The Leaves

A Monthly Publication of Woodland Presbyterian Church
Volume 52, Issue 12 December 2020

Woodland Presbyterian Church
1324 Columbia Dr
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 662-5254

Pastor
Rev. Mike Umbenhaur
Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 2:30 pm

Temporary Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
6:30-8:00am
&
9:00am-11:30 pm
Office Administrator
Ruth Holtmann

Worship Volunteers

WORSHIP LEADERS

December 6 - Lee Howell
December 13 - Sue Lund
December 20 - Carole Pirruccello
December 27 - Sandy Richardson

CHILDREN'S SERMON

December 6 - Mike Umbenhaur
December 13 - Cyndee Ruiz
December 20 - Adrian Mora
December 27 - Aren Scardaci

REMOTE WORSHIP SERVICE

Every Sunday @ 9:30 via Zoom

Please join us over the internet on your PC/Mac, Smartphone, Tablet, or landline. We miss you and want to see your face or hear your voice. There is a virtual coffee hour following service where you have a chance to visit with each other after service. When it is safe to worship in the sanctuary, we will let you know.

Office Email: info@WoodlandPresbyterianChurch.org

Website: www.WoodlandPresbyterianChurch.org

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/woodlandpresbyterianchurch

Yolo Youth Collective Email:
Khawkins@stoneycreekconstruction.com

Thoughts from the Pastor

*"The people **walking in darkness** have seen a great light; on those **living in the land of the shadow of death** a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2, New International Version).*

As we begin our last month of the year, I know many people cannot wait for this year to end. In fact, some don't think that this year will ever end. When you have those thoughts, it feels like you're "walking in darkness" and/or "living in the land of the shadow of death". With record-breaking fires and hurricanes and a world-wide pandemic, darkness seems like a forever experience, especially when the holidays come around. We cannot do what we've always done.

Isaiah is speaking to a people in exile. They have been "kicked out" of their nation, their homes and their temple—they have come to experience "walking in darkness" and "living in the land of the shadow of death." Much, if not all, of their practices and habits they cannot do anymore. They are surrounded by darkness and death. It is a very difficult time, at best.

The prophet comes to them with a promise of light. A promise from long ago that God would come among them "in the darkness" and restore them. Don't we need that now more than ever! We are in desperate need of God's light to shine into not only our darkened lives, but to illuminate our darkened hearts and minds. We too have been a people walking in darkness and living (trying to) in the land of the shadow of death; and it has been devastating and scary. We don't like the dark, do we?

The Christmas hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" is familiar to us who celebrate Christmas. But I have been "awakened" to the 2nd verse:

"And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low//
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow//
Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing."

My friends, the light has dawned on our weary and darkened souls! Let us celebrate, even in this dark time. God's light will shine on us wherever we are.

Pastor Mike

A Message from the Finance Committee

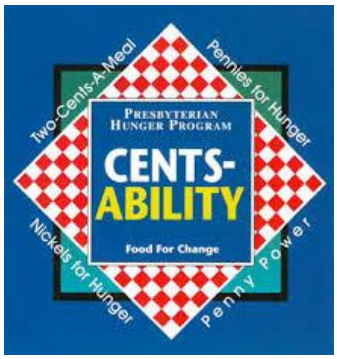
Christmas is a season of light, hope, joy, and giving. It can be hard to remember this with COVID's dark cloud looming over us, but we are a strong and creative congregation that finds ways to stay connected and celebrate this Christmas Season.

We are grateful for the technology we have that allows us to still conduct worship service, find our new pastor, and connect with others online. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel with the multiple vaccines cued up to take COVID out. We can find happiness in creating new family traditions with our loved ones, as old ones are put on a momentary pause or modified. We can remember to give; our time, our talents, and our thanks to those in need.

It has been a tight year for us, as it has been for many of you affected by the shutdowns COVID caused. We have had to tighten the purse strings and dip into our reserves, just like you. Thank you for staying with us through this most challenging of years. Thank you for taking care of your church and your church family. Thank you for sending in your pledge cards and providing our church with your continued support for the coming year.

We are doing our Christmas Joy collection for the entire month of December. You will find the giving envelope attached to this newsletter. Please return it with your contribution for this final collection we do for the close of 2020. Please continue mailing your offerings to the church office. Please use the memo line to designate where you want the funds to go.

Thank you,
WPC Finance Committee



What is Cents-Ability??

Cents-Ability is a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. Cents-Ability originated in 1976 as "Two-Cents-A-Meal," a project begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. Over the years, presbyteries have developed similar programs entitled Pennies for Hunger, Nickel-A-Meal, etc. Many of these programs benefit local hunger ministries as well as the national and international projects of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. (PHP).

WPC invites our congregation to contribute a few cents to this cause on Communion Sundays. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command "You give them something to eat." If you wish to contribute to this cause, please mail your check to the church and notate "Cents-ability" in the memo line. Thank you – *Mission Committee*

For more information visit: https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/nationaldevelopment/what-cents-ability/

Great Day News

December 2020

As we begin December, we anticipate many familiar activities. We have had to eliminate our tree-cutting field trip, but we will still have trees to decorate in the classrooms. Our first big project is gift-making for our families; a star candle-holder for the three-year-olds and a handprint banner for the older classes.

All through the month we are making ornaments, decorations and chains. We tell the story of Jesus' birth on a felt board and make star and nativity ornaments. The older classes re-enact the story with simple costumes and teacher narration. It is very sweet and often contains unexpected moments ("I have to go pee"). We also stress giving to others by contributing canned goods, mittens and socks which go to Fourth and Hope.

As of this time, we have not determined how we would arrange a Santa visit as sitting on Santa's lap is not an approved activity. After all this preparation and excitement, only slightly dimmed by the pandemic, the staff will enjoy 2+ weeks of vacation.

Thanks to Gary and Mary McCurdy for a monetary donation and to Jackie Scott for some craft supplies.

Christmas blessings and Happy New Year.
Nancy Van Sant and Great Day staff

WOODLAND OUTDOOR WANDERERS
2020 REPORT CARD

Grade F+
NO HIKES, 1 CAMPOUT

Excuses:

- Covid 19
- Parks and Trails Closed

Anything positive to report:

- 8 People had a fabulous campout in August! This will be a great campground for the 2021 campout.
- No known cases of Covid in WOW.
- 2020 will end and 2021 has to be a better year!
- Already have a plan for 2021, as we didn't use the 2020 plan.

WOW hikes will begin as soon as a vaccine is available. We'll keep you posted.
Call 530-312-0100 or email kathyjtrott@gmail.com for more information.
Hike recommendations are always welcome.
Stay safe and well!
Leaders in waiting: Ken and Kathy Trott

WPC Chirstmas Events

Chrsitmas at the church is going to look different this year due to the pandemic. Many of the normal activities will not be taking place this year. We cannot plan ahead for events with the ever changing nature of this virus. That said, we will try to do what we can within the health and safety guidleines laid out by the CDC and Yolo County. If we, as a church, are able to do anything, we will notify you via email and/or during Sunday service. Please stay on top of checking email or the WPC website as those are the fastest way for us to communicate information to you.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Jim Scott

It is with a heavy heart to share the news of Jim Scott's passing. He passed away at his home the morning of November 7th, surrounded by family. No memorial service has been planned as of yet. In lieu of flowers, it has been asked that you make donations to the church or to the Community Care Car. Both of these were very important to Jim.

Marie Gillingham

It is with deepest sympathies to have learned of the passing of former member Marie Gillingham. She had passed away 4 years ago.

Please keep the Scott family and the Gillingham family in your thoughts and prayers.

Health Ministry

Stress or Anxiety? Which one is it??

I imagine we have all been feeling a little bit of each, but how do we know which one it is? I'd like to share with you, on the following pages, information that discusses the differences and gives strategies on how to manage them.

Susan Silveira, Health Ministry

I'M SO **STRESSED** OUT!

From the **NATIONAL INSTITUTE *of* MENTAL HEALTH**

Feeling overwhelmed? Read this fact sheet to learn whether it's stress or anxiety, and what you can do to cope.

Is it stress or anxiety?

Life can be stressful—you may feel stressed about performance at school, traumatic events (such as a pandemic, natural disaster, or act of violence), or a life change. Everyone feels stress from time to time.

What is stress? Stress is the physical or mental response to an external cause, such as having a lot of homework or having an illness. A stressor may be a one-time or short-term occurrence, or it can happen repeatedly over a long time.

What is anxiety? Anxiety is your body's reaction to stress and can occur even if there is no current threat.

If that anxiety doesn't go away and begins to interfere with your life, it could affect your health. You could experience problems with sleeping, or with your immune, digestive, cardiovascular, and reproductive systems. You also may be at higher risk for developing a mental illness such as an anxiety disorder or depression. More information about anxiety disorders is available at **www.nimh.nih.gov/anxietydisorders**.

So, how do you know when to seek help?

Stress vs. Anxiety

Stress

- Generally is a response to an *external* cause, such as taking a big test or arguing with a friend.
- Goes away once the situation is resolved.
- Can be positive or negative. For example, it may inspire you to meet a deadline, or it may cause you to lose sleep.

Both Stress and Anxiety

Both stress and anxiety can affect your mind and body. You may experience symptoms such as:

- Excessive worry
- Uneasiness
- Tension
- Headaches or body pain
- High blood pressure
- Loss of sleep

Anxiety

- Generally is *internal,* meaning it's your reaction to stress.
- Usually involves a persistent feeling of apprehension or dread that doesn't go away, and that interferes with how you live your life.
- Is constant, even if there is no immediate threat.

It's important to manage your stress.

Everyone experiences stress, and sometimes that stress can feel overwhelming. You may be at risk for an anxiety disorder if it feels like you can't manage the stress and if the symptoms of your stress:

- Interfere with your everyday life.
- Cause you to avoid doing things.
- Seem to be always present.

Coping With Stress and Anxiety

Learning what causes or triggers your stress and what coping techniques work for you can help reduce your anxiety and improve your daily life. It may take trial and error to discover what works best for you. Here are some activities you can try when you start to feel overwhelmed:

- Keep a journal.
- Download an app that provides relaxation exercises (such as deep breathing or visualization) or tips for practicing mindfulness, which is a psychological process of actively paying attention to the present moment.
- Exercise, and make sure you are eating healthy, regular meals.
- Stick to a sleep routine, and make sure you are getting enough sleep.
- Avoid drinking excess caffeine such as soft drinks or coffee.
- Identify and challenge your negative and unhelpful thoughts.
- Reach out to your friends or family members who help you cope in a positive way.

For more information about stress, visit www.nimh.nih.gov/stress.

Recognize When You Need More Help

If you are struggling to cope, or the symptoms of your stress or anxiety won't go away, it may be time to talk to a professional. Psychotherapy (also called "talk therapy") and medication are the two main treatments for anxiety, and many people benefit from a combination of the two.

If you or someone you know has a mental illness, is struggling emotionally, or has concerns about their mental health, there are ways to get help. Find more information on the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) website at **www.nimh.nih.gov/findhelp**.

If you are in immediate distress or are thinking about hurting yourself, call the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** toll-free at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or the toll-free TTY number at 1-800-799-4TTY (4889). You also can text the **Crisis Text Line** (HELLO to 741741) or go to the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** website at **https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org**.

More Resources

- NIMH: Child and Adolescent Mental Health (**www.nimh.nih.gov/children**)
- NIMH: Anxiety Disorders (**www.nimh.nih.gov/anxietydisorders**)
- NIMH: Taking Control of Your Mental Health: Tips for Talking With Your Health Care Provider (**www.nimh.nih.gov/talkingtips**)
- NIMH: 5 Things You Should Know About Stress (**www.nimh.nih.gov/stress**)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Anxiety and Depression in Children (**www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/depression.html**)

National Institute of Mental Health

NIH Publication No. 20-MH-8125

www.nimh.nih.gov

Follow NIMH on Social Media @**NIMHgov**

Christopher Thoma	December 2	Judy Bechtold	December 21
Margie Thoma	December 7	Matt Stringer	December 25
Jenny Zeiger	December 10	Michael Kinyanjui	December 26
Ted Daum	December 11	Katelin Long	December 28
Paul Gorenzel	December 18		

WPC Elders and Deacons

Elders

Kim Bryan, Outreach	219-2905	Karen Novoa, Young Families	(805) 574-0938
Adrian Mora, Worship	(916) 804-2226	Lee Howell, Finance	666-4332
Aren Scardaci, Youth Group	902-8043	Steve Silveira, Building & Grounds	(408) 204-6480
Ron Churchill, Adult Education	867-7249	Sandy Richardson, Mission	662-1971
Luzanne Martin, Personnel	662-5752	*Clerk of Session, Kathy Tucker*	*661-6260*

Deacons

Penny LeRoy, Ushering	867-4616	Sandi Erba, Secretary	666-2081
Lori Grose, Ushering	661-3490	Cyndee Ruiz, Social Media	(916) 599-3928
Kristina Norberg, Finance	668-1825	Carole Pirruccello, Visitors	(916) 813-8078
Susan Silveira, Health Ministries	(408) 204-6481	Nancy Van Sant, Communion	668-0496

If you know of someone who is in need of meals or other care, please call that person's Deacon. To determine their assigned Deacon, check the lists at the back of the church or contact the Moderator of Deacons, ***Susan Silveira***.

Aren Scardaci
Old Address: 2 Southwood Dr., Woodland, CA 95695
New Address: 737 Crystal Springs Dr., Woodland, CA 95776

Pam Roppel
Old Address: 135 Woodland Ave., Box 64, Cottage 507, Woodland, CA 95695
New Address: 135 Woodland Ave., Box 64, **Cottage 412**, Woodland, CA 95695

Doug Shepard
New Cell: (530) 312-8128 / Old Cell: 530-490-1032
Landline Dropped – (530) 662-5237

Please make these changes to your directory.

WSG = Women's Spirit Group MG = Men's Group

Sunday	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*
		1	**2** • MG; 8:00 AM - Savory Café • WSG; 9:00 AM - Zoom	**3** • WPC Social Hour, 4:00 PM - Zoom • Choir, 7:00 PM - Zoom	**4**	**5**
6 Communion ***Second Sunday of Advent*** • B&G; Zoom Mtg	**7** • Deacon's Meeting; 6:30 PM - Zoom	**8**	**9** • MG; 8:00 AM - Savory Café • WSG; 9:00 AM - Zoom	**10** • WPC Social Hour, 4:00 PM - Zoom • Choir, 7:00 PM - Zoom	**11**	**12** • Building & Grounds Workday; 9:00-Noon
13 ***Third Sunday of Advent***	**14** • Session Meeting; 7:00 PM - Zoom	**15**	**16** • MG; 8:00 AM - Savory Café • WSG; 9:00 AM - Zoom	**17** • WPC Social Hour, 4:00 PM - Zoom • Choir, 7:00 PM - Zoom	**18**	**19**
20 ***Fourth Sunday of Advent*** • Mission Committee; Zoom Mtg	**21** • *Leaves Articles* Deadline	**22**	**23** • MG; 8:00 AM - Savory Café • WSG; 9:00 AM - Zoom	**24** **Christmas Eve** • *Office is closed*	**25** **Christmas Day** • *Office is closed*	**26**
27	**28**	**29**	**30** • MG; 8:00 AM - Savory Café • WSG; 9:00 AM - Zoom	**31**		

Worship Service--Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Communion served first Sunday of the month

The Church and Office are still closed. All gatherings will be remote (Zoom). Services will continue online until further notice.

From the Mission Team

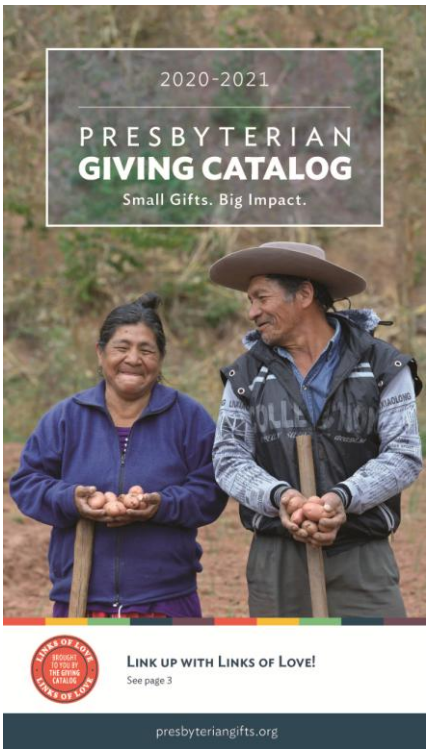
In December, our hearts fill with extra gratitude for God's gift of salvation through Our Savior. As we celebrate His advent and coming, we also share our blessings with others who are part of our community, our denomination, and our world family through special giving:

Our Community – Though the **Woodland Ecumenical and Multi-Faith Ministry's annual Christmas Dinner food baskets** via our traditional assignment of providing 300 cans of cranberry sauce. [Note: Although the Mission Budget covers this expense, if you would like to help, you may send your check payable to the church marked "Cranberries." Your donation will allow us to provide extra help to our local partners during this difficult COVID-impacted time.]

Our Denomination – Your **Christmas Joy Annual Offering** will help retired church workers in their times of need and invest in the futures of the students at Presbyterian-related racial ethic schools and colleges, training the youth as future church leaders.

This year, please give via a check payable to the church marked "Christmas Joy." We hope to collect all funds by year-end.

Our World Family – Via the **Presbyterian Giving Catalog** [WPC's Alternative Christmas Faire opportunity again this year.] <u>A copy of the catalog's order form is provided in this edition of The Leaves.</u> How we give is different this year. In this "remote" worship time, we have three ways to participate:



By Mail- either

1. Via a check to the church (payable to the church) noting the gift(s) you purchased;
2. Use the Giving Catalog form to give by check or credit card – sending it directly to the address on the form, check payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Direct on-line giving. [https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org]

If you choose this method, please be sure to note "Woodland Pres. Church #8882" in the field asking your church connection.

Do you know why the Presbyterian Giving Catalog it is different than other similar-type opportunities?

Answer: Because 100% of your gift applies to the purchase of gifts. Our denomination pays all associated program costs. *There are no administrative, fundraising, or organization costs paid by the donors!*

For all those who have, more will be given . . . . Matthew 25:29

PRESBYTERIAN
GIVING CATALOG
Small Gifts. Big Impact.

KITS AND TOOLS

	NAME	QTY	ITEM#	PRICE
☐	Family Farm Bundle		OG10031	$1,300
☐	Community Farm Bundle		OG10033	$5,000
☐	Sewing Machine		OG20014	$50
☐	Kitchen Kit		OG30004	$25
☐	Emergency Life Pack		OG30002	$125
☐	Supplies for Displaced Students		PG10002	$30
☐	Fishing Net		OG10035	$15
☐	Fishery Kit		OG10038	$75

PEOPLE | RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE

	NAME	QTY	ITEM#	PRICE
☐	WASH Aid $25/share | $500/full		OG30019	$
☐	Winter Heating Fuel for Refugees		OG30010	$240
☐	Famine Relief Food Voucher		OG10036	$50
☐	Refugee Food Basket		PG10001	$50
☐	Emergency Assistance Grants $100–$2,500		CJ20004	$
☐	Fishing Boat and Accessories		OG30007	$1,200

WATER

	NAME	QTY	ITEM#	PRICE
☐	Garden Well $50/share | $1,500/well		OG10029	$
☐	Community Irrigation Water Pump		OG10034	$250
☐	Rainwater Catchment System		OG10009	$75
☐	Water Filter		OG30012	$50
☐	Deep Rock Well		OG30016	$15,000
☐	Mzuzu Drill		OG10039	$115

PEOPLE | EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

	NAME	QTY	ITEM#	PRICE
☐	Latrine $50/share | $350/latrine		OG10032	$
☐	Health for Mothers and Newborns		OG30018	$500
☐	Women's Empowerment Project $100/participant		OG10030	$100
☐	Family Nutrition Starter Pack		OG10042	$150
☐	Teacher Training		PM10015	$85
☐	Jerry Cans		OG30011	$25

LIVESTOCK

	NAME	QTY	ITEM#	PRICE
☐	Pair of Goats		OG10023	$178
☐	Cow $50/share | $450/cow		OG10024	$
☐	Family of Chickens		OG10019	$25
☐	Piglet $40/piglet		OG20009	$40
☐	Beekeeping		OG10028	$240
☐	Oxen and Plow		OG30013	$1,500
☐	Egg a Day $300/annually		OG10037	$300

PEOPLE | EDUCATION AND FORMATION

	NAME	QTY	ITEM#	PRICE
☐	Educate a Child		PO10001	$25
☐	Arts Education for Young People of Color		CJ10005	$80
☐	Education Scholarship Fund for Communities of Color		CJ10004	$150
☐	Youth Agriculture Training		OG10014	$65
☐	Experiential Faith Formation		PO10002	$100

AGRICULTURE

	NAME	QTY	ITEM#	PRICE
☐	Grain Bank $50/share | $1,500/full		OG10026	$
☐	Bag of Moringa Tree Seeds		OG10010	$40
☐	Farming Tools		OG10022	$10
☐	Sapling Set		OG10040	$30
☐	Rice Seeds		OG10041	$15
☐	Community Garden		OG20016	$200

Total Donation: $

☐ If eligible, I do not wish to receive the ornament gift.

☐ I would like ___ Giving Cards
(not to exceed total number of donated items; ***mark "0" to decline***).

Name

Address

City State Zip

Email (Certificate of gift will be emailed with order.) Phone Number

Congregation WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN #9882 church (CA)

Send completed forms to:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO BOX 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

☐ **Check** Make checks payable to **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**.

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Card Number Exp. Date CVV#

Signature (required)

*Please send only one payment for your entire order. Insert your payment with this order form in the attached envelope.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, the corporation through which the Presbyterian Mission Agency operates for secular purposes, are qualified as charitable organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

SG-DF

In person Worship – January 17th, 2021 (tentative)

We will be opening the sanctuary to in-person worship on Sunday, January 17, 2021. This is a tentative date that can change. Should the number of COVID cases increase in Yolo County that change our tier level and operating mandates, opening will be postponed. Please review the COVID health and safety guidelines posted on the WPC website.

Playing Games Online

By Phyllis Avalos

With the upcoming holidays and the current situation with Covid a few of us thought about another way for our church family members to connect. There are many sites that host games you can play with others who are in another location. Some have their own chats or audio/visual capabilities or you can add a Zoom or Meet to be able to chat while playing. Many are the tabletop games that members have enjoyed playing for years like Mexican Train, Carcassonne, Yahtzee, etc. You already know how to play you just need to get connected with family and friends.

To help connect folks there is a document with explanations of the different websites and links to them. If you are already doing this and know an additional website you can also add to the document. There is another tab at the bottom to go to a page that lists who likes to play and what they like to play. Add yourself to help connect with others. It may be awkward at first, but once you get the hang of it you will soon be playing with your friends across the state or country. Winter break will be coming up and think about playing Connect Four or Checkers with that grandchild that is out of school.

Here is the link to the document: How to play games online with your friends

P.S. Zoom often lifts the 40 minute limit for free accounts around the holidays. Google Meet has a 60 minute limit on free accounts.

2021 Annual Congregational Meeting

The WPC annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24th, 2021 after worship service. The annual report will be distributed by Sunday, January 17th, 2021. Session member please have your committee reports completed and submitted to the church office no later than Friday, January 8th, 2021.

Some Interesting Background Information about Bethlehem Shepherds and Their Sheep

From Luke's Gospel (2.0-2.20) we know Jesus was born in Bethlehem, he was Mary's first child, and she wrapped him in bands of cloths (swaddling clothes). These verses also state that at night angels appeared to local shepherds and announced the birth of a Savior, the Messiah, and the Lord. The angels told the shepherds that they could find the child by looking for one wrapped with bands of cloths and lying in a manger. Then the angels praised God. After this, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, found Jesus as the angels had described, and repeated what the angels had told them, amazing everyone. Then the shepherds returned to their flocks, glorifying God for what they had heard and seen.

Additional interesting background information to Luke's account was suggested by Alfred Edersheim in his book, *The Life and Times of the Messiah*, published in 1883. Edersheim (1825-1889) was a Jewish convert to Christianity, had extensive knowledge of the Torah and Jewish writings, became an ordained Minister, and lectured at Oxford University. In his book he provided the following information about the Bethlehem shepherds and sheep. The flocks of sheep pastured around Bethlehem were special because they were destined for the sacrifices at the Temple in Jerusalem. Consequently, the shepherds that watched over them were not ordinary shepherds. The must have had special training for this duty because they had to provide sheep free from defects to the temple. Some have suggested that the shepherds would have wrapped newborn sheep in cloth strips to prevent any injury.

If the above information is correct, it places Jesus birth at the traditional location where the Passover lambs were born. It provides a reason for Luke indicating that Jesus was wrapped in bands of cloths and why that would have significance for the shepherds. Finally, it explains why the angels notified the shepherds of Jesus birth—it was the shepherd's duty to identify lambs suitable for Passover at their birth. With these possibilities in mind, consider the words of John the Baptizer in John (1.29, NRSV) "He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Also, in 1st Corinthians (5.7, NRSV) Paul states "For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed."

"Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
(Luke 2.14, NRSV)

Wishing you a joyful Christmas,

Ron Churchill, Adult Education Elder

COVID-19 Task Force Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2020

Present: Mike Umbenhaur, Mike Tucker, Marlene Hanson, Penny LeRoy, Ruth Holtmann
Absent: Luzanne Martin, Sandi Erba

I. Opening prayer by Pastor Mike
II. Agenda and September minutes approved
III. Report on Live Streaming

Live streaming was explored by the committee as an option when churches were not allowed to open their churches for worship. The committee feels that live streaming is a safe option and asks that Session consider live streaming worship services when the church reopens for members who are unable to attend worship services because of health concerns. Samuel Martin is available for consultation about equipment that is needed for streaming.

IV. Reviewed the current status of the pandemic.

On November 10, 2020 the state will reevaluate the risk level for Yolo County. Currently it is on the red tier (substantial). However the county may move to the purple tier (widespread) if the county meets the metrics. If the county moves to purple then churches will not be able to have indoor services. This committee recommends that the date for the church reopening be January 17, 2020. The date may need to be modified based on the status of the pandemic.

V. Pastor Mike reported on what other churches are doing for worship in the Presbytery.

Pastor Mike will continue to update the committee on the status of worship in other churches.

VI. Mike Tucker reported the outcome of the requests brought to Session in October.

The Session approved the "Addendum to Church Users Agreement" with one change. The Covid-19 Task Force will review requests to use the building and make a recommendation to Session whether the users plan meets the California Covid-19 Guidelines. Session will make the decision to approve the request.

VII. El Renuevo has not submitted a new request to use the church facility.
VIII. Reviewed the plan for using church for videotaping of Advent readings and plan for distribution of Advent candles.

The committee found the plans in accordance with California Guidance and recommends that Session approve the request.

IX. Ruth and Susan will send out a survey to church members asking for their views on reopening the church.

The church reopening plan will be made available to all members for review along with survey.

X. Next meeting is December 3, 2020 at 7 pm.
XI. Closing prayer by Susan Silveira

Submitted by Susan Silveira, COVID Task Force Chair

LET IT snow!

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.

What you need:

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter

What you do:

1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.

PUZZLE

WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: *Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.*

MOVE → MOVE ↑ MOVE ← MOVE ↓

PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	LORD	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace

EXIT

"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," ____ the _____. "Though your _____ are like _____, they shall be as _____ as _____ ...."

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow

Help spread Christmas Cheer with a Poinsettia.

Christmas is going to look a little different this year. Instead of beautifying our sanctuary, we will be beautifying WPC homes. If you wish to contribute one or more "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone, please fill out this form and mail it to the church office. Please remember to include your donation of $10 for each poinsettia. Please make checks payable to WPC and put "poinsettia" in the memo line. **The last day to place your order is Sunday, December 20, 2020.**

Purchased by: _____

"In memory of": _____

"In honor of": _____

# of poinsettias _____ X $10.00 = _____

Poinsettias will be delivered to your home on Christmas Eve

Questions? Please call Ellen Burriss at 530-867-5745

Help spread Christmas Cheer with a Poinsettia.

Christmas is going to look a little different this year. Instead of beautifying our sanctuary, we will be beautifying WPC homes. If you wish to contribute one or more "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone, please fill out this form and mail it to the church office. Please remember to include your donation of $10 for each poinsettia. Please make checks payable to WPC and put "poinsettia" in the memo line. **The last day to place your order is Sunday, December 20, 2020.**

Purchased by: _____

"In memory of": _____

"In honor of": _____

# of poinsettias _____ X $10.00 = _____

Poinsettias will be delivered to your home on Christmas Eve

Questions? Please call Ellen Burriss at 530-867-5745