

December, 2023

The Westviewer

Official Newsletter of Westview Presbyterian Church

LOOKING AHEAD AT DECEMBER YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS:

ADVENT WREATH KITS

Prepare to celebrate Christ's birth! The Deegans will again be providing Advent wreath kits in the Gathering Place on December 3, following the worship service. If you have extra re-useable candle bases from other years' wreaths to share, please drop those by the WPC office or bring them with you on the 3rd.

TRIMMING THE TREE

See Worship Ministry Area News

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PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Westview,

As we enter the season of Advent (from the Latin word for "arrival" we would do well to ask ourselves, "What new thing is God bringing into my life?" As we celebrate the incarnation of God in Jesus this Christmas, what new thing from the Holy Spirit is arriving in my life?

This can be a difficult question to answer, especially if the "new thing" is not much fun. The new thing may be the realities God is asking us to metabolize associated with the aging process, a new ache or pain, or a change of life that is not at all comfortable. In these times it is not an insignificant spiritual task to open our hearts and minds to whatever is standing at the threshold. As the poet Rumi once wrote in The Guest House: "meet them at the door laughing, and invite them in. Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond."

Westview has several guests at your door this Christmas season:

Advent Devotional booklet and Advent Wreath Kits

The Spiritual Journeys Ministry Area has purchased Advent devotional books for you to use as a part of your daily spiritual practice. You can combine the devotionals with the Advent Wreath kits available after church in The Gathering Place on December 3rd, courtesy of and with gratitude to Bill and Chris Deegan.

The Four Sundays in Advent

We have a sermon series surprise for you this Advent. While we have finished the series of sermons on the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary, did you know there is more stained glass in the church? Tune in Sundays at 9:30 a.m. during December and find out what and why.

December 3rd Council @ Fire Pit

The first Sunday of the month is our "council" gathering where I lead us in a way of gathering that enables us to go deeper and wider into our own soul work. This month we will meet outside at the firepit, so bring a chair, a blanket, and warm clothes.

This Advent season may we be surprised by joy, comforted by grace, and inspired by the hope we have in Christ.

DR. DAN





Date & Times to Note

- Dec 2 - Men's Breakfast Group, 8:00 am
- Dec 2 - Advent sanctuary decorating, 9:30 am
- Dec 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Sunday worship, 9:30 am
- Dec 3 - Council gathering, 11:00 am
- Dec 3 - Advent Wreath making
- Dec 4 - Worship MA, 10:00 am
- Dec 4 - Creative Card Ministry, 1:00 pm
- Dec 6, 13, 27 - Bible Study Group, 10:00 am
- Dec 6 - Deacons meeting, 1:00 pm
- Dec 6 - Grief Care group, 2:30 pm
- Dec 6, 13, 20, 27 Choir rehearsal, 6:30 pm
- Dec 7, 14, 21, 28 -Men's Coffee, 8:00 am
- Dec 10, 17 - Adult Sunday School, 11:00 am
- Dec 10 - Blue Christmas service, 2:00 pm
- Dec 10 - Pantry re-set, 2:00 pm
- Dec 11 - Pantry Set-up, starting at 8:00 am
- Dec 12 - Pantry Set-up, starting at 8:00 am
- Dec 12 - Round Pantry Drive-line, 2-6 pm
- Dec 13 - Pantry Community Distribution, 9am
- Dec 13 - Spiritual Journeys MA, 2:30 pm
- Dec 14 - Personnel Advisory Cmte, 10:00 am
- Dec 14 - Outreach MA, 6:30 pm
- Dec 15 - SafeLot Meal by Westview
- Dec 20 - Session meeting, 10:00 am
- Dec 20 - Dominoes, 1:00 pm
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 3:00 pm
- Dec 25 - **Christmas Day** (office closed)

Adult Sunday School December 10th and 17th

This month we will be studying Isaiah 40:1-12 on December 10th and Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 on December 17th, 11:00 am in The Gathering Place.

Blue Christmas Service December 10th, 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 10th we will be having a "Blue Christmas" prayer and healing service in the sanctuary. The service provides a healing place for those who are grieving at this time of year, surrounding them with prayer and support.

Christmas Eve

We will have a special Christmas Eve service this year at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th. Come and enjoy the special music and carols by candlelight.

This Advent season may we be surprised by joy, comforted by grace, and inspired by the hope we have in Christ. May we each find a place of love and compassion and share it as a blessing when we are present with others. That is truly a wonderful Christmas Gift!

Sincerely In Christ,

Dr. Dan



It unfortunately isn't going to be a Merry Christmas for everyone in our community. There are many people who will face continued food poverty ("food insecurity.") This is so sad, especially at this time of the year.



The fact that this situation exists is why we do what we do; we wish we didn't exist and that the need for us wasn't there, but we feel blessed be in a position to help.

We remember Pastor Dan's recent sermon ... the crowds followed Jesus up the hill, the disciples worried that the crowd would be getting hungry and asked Jesus to see that the crowd had food. Pastor Dan phrased Jesus' response, "You give them something to eat." We choose to follow the call to be feed God's people.

The blessings that make this possible are the support, partnership and love of Westview members, friends and community partners who pray for those who come to The Round Pantry, those who volunteer, and those who donate food and funds. We wish you Christmas blessings, joy and peace.





BIRTHDAYS

- Morgan Deegan 12-2
- Barbara Emery-Geiger 12-2
- Madison Steiner 12-3
- Emily Deegan 12-5
- Gary Kelsic 12-6
- Judy Coats 12-9
- Kathy McGannon 12-10
- Sarah Hurianek 12-11
- Bruce McQueen 12-12
- Harriet Kracklauer 12-13
- Kay Constantinides 12-16
- Don Hill 12-16
- Nancy Hurianek 12-17
- Darrell Bowman 12-21
- Kay Daugherty 12-25
- Carol Heepke 12-26
- Lucas Hurianek 12-28
- Lih Shin Lim 12-28

FROM YOUR DEACONS

Our November Soup Lunch was a big success. Thank you everyone who donated soups and cookies! The soups were delicious, and the cookies are always a welcome hit. Everyone is so generous to provide food when requested and you are appreciated.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

LOOK WHAT IS HAPPENING:

- June Loan Balance: \$139,244**
- July Loan Balance: \$117,728**
- August Loan Balance: \$ 99,046**
- Sept. Loan Balance: \$ 89,377**
- Oct. Loan Balance: \$ 76,967**

Thank You Westview!

SAFELOT SHELTER MEALS

Westview furnishes the evening meal for 12 people on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Upcoming dates: Dec. 15

If you can help provide the main dish, a side dish, or a dessert, please call Janet Mulay.

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU AT WESTVIEW

| GROUP | DATE/TIME LOCATION | NOTES |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Mexican Train Dominos | Dec. 20 | Open to anyone! Contact: Wanda Heibein |
| Men's Breakfast Group | December 2 Fellowship Hall | Meets 1st Sat. of the month, 8am Contact: Harry Heibein |
| Men's Weekly Coffee | Dec 7, 14 21, 28 | Meets weekly at 8am on Thursdays at Centura (LUH) Contact: Harry Heibein |
| Round Urban Garden | Come back in the Spring! | |



Advent Events !

Your Worship Ministry Area would like to invite the congregation to participate in the trimming of the Chancel Christmas tree on Sunday, December 3. As you enter the Sanctuary, you will be offered a Chrismon (ornament) to hang on the tree. The Chrismons were made by members of Westview and are a beloved symbol of our community.

Our Blue Christmas service is December 10, 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service is for those who may be struggling with this time of year and need a more contemplative atmosphere.

With Christmas Eve being on a Sunday this year, we will have our regular 9:30 a.m. service, and our Christmas Eve candlelight service at 3:00 p.m. that afternoon.

May you find peace, joy and blessing during this season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.






December 10 - Come enjoy Christmas Punch & Goodies Time in the Fellowship Hall following worship! We will usher in the Season, and thank the Elders, Deacons, and Committee Members who will be completing several years of generous service to the Westview congregation. Please bring finger foods to share such as hors d'oeuvres, cookies, candy, small sandwiches, fruit, cheese, or a surprise treat of your choice.

SESSION NOTES

At their regular meeting on November 15, 2023, Session took the following actions:

- Approved receiving the Russell family as new members and the baptism of Will Russell on Dec. 24, 2023 during the 9:30 a.m. service.
- Approved 2024 Budget that includes a shortfall of approximately \$27,000. The shortfall may decrease if pledges are stronger than anticipated.
- Approved a request to use the sanctuary pod for a Children's Music Camp, June 10-14 during the mornings.
- Selected two elder commissioners: Sandy Moler and Beth Kelsic, to attend special Presbytery called meeting on Nov. 28, 2023 "to act on proposed conservation easement for Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center",
- Approved revisions to PAC Governing Policies.
- Approved an Advent devotional booklet, "Glory of God Shone Around Them", by Brian Simmons.
- Approved adoption of a Consent Agenda format for future Session meetings.



| Sunday | | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|----------|
| 26 9:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Pantry Re-set | 27 8:00am Pantry Setup | 28  8:00am Pantry Set-up 2:00pm Pantry Drive line | 29 9:00am Community Distr. 10:00am Bible Study Group 6:30pm Choir rehearsal | 30 8:00am Men's Coffee | 1  | 2 8:00am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Advent Decorating | |
| 3 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Advent Wreaths 11:00am Council gathering at Firepit | 4 1:00pm Creating Cards Ministry 6:30pm Worship MA | 5 8:00am Pantry Set-up 2:00pm Pantry Drive line | 6 10:00am Bible Study group 1:00pm Deacons meeting 2:30pm Grief Care group 6:30pm Choir rehearsal | 7 8:00am Men's Coffee | 8 | 9 | |
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| 17 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Adult Sunday School | 18 | 19 | 20 10:00am Session meeting 1:00pm Dominoes 6:30pm Choir rehearsal | 21 8:00am Men's Coffee | 22 | 23  | |
| 24 9:30am Worship Service 3:00pm Christmas Eve Service | 25  | 26 | 27 6:30pm Choir rehearsal | 28 8:00am Men's Coffee | 29 | 30 | |
| 31 9:30am Worship Service | 1 1:00pm Creating Cards Ministry 6:30pm Worship MA | 2 | 3 1:00pm Deacons meeting 6:30pm Choir rehearsal | 4 8:00am Men's Coffee 7:00pm Facilities/Admin | 5 | 6 8:00am Men's Breakfast | |

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

If you no longer wish to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact the church office.

Staff:
Rev. Dr. Dan Dolquist, Pastor
Dr. Karin Buer, Pianist
Sharon Boeye, Office Manager

Worship Times:
Sunday morning at
9:30am in Person and on
Zoom



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