

December 2019

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Nikki Mirhosseyni 12/02
Marita Talbott 12/04
Drew Emmett 12/08
Helen Manning 12/08
Dick Beers 12/09
Eilidh Miller 12/10
Sheila Snyder 12/10
Pam Tibbitts 12/10
Larry McKaughan 12/14
Valjean Turk 12/15
Zack Whitsel 12/16
Charles DeLaittre 12/17
Ryan Schukart 12/17
Jim Salerno 12/17
Tracy Calhoun 12/22
Marta Ukropina 12/23
Tim Whitsel 12/23
Erin Kersten-Jordan 12/27
Bob Feuerstein 12/27
Abbie Kidd 12/28
Wendy Patten 12/28
Mary Pat Kersten 12/29
Paisley Irvin 12/30
Sue Martichuski 12/30
George Miller 12/30
Shirley Schaaf 12/31

From the Pastor:

Dear Friends,

Once when I was leading a church small group, I came across a collection of Advent readings called *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*. One of the stories I remember was called *The Dangers of Advent*, and it was written by the British author and minister J.B. Phillips.

In the story, Phillips considered the phrase “familiarity breeds contempt”, and looked at it in relation to Advent. In its general usage, the phrase means that the more we know something, the more likely we are to treat it badly or to stop respecting it. Phillips says that this is not always the case, such as when we have a good friend, we can grow to love and respect them more over time.

However, it is true in some cases that the more familiar we are with something, the more likely we are to lose respect for it over time. In regards to the Advent and Christmas season, Phillips writes that while we don’t tend to have contempt for the season, it is possible that our over-familiarity with it may lead us towards indifference, and we can lose sight of what really happened with the birth of Jesus Christ.

As disciples, we seek to love and to honor God through the giving of ourselves, in worship, in service, and in reflection and study. This is true throughout the year, but at Christmas time we specifically remember that God loves us and cares about us so much that God actually became one of us, to live among us and teach us, and in our gratitude for this great gift we give back of ourselves.

My hope for everyone this Advent and Christmas is that we hang on to the sense of awe at what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. I hope we can get past the over-familiarity with the story, that it does not dull the occasion, and that we can remember the almost unbelievable reality that God in Christ came and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

May you have a blessed Christmas season, and may God’s presence dwell with you richly during this holy time of year.

Peace,
-David



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

As you sit in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning, have you ever wondered about the courtyard outside the west-facing window?

Hazel Jones and Isabel Turnbull wrote the following story for the WPC History 1952-1992 book. In 1969, volunteers from the Senior High Fellowship planted the lawn, shrubs, and trees in the sanctuary courtyard "every Wednesday evening until it was done," as they said. The courtyard design includes three huge boulders, gathered and hoisted into place with equipment from Oldham Construction Company. The courtyard and labor were lovingly dedicated to the memory of the Senior High Fellowship's schoolmate, Bruce Kinnee.

Safer Candles for Holiday Light and Beauty from Creation Care Ministry

Q: What's wrong with my candles?

A: Candles made of paraffin wax use a petroleum byproduct that releases carcinogenic soot when burned. Synthetic scents may contain hundreds of chemicals. Burning releases microscopic particles that may be harmful if inhaled. Burning byproducts can also lead to respiratory problems and damage household surfaces.

Q: What are the alternatives?

A: Money answer: Buy beeswax or vegetable-wax candles that use cotton wicks and are scented with natural essential oils. They may cost more, but if you are intentional about when and how long you burn them, you may find that you need fewer candles. Creative answer: Take a class or check out online tutorials for rolling or pouring your own beeswax candles—invite a friend to learn with you. Craft stores and Glory Bee have supplies. Safety answer: If open flames and/or remembering to extinguish them create safety concerns in your home, consider LED candles with timers! If they fail, donate them to NextStep either at their depot or in the barrel at Westminster. Invest in rechargeable batteries and let them run completely down before recharging. They'll last a long time, too. [Source material from GreenAmerica.org]

On November 17th the Youth Group gathered to shop at Target to purchase gifts and necessary items for *Bags of Love*. The Youth brought in donations, some earning money by doing extra chores around their homes and yard work to total \$371 which the church matched through our Youth Mission fund. All of the other generous donations from the congregation were appreciated. Altogether, the Youth were able to shop with a grand total of **\$997.00!**



Children's Christmas Pageant

Join Westminster Presbyterian Church as we hold our Annual Children and Youth Christmas Pageant on December 15th during Worship. Worship starts at 10:00am. After, we will have a Christmas festival during Coffee Hour. It will be potluck style and we would love for you to bring a dish or dessert to share. All are invited to join us for some holiday fun. Check your email for a sign-up list of food to bring or check the bulletin board right outside the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you all here.

HIV Alliance Holiday Dinner

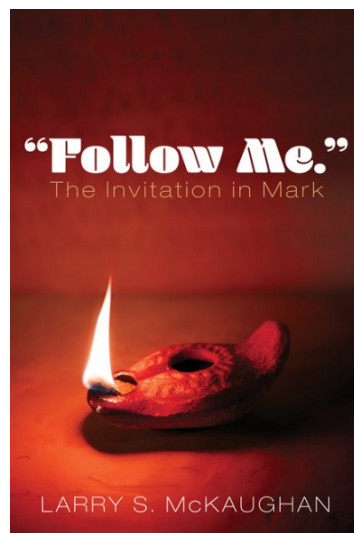
Westminster Presbyterian Church will be hosting the second Annual Holiday Dinner for HIV Alliance's Hepatitis C cliental on December 5th in the church's fellowship hall. HIV Alliance provides a wide range of services and support for individuals dealing with Hep-C; and the holiday meal provides an opportunity for seasonal movement, a fine turkey dinner, some good music and thoughtful gifts for all. Most of the Hep-C clients are dealing with life issues at a poverty level. In addition to the meal and gifts, a handful of University of Oregon Chamber Choir members have volunteered their time to perform a mini festive concert. Funding to support the event comes from private donations. We have an anonymous donor who has offered to match gifts from church members up to \$500.00. Those wanting to help support this event can make their checks payable to *HIV Alliance* and leave it in the church's office.



GOOD READ

Our own Bible teacher, Larry McKaughan, has written a new book on Mark in the Bible, entitled "*Follow me*".

It gives a clear, readable exposition of the good news and the call to discipleship. It is available in town from Windows bookseller downtown.



Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe Program!

For 29 years, Nike has had a program to recycle athletic shoes at the end of their life, making it easy for materials to live on from one product to the next! Old shoes are transformed into Nike Grind, a material used in creating new shoe and clothing products, as well as athletic and playground surfaces. WPC is participating in this program! There is a bin in the Southex clearly labeled "NIKE" where you can drop off your shoes. (Any brand of athletic sneakers can be recycled—but no sandals, dress shoes, boots or cleats.) Don't let those shoes end up in a landfill. Help us fill that bin and keep those shoes in circulation!



YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE:

December 15: Youth Group at 5:00 pm
Progressive Christmas Party (meet at church to carpool to each meal)

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE:

December 8: Confirmation Class 3 starts right after Worship in the Youth Room until 1:00pm.

Support for Aging Families:

The group will meet December 5 and 19 at 6:30pm at the church.

**Westminster Presbyterian
Church**

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Find us on:

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/wpceugene

Instagram:

@westminsterpres_eugene



We're on the Web!

<https://wpceugene.org>

REMINDER:

**The 3rd SUNDAY of
each month is our
SHOPPING CART
SUNDAY for: FOOD
FOR LANE COUNTY**

**Please remember to
bring in your
canned and boxed
food items. Every
donation is very
much appreciated !**



**Just a reminder: Westminster Presbyterian Church offers two
Christmas Eve Worship services. The first service is at 4:30pm
and that is the family service. Children of all ages are invited
to attend this service.**

**The second service is at 7:30pm which includes Communion.
We hope to see you all here celebrating the birth of Christ.**

