



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

DECEMBER 2024 Happenings



✠ From the Pastor's Desk ✠

FOR THE "REST" OF US

In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8 (ESV)

If I were to choose one word to describe the Christmas Season, the first word I chose probably would not be "rest."

Several years ago, I remember seeing a festive bumper sticker that declared, "I brake for Christmas." The idea is that everything else in life becomes secondary, so that you can invest fully in the season. For many people, this would be an appropriate personal slogan for the Christmas season. The one who slams on the brake for Christmas is the one who goes all out during the season to make it the best Christmas of all. No sparing on the lights and ornaments, the parties, and other holiday activities, because you need that Christmas joy. Of course, the problem with this attitude is that it will always disappoint. I've known people who put a lot of effort into experiencing the perfect holiday season. Yet, when the holiday season is over and the normal routine begins again, your "perfect holiday" becomes the "hollow days" – the emptiness that is left when perfection once again slipped through your fingers. No rest here!

Maybe your bumper sticker more properly reads, "I'm broke for Christmas." How easy it is to get caught up in the sales, the deals, the Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and the "Last Chance before Christmas" opportunities to spend your way to the comfort and joy that you seek. Whether we are making purchases for ourselves or for others, we become consumed with the "bigger and more" is better concept. In the end, we are most likely left with a hefty credit card bill and not much to show for all the expenditures we made. You might even need to work an extra shift or two to make the payments. No rest here!

One last slogan that may strike a chord – "I'm broken at Christmas." For many people, the holidays are difficult. We may feel lost in the sea of holiday festivities – which only amplifies our sense of brokenness and despair. "Why can't I experience happiness like everyone around me?" you might find yourself repeating often during the season. In our brokenness, we may try to turn on the happiness, but we fail. No rest here!


I am aware that I am just describing the plot of "A Charlie Brown Christmas." But, I think Charles Schultz was onto something. He understood how people often lose the meaning in the many inaccurate messages and false promises made during this season.

Every church in which I have served (and every church I have attended in my lifetime) always followed a certain tradition for the Christmas Eve Service. To be clear, I am not complaining or suggesting that this tradition be changed. I do not find it boring, unimaginative, or uninspiring – to the contrary, it is one special moment I treasure every year. When the service is drawing to a close and candles are being lit, every year we sing the same song. And for good reason. The Creator of all things made residence among creation, the Son of God being born into our sinful world, to bring us rest – eternal rest. In our never-ending quest to restore that which was lost in the fall, we simply wear ourselves out trying to achieve the impossible. Whether through our failed attempts to produce or to purchase true peace and joy, we work, and work, and work, but never arrive and never achieve the goal. We are just tired... *continues on pg. 2*

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But, on Christmas Eve, as we are closing the service, we sing, “*Silent night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in Heavenly peace! Sleep in Heavenly peace!*” Again, no matter how far we may have strayed, if our hearts are open, we will be drawn back to the only One who can alleviate our strife and quench our thirsty souls.

Augustine captured our need and God’s ability to meet that need in this prayer: *O you who are full of compassion, I commit and commend myself unto you, in whom I am, and live, and know. Be the goal of my pilgrimage, and my rest by the way. Let my soul take refuge from the crowding turmoil of worldly thoughts beneath the shadow of your wings; let my heart, this sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God. Amen.*

Rest and Peace in Christ, 
Pastor Kevin

Sunday Morning Live

Sunday Mornings, 9 a.m.

In the Upper Room

We are studying “Discipleship-The Study,” Season 3, by Ray Vander Lann, looking at the cultural and historical call to be a follower of Christ through the lens of Scripture.

Would love to have you join us.

Annual Meeting Auction

SOLD! The Annual Meeting Auction is Coming Back!

It’s coming back! A Gift Basket Auction is again going to be held at our WPC Annual Meeting. Various groups and individuals in the church are encouraged to make up themed gift baskets that will be auctioned off. Want to make up a basket? Be sure to sign up in January with your name and the theme of your gift basket. Plan on attending the Annual Meeting on January 26, and join in the fun! Bid on a basket for yourself or as a gift for someone else. It’s going to be GREAT!
Your WPC Outreach Team

2025 Northwest MissionConnexion

MissionConnexion is the premier Missions Conference in the Pacific Northwest. It features world class speakers, dozens of workshops that cover a wide variety of topics, exhibits from mission organizations from around the world (and you get to interact with as many as you want), and great worship as well. Words really cannot express how educational and uplifting this is. This year MissionConnexion will be held at Sunset Church in Portland on January 17-18. Registration is free. Register at Northwest MissionConnexion. If you are interested or have questions, contact Mike Ferguson or Karen Wilson.

Woodland Action Center

Woodland Action Center is a nonprofit community action organization that provides basic needs to individuals and families. They provide food to people in need, personal hygiene items, and employment training. They also operate a food bank.

With dignity and compassion, Woodland Action Center also provides basic human resources, nutritional education, and opportunities for self-sufficiency for people in need and people in crisis. Through a partnership with the city of Woodland, they also offer emergency housing funding, rental assistance, and overnight emergency shelter options for people in need.

Our church supports Woodland Action Center, and they gladly accept donations (money and food) as well as volunteers. Monthly, our church provides bags to put food items in and then these are given once a month to Woodland Action Center.



DECEMBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>Communion</i>	2 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10 a.m. C.E. Mtg	3	4 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	5 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	6 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10:00 a.m. Stewardship Mtg	7 10:00 a.m. Advent Workshop 11:00 a.m. Prayer Walk
8 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	9 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	10 7:00 p.m. Session & Deacons Mtgs	11 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	12 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Missions Mtg 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	13 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 6-9 p.m. Parents Night Out	14 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
15 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Choir (6 p.m.) Performance @ Grotto	16 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class ...	17	18 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	19 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	20 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	21 5:00 p.m. Dayspring Trip, Living Nativity
22 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	23 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	24 <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i> 6:00 p.m. Soup Meal 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	25 OFFICE CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS 	26 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	27 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	28 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
29 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>(Gratitude Bag Sunday)</i>	30 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	31 <i>NEW YEAR'S EVE</i>				

Financial Report: Summary

SEPTEMBER	September 2024	January 2024
Assets		
Total Assets	\$274,318.79	\$209,723.20
Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	(\$3,990.00)	\$2,780.39
Net Assets		
Total Net Assets	\$276,904.44	\$205,538.46
Liabilities & Net Assets	\$272,914.44	\$208,318.85

December Prayer Families

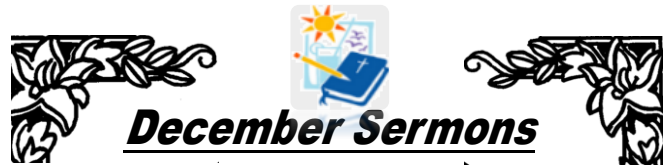


Week of...

December 1	Randy & Carol Brown Steve & Cindy Wallace
December 8	Debbie Caffall Matt Tricola
December 15	Cliff Campbell Sean Taylor
December 22	Pat & Janet Clock Steve Taxon
December 29	Jean Cowden Rick & Janet Syring

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 \$1250 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.



December Sermons

- 1 – *He Shall Be Called: “Wonderful Counselor”*
Hebrews 4:14-16 (1st Sunday of Advent)
- 8 – *He Shall Be Called: “Mighty God”*
Colossians 1:15-20 (2nd Sunday of Advent)
- 15 – *He Shall Be Called: Everlasting Father*
Romans 5:18-21, Hebrews 12:2
- 22 – *He Shall Be Called: Prince of Peace*
Colossians 1:19-23
- 24 – *He Shall Be Called: Name Above All Names*
Philippians 2:5-11
- 29 – *Pastor Away*



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

Dayspring Trip

Saturday, December 21

Join us as we attend the Living Nativity at Living Hope Church, Saturday, December 21. Experience the Christmas story with actors and live animals. Meet at 5:00 p.m. at the church, to leave at 5:15 p.m. The program begins at 6:00 p.m. There is a \$5 gas fee. The program is free. A Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

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. Thank you for your support of these special causes in EPC life!

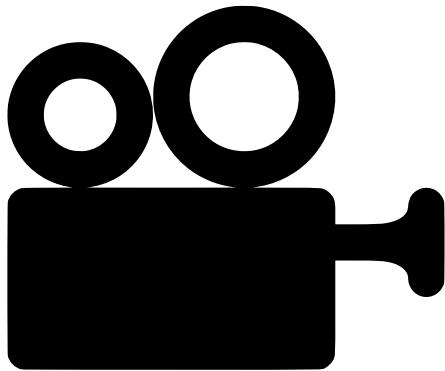
<https://epc.org/donate/thanksgivingoffering/>

Angels On Wheels Toy Run

Saturday, December 14

Portland Expo Center

Come join us for the annual toy drive for Randall Children's Hospital. All cars, trucks, motorcycles, or anything with wheels is welcome. Just bring a new unwrapped toy. People will be meeting at 9:00 a.m., at the Portland Expo Center, leaving at 10:00 a.m. to caravan to Legacy Emanuel to drop off the toys.



Parents Night Out

Friday, December 13, 6-9 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

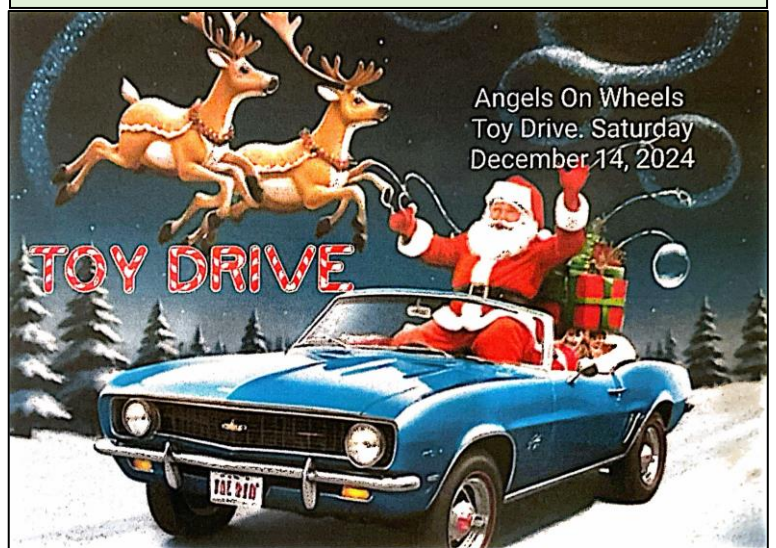
Parents, drop your kids off at the church for a night off.

We will provide dinner, games, and crafts, and a Christmas movie for your kids.

Please sign up in the Narthex by December 10.

Invite your friends to join you!

ALL DONATIONS ARE GOING TO



DONATIONS ARE DUE

DECEMBER 2024 Happenings



YOU ARE INVITED TO...

Family Advent Workshop

FOR ALL AGES

Saturday, December 7, 2024

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

We will have an advent workbook for each family attending, to use for your devotional time this season. Enjoy light refreshments, fellowship, and craft time, making a star tree topper for your Christmas tree.

Our theme is "Follow His Star to Bethlehem."

Please come, and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us as we prepare for Christmas.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED