



February 2025 Newsletter

“Loving The World”

Greetings Members and Friends,

Whenever the Church, or even members of the body of Christ, talk about “the world” and their perception of it, it is sometimes a good thing, but at other times not so much. In fact, maybe most of the time when we make use of the phrase, “the world” it is used in a negative way. Now, the truth is, the Bible does this as well and even Jesus does this as well. For example, in II Peter 1:4, the world is seen as hostile towards God and is seen as a symbol of corruption. Elsewhere in James 4, and in I John 2, we are presented with the idea that we cannot be friendly with the world and love God at the same time. Furthermore, in the gospels, Jesus warns us against trying to gain the whole world at the expense of forfeiting our souls. (Matthew, 16). So, in one sense the world is something that is seen as an opposing thing to God and to the Church. However, we also read elsewhere, in John 3:16, the most well-known scripture of all time, that “God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son.”

As a result, may we then consider that not everything or everyone in this world is good, but God deems us worthy enough to redeem and reconcile unto himself. Therefore, may we also see the world as worthy of redemption and worthy of our love.

Peace and Love,

Pastor John

The Presby

February 2025

**Wytheville Presbyterian
Church**

285 Church Street

Wytheville, VA 24382

Phone: (276)228-4715

Email:

wpchurch@embarqmail.com

wythevillepresbyterianchurch.org

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 meeting on January 26, 2025, in the Session Room.

Pastoral Concerns:

Ron Blevins, Joanne Cannoy, Tony Cannoy, Vaughn Cassell, Shirley Cavender, Sid Crockett, Terry Dean, Colleen Dunford, Chimer Durham, Wysor Gearhart, Marion Griffin, Pastor John Langham, Don Nance, Bill and Susan Pollard, Dorothy Repass, Ron Smiley.

Motions approved by the Session:

- To allow the Kiwanis Club to use Hatcher Hall on Monday, February 17, 4pm – 9pm, for their Valentine’s Day meeting and meal.
- Charlie Madden elected to serve as Elder Commissioner to Abingdon Presbytery for 2025 and Kym Dunford as alternate.
- Jim Gearhart elected to serve as Assistant Clerk of Session for 2025.
- Approved the Annual Statistical Report as presented.
- Approved adding a heating/cooling system to the administrator’s office.
- To accept the written Finance Reports for December 2024.
- Approved the 2025 Stewardship Theme, Proverbs 3:9 – “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.” and campaign schedule.

Review of Calendar of Events for February:

9 - *Souper Bowl Offering*
13 – Abingdon Presbytery meeting @ Central PC
13 – Potluck Dinner, Hatcher Hall, 6:00 pm
14 - *Valentine’s Day*
23 – Stated Session Meeting

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Sunday School News:

The Don Wysor Sunday School Class is presently studying 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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Fellowship Committee News:

Mark your Calendars!! Thursday, February 13, The Fellowship Committee is planning a **Valentine's potluck dinner**. Plan to come and join this evening of fellowship and games **beginning at 6pm.**

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Stewardship Message:

Gratitude

As was shared at the Congregational Meeting, we as a Church have much for which to be grateful. The Pledges for this year are sufficient for our being able to have a balanced budget and to support the work and ministry of Pastor John and the various Committees. There is much to be done for our Lord and there is financial support for serving him in our Church, our community, and in the world. We all can feel a deep sense of Gratitude.

“Our Christian life is shaped by gratitude - gratitude for the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. It is by God’s grace that we receive the gift of our own lives, and so we are called to shape the whole of our lives by our grateful response. Gratitude for all of life may be a way to broaden and deepen our understanding and our use of the gifts God has given us.”

Let us each resolve to act upon our Gratitude by giving of ourselves in service to God. Praise the Lord for his many blessings.

Your Stewardship Committee

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5 Cents a Meal:

Please remember the **5 cents a meal offering on Sunday, February 16th**. 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 resume as usual on the 3rd Sunday in April. So stay tuned!

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Newsletter & Office Information:

Please submit information for the **March Newsletter** to the church office by **Tuesday, February 18th**. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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Hope Packs:

Wytheville Presbyterian Church has set aside the **4th Wednesday of each month**, to assist with the HOPE PACKS preparation. Please consider joining us at **Open Door Community, located at 680 W Main Street, Wytheville, on Wednesday, February 26th, at 5:00 p.m.** It will only require about one hour of your time to make a difference in the life of a hungry child.

HOPE PACKS is a weekend program that provides food for children in Wythe and Bland Counties who are dealing with food insecurity. The Packs are prepared on Wednesdays and delivered to 15 area schools in Wythe and Bland Counties, who then distribute the packs to children in need of food. Wytheville Presbyterian Church joins other area churches and organizations to prepare about 850 Packs each week. Such a small sacrifice, to make sure none of our precious children are forced to struggle through a weekend with little, or no food.

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Monthly Meetings:

- Monday, February 3rd: Circle 1, 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall
- Monday, February 3rd: Circle 3, 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, February 11th: Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 23rd: Session Meeting, following morning Worship Service
- Tuesday, February 18th: Worship Committee, 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 18th: 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, February 3rd at 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Circle 3** Presbyterian Women are scheduled to meet on Monday, February 3rd, 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.

Most recently, wildfires spread by tornado force winds, have swept through a large portion of California. Thousands have lost everything: family members, homes, businesses, places of worship, vehicles, clothing, pets, and precious unreplaceable mementos, among so many other things. If you wish to join the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance response efforts, you can write a check to Wytheville Presbyterian Church with “California Disaster Assistance” notated on the memo line or provide cash in an envelope with the same notation on the envelope. We will then pass the funds on to the Presbytery Office to be sent directly from there. Please keep all the victims of these catastrophes throughout our nation in your prayers.

News From Madagascar:

Dan and Elizabeth Turk

wpchurch@embarqmail.com
1/8/2025 9:08 AM

From Dan and Elizabeth Turk 
daniellturk@hotmail.com
To wpchurch@embarqmail.com

Dear Friends at Wytheville Presbyterian Church,

We hope that you all have had a joyful Christmas and are off to a good start in the new year.

Thank you very much for your support for us and our ministries with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM). Your prayers and support have made a big difference in the life of the FJKM and the lives of many people here in Madagascar.

We want to share about anticipated change in PC(USA) World Mission that may affect us.

As many of you know, the PC(USA) decided to unify the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) with the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) which includes Presbyterian World Mission. These entities were officially united in October 2024; the new entity is being called the Interim Unified Agency. Rev. Jihyun Oh, PC(USA)'s Stated Clerk, was named Executive Director of the new agency. On November 5, 2024, in reference to World Mission, Rev. Oh announced that "we anticipate significant changes in how we engage our partners in the future" and "(w)e anticipate that there will also be reductions in 2025". This announcement was made in the PNS article titled "[Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) - New Interim Unified Agency of the PC\(USA\) takes next step in reimagining work going forward](#)".

We do not know what exactly the anticipated changes will be and whether or not we will be part of the "reductions." We want you to know that we continue to feel called to serve with the FJKM. Whatever happens to us and within World Mission, we encourage you to continue supporting the FJKM and its ministries. The Madagascar Mission Network is a Presbyterian network of churches and others who support the ministries of the FJKM. Being a part of the Madagascar Mission Network is a wonderful way to support the FJKM and keep up to date on its ministries.

The past few months have been busy as we continue our exciting and challenging work with the FJKM. Both of us have been teaching at FJKM's seminaries since the new school year started in October. Elizabeth and her colleagues in the FJKM HIV/AIDS and Epidemics Committee (KPMSV) have been addressing the rapidly rising rate of HIV and low childhood vaccination rates. Unfortunately, polio, measles, and neonatal tetanus outbreaks are increasing. KPMSV has been doing a lot of free health screenings and education sessions. The HIV/AIDS and Epidemics Committee will hold its annual strategic meeting January 21st -23rd. Elizabeth has also been working with the FJKM in its special teacher training program to get trained teachers for remote regions of Madagascar as well as helping FJKM schools get access to water in the far south.

Dan and his colleagues in the Fruits, Vegetables, and Environmental Education Program (FVEE) have been doing trainings on growing fruits and vegetables and getting ready for the tree planting season when the rains come. (The rainy season should have started in December but has yet to begin). In coming months, Dan is looking forward to teaching a course in Arboriculture at the FJKM university at Moramanga; getting lots of native trees and fruit trees planted at churches, schools, and communities; and continuing FJKM's collaboration with Missouri Botanical Garden to help protect some of Madagascar's amazing biodiversity by assisting people to grow fruits and vegetables in the vicinity of protected areas.

Please pray for Presbyterian World Mission, us, and the ministries of the FJKM.

Thank you very much for your commitment to partnership with the FJKM. We and the FJKM greatly appreciate your support. Please let us know if you have any questions or need clarification. We look forward to hearing from you in coming days and months.

Grace and Peace,

Dan & Elizabeth Turk

PC(USA) Mission Co-workers serving in Madagascar

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

February

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Souper Bowl Offering	3 Circle 1 Meets 11:00 a.m. Circle 3 Meets 7:00 p.m. Happy Birthday! Laurie Dean	4	5	6	7 Happy Birthday! Kevin Craft	8
9 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Souper Bowl Offering Happy Birthday! Rebecca Lane	10	11 Finance Comm 4 p.m.	12	13 Valentine's Potluck Dinner 6:00 p.m.	14	15
16 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 5-Cents-A-Meal	17	18 Worship Comm 10am Church Growth 4pm Fellowship Hall	19	20	21	22
23 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Session Meeting	24	25	26 HOPE PACKS 5:00 p.m.	27	28	

