



The Presby

December 2022

Wytheville Presbyterian Church
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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9:00am - 2:00pm

Rev. Dr. John Langham, Pastor
Jim Gearhart, Clerk of Session
Becky Absher, Music Director
Wendy Morrison, Office Mgr.
Anna Phelps Office Mgr.



Greetings Members and Friends,

As we enter into the month of December, we all know what is ahead. We all know that the celebration of Jesus' birth is the big event of the year and the biggest event in our lives.

For some you may choose to go all out and celebrate the season in very festive ways; ways that include lots of parties and decorations, calling attention to the season as vividly as we can.

Others may do so, more subtly and quietly; staying home and enjoying the season in personal or private ways. Either way is fine.

However, the main thing is that we first of all, somehow and somehow do our part to prepare ourselves in our hearts and in our minds for the blessing of God's Son. For we must first understand the blessing of Christmas internally before we ever will appreciate it externally.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor John

Session Digest:

The Session met for its Stated November meeting on the 27th in the Session Room.

Pastoral Concerns: Joanne Cannoy, Tony Cannoy, Vaughn Cassell, Joe & Shirley Cavender, Ruth Anne Chitwood, Kevin Craft, Colleen Dunford, June Helton, Kay Langham, Janine Madden, Bill and Susan Pollard, Lois Seagle, Michael & Rachel Weller, the family of Luella Williams.

Motions approved by the Session:

- To receive with appreciation the Elder Commissioner's report from the Abingdon Presbytery Meeting at Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church on November 10, 2022.
- To allow the use of Hatcher Hall on December 12, 2022 5-9P for a Mountain Empire Scouts Christmas Gathering.
- To Accept the Recommendation of the Trustees to decline Incorporating the Church at the present time.
- To approve the following recommendations from the Nominating Committee;
 1. Place in nomination Chuck Lacy and Kat McCoy as Elders in the Class of 2024
 2. Place in nomination April DiYorio to be Clerk of Session in the Class of 2024
 3. Place in nomination Marsha Boone and Jerry Morrison for the Nominating Committee in the Class of 2023
 4. To Schedule a Congregational Meeting on December 11, 2022 to elect elders. Clerk, and Nominating Committee.
- To approve Scheduling the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 15, 2023
- To Install the Elders for the Class of 2024 during the Worship Service on January 15, 2023.
- To accept a report from the Finance Committee from the November 15, 2022 meeting

- To approve Vaughn Cassell to be Church Treasurer for 2023.

As Information from the Meeting

Thank you note from Rose Stone for the support of the Church following Jim's death.

Thank you note from the Family of Luella Williams for the Church's care following her death.

Review of Calendar of Events for December

December 2, 2022 - Christmas Extravaganza

December 4, 2022 - 2nd Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2022 - Bell Ringing for Salvation Army at Walmart

December 11, 2022 - 3rd Sunday of Advent. New Members to be received.

December 11, 2022 - Congregational Meeting to elect Elders, the Clerk, and Nominating Committee following Worship

December 16, 2022 - Parent's Night Out

December 18, 2022 - 4th Sunday of Advent. Stated Session Meeting

December 18, 2022 - Christmas Cove Meeting

December 19, 2022 - Christmas Caroling

December 24, 2022 - Christmas Eve 5PM Service

December 25, 2022 - Christmas Day

December 31, 2022 - New Year's Day

Submitted by *Jim Gearhart, Clerk of Session*

Stewardship Message

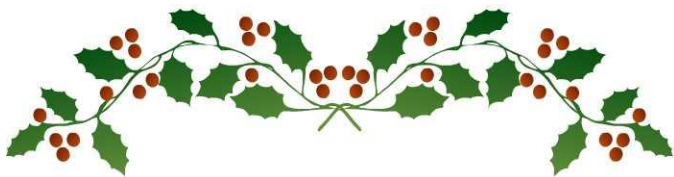
Merry Christmas to our congregation!

We have the privilege of having a church which is caring and so much a part of our Christian life. Our country has come a long way in recovering from the pandemic and many other problems the world has had.

Our church is a place where our Christian family can go to worship and feel closer to God. Many problems have faced us during the past few years. We look to God to help and know that he is a kind and loving God who wants to help people in distress.

We are hoping that next year will see a world without war, disease, and families unable to buy food and pay for rent and gas. We know that God will help us with these problems.

The Stewardship Committee wishes for our congregation are good health, prosperity, and a Happy New Year.



Message from the Worship Committee:

Several people have inquired what are Chrismons and why do we put them on the Church Christmas Tree. How are they different from traditional Christmas decorations? These decorations originated at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia when they were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer. Frances developed these decorations because she wanted Christians to remember why they celebrate Christmas.

Chrismons, meaning “**Christ monograms,**” traditionally are white and gold designs made from Christian symbols that signify Christ. Displayed on an evergreen tree during the Christmas season, symbols such as stars, crosses, fish, crowns, and the alpha and omega remind us of Christ’s identity, his story, and of the Holy Trinity.

Chrismons are traditionally white and gold, because white is the color for purity and gold symbolizes value, worth and God’s majesty and glory. Isaiah 1:18 says, “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

Some examples of Chrismons are:

The **six-pointed star**, called the Star of David, is a reminder of the six days of creation (Exodus 20:1). The two triangles that form the star symbolize the Holy Trinity.

The **Angel** Chrismon represents the messengers of God, who announced the birth and Resurrection of Christ.

The **butterfly** is the symbol of resurrection. The three stages of the butterfly’s metamorphosis symbolize the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The **Celtic Cross** originating from the Celts of Ireland, the circle symbolizes eternity, or the unity of man.

The **Crown of Seven Peaks** represents the Kingship of Jesus Christ and his place of honor at the right hand of God. Seven symbolizes completeness and perfection. The seven-point Crown highlights the number seven, which is used 735 times in the Bible. The seven points remind us of Christ’s complete and perfect victory over sin and death. “I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown” (Revelation 3:11 NIV).

Christmas Caroling, for anyone interested in Christmas caroling for our shut-in members. We will meet December 19, at 3:30 in the church parking lot, carpooling is recommended. Hal and Becky Absher will host a light supper after caroling in their home at 150 Willow Ridge Lane.

Christmas Concert, we are privileged to have a Christmas Concert performed By Albert Newberry, pianist and Leslie Brooks, guitarist in the sanctuary on Wednesday, December 21, time will be announced at a later date. Please plan to attend this wonderful event.

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Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. This will be a candlelight service with special guest vocalist Holly Montgomery.

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The Christmas Extravaganza, Friday, December 2, \$18.00 per person for this lovely evening. You don't want to miss this!

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5 Cents a Meal, Sunday, December 18, there will be a basket in the narthex for you as you leave. Please make a separate check.

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Cove Service, Sunday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m. weather permitting. This will be the Christmas in the Cove Service.

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Parents Night Out, Friday, December 16, from 6:00 – 9 p.m. for Kids of all ages. Supper will be served along with music, games, and a holiday movie. All are welcome, and a nursery will be provided. Wear pajamas for a cozy evening.

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2023 Pledge Cards:

Please turn in your pledge cards, as soon as possible, so that we may finish the budget for 2023. You may put them in the offering plate, bring them to the church office or mail them to Wytheville Presbyterian Church, 285 Church Street, Wytheville, VA 24382. Thank you to all those who have responded thus far!

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2022 Pledges:

Please have all 2022 pledges into the church office by Monday, December 26, so they can be counted towards 2022, Thank you.

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Presbyterian Women, Monday, December 5, Circle 1 will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and Circle 3 will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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Newsletter & Office Information, January's newsletter needs to be in the church office by December 27.

December 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2 Christmas Extravaganza 6pm	3	4 Worship 11am
5 Circle 1 @ 11am Circle 3 @ 7pm	6 Finance 4pm	7	8	9 Bell ringing for the Salvation Army	10 Happy Birthday Kat McCoy	11 Worship 11am Congregational Meeting
12	13 Happy Birthday Debbie Fore	14 Happy Birthday April DiYorio	15 Happy Birthday Jerry Morrison	16 Parents night out 6-9pm	17 Happy Birthday Maetta Crewe	18 Worship 11am Joy Gift Collected 5 cents a meal Session meets after Worship
19 Happy Birthday Joe Moore, Theo Moore	20 Worship @ 10am Finance @ 4pm	21 Albert Newberry & Leslie Brooks Concert	22	23 Happy Birthday Hunter McCoy	24 Christmas Eve 5pm Service	25 Worship 11am Merry Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31 Happy Birthday A.J. McCoy,	

Notes
