



December Newsletter 2024

Dear Family and Friends,

As we enter into the month of December, the most obvious thing on all our minds is the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus.

I, personally, cannot think of a greater season of the year than when the world goes all out to recognize this holy event and celebrate this holy event. For example, so many different words are used to appropriately announce and transmit the news of Christ's Coming. These words include Joy, Hope, Peace, Love, Emmanuel, God incarnate, Savior, Redeemer, Manager, Nativity, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Star, Shepherds, King, Miracle, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Most High, and the list goes on and on and on.

The truth is, we need these words. We need all of them and maybe even more. For Some things and some experiences cannot be explained or contained with only a few words or a few utterances. Some things need all the words we can use to describe what has transpired and the birth of our Savior may very well be one of those things.

So, this December and this Advent Season, may we use all the words we can to inform and celebrate the greatest day ever, in our lives and in the world.

Merry Christmas! Feliz Navidad!, Joyeux Noel! Buon Natale!, Feliz Natal!, Frohe Weihnachten!, Mele Kalikimaka!.....

Pastor John

The Presby

December 2024

**Wytheville Presbyterian
Church**

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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Rev. Dr. John Langham, Pastor

April DiYorio, Clerk of Session

Becky Absher, Music Director

Tammy Jackson, Office Mgr.

Wendy Morrison, Bookkeeper

Session Digest

The Session met for its Stated March meeting on November 17, 2024, in the Session Room.

Pastoral Concerns:

Ron Blevins, Joanne Cannoy, Tony Cannoy, Vaughn Cassell, Shirley Cavender, Sid Crockett, Colleen Dunford, Chimer Durham, Wysor Gearhart, Marion Griffin, Pastor John Langham, Scott Madden, Steve Moore, Bill and Susan Pollard, Dorothy Repass, Ron Smiley.

Motion approved by the Session:

- To accept the written Finance Reports for October 2024.

Review of Calendar of Events for December:

- 1 – *First Sunday of Advent*
- 8 – *Second Sunday of Advent*
- 12 – Christmas Potluck and Music Program
- 15– *Third Sunday of Advent*
- 15 – Stated Session Meeting
- 15 – Cove Service
- 22 - *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
- 22 – *Christmas Joy Offering*
- 24 – *Christmas Eve*
- 24 – Christmas Eve Service
- 25 – *Christmas Day (Office Closed)*

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Sunday School News:

Starting on December 1st, The Don Wysor Sunday School Class, will observe the Advent Season with a video series led by Evangelist and Writer Max Lucado. The Series is titled "God Came Near" and will continue for 6 weeks. Following the New Year, we will return to Romans Part #2. If you haven't attended Sunday School in a while, give this class a try. We meet each Sunday at 9:45 a.m., in the *primary* Sunday School Room (across from the Choir Room). It is most fulfilling.

Jim Gearhart

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Stewardship Message:

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Cor. 9:15) powerfully acknowledges the sovereignty of God by the Apostle Paul. The Rev. Melvin Amerson says God’s generosity flows out of God’s gift of grace. Something described as “indescribable” often points to an action or object so awesome that few words can adequately describe or explain it. Now we have the opportunity to respond generously to God’s indescribable gift of grace. Freely receive, freely give.

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Christmas Festivity:

Save the date! On Thursday, December 12th, at 6:00 p.m., Wytheville Presbyterian Church, will be hosting a **POTLUCK DINNER.** The Fellowship Committee will provide chicken, and we ask that you bring one or more side dishes or a dessert to complete our feast. Holly Montgomery will provide us with a musical program. **Plus, we've heard that Santa sent a special message that he'll be dropping by too!!! Please plan to join us for a fun-filled evening!!**

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5 Cents a Meal:

Please remember the **5 cents a meal offering on Sunday, December 15th.** You may bring it to the church or mail it in with your pledge. A basket will be placed in the narthex for your convenience. Please make a separate check. Many thanks for your giving.

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Cove Service:

The Cove Service will be held on **Sunday evening, December 15th, at 7:30 p.m.** Please invite friends, and join us for this inspirational service, hymn sing, and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

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Newsletter & Office Information:

Please submit information for the December Newsletter to the church office by **Thursday, December 19th.** Your help is greatly appreciated.

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Hope Packs:



Hope Packs assembly during the month of December has been suspended due to the alteration in area school schedules and the upcoming holidays. The assembly of HOPE Packs will resume in unison with the school schedules in January 2025.

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Monthly Meetings:

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| Monday, December 2 nd : | Circle 1, 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall |
| Monday, December 2 nd : | Circle 3, 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall |
| Tuesday, December 10 th : | Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, December 15 th : | Session Meeting, following morning Worship Service |
| Tuesday, December 17 th : | Worship Committee, 10:00 a.m. |
| Tuesday, December 17 th : | Church Growth Committee, 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall |

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Circle 1 and Circle 3:

The **Circle 1** Presbyterian Women are scheduled to meet on Monday, December 2nd at 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Circle 3** Presbyterian Women are scheduled to meet on Monday, December 2nd, at 7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

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Mission Committee News:

Our Church responded quickly and generously to the call from Abingdon Presbytery to assist our neighbors in need because of Hurricane Helene. We provided 10 Utility Buckets filled with necessary items to tackle cleaning up following flooding, and we provided numerous Hygiene kits, cases of water, and financial assistance. Abingdon Presbytery continues to receive all donations as this will be an on-going need in our surrounding communities for a long time. As a reminder, you can make a financial donation to Abingdon Presbytery by putting cash in an envelope marked “Helene Disaster Relief” or by writing a check to Wytheville Presbyterian Church and writing “Helene Disaster Relief” on the memo line. Donations can be put in the collection plate on Sundays or delivered to the Church Office. Please continue to pray.

This year our Christmas Angel Tree will be on display in the Sanctuary for easy access for everyone. We are already receiving wish lists from our four families and ten children, ages 5 months to 16 years. One of our families has been severely impacted by flooding caused by Hurricane Helene. It is a “Gift” for us to help these families experience a joyful Christmas. Watch for more information to follow in the Church Bulletin.

Mission Co-Worker Support:

SHARON KANDEL - ETHIOPIA, SUDAN, SOUTH SUDAN

REV. CHERYL BARNES - MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

REV. ELMARIE PARKER AND REV. SCOTT PARKER – IRAQ, SYRIA, LEBANON

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December

2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 1st Sunday of Advent | 2 Circle 1 Meets 11:00 a.m. Circle 3 Meets 7:00 p.m. | 3 Giving Tuesday | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 2nd Sunday of Advent | 9 | 10 Happy Birthday! Kat McCoy Finance Comm 4 p.m. | 11 | 12 Christmas Potluck and Music...and SANTA! | 13 Happy Birthday! Debbie Fore | 14 Happy Birthday! April DiYorio |
| 15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 5-Cents-A-Meal Session Meeting Cove Service 7:30 p.m. 3rd Sunday of Advent Happy Birthday! Jerry Morrison | 16 | 17 Worship Comm 10am Church Growth 4pm Fellowship Hall Happy Birthday! Maetta Crewe | 18 | 19 Happy Birthday! Joe Moore and Theo Moore | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas JOY Offering | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Service | 25 Christmas Day Nativity of the Lord | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 1st Sunday of Christmas | 30 | 31 Happy Birthday! Abigail Burke, Vaughn Cassell, and A.J. McCoy | | | | |
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