



# The Presby

December 2023

Wytheville Presbyterian Church  
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[wythevillepresbyterianchurch.org](http://wythevillepresbyterianchurch.org)

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday  
9:00am - 12:00pm

Rev. Dr. John Langham, Pastor  
April DiYorio, Clerk of Session  
Becky Absher, Music Director  
Wendy Morrison, Bookkeeper  
Tammy Jackson, Office Mgr.



## December Newsletter 2023

*Season's Greetings, Members and Friends,*

*As we enter into the month of December, we are already hit with the notion that Christmas is not very far away. If we live close to a mall or any local department store, the evidence that Christmas is coming is overwhelming.*

*Santa Claus, here and there, candy canes and pre-Christmas sales are easy to be seen. We see fake snow and lots of plastic reindeer as well.*

*Everywhere we look, there are signs and evidence that we are getting closer and closer to Christmas. For many this is a joy and favorite time of the year. For others, getting through and getting past all of this is the goal.*

*For many however, the challenge this time of year, is to discover Christ and reveal Christ in the midst of the Christmas season.*

*The true Christmas story and true reason to celebrate, is often so camouflaged that it is easy to miss why we do what we do.*

*Somewhere and somehow, may we remember why we go to so much fuss and so much trouble.*

*May we remember that this is about a God who loves us, and loved us enough to pave the way for us to be together; together now and together forever.*

*Merry Christmas,  
Pastor John*

Stated Meeting, November 12, 2023

Pastoral Concerns: Joanne Cannoy, Vaughn Cassell, Joe & Shirley Cavender, Colleen Dunford, Pastor John Langham, Janine Madden, Marsha Otey, Bill & Susan Pollard, Dorothy Repass, Judy Walters, Annette Washburn, Michael & Rachel Weller.

Motions approved by the Session:

- To allow the Kiwanis Club of Wythe County (Sid Crockett) use of Hatcher Hall on December 18, 2023, 5:00 pm – 8:30 pm for their Christmas program.
- To allow Gail Kendrick use of the Hatcher Hall on October 4 and 5, 2024, pm on 10/4 and all day on 10/5, for the Grubb Family Reunion.
- To accept the Finance Report for October 2023.
- To allow the Mission Committee to pursue participation in the Men’s Warming Shelter.

Review of Calendar of Events for December:

- 3 – *First Sunday of Advent*
- 6 – Christmas Dinner (Fellowship Committee)
- 10 – *Second Sunday of Advent*
- 17 – *Third Sunday of Advent*
- 17 – Stated Session Meeting
- 17 – Cove Service
- 24 - *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
- 24 – *Christmas Eve*
- 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 11:00
- 25 – *Christmas Day (Office Closed)*
- 31 – *New Year’s Eve*

Submitted by April DiYorio, Clerk Session

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**Stewardship Message:**

THEME FOR 2023: Use Your Gifts to Serve One Another. 1 Peter 4:10

Our Christian journey leads us to worship our Lord individually and with others. Prayers and devotions become part of our lives. The spiritual gifts we have vary but serving others is the part of our faith that we all can do. Participating in service projects and activities connected with the Church Community and the World brings us joy and a sense of accomplishment when we help others.

We feel called to learn more about the Bible and it’s teachings for our faith. We want to put that faith into action. We know that the work of the Church requires financial resources and we prayerfully consider our response to the annual campaign. A critical part of our faith is to “Use Your Gifts to Serve One Another”.

Our financial resources are only one important part of our serving our Lord and one another. We are God’s hands and feet in this world. We should not feel obligated to worship, seek, serve, and give but should feel the joy in doing so. We have been blessed in so many ways and only a small portion is asked in return. As Pastor John has told us recently, we can never repay God for what he does for us every day. We can serve him by serving one another.

God Bless our Church and each of us.

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**Presbyterian Women:**

Circle 1 will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, for fellowship, bible study, and lunch, in the Fellowship Hall. Circle 3 will meet on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 P.M.

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## Fellowship Committee Potluck Dinner:

Don't forget the **Potluck Dinner!!** It will be **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, AT 6PM!** The Fellowship Committee decided to do a potluck dinner this year instead of the Christmas Extravaganza. We will provide the ham entree, and ask that you bring sides and desserts. Becky Absher will delight us with the children playing hand-bells. Santa already has us on his calendar, so he's likely to make an appearance! This will be a great way to usher in the Christmas season. Don't miss it!!

### 5 Cents a Meal:

Please remember the 5 cents a meal offering on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a basket in the narthex for your convenience. Please make a separate check.

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### Cove Church:

Evening service at Cove Church will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please come and enjoy this wonderful hymn sing and fellowship.

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### Hope Packs:

We will be packing bags for Hope Packs on the last Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. Please plan to help with this project!


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### Committee Meetings:

The following committees are tentatively scheduled to meet on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>:

- Christian Education 10:00 a.m.
- Church Growth 2:00 p.m. H.H.
- Finance 4:00 p.m.

## American Legion Christmas Trees:

American Legion will be selling Christmas Trees right after Thanksgiving. 



PLACE: Old Recreation Center parking lot at 250 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street

TREES: Frazier Firs 

SIZES: 5/6ft, 6/7ft, 7/8ft. Larger sizes may be available to order.

PRICES: Very reasonable prices. Priced according to tree size.



All profits go back into the community  
Thank you for your support!

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## Newsletter & Office Information:

Information for the January 2024 newsletter needs to be in the church office by Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas.

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## Public Safety Announcement:

For the safety of our staff, it is very important that ***all the doors remain locked***. Many times throughout the week there is only one person in the church. For their safety it is imperative that the doors remain locked. If you unlock a door, it is your responsibility to insure the door is relocked. We do not want anyone to feel guilty if someone should get hurt because of a failure to relock the door. We appreciate everyone's due diligence.

Thank you! Personnel Committee

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## **Message of Thanks:**

Wytheville Presbyterian Church Body,

You can really learn a lot about people during difficult times. We cannot thank you enough for all the ways you have displayed the love of Christ to our family during the last 2 months. From the visits to Mary, the meals you have made, helping out with the kids, the extra hugs and words of encouragement, we have felt amazingly blessed to be your friends and brothers/sisters in Christ. Anyone can offer words, and those are appreciated, but this Church goes above and beyond in reflecting Christ through their actions.

Thank you for choosing to love us.

Joe, Jeannie, Rosemary,  
Soloman, Joey a

# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent Young Disciples 5:30pm	4 Circle 1 meets 11:00 am Circle 3 meets 7:00pm	5	6 Potluck Dinner 6:00pm in Hatcher Hall	7	8	9	
10 2nd Sunday of Advent Young Disciples 5:30pm Happy Birthday Kat McCoy	11	12 Worship Committee 10:00am Church Growth Comm 2pm Hatcher Hall Finance Comm 4:00pm	13 Happy Birthday Debbie Fore	14 Happy Birthday April DiYorio	15 Happy Birthday Jerry Morrison	16	
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 5 Cents A Meal 7:30 Cove Church Session meet after worship Happy Birthday Maetta	18	19 Happy Birthday Joe Moore Theo Moore	20	21	22	23 Happy Birthday Hunter McCoy	
24 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve Service 11am	25 Christmas Day Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	
31 1st Sunday of Christmas Happy Birthday A.J. McCoy, Abigail Burke, and Vaughn Cassell							



