a Taylor Swift Concert sounds vaguely familiar, it should. What is being described here is worship – although, not true worship. It is counterfeit worship – that is worship that is to be reserved for God, but has been given to something or someone else. Romans 1:25 (ESV): “...they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”

Swiftie Fan

“Becoming a fan of someone is an admission that you like someone other than yourself. And by being a fan, you willingly join a diverse group of people who share the same passion, even if you might not have much else in common.” Lofton said. She adds that Swift and concerts like the Eras Tour fill the gaps left by organized religion by creating a space where that positive support is expected.” (“Taylor Swift and the Era of the Divine Stage: How Live Concerts Fill The Spiritual Void,” by Angela Serednicki).

Do you see the similarities? I do not want to sound like a prudish killjoy, placing a damper on our favorite forms of entertainment. But I do mean for us to stop and ponder just where our actions and affections lie by considering these two questions:

- (1) Does our preferred form of entertainment bear any resemblance to the biblical description of our worship of God?
- (2) What changes might we need to make in order to demolish the false gods we have erected in our lives and return to a pure and holy worship of the One who alone is worthy of our affection and our praise? (You may want to consult the Holy Spirit on this one)

False worship is always a clear and present danger. If you find yourself in dangerous territory, it's time to punt! As the Apostle John puts it, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:21, ESV).

In God's Grace,
Pastor Kevin



OCTOBER 2023 Sermons

- 1 – A Proper Response, Romans 12:1-2
- 8 – Gifts for All, Romans 12:3-8
- 15 – Christian 24/7, Romans 12:9-21
- 22 – For God and Country, Romans 13:1-7
- 29 – Loving and Living for God's Glory, Romans 13:8-14

Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”



Can you believe it? Our Shining Star Bazaar is less than two months away! WPC is again going to have tables to sell handmade items made by YOU! Making items for the bazaar is a great way to unleash your creativity and bring joy to others! Whatever you enjoy crafting and would like to share, we would love to accept for our bazaar. And now is the perfect time to get started!

Questions? Just ask your Fellowship Team!



OCTOBER 2023



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | | | |
| 1 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>Communion</i> | 2 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class | 3 7:00 p.m. Vision Team | 4 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class | 5 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Missions Mtg 5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 6 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10:00 a.m. Stewardship Mtg | 7 11:00 a.m. Prayer Walk |
| 8 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service | 9 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class  <i>Columbus Day</i> | 10 7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg 7:00 p.m. Session Mtg | 11 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class | 12 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 13 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class | 14 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts |
| 15 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service | 16 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 1:00 p.m. CE Mtg | 17 9:30 a.m. Dayspring Trip Sauvie Island 7:00 p.m. Outreach Team | 18 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class | 19 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 20 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10 a.m. Fellowship Committee Mtg | 21 10:00 a.m. Bread Making Class |
| 22 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service | 23 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class | 24 | 25 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class | 26 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 27 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class | 28 10:00 a.m. Shoebox Packing Party 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts |
| 29 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>(Blue Bag Sunday)</i> | 30 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class | 31 | | | | |

Financial Report: Operating Budget

| <u>JULY</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance | -43,065.32 | -12,921.16 |
| Receipts | 19,882.00 | 16,933.38 |
| Disbursements | <u>17,327.36</u> | <u>21,112.69</u> |
| Ending Balance | (40,510.68) | (17,100.47) |
| Year to Date | | |
| Beginning Balance | - | - |
| Receipts | 127,965.92 | 149,275.34 |
| Disbursements | <u>168,476.60</u> | <u>166,375.81</u> |
| Ending Balance | (40,510.68) | (17,100.47) |

Financial Report: Invested Funds

| <u>JULY</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Beginning Balance | 230,410.96 | 212,613.79 |
| Receipts | 2,999.49 | 3,826.94 |
| Disbursements | <u>1,153.49</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| Ending Balance | 232,256.96 | 216,440.73 |
| Year to Date | | |
| Beginning Balance | 226,637.02 | 237,352.89 |
| Receipts | 74,966.23 | 49,500.91 |
| Disbursements | <u>69,346.29</u> | <u>70,413.07</u> |
| Ending Balance | 232,256.96 | 216,440.73 |
| NET FUNDS | <u>191,746.28</u> | <u>199,340.26</u> |

CASTING CALL

For a radio theater production of

“A Christmas Carol”

We will be looking for readers who want to participate.

No memorizing of lines – just ‘expressive’ readers.

We will also need musicians (singers and instruments), and others, to provide the sound effects for the show.

Stay tuned for more information...

October Prayer Families

Week of...

- October 1 Deana MacPherson
Margaret Morrison
- October 8 Thom Mattison
Acenath Morgan
- October 15 Rick May
Sandy Wyzanowski
- October 22 Melinda McTaggart
Carollynn Woodward
- October 29 Jim & Marilyn Miller
Bill & Gail Woodard



Prayer Walk

Come and join us in a prayer walk on **October 7, at 11 a.m.**, in front of the Woodland Presbyterian Church, to walk and pray over the community of Woodland. 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.



October Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 2 Rick Syring
- 2 Jim Miller
- 3 Janet Benney
- 10 Kevin Leach
- 16 Sam & Toni LaPore
- 18 Richard & Janet Benney
- 20 Jean Eddy
- 22 Steve Wallace
- 29 Cynthia Svensson

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



Presbytery 2024 Planning

Our church has the opportunity to host Presbytery, February 1-3, 2024.

We will need lots of volunteers to help with this gathering.

Mark your calendars now, and begin praying on how God would use you to help serve at this meeting.

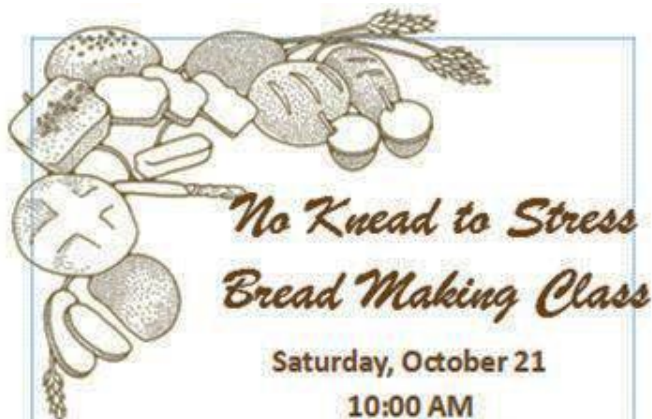
Thank you.

ENGAGEment Announcement

It's the ENGAGEment Announcement you have been waiting for! On Sunday, October 8, following worship, you will be given the opportunity to discover YOUR spiritual gifts by taking a brief 15-minute survey. Won't it be thrilling to find out what God-given abilities you have been blessed with by the Holy Spirit to serve Him?

We hope you are as excited as we are as we seek to do God's will in our lives!

Romans 12:6a: *"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us."*



*No Knead to Stress
Bread Making Class*

Saturday, October 21
10:00 AM
WPC Fellowship Hall
Cost: \$7.50

Would you like to learn to make the easiest bread ever?
Come get the recipe, learn the basics, and get some tips
and techniques for baking it.
Have your questions answered too!
It's easier than you may think!
Finish off by taste testing some fresh bread
with a *surprise* topping.
Sign up at the Welcome Center.



Voice of the Martyrs

Today, 215 million Christians suffer under high levels of persecution. This represents 1 in 12 Christians worldwide. Islamic oppression fuels persecution in eight out of the top ten countries. Voice of the Martyrs is an interdenominational Christian missions organization dedicated to serving our persecuted family worldwide. They provide housing, practical relief, and spiritual support. In addition, they provide Bibles, vocational training, food, and encouragement to get back on their feet. They help persecuted believers rebuild their lives and Christian witness in countries where they have suffered persecution. They also equip persecuted Christians to love and win to Christ those who are opposed to the gospel in their part of the world. They also promote the fellowship of all believers by informing the world of the faith and courage of persecuted Christians. Hebrews 13:3 instructs us to "Remember the prisoners as if chained with them – those who are mistreated – since you yourselves are in the body also." Please remember to pray for the persecuted and for the ministry of Voice of the Martyrs.

Deacons Fund

The Deacons Fund is used to help church members and community members with one time or ongoing expenses that they are having trouble meeting financially. Each month, we give out at least a \$1000 a month to those in need. In order to keep meeting those needs, we are reminding you of our Deacons Fund and asking if you are able to do so, to consider making a donation to the deacons fund on our Communion Sunday.

Thank you.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

At times, a volunteer driver is needed to give people rides, especially for medical appointments. If you have a few hours available and would like to help out, please leave your name on a list in the church office, or see one of the deacons to discuss.

Blue Bag Sunday

The Deacons will be working with the Woodland Action Center to help stock the food pantry. They collect over 70,000 pounds of food monthly that serves over 1100 families. Please pick up a blue bag, and fill it with non-perishable items, and return on the last Sunday of each month. Our donations will be dropped off the first Saturday of each month.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED