

# JANUARY 2022

**JANUARY  
BIRTHDAYS:**

Greta Fridlund 1/04  
Jordan Andreasen 1/05  
Dick Kay 1/06  
Sharon Moore 1/06  
Sean Champoux 1/07  
Steve Butt 1/15  
Trudie Puskedra 1/20  
Suzanne Taylor 1/20  
Preston Callison 1/22  
Phyllis Bevan 1/23  
Roger Keady 1/27  
Sybil Ford 1/28  
Phil Fitzer 1/30  
Gayle Davies 1/30

Dear Friends,

As I was thinking about this January newsletter article, the first one of the New Year of 2022, I thought back to the article from November of last year. In that article, I asked the question, what difference does being a Christian make for Thanksgiving? All kinds of people celebrate Thanksgiving, believers or non-believers, but what's different about being a Christian?

The same question could be asked about the New Year's celebration. Both Thanksgiving and New Year's holidays are largely secular. Even though Thanksgiving has religious roots, it was made a national holiday by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, and it's celebrated as a national holiday rather than a church holiday.

With New Year's, we simply mark the occasion of one year clicking off into a new one. You often see cartoons around this time of the New Year's baby being passed by an older man, sometimes shown as Father Time. The baby is often greeted with a worn-out look and some kind of comment like, "Good luck, kid. You're going to need it," a wearied response that seems appropriate following the year 2021.

As I think about this from a religious perspective, I note the hopefulness that comes from a new calendar year. As with anything new, we hope for something better than what came before. We hope that, however bad things were before, at least it can't get any worse. Yet the Calvinist in me wants to say, it can always get worse.

Another big part of New Years that you often hear about is the New Year's resolution, where people resolve to do better in some part of their life, such as exercise, saving money, or losing weight. We rile up our courage and resolve and tell ourselves, this year, I'm really going to do better. It kind of reminds me of Charlie Brown saying, "This year, I'm really going to kick that football."

Again, the Calvinist in me says that most of these efforts are doomed to failure, and from a Reformed perspective, it's usually somehow because of human sin. No matter how hard we seem to try, we just can't seem to will ourselves to do better, just on our own effort or on our own steam.

The big difference that Christians might take with this approach is by saying that human beings are always going to be broken, and our big efforts to make things better on our own are usually going to fall apart, whether with individual New Year's resolutions, or with attempts to make the world a better place, however noble or sincere.

However, we do not despair or becoming cynical, because whereas we fail, Christ can make things better by redeeming our brokenness. As I mentioned in November, Christian thanksgiving is not based on things always going well in our lives, but it is based on God being with us, even when things don't go well. Especially when things don't go well.

What Christ can do is help us get through all the tough ups and downs that we will inevitably go through, this coming year, and every year. That is my prayer for myself and my family and for all of us, that in the coming year, we will stay close to Christ, who can redeem our time, no matter what happens.

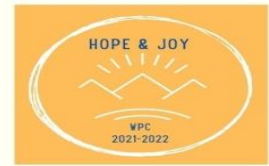
Peace,  
-David

**The ending of  
2021 brought in  
a lot of snow...**



# WPC YOUTH

## Winter 2022 Schedule



### January

**9th: 5:30-7 Youth Group at church**  
(games and devotion)

**16th: Family Movie Night at church**  
**5:30 PM**  
Pizza and popcorn provided. \$10 per family  
Please RSVP by January 14th.



**30th: All Church BINGO Night-- time TBA**

**Triennium Youth and Parent Meeting Date TBA**

### February

**11th: Parents Night out at church for WPC Preschool.** Do you like helping with little kids? Then PNO is for you. Come play and hang out with our amazing preschoolers and their teachers while their parents have a night out. 2-3 youth helpers needed. Email Pastor Marta to sign up. This will count as service hours if you need them. Time TBA.

### February Continued

**13th: Mission Project and Games at church 5:30-7**  
Making Cards of kindness for WPC Church Members

**27th: Youth Group 5:30-7 at church**

### March

**13th: Bowling**  
Save the date, more info with time and location coming soon.



**March 20th and 27th--have a safe and wonderful Spring Break**

Sunday School is at 10AM on Sundays in the Youth Room!

*\*\*Unless noted, please bring \$5  
to each youth group for food! \*\**

**SEE YOU THERE!**

*Friends are always  
welcome at Youth!*

*Questions? Contact  
Pastor Marta*

CALL OR TEXT: 817-528-8570  
EMAIL: MARTA@WPCUGENE.ORG



**WPC Kids Group  
Winter 2022**



**January 16th  
Family Movie Night**

5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Fun for the WHOLE family.

Bring \$10 per family for pizza and popcorn.  
Please RSVP by the 14th.

**January 30th**

**Church Bingo Night**  
Fun for ALL ages. PRIZES!  
Time TBA



**February 13th  
Mission Activity at Church**  
1-2PM

Everyone will make 2 cards to spread love and kindness to our WPC family.



**March 13th  
BOWLING!**

Save the date! More info with location and time coming soon.

### Sunday School

Don't forget to join us in Sunday School! Sundays at 10AM



Westminster  
Presbyterian Church  
777 Coburg Rd  
Eugene, OR 97401

541-343-3140 Marta@wpceugene.org

call or text:  
817-528-8570





### **WPC's Youth Group**

celebrated the Christmas season with an ugly sweater, white elephant gift exchange, progressive dinner party. Food and beverages were brought in and served by The Stanton family, The Schukart family, Kevin Jenkins and Brooke Irvin. Opening gifts was a fun time for all. Christmas carols were sung after each segment of the party.

## **John Mahon's Adult Bible Study: JOHN ON JOHN**

**The Gospel of John will be the focus of a Bible study taught by John Mahon beginning January 9th after worship on Sunday during January and February. John is both the simplest and most complex of all the gospels. Simple, because it is written in common Dick and Jane Greek. Seminarians love to translate this book in the New Testament. Complex, because the ideas and concepts in this gospel stretch the mind. Unlike the other gospels it does more than tell the story of Jesus. it presents the living Christ to all who read it, believers and unbelievers alike. It is the favorite gospel of both evangelists and scholars. A study guide is available and can be emailed to any who are interested.**

### **Class Schedule:**

**Jan. 9 - Introduction, Invitation to Discipleship, The Wedding at Cana Jn. 1:1-2:11**

**Jan. 16 - No meeting (Teacher family commitment)**

**Jan. 23 - Discourse with Nicodemus, The Woman at the Well Jn. 3-4**

**Jan. 30 - The Bread of Life Jn. 6**

**Feb. 6 - The Man born blind Jn. 9**

**Feb. 13 - Washing the disciples feet Jn. 13**

**Feb. 20 - The Farewell Discourse and the Prayer of Jesus Jn. 13:31f; 17**

**Feb. 27 - The Resurrection Appearances Jn. 20**

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[www.facebook.com/wpceugene](https://www.facebook.com/wpceugene)

**Instagram:**

@westminsterpres\_eugene



**We're on the Web!**

<https://wpceugene.org>

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# ALL CHURCH BINGO FUN

**Come for an evening of fun and prizes!!**

**When? January 30, 2022 at 6:30pm**

**Where? Fellowship Hall**

**Questions? Contact Ann McCarley or Martha Zaborowski with any questions.**

**Masks are required but will not keep us from having fun!!!**

