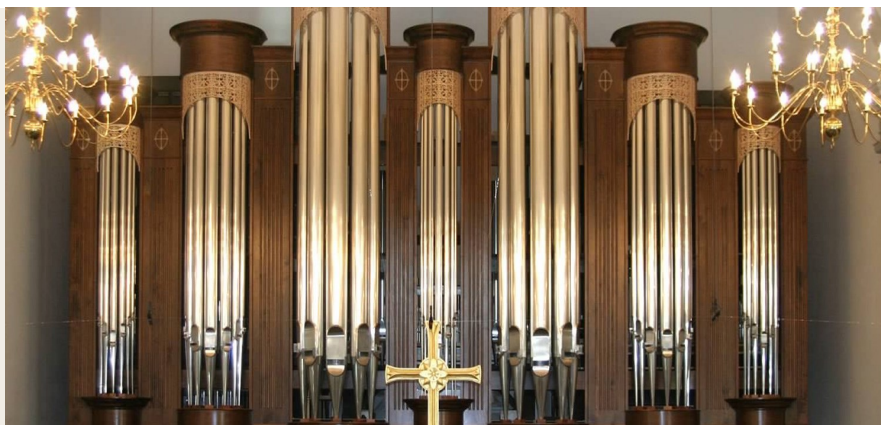




Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

Kirk courier

DECEMBER 2020

We gather in
the name of
Jesus Christ
to worship God
and by the
power of the
Holy Spirit do
God's work in
the world.

**Williamsburg
Presbyterian Church**
215 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 229-4235
www.mywpc.org

CHRISTMAS EVE DRIVE-IN SERVICE

4:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve is the time of year when we all are together in the sanctuary to worship and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, this year due to COVID, that is not possible.

Join us for a special Drive-In worship service, including candlelight and communion, in the back parking lot of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church.

Upon your arrival, parking ushers will direct you to a spot and provide a communion and lighting kit which will include the worship bulletin with scriptures and hymns.

Once you have been directed to a parking space, tune in to the short-range radio broadcast to hear the service from the comfort of your car.

A festive, outdoor chancel will be set-up near the back door of the church building.

Please try to arrive no later than 3:45pm.

There will be two other worship services held on Christmas Eve. Please see the service information on page 4 of the newsletter.

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215 Richmond Road
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UPCOMING WORSHIP



SUNDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES

- 9:30am service is live-streamed on the WPC website.
- 11:00am service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740.
- The Sunday worship bulletin is available at mywpc.org.

December 6
2nd Sunday in Advent
2 Peter 3:8-15a

Wait for the New Heaven and Earth

December 13
3rd Sunday in Advent
Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11
Bring Good News

December 20
4th Sunday in Advent
Luke 1:26-38
Nothing is Impossible With God

December 24 Christmas Eve Worship

11am Virtual Christmas Pageant and Family Service*
4:00pm Drive-In Candlelight and Communion Service
8:00pm Virtual Candlelight and Communion Service*

Luke 2:1-20
A Christmas Message

December 27
1st Sunday of Christmas
Luke 2:22-40

*Please visit mywpc.org to view the services on-line.

Articles for publishing in the Kirk Courier Newsletter should be submitted to publications@mywpc.org with ONLY the text KIRK COURIER in the subject line. The deadline for article submission is the 3rd Friday of the month. The Kirk Courier Newsletter is emailed and mailed on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Articles can be submitted early. You do not have to wait until the deadline!

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

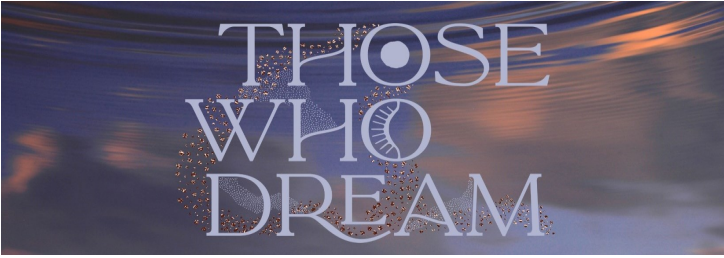
During this time of year, I reach for one of my favorite books, *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weems. Ann was a gifted poet and also a Presbyterian. I'd like to share with you her poem, *Angel-Filled Advent*:



Wouldn't it be wonderful
if Advent came filled with angels and alleluias?
Wouldn't it be perfect
if we were greeted on these December mornings
with a hovering of heavenly hosts
tuning their harps and brushing up on their fa-la-las?
Wouldn't it be incredible
if their music filled our waking hours
with the promise of peace on earth
and if each Advent night we dreamed of nothing but goodwill?
Wouldn't we be ecstatic
if we could take those angels shopping
or trim the tree or have them hold our hands
and dance through our houses decorating?
And, oh, how glorious it would be
to sit in church next to an angel
and sing our hark-the-heralds!
What an Advent that would be!
What Christmas spirit we could have!
An angel-filled Advent has so many possibilities!
But in lieu of that
perhaps we can give thanks
for the good earthly joys we have been given
and for the earthly "angels" that we know
who do such a good job of filling
our Advent with alleluias!



ADVENT CONTINUES AT WPC



The Third Sunday in Advent Those Who Dream...sow joy (joy)

Luke 1:46-55 | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 | Psalm 126

Ultimately, dreams sow joy, even if that joy doesn't immediately spring forth. Sowing seeds into the soil always feels risky and feeble—how can

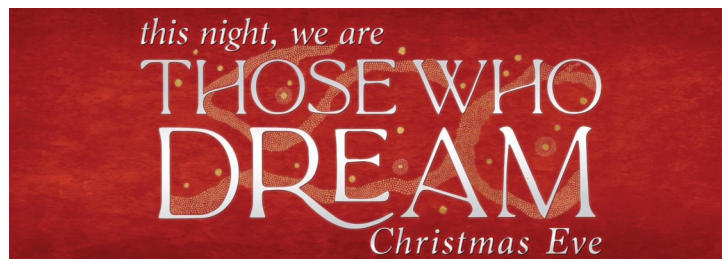
something so small become something so beautiful, so big, and so nourishing? Like Mary, we are called to tend and nurture the dreams God has woven into us.

The Fourth Sunday in Advent Those Who Dream...are not alone (love)

Luke 1:26-45 | 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 This week, we recognize what preceded Mary's song of praise: news that was disorienting and bewildering, possibly threatening her life. Together, Mary and Elizabeth find courage and comfort in spite of their unusual circumstances. We, too, are called to carry, support, and encourage one another's dreams.

Weekly activities continue: Daily devotional and staff devotional reading on Mondays; Visio Divina Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.; Art reflection on Facebook and YouTube on Fridays.

Information from Those Who Dream Theme Infographic



Christmas Eve Worship at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

11:00am — Virtual Children's Pageant and Family Service

The pageant begins at 11:00am online.

It will also be available on the WPC website afterwards for viewing at your convenience.

4:00pm — Drive-In Worship with Candlelight and Communion

Join us for worship in the back parking lot of WPC.

Please plan to arrive no later than 3:45pm.

8:00pm — Virtual Worship with Candlelight and Communion

The service begins at 8:00pm online.

It will also be available on the WPC website afterwards for viewing at your convenience.

This service will also be broadcast at 8:00pm on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Sunday Bible Study: Call in the New Testament

The Present Word (aka Alpha) adult Sunday School class continues to meet, albeit by Zoom in these days of Covid-19. We are beginning a new winter unit, *Call in the New Testament*. In December, "The beginning of a Call" will largely look at the early calls Jesus received for his ministry on Earth. The texts for this unit all come from the Gospel of Matthew.



We will follow this in January with "Jesus and Calls in His Ministry," with texts from the remaining Gospels.

The final five weekly studies are grouped within a topic that should be especially interesting, "The Call of Women." On January 31, the text from Acts generically refers to women who are called to prophesy. Then on each Sunday in February we will discuss a woman who had her own particular call; these are the Samaritan woman at the well, Mary Magdalene, Priscilla, and Lydia. We will learn about these through a variety of texts in the Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles.

Our class meets on-line, led by a rotating team of teachers, including one who continues to lead us after moving to Arkansas. Our class emphasizes group discussion and sharing ideas. We meet immediately after the 9:30am streamed worship service. Our Zoom link, which can be found in the "All Ages" tab of mywpc.org/online/, is currently <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85992580009> (password 215215)

For further information, contact Pete Hoyle, pete.hoyle@gmail.com, or at the local Williamsburg phone number 757-206-6158 (If you're not in my contacts, leave a message and I'll get back to you).

MOPS 2020-21

MOPS/MomsNEXT for 2021!

We have some exciting things planned for the new year! While the schedule isn't "in ink" just yet, here are just a few of the plans we might be putting together for our winter/spring season (virtually).

- A paint night (possibly moms and kids, TBD)
- The ever-popular recipe exchange
- A virtual trivia game
- A book swap
- Yoga
- Possibly a family Zoom party or Story time to end the season in May



MOPS & MOMSNEXT

Moms, if you haven't joined us, it's never too late! MOPS and MomsNEXT is for moms with kids from birth (or before!) through high school! Our current group consists of moms with kids ages 1-17. Can't make it every month? NO problem! Join when you can.

All of these events are planned for the first Thursday night of the month. Some activities will be with the kids, and will happen earlier in the evening (5:30/6-ish), and some nights are moms-only, and we'll meet at 8 those nights.

A Day of Caring at Avalon

The Hunger and Homeless team of WPC's Christian Outreach Ministry participated in the United Way's Day of Caring by helping at the Avalon Center. Avalon is a nonprofit organization in Williamsburg that provides shelter and support services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Avalon is located in Williamsburg and in Mathews County.

Due to COVID 19, the Day of Caring turned into seven weeks of helping Avalon working in small groups to ensure the safety of our volunteers and Avalon's staff and clients. Our volunteers helped by removing vines growing on buildings, trimming tree limbs, weeding the playground and garden, edging walkways, washing the fences and siding of the buildings, and taking trash to the dump. The church had 9 volunteers who worked 11 days for a total of more than 80 hours.

Avalon's Residential Services Director, Karen Smalls, expressed her appreciation by saying: "Thank you so much for your volunteer work. Even though you're not in the spotlight, you are the backbone of what our agency represents, giving back and making a difference. Please know that we could not do this without your hard work. I am forever thankful for the time you have given us. You have made an unforgettable difference at the shelter and we appreciate your efforts especially during the state of our country's pandemic; you could have been anywhere but you chose us and we thank you."

The Kirk Krafters Go to Work

Thanks to the recent Outreach Survey, the Kirk Krafters of WPC are delighted to have a number of new members. A big welcome to them and to you, if you would like to join us! Currently, we are meeting on the second Tuesday of the month via Zoom. This fall we have been working on knitting prayer shawls for members of the congregation who may need some warmth and comfort in a time of worry or loss. Our other projects have been hats, scarves and lap robe/shawls to bring Christmas joy to our neighbors in Blayton House and wherever we can spread God's love. For more information, please call Margie Ambrose at 757-220-4707.

Third COVID-19 FOOD DRIVE

WPC's latest COVID-19 drive by food drive was a great success thanks to the hard work of our youth and the generosity of our members and friends. Taking place on October 24, we estimated that our congregation donated approximately 400 bags of food. This food will be shared between our ministry to support neighbors in the Blayton Building and a local food bank, FISH, which recently reopened.

A special thanks to the WPC youth who led this food drive. Youth volunteers included Megan and Audrey Davis; Kayleigh Black; Abby Hrcir; Abigail Trowbridge; Emily Tessara; Cole, Blake, and Skylar Howell. Thank you to all who have participated in WPC's ongoing efforts to help fight hunger in our local area. The need continues to be great.





The Annual Angel Tree Celebration

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church has generously responded to the Salvation Army's call to "Help Rescue Christmas". Members adopted Angels and purchased Christmas gifts of toys and clothing for children and seniors facing poverty, hunger and job loss. More than seventy Angel tags were given out at the "drive by" in the church parking lot on November 14th and 25 more tags were acquired after that. Gifts are due at the Salvation Army by December 8 and will be distributed on December

15th and 16th. What a wonderful way to show God's love in this Advent season. The Christian Outreach Ministry and the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary thank you for your faithful support.

Thank You, H&H

As the moderator of WPC's Hunger and Homeless Team, I wish to share thanksgiving for this team's service to our church and community. While sitting through our monthly meetings, and attending some of the team's events, I am frequently overwhelmed with the compassion and dedication exhibited by the team's members. They are very interested in the ministries the greater Williamsburg community offers to those who are struggling, and at personal costs, frequently use their time and talents to support, encourage and to meet the needs of "the least of these." I wish every church member could witness the giving spirit of these people.

Those members are: *Joseph Avellar, Carolyn Weeks, Jim Winthrop, Dave Lenderking, Diedre Lenderking, Nancy Harwood, Tom Moul, Hazel Whitney, Louise Despres, Happy Simmons, Ralph Simmons, Jerry Sibley, Gerry Ward, Megan Davis, Barb Timko, Chuck Timko, Lori Brown, CW Stacks, and Jim Austin.*

With appreciation,

Jim Kirkpatrick

Moderator, Hunger and Homeless Team





*From the Session,
Pastors and Staff of
Williamsburg Presbyterian Church*