



**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

# JANUARY 2024 Happenings



## ✠ From the Pastor's Desk ✠

### A LIGHT CONVERSATION

Our daughter, Emily, who visited us over Christmas, made the comment the other day, "It's so dark here in the morning." She's right. At this time of year, when I go out for my walk in the morning, it is very dark. It is so dark, in fact, that I have to sport a very dashing reflective vest and a stylish headlamp to light my path (quite a sight to behold).

I am grateful that Christmas and New Year's Day occur during the darkest time of year. The darkness is a reminder of our sinful condition as well as our need for the light of Christ to shine upon our lives as we travel in this dark and broken world. There is a certain brightness that accompany these holidays.

As we begin a new year, one of the first special days we celebrate in the church is Epiphany. It is the celebration of the revelation/manifestation of the Lord to the Gentiles. God has shown His light to all people – the light of Christ made known to the whole world. Unfortunately, many people do not acknowledge a need for Christ, and instead, choose to stumble in the darkness. Continuing to trust in our own strength and wisdom, we ignore

the Lord's message of salvation in Christ. Even those of us who identify as followers of Christ have this stubborn tendency to want to trust in our own ways rather than fully trusting in the Lord. Too often, we do not realize our weakness and walk around as if we have it altogether. We make decisions based on what we think is best for us without even considering the greater question – "What is best for the Kingdom of God?" -Isaiah speaks of this problem when he prophesies, *"Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches! Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled! This you have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment"* (Isaiah 50:10-11 [ESV]).

What would it mean for us this very day – and this year - to put down the personal torch that we so often rely upon; and instead, place our trust in the name of the Lord? What would that look like in our relationships, in our business dealings, in our finances, and in our daily schedules. What changes would we need to make

to ensure that we are not stumbling in the darkness of our own wisdom but instead trusting in the wisdom of the Lord? That is the call of this passage in Isaiah to all of us. Lay down the torch of our own ways and our self-reliance in 2024 and make the light of Christ our lamp to guide us in this new year.

You have no doubt heard or read the poem quoted by King George the VI in his 1939 Christmas message as Great Britain was facing the uncertainties brought on by their entrance into World War II. In his concluding remarks, King George recited a portion of the poem, *The Gate of the Year*, by Minnie Louise Haskins: *And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

These words seem just as appropriate today as they were 85 years ago.

In God's Grace  
Pastor Kevin



## Women's Wellness Clinic

The Women's Wellness Clinic is a local ministry supported by our church. The Women's Wellness Clinic of Woodland is the intersection of God's Love, high quality medical services, and medically accurate education that empowers women to be informed and supported in all aspects of their lives. The team equips women from all walks of life—from pregnancy to menopause, through integrity, compassion, fiscal responsibility, and dedication. The clinic exists to heal, restore, and build up women and families in our community through Jesus Christ.

Several services are offered through the clinic with plans to expand. Presently, the focus is on abortion recovery, prayer outreach, transformative nurse coaching, and Christ-centered meditation and movement classes. In the future, services such as parenting classes, women's comprehensive lab services, mental health counseling and referrals, trauma support groups, women's integrative health care services, limited OB ultrasounds, the Boutique, and life advocate coaching will be offered to the community.

In the month of January, we will have baby bottles available to fill with change, cash, or checks (check payable to: Women's Wellness Clinic of Woodland, Inc.). Please return your baby bottle by Sunday, January 21, which is *Sanctity of Life Sunday*. The proceeds collected will be given to the clinic. If you are interested in supporting the clinic further, you may contact Nicole or Stacy (leaders of the clinic) at 360-813-0541 or: [www.womenswellnessclinic.org](http://www.womenswellnessclinic.org) for more information.

### **CPR CLASS**

There will be a CPR Class, for those who are interested to register, Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

The cost is \$65 per person if we have minimum of eight participants.

For more information, contact Karen Wilson, 503-720-3906.



## **January Sermons**

- 7 – *Why We Care*, Romans 15:1-13
- 14 – *Prerequisites for Ministry*, Romans 15:14-22
- 21 – *A Man with a Plan*, Romans 15:23-33
- 28 – *Getting Personal*, Romans 16:1-16

### **Volunteer Presbytery**

Volunteers are needed for helping out during our February 1-3 Presbytery meeting. We will be hosting 100 people for the three days of the meeting. You can sign up in the foyer if you'd like to help.

#### Thursday, February 1

- 12 Noon - Set up tables in Sanctuary with chairs for meeting
- 1 p.m. - Name Badge set up for registration
- 3-5 p.m. - Coffee/snack service for Missions workshop and meetings

#### Friday, February 2

- 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m. - Parking attendants/shuttle service
- 8 a.m.-11 a.m. - Coffee/snack service
- 8 a.m.-10 a.m. - Registration
- 8 a.m.-10 a.m. - Greeters
- 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - Lunch service
- 2-3 p.m. - Coffee/snack service
- 4-6:30 p.m. - Dinner service
- 6:30 p.m. - Greeters for worship service

#### Saturday, February 3

- 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m. - Parking attendants
- 8 a.m.-10:00 a.m. - Coffee/snack service
- 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m. - Registration
- 12 noon - Take down, clean up

We also need five more volunteers to make three dozen cookies for our meeting. We will have a brief information meeting for all volunteers on Sunday, January 28, at 11:45 a.m.

# JANUARY 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><i>Epiphany</i></p>						
	<b>1</b> NEW YEARS DAY	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>4</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10:00 a.m. Stewardship Mtg	<b>6</b>  11:00 a.m. Prayer Walk
<b>7</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>Communion</i>	<b>8</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>9</b>  7:00 p.m. Vision Team  7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg	<b>10</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>11</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>12</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10 a.m. Fellowship Committee Mtg	<b>13</b> 9 a.m.-1 p.m. CPR Class 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts 1:30-3:30 p.m. New Deacon/Elders 3:30-4:30 p.m. Session Mtg
<b>14</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	<b>15</b> OFFICE CLOSED  10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 1:00 p.m. CE Mtg	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>18</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	<b>22</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>23</b>  7:00 p.m. OT Mtg	<b>24</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  5:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>27</b> 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
<b>28</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Live 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>(Blue Bag Sunday)</i> 11:45 a.m. Presbytery Volunteer Mtg	<b>29</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class			

## Financial Report: Operating Budget

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Beginning Balance	-47,277.22	-35,675.72
Receipts	15,397.00	17,486.67
Disbursements	<u>32,219.65</u>	<u>22,249.56</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>(64,099.87)</b>	<b>(40,438.61)</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		
Beginning Balance	-	-
Receipts	199,609.87	221,617.68
Disbursements	<u>263,709.74</u>	<u>262,056.29</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>(64,099.87)</b>	<b>(40,438.61)</b>

## Financial Report: Invested Funds

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Beginning Balance	243,759.21	230,626.03
Receipts	15,118.09	5,769.81
Disbursements	<u>7,163.52</u>	<u>565.83</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>251,713.78</b>	<b>235,830.01</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		
Beginning Balance	226,637.02	237,352.89
Receipts	111,088.09	75,588.77
Disbursements	<u>86,011.33</u>	<u>77,111.65</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>251,713.78</b>	<b>235,830.01</b>
<b>NET FUNDS</b>	<b><u>187,613.91</u></b>	<b><u>195,391.40</u></b>

## January Prayer Families



### Week of...

- January 7 Larry & Portia Brown  
Matt Tricola
- January 14 Randy & Carol Brown  
Sean Taylor
- January 21 Debbie Caffall  
Steve Taxon
- January 28 Cliff Campbell  
Rick & Janet Syring



## 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

### Prayer Walk

Come and join us in a prayer walk on **January 6 , 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.



### 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.



## ...*from Carolyn Ford, Missionary*



November 2023

Dear Friends,

I am truly thankful for you and for your partnership in getting God's Word into the hands and hearts of people groups who have not had it in their heart language before. God bless you richly! In this November letter is a short list of responses to the Gurage radio program.

Gurage was the first language I worked on after the LORD led me into Bible translation ministry. They now have the whole Bible in their heart language, as do the Kafa. The Aari Bible is with the publisher, and the Banna translators are making good progress on adding the Old Testament to the New Testament that was dedicated in 2015. You have had a part in all of this. Praise God!

In Ethiopia and many developing countries, radio is still the most widely accessible medium for hearing the Gospel. Gurage was the first language I worked on after the LORD led me into Bible translation ministry. They now have the whole Bible in their heart language, as do the Kafa. The following comments are responses from four listeners to the Gurage Radio Programs prepared by SIM:

1. "I came to this country to change my life and to help my family. One day I went to the market place to buy some things with my employer. By chance, I met an Ethiopian lady, and we exchanged our phone numbers. She invited me to listen to your radio programs in the Gurage language. Now I listen all the time. I have decided to follow Jesus as my personal savior. Please pray for me to be strong in the Lord."
2. "I am a student at Wolaitta University (southern Ethiopia). In my dorm, two of the students are Christians. They read the Bible and pray together, and God helps them by His grace. So, I wanted to ask them about their faith and learn about the word of God. They told me about the Gospel, and I received Jesus as my personal Savior. Please pray for me to become a strong Christian and grow in my faith."
3. "God is teaching me many things through your programs in my own language. Every evening my family and I listen to your dramas and teaching. We are learning so much, God bless you. Pray for us to share the gospel with our neighbors." (in the Gurage area)
4. "Your radio program is sharing the word of God with so many people. It is wonderful to hear you preach the gospel. Last week, on our compound (in the Gurage area), there was a funeral. Many of our neighbors came to encourage the grieving family. When I turned on my radio to listen to your Gurage radio program, so many of the visitors heard the program and listened to it. Some of them are going to listen to it in their homes. Please pray for those who heard the gospel to change their way of life."

Gifts for air-time and production costs may be sent to your nearest SIM office noting, "Ethiopian Media Ministry, Account #083280-091", OR online at <https://www.simusa.org/give?id=083280-091&dsg=Project>

I wish each of you a blessed Christmas and New Year,  
Carolyn Ford

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**JANUARY 2024**

**Happenings**



**WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)**

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