



**EXALT**

**EQUIP**

**ENGAGE**

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

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



## WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

# DECEMBER 2023 Happenings



From the Pastor's Desk



### THE PERFECT GIFT

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2*

I came across this story told by Sharon Jaynes in her book, *“Celebrating a Christ-Centered Christmas”*: An African boy listened carefully as his teacher explained why Christians give presents to each other on Christmas day. “The gift is an expression of our joy over the birth of Jesus and our friendship for each other,” she said. When Christmas day came, the boy brought the teacher a seashell of lustrous beauty. “Where did you ever find such a beautiful shell?” the teacher asked. The youth told her that there was only one spot where such extraordinary shells could be found. When he named the place, a certain bay several miles away, the teacher was left speechless. “Why... why, it’s gorgeous...wonderful, but you shouldn’t have gone all that way to get the gift for me.” His eyes brightening, the boy answered, “Long walk part of gift.”

Generally, people in our society - including myself - enjoy the comforts of ordering gifts on the internet (so you do not have to fight the crowds in the stores), giving gift certificates (so you do not have to fret about the kind of gift to buy), or asking someone to give you a list and then just purchasing those items (so that no real thought needs

to go into your purchases). In a time when exchanging Christmas presents has largely become a matter of convenience, this story is a reminder of the proper attitude in gift giving.

The best gifts I have ever received are the ones that were either made by the giver or were obviously chosen with much thought and care. Don’t you find the greatest happiness in giving a gift that you have made with your own hands - a present in which you invested your life? That is why we so treasure the gifts that children make in school or church - gifts not worth much in dollars and cents but in terms of loving expression, priceless. “Long walk part of gift!”

During this season of Advent, we are blessed to pause and consider the “long walk” Jesus took to deliver the gift of eternal life. Mark describes the long journey in the wilderness that Jesus traveled for us, preparing Himself for His earthly ministry (“*The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.*” Mark 1:12-13 [NLT<sub>2</sub>]).

Consider the distance Jesus covered in bringing His gift to us here on earth: Philippians 2:6-8 (NLT<sub>2</sub>) “*Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.*” Even now, Jesus always walks with us, never leaving our side (Matthew 28:20 [NLT<sub>2</sub>]): “*Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*”).

During this season, let us give thanks and rejoice in the One who travelled a greater distance than you or I can ever imagine to deliver to us a gift that you or I could never deserve. Sharon Jaynes concludes her story: *God came from heaven to a manger, from a manger to a cross, from a cross to the grave and from a grave back to heaven. And we ask, “Why all this trouble, God?” And God would say to us, “Long walk part of gift.” Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!* (2 Corinthians 9:15).

A Blessed Christmas to All!  
Pastor Kevin





## Christmas Eve Service

**Christmas Eve:** Join us on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. for our candlelight service. There will be songs, worship, and the celebration of our Savior's birth. Invite your friends and family. Come early for a warm meal of soups, homemade rolls, and plenty of fellowship. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

*"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11*

## TOY DRIVE

The NW Corvette Association delivers toys to the children at Randall Children's Hospital each Christmas. If you'd like to contribute to this worthy cause, please bring unwrapped toys to the church by Thursday, December 7 for children ages 2-18. It is wonderful fun to find toys for younger children, but the older kids need gifts too! Thank you for your generous spirit and willingness to serve in this way. Merry Christmas!

## 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.



- 3 – *Prophets Prepare*, 2 Peter 1:19-21
- 10 – *Angels Announce*, Luke 1:26-38
- 17 – *Shepherds Lead*, Luke 2:15-20
- 24 – *Wise Men Seek*, James 3:13-18
- 31 – *People Proclaim!*, Psalm 71:12-16

## Missionary Update

**Missionary Update** Supporting **Woodland Action Center** is one of the ways we are reaching out to help people in our area cope with difficult circumstances. This is a nonprofit organization which provides food to individuals and families who are struggling financially. Clothing and various household items are also available at a reasonable price in the thrift store run by WAC. This community service is primarily dependent upon donations from the public. Food items are always in great need. Clean, "gently used" clothing is a welcome donation. At the present time, thrift store space is limited, and large pieces of furniture cannot be accepted. A list of items (acceptable and unacceptable) can be obtained at the thrift store.

Woodland Action Center is greatly in need of volunteers to sort through donated items and prepare them for sale in the thrift shop and for stocking the shelves for food distribution. If you can give a few hours for this kind of work, it will be greatly appreciated. Even a couple of hours once a week or whenever possible would be very helpful. There is currently a backlog on sorting clothing as well as getting Christmas items on display in the thrift shop. This can be done while sitting down, which is helpful for older volunteers. Forms for volunteering are available at the thrift shop. (WPC also has some of these forms.) Participating in our "Blue Bag Sunday" is a good way to donate food items to WAC.

Donation drop-off is each Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The thrift store is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each week.

The address is 736 Davidson Street,  
Woodland.



# DECEMBER 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10:00 a.m. Stewardship Mtg	<b>2</b> 9:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens 10 a.m. Wreath-Making Class 11:00 a.m. Prayer Walk
<b>3 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>Communion</i>	<b>4</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>5</b> 7:00 p.m. Vision Team	<b>6</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>7</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>9</b> 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts  <b>3:00 p.m. A Christmas Carol</b>
<b>10 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	<b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>12</b> 6:00 p.m. Session & Deacons Potluck	<b>13</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>14</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Missions Mtg 5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class  10 a.m. Fellowship Committee Mtg	<b>16</b>
<b>17 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	<b>18</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class  1:00 p.m. CE Mtg	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>21</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
<b>24 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <b>6:00 p.m. Soup</b> <b>7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b>	<b>25</b> OFFICE CLOSED  	<b>26</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>27</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>28</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	<b>29</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>30</b>
<b>31 NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>(Blue Bag Sunday)</i>						

## Financial Report: Operating Budget

<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Beginning Balance	-54,108.22	-17,765.65
Receipts	24,922.96	16,936.26
Disbursements	<u>18,091.96</u>	<u>34,846.33</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>(47,277.22)</b>	<b>(35,675.72)</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		
Beginning Balance	-	-
Receipts	184,212.87	204,131.01
Disbursements	<u>231,490.09</u>	<u>239,806.73</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>(47,277.22)</b>	<b>(35,675.72)</b>

## Financial Report: Invested Funds

<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Beginning Balance	241,690.26	232,225.75
Receipts	3,170.12	4,134.70
Disbursements	<u>1,101.17</u>	<u>6,068.86</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>243,759.21</b>	<b>230,291.59</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		
Beginning Balance	226,637.02	237,352.89
Receipts	95,970.00	69,448.96
Disbursements	<u>78,847.81</u>	<u>76,510.26</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>243,759.21</b>	<b>230,291.59</b>
<b>NET FUNDS</b>	<b><u>196,481.99</u></b>	<b><u>194,615.87</u></b>

*The radio theater production of...*

## “A Christmas Carol”

December 9, at 3 p.m.

Please plan to join us here at WPC for the re-telling of this beloved Christmas classic.

Dessert to follow

Invite family and friends.

Admission price is a can of soup  
(or other can good for  
the Woodland Action Center.

## December Prayer Families

### Week of...

- December 3 Jim & Elaine Blair  
Claralee Williams
- December 10 Dale & Janet Boon  
Ruth Wendt
- December 17 Betty Bottemiller  
Connie Watson
- December 24 David & Sherry Bozorth  
Lloyd Walton
- December 31 Tom Brannan  
Steve & Cindy Wallace



### Prayer Walk

Come and join us in a prayer walk on **December 2, 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.



## December Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 3 Doug Ferguson
- 4 Janet Boon
- 4 Dick Pedersen
- 5 Kirsten Marie Dean
- 6 Bob Norton
- 9 Chuck & Patty Graybill
- 12 Randy Brown
- 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

## 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.



## **ADVENT READINGS**

### **Week 1 – Prophets**

Sunday: 2 Peter 1:19-21, Isaiah 7:13-14, Matthew 1:18-23

Monday: Hebrews 1:1-3, Isaiah 9:1-7, Matthew 4:13-16

Tuesday: Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1-11, Acts 26:22-29, 27:12-14, 38, 57-60

Wednesday: Isaiah 53, Matthew 27:12-14, 38, 57-60

Thursday: Zechariah 9:9, 11:12-13, 12:10, Matthew 21:1-10, 26:15, 27:3-10, John 19:37

Friday: Isaiah 42:1-7, Matthew 12:17-21, Luke 2:32

Saturday: Psalm 22:1-18, Matthew 27:35-46

### **Week 2- Angels**

Sunday: Luke 1:5-25 (Zacharias)

Monday: Luke 1:26-38 (Mary), Psalm 34:7

Tuesday: Matthew 1:18-25 (Joseph)

Wednesday: Luke 2:8-20 (Shepherds)

Thursday: Matthew 2:1-21 (Joseph), Psalm 91:11-12

Friday: Matthew 4:11, Luke 22:43, Matthew 28:2-4, Acts 1:10-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Saturday: Daniel 7:9-10, Revelation 5:11-12, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, Matthew 24:31

### **Week 3-Shepherds**

Sunday: Luke 2:1-20

Monday: Psalm 23, 79:13, 95:7, 100:3

Tuesday: Isaiah 53:6, Matthew 18:11-14, 1 Peter 2:25

Wednesday: Isaiah 40:1-11, Hebrews 13:20-21

Thursday: John 10:1-18, 27-29

Friday: Matthew 9:35-38, John 21:15-17, 1 Peter 5:2-4

Saturday: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 23-31

### **Week 4- Wise Men**

Sunday: Matthew 2:1-12

Monday: James 1:5, 3:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 1:17-30

Wednesday: Daniel 2:20-30

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 5:11-23

Friday: Job 28: 12-28, Psalm 1:1-10

Saturday: Proverbs 1:1-10

### **Christmas Eve**

John 8:12, 9:4-5, Matthew 5:14-16, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, & 1 John 1:6-7

**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.

**Cookie Call !!**

We are calling all bakers to whip up a batch of your favorite cookies for our church family to enjoy following Worship and our Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24. We are hoping to have some yummy cookies as part of our fellowship times. Cookies may be brought to church on Sunday morning.

Hope you can help us out!

Remember to invite friends and neighbors to celebrate the birth of Jesus at these two special Worship services.



**WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)**

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**