



The Presby

March 2024

Wytheville Presbyterian Church
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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.



Greetings Members and Friends,

Some would say that as we travel through this life, even though there are people all around us, we essentially go through life alone. Or, another way to say it is that we ultimately journey through life alone.

In many ways that can be true. When it comes to school, and our schoolwork, we can get assistance when needed, but we must ultimately rely on ourselves to do the work ourselves, and no one can do the work for us.

When it comes to sports, we may have teammates, but at some point we have our individual role to play.

When it come to our jobs, we may have co-workers, but again, we also have individual tasks to complete in order to be part of the team.

And certainly when it comes to our faith journey, even though we have support from family, church friends, teachers and spiritual leaders, this is a journey that is unique to all of us, and a journey we travel as an individual.

The good news however, is that as much as we live life alone, and experience life as an individual, we have a promise from God, the Spirit of God, and even Christ himself, that we will never really be alone.

*In fact we read from Deuteronomy 3:18 **"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."***

We may not be able to avoid everything we want to avoid in this life, but the hope that we have, is that we will never have to go through it alone.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

Session Digest:

Stated Meeting, February 25, 2024

Pastoral Concerns: Joanne Cannoy, Joe & Shirley Cavender, Eural & Priscilla Clippard, Colleen Dunford, Pastor John Langham, Family of Janine Madden, Bill & Susan Pollard, Dorothy Repass, Judy Walters, Annette Washburn, Michael & Rachel Weller

Motions approved by the Session:

- To accept the Finance Report for January 2024.
- To accept a report from the trustees on the year-end status of funds under their control.
- To approve the use of the sanctuary for a solo piano concert by Albert Newberry on Friday, March 15, 2024.

Review of Calendar of Events for March:

10 – Daylight Savings Time begins
15 – Albert Newberry Concert
17 – *St. Patrick's Day*
19 – Soup and the Word @ WPC
24 – Stated Session Meeting
24 – Passion/Palm Sunday
28 – Maundy Thursday Service
29 – Good Friday
31 – Easter Sunday

Submitted by April DiYorio, Clerk of Session

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Presbyterian Women:

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

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5 Cents a Meal:

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

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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 committee meetings are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- Church Growth, 2:00 p.m., in Hatcher Hall, Tuesday, March 12th
- Worship, 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 19th
- Finance 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 19th

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Entertainment Event:

We are delighted to host a solo piano concert given by Albert Newberry on Friday, March 15th at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary. Many of you know Albert, a native of Bland County. He is currently working on a master's degree in music theory from Indiana University.

Please make every effort to attend this concert and show our love and support for an extremely gifted musician, as well as a fine gentleman.

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Newsletter & Office Information:

Information for the April 2024 newsletter needs to be in the church office by Tuesday, March 19th. The Church Office will be closed on Monday, March 25th in observance of Easter.

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Presbyterian Children's Home News:

The Presbyterian Children's Home has begun accepting clothing for **Foster's Closet**. Clean and gently used clothing for all ages can be brought to PCCH or arrangements can be made for clothing to be picked up. Also, there is a need for clothes hangers, clothing racks, washers and dryers.

The **New Dawn Society** consists of friends of the Children's Home who include PCCH in their estate planning. Members will receive a certificate and an engraved leaf will be placed on a donor tree, which is located in the PCCH conference room. Contact Billy Rice or PCCH for more information.

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Stewardship Message:

What Are your Gifts?

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Were you born an artist? A painter, writer, or sculptor? Do you gravitate toward the sciences? Are you gifted in sports? Floral arranging? Speaking? Computers? Sales? Organizing? There are so many talents.

What about spiritual gifts—such as teaching, prophesying, showing mercy, serving others, encouraging, and leading?

Some people are confused about their abilities, and they might even think they have been passed over when the Almighty was giving out gifts. Yet, we can be assured that everyone has been given talents, and everyone is expected to use them.

If you are questioning what yours are—ask God. The Lord will be more than pleased to tell you. Asking for His guidance concerning our talents and spiritual gifts is also wisdom, since God wants us to use them with a servant's heart. Even though that notion might seem old-fashioned within our modern mind-set, it is how Jesus conducted Himself—with the heart of a servant—when He walked among us.

God, thank You for the gifts and abilities You have blessed me with. Help me not to waste them or use them for my own gain but to serve others with my talents in order to glorify Your name. Amen.--AH

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Mission Co-Worker News:

Last month our newsletter included an update from one of our Mission Co-workers (previously known as Missionaries) who serves in the Middle East. This month we are sharing an update from Sharon Kandel who is a regional liaison for the Horn of Africa, based in South Sudan. Catch up with how God is at work in this part of the world.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

Stepping Out in Faith

February 2, 2024

A Letter from Sharon Kandel, regional liaison for the Horn of Africa, based in South Sudan

Spring 2024

Write (mailto:sharon.kandel@pcusa.org)

to Sharon Kandel

Individuals: Give

(<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/e132192/>)

to E132192 in honor of Sharon Kandel's

ministry

Congregations: Give to D500115 in

honor of Sharon Kandel's ministry

Churches are asked to send donations through your congregation's normal receiving site (this is usually your presbytery)

Subscribe to my co-worker letters (<https://share.hsforms.com/1hMAI8ojfSxSre87Mh5mO6Qd>)

Dear friends,

I am always so blessed each time I visit partners in the Horn of Africa. On my last trip in October-November 2023, I was struck by the way each partner is stepping out in faith in different, and yet similar ways.



Students and staff at the Charles Haspel's Bible School in Mizan Teferi, Ethiopia

My first stop was in Ethiopia. I had the opportunity to visit the town of Mizan Teferi and meet Rev. Tatek Kifle, the new president of the South West Bethel Synod. I was also able to meet Rev. Azenebe Desseno the president of a NEW synod, South West Ethiopia Bethel Synod. I was not able to make it to Tepi where the synod offices are, but representatives of the synod came to meet me. The Bethel synods in Ethiopia grew by two new synods in 2023. Stepping out in faith. They do not have much in the way of buildings, cars, or material things, but they do have FAITH and they are stepping out in faith that God will provide what they need.

New synods are created when a current synod has planted so many congregations and their area has grown so much that it is difficult for the synod to minister to all those people. So, a new synod is formed and has to pass the criteria set by the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. It takes a lot of work to get a new synod approved but, by stepping out in faith that God will go before them, the church gets it done.

I went on to South Sudan to join our partner, RECONCILE, in celebrating 20 years of faithful work. RECONCILE was created by people stepping out in faith and saying that God wants us to do the work of reconciliation, peace and trauma healing in South Sudan. What a celebration it was to see the fruits of so much work! Just the fact that we could be in Yei to

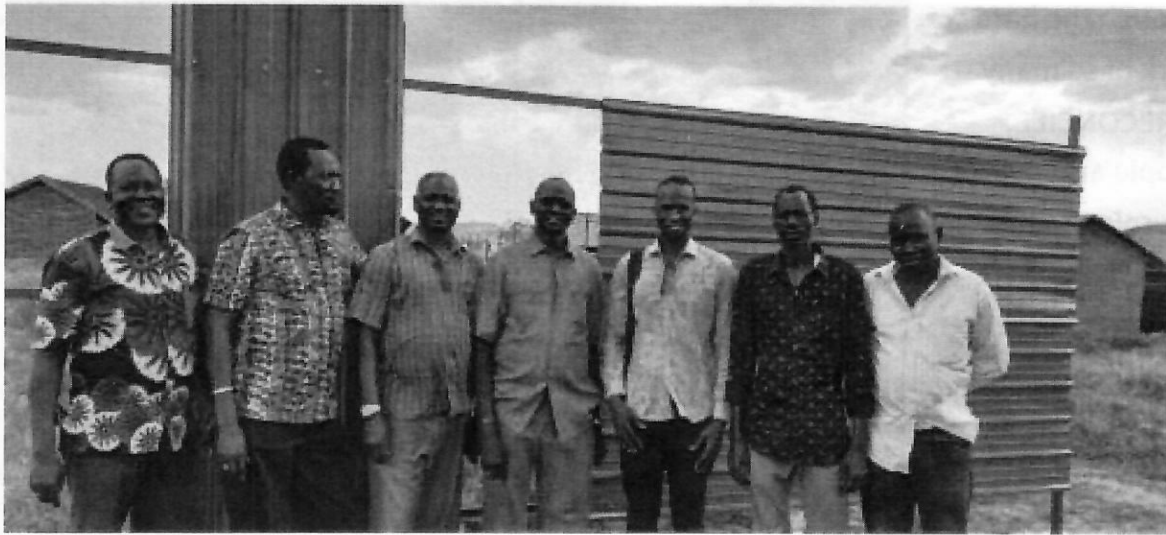
celebrate was evidence of the work that RECONCILE has done. This area was not safe for many years but, through the hard work of so many at RECONCILE, people are returning to this area where there is a new sense of hope, peace, and maybe, a return to normal.

While in Juba I was also able to meet with Dr. Aida Weran, from Khartoum, Sudan. She fled Khartoum when the war started last year and has now become a refugee in South Sudan. It was a real step of faith for her family to make the trip from their home to an unknown place along a road that was not secure. Those steps of faith brought them to Juba where Dr. Aida has been able to find some work teaching and translating and where she daily steps out in faith that her family's needs will be met.



Sign at the RECONCILE celebration

Rev. Alphonse stepped out in faith to start a new Bible School – Juba Evangelical Bible School (JEBS). The South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC) felt there was a real need for a Bible school for students who did not have a high school diploma but showed a calling to become leaders in the church. So, in faith, land was bought for the school. I was able to visit the site, pray over the school, students and leadership, and see God’s hand at work as these faithful servants stepped out in faith. It is exciting to know that all the applicants passed the entrance exam and are now in class. For now, JEBS is meeting in a church building until they can build a classroom built on the land they bought.



Rev. Peter Yien, Rev. Tut Koang, Rev. Dominik, Rev. Thomas Tut, Rev. Alphonse, and the contractors at the site of Juba Evangelical Bible School

Nile Theological College in Juba steps out in faith every day. With the cost of everything going up daily, it is hard for the college to meet all of its needs but still, the students come to learn, and the teachers come to teach. Paying for electricity, internet, and the noon meal for everyone is not easy and yet, somehow, they are moving forward.

So, I came away from that visit with a new perspective on stepping out in faith. We cannot always know what tomorrow will be like, but we do have to ask God, daily, what He wants us to do for that day or what He wants us to be working towards even if we are not certain how we will accomplish a task.

I think of the woman in the Bible who believed that if she could just touch the hem of Jesus’ cloak she would be healed. (Luke 8:43-48) or the blind man receiving his sight (Luke 18: 35-43). It was their faith that healed them. It is the faith of these Christians in the Horn of Africa

that keeps that going each and every day. Is it easy? No, but they fortify themselves with scripture, prayer and praise and start and end each day with prayer.

Please keep Sudan, Ethiopia and South Sudan in your prayers. Pray for the church in these countries that they can be the voice of peace and reconciliation and that they keep stepping out in faith, trusting God to place their feet where they need to be and the words in their mouths that they need to say.

Sharon



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Tags: South Sudan (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/blog/tag/south-sudan/>)

March

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	2
3 RD SUNDAY OF LENT 3	4 Circle 1, 11 a.m. FH Circle 3, 7 p.m. FH	5 Happy Birthday! Beth Pulliam	6	7	8	9 Happy Birthday! Katherine Minton Kathy McAllister Carroll Gordon
4 TH SUNDAY OF LENT 10	11 ADK Meets 6-8 p.m.	12 Church Growth 2 pm HH	13	14	15 Albert Newberry Piano Solo 7 p.m.	16 Happy Birthday! Jacob McCoy
5 TH SUNDAY OF LENT 5-Cents-a-Meal 17	18	19 WPC Hosts Soup and the Word Worship Comm 10 a.m. Finance Comm 4 p.m.	20	21 Happy Birthday! Megan Lacy	22	23 Happy Birthday! Chris Lane
24 PALM SUNDAY Session meets after Serv	25 Monday of Holy Week	26 Tuesday of Holy Week Happy Birthday! Solomon Moore	27 Wednesday of Holy Week Happy Birthday! Robert Kendrick	28 Maundy Thursday	29 Good Friday	30 Great Vigil of Easter Happy Birthday! Jeannie Moore
31 EASTER HE IS RISEN!						