

THE MESSENGER

Newsletter from Westminster

OUR MISSION IS TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE IN ALL WE DO

Christ
is
Born

Advent



Sunday, December 01 -
Tuesday, December 24



05 ~ Marlene Snyder
05 ~ Randy Washburn
19 ~ Maddison Shields
20 ~ Marina McClane
23 ~ Irene Neas
23 ~ Warren Paul Chappee

Happy Anniversary!

03 ~ Adrienne & Glenn Müller
08 ~ Valery and Barry Clark
16 ~ Dina & Dustin Dunklee

The Discipline of Joy

Joy permeates the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. At times we are commanded to be joyful, as the Israelites were commanded during the Festival of Tabernacles. This festival lasted for seven days after gathering the produce of the threshing floor and the winepress. Here the command to rejoice is given in conjunction with the command to celebrate. God said, "Celebrate for seven days! Feast, eat, drink, and be merry!" (Deuteronomy 16:15)

In 1 Chronicles 16:33 even the trees are commanded to sing and be joyful before the Lord. Jesus told his disciples, "*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*" To have the joy of Jesus within us, now that is something to contemplate and to celebrate! Because our God is a joyous God. Joy and celebration is found all throughout the Old and New Testaments

When we read about joy in the Scriptures it often accompanies celebration. And in December there are multiple opportunities to celebrate making it a fitting time to practice the discipline of joy.

What is joy? As Dallas Willard sees it, joy is who God is. Joy is at the center of God's being. Willard writes, "We should, to begin with, think that God leads a very interesting life, and that he is full of joy. Undoubtedly, he is the most joyous being in the universe. The abundance of his love and generosity is inseparable from his infinite joy. All of the good and beautiful things from which we occasionally drink tiny droplets of soul-exhilarating joy, God continuously experiences in all their breadth and depth and richness."¹

Often, we think of joy in connection with something or someone. A beautiful sunset or the giggles of a small child, these are events we connect with joy. Yet Dallas Willard expands this and states that "joy is a pervasive sense of well-being." Even in a difficult situation joy is connected to a sense that I am okay. We see this in 2 Corinthians 6 where Paul lists many paradoxes. One of which is, "*sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.*"

"Joy is consistent with sorrow because it is a realization of what really is going on in the world at large under God. It's joy and joy is one of the hardest things we have associated with God because we think He has so many things to worry about. But if we do not have a joyous God, what do we have? It is a joyous God that fills the universe. God is joyful and everything will be okay under his reign."¹

Joy is the ultimate word about God and his world. Creation was an act of joy and delight in the goodness of what was done. The act of creating also brings us joy whether we are creating a quilt or putting in a new faucet. We go back again to admire what has been created as creation brings joy.

~continued on page 3~

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

Matthew 2:10

~continued from page 2~

As we live in the kingdom of God right now each time, we enact Jesus' teachings and obey His word we usher in joy in the kingdom of God. This afternoon I had a meeting with several people connected with Community for Christ. We talked and planned about how to help those in need and though it could have been a sad meeting, it was not. There was much joy in being part of a group committed to Mt. 25:40. This is part of how Jesus has called us to live in his kingdom now and it brings joy.

We can be a people of joy, because joy comes from a deeper part of our being that knows God is with us and all will be well even if it is not well right now. Advent is a joyous time even as sorrow awaits at the cross because joy is tied to God who loves us and beckons us to come to him,

John Ortberg made an interesting comment about Dallas Willard which is my prayer for each one of us. John said that he, himself could be anxious, but when he is in the presence of Willard the anxiety dissipates, and is nowhere to be found because Willard radiates the kingdom of God so completely that what flows from him is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control. This calm is felt in such a way that one is in the kingdom of God in a profound way while on earth when in the presence of Willard. That friends, is a pervasive sense of well-being. That friends, is joy. May we radiate the kingdom of God in such a way that when people are in our presence, they have stepped into God's kingdom here on earth.

Pastor Angie

¹Dallas Willard, [The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life In God](#)

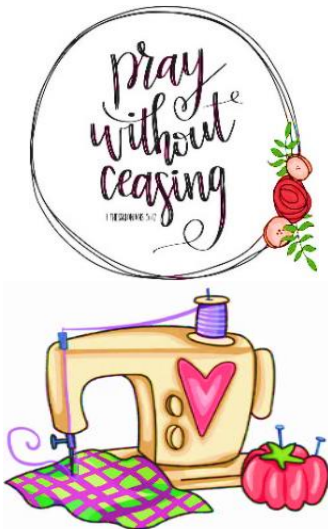
² Dallas Willard, interview with John Ortberg

Westminster Presbyterian Church Chapter 1337— "Prayers and Squares" The Prayer Quilt Ministry.

The Prayers and Squares ministry aims to promote an active prayer life among the participants, not just to make and give away quilts. We strive to involve as many people as possible in our prayer efforts.

Together with the United Methodist Church, meetings will occur on the first Saturday and the third Monday of the month. 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. December meetings: Sat. Dec. 07 & Mon. Dec. 16. —January Meetings: Sat. Jan.04 and Mon. Jan. 20.

Come sew, and be creative!





Pancake Breakfast

opening day of
The Versailles Olde Tyme Apple
Festival.

\$750. 00 in donations went to
Morgan County R-2 for the
Food Program and the Kindness
Program.



Christmas Adopt a Family

We have the opportunity to adopt 3 girls ages 3 and 1 starting now through the Christmas (Teresa Capps, our contact, through the Children’s division) They are ready to receive anything that we have. All price tags need to be removed.

- Catalina and Kalivida (1yr. old)- size 2T; size 5 shoes; size 4 diapers.
- Onna (3 yr. old) – 3T; size 8 shoes; size 4 diapers.
- All girls need coats, wipes, highchair (donated), bibs...
- Nonperishable food items – can goods, pastas, peanut butter etc.
- Place the items in the bin at the entrance of the church.
We will drop off the items to the family weekly.

Thank you!

The Stated Meeting of Missouri Union Presbytery

held at Westminster Presbyterian on Saturday, November 16, 2024—10:00 a.m.
Fifty plus persons enjoyed a catered luncheon of chicken, pulled pork, potatoes, green beans, Salad, hot rolls and drinks.





Please plan on attending.

❖ **DECEMBER 8th**
**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

After Worship Service.

For the purpose of electing elders, &
officers, presenting the budget and
presenting the terms of call for the Pastor.



**Blue
Christmas
SERVICE**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th

7:00 p.m.

**Joint service with the
Versailles United Methodist Church.**

Sunday, December 15



**The Bell Choir
is performing**



**Potluck
and a visit from
Santa Claus**

**Sunday, December 15
after Worship Service.**

DON'T MISS IT!



5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- ▶ **ADVENT**—Sunday, December 1, 2024 – Tuesday, December 24, 2024
- ▶ **ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** –The 2024 Advent Devotional Book has been completed and available. Pick one up at the Church. Thank you all for your contributions that made this Advent book possible.
- ▶ **RINGING OF THE BELLS**—Westminster will be “Ringing the Bells” for The Salvation Army at Walmart, Versailles. December 2, 2024 –9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ▶ **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** is **Sunday, December 08, 2024** after worship for the purpose of electing elders and officers presenting the budget and presenting the terms of call for the Pastor. Plan on attending.
- ▶ **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**—Monday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.—Joint service with the Versailles United Methodist Church.
- ▶ **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**— Sunday, December 15—The Bell Choir is performing. Potluck and a visit from Santa Claus after Worship Service.
- ▶ **SUNDAY SCHOOL—ADULT & CHILDREN**—9:30 a.m.
- ▶ **SESSION MEETING FOR THE 2024 SESSION MEMBERS**—
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Pastor Angie’s home.
- ▶ **WESTMINSTER’S PRAYERS AND SQUARES CHAPTER 1337**
Together with The United Methodist Church meetings to take place on the first Saturday and the third Monday of the month. 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. - December meetings: Sat. Dec. 07 & Mon. Dec. 16 — January Meetings: Sat. Jan.04 and Mon. Jan. 20.
If you have any questions, please get in touch with Holly Cagle.
- ▶ **TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER** – 9:00 a.m. upstairs in the conference room.
- ▶ **BIBLE STUDY**—Monday Evening – will resume at a date to be determined / Tuesday morning- 10:30 a.m.
- ▶ **MEN’S WEDNESDAY MORNING COFFEE**— 7:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.
(Downstairs in the dining area “Hill Hall”)
- ▶ **FELLOWSHIP TIME**— Join in on “Fellowship Time” with refreshments after worship.

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel."*

Isaiah 7:14

Tuesday Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m. – upstairs in the
Conference Room



Bible Study



Monday evening: Resuming
at a date to be determined.
Tuesday morning -10:30 a.m.
Downstairs, Clingan Hall

Session Meeting

Wed. December 18th
10:00 a.m. for the
2024 Session members
at Pastor Angie's home.



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Adult and children
9:30 a.m.

•**Wednesday: Men's
Coffee and Donuts:**
7:00 a.m.— 10:00 a.m.

•Join us for
“Fellowship Time”
refreshments after
Worship
(Downstairs in Hill Hall)

23 persons,
average attendance for
November



**Offerings for
November 2024**
Pledges: \$9082.00
Non-Pledges: \$1055.00
Basket: \$51.00



*For unto us a child is born, ...
his name shall be called*

Wonderful Counselor,
THE MIGHTY GOD

THE EVERLASTING FATHER,

The Prince of Peace.
ISAIAH 9:6



Hours:

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship/refreshments after Worship

CONTACT US:

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