



Words from Woodforest

Jan/ Feb 2022 Newsletter

A Word From the Pastor

The first Sunday of a New Year the Church celebrates Epiphany. Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Wise Men who followed the star to see Jesus. It has always been kind of a joke in my family, because Epiphany is my dad's birthday. He claims that he was born on Epiphany because 'another wise man' was born into the world.

I read an article once where one theologian was complaining that the Protestant church was trying to turn Epiphany into a season instead of just a day. He said that the church needed its ordinary time and shouldn't try to stretch its holidays. I understand that. I myself am fairly disgusted that the Christmas season seems to start the day after Halloween for many people. But I think that this theologian doesn't understand where this is coming from. I think that the scriptures for the first several Sundays in January naturally lead into each other. They all have to do with following the light of Christ or having an epiphany about who Jesus is.

The Wise Men follow the star to find Jesus. Then, Jesus is baptized by John and begins his ministry. Then, Jesus performs his first sign at the wedding in Cana, and his disciples believe in him. Then, Jesus preaches in Galilee and declares that the Isaiah scripture is fulfilled in him. Each story naturally follows one another. The story is the same whether you call it the first Sunday in Ordinary Time or the First Sunday after Epiphany.

Maybe the reason churches want to rename these Sundays comes from the misunderstanding of the word "ordinary." Ordinary time is the time to grow as disciples. That is why the color is green, to represent that growth. If you think of it as ordinary, meaning nothing special, you are wrong. Ordinary time is all about following Jesus, learning how to be a faithful disciple, and growing in faith. This is a special time for the church, and if following the light for a few more Sundays helps get the ordinary out of Ordinary Time, then I think it is fine with me.

Love in Christ,

Karen

Worship

We are continuing to wear face masks indoors in an abundance of caution. If you are unable to be in church on Sunday morning, check out the service on Face Book Live. Adult Sunday school class on Exodus is also available as well as the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study.
www.facebook.com/woodforestpc/live

Poinsettias

Thanks to those who donated poinsettias to the church to help prepare the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season.

Joey and Faye Carillo
Mary Ellen Baker
Renee Feltner
Ruth Flick
Darlienne Hamilton
Sandra Horton

Deoran and Margaret Hosein
Julia Prasco
Anna Marshall
Tony Ragsdale
Randy and Anna Snyder
Les and Marjory Sutton



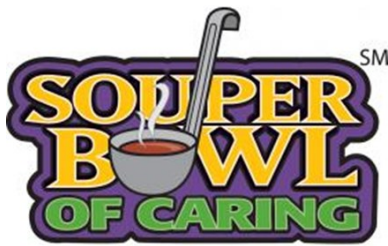
“How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” by Dr Seuss was the theme of this year’s Christmas program. All the congregation played the part of the Whos and make all the noise, noise, noise! Thanks to Ann, Courtney and Ollie for coordinating this program .

Presbyterian Women's Study

The Presbyterian Women will meet on **Wednesday, January 19th at 10:30 am** to continue their study on Ruth. They will meet in **February on Wednesday the 16th at 10:30 am** for the lesson on Bathsheba. A pot-luck lunch will follow each study at Noon. Don't forget to bring your "least coin" offering to go toward the youth program.

If you can't make it to the study in person, then you can watch us on-line. We will be live streaming on the Woodforest PC Facebook page.

Souper Bowl of Caring



tacklehunger.org

For us the Super Bowl is about more than football. Since 1990 the **Souper Bowl of caring** has inspired youth to help those in need. On Super Bowl Sunday churches across the country collect food and money to go to local hunger ministries. As we collect things here at Woodforest, so are other churches across the country. We then report how much we collected and where we are sending it to the national organization. Once everyone has reported we can go to tacklehunger.org and see just how much we can do to help when we all work together! We will be collecting non perishable food as well as monies on Sunday, **February 13th**. The collected food will go to San Jacinto College food bank and the cash to NCAM.

11 Units of blood were collected at the blood drive on November 28. So you were able to help and receive a hoodie as well.

21 seafarer boxes were delivered to the seafarers center to make their Christmas merrier.

Joy offering consisted of 711 dollars

There are bags for the homeless at the church.



Christian Education

Conclaves February 18-20 at Camp Cho-yeh. The mission project is first aid bags for the homeless. So it is time to gather supplies like band-aids, burn cream, chap stick, etc.

The **adult Sunday school class** is beginning a study of **Ephesians** on **January 16** led by Marjory Sutton. This class is broadcast on Facebook Live

Live Nativity Saturday

The weather held up for most of the day The animals were great as usual and I think everyone had a great time.

Lectionary Readings for January

January 2

Jerimiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147: 12-20 ; Ephesians 1: 3-14; John 1 (1-9) 10-18

January 9

Isaiah 43:1-47; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17. 12-22

January 16

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:1-10; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 2::1 - 11

January 23

Nehemiah 8 1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Luke 2:1-14

January 30

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 4:14-21

Lectionary Readings for February

February 6

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); Psalm 138; 1Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5: 1-11

February 13

Jeremiah 17:5 -10; Psalm 1; 1Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

February 20

Genesis 45:3-11; Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40; 1Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27 - 38

February 27

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 1Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36(37-43a)



Congratulations Ryan!



It is time for a new directory so let us know if your address or email or phone number has changed. Also some of the photos are out of date. It is time for a new one even if you I look younger or different in the current directory. We need to be recognizable.

Dear Friends,

This thank you is slow in coming, but is nonetheless sincere. Thank you soooooooooooooo much for Including me in the Church Celebration this past November. It was wonderful to be with you all again. I only wish the time and the conversations could have stretched longer. I would have loved to have given you all a huge hug.

Ministry is a team sport if ever there was one. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the Woodforest team for so many years. It was a tremendous honor, and I will cherish the memories forever.

Praying God's blessings on all of you and on the church.

Cassandra

Session for 2022



Kaydonna Fox - Commitment and Personnel
Courtney Shockey –Christian Education
Renee Feltner– Property
Julia Prasco– Mission and Outreach
Darlene McAlexander –Congregational Life
Jeff Hoofhard—Worship committee

During this time when we are not all gathering in person these committee chairs need your help!

Keep in Prayer

Healing and comfort for Sandra Horton, Darlienne Powell, Shar Baker, Krista Bartel, Billie Vickery Kathleen Watson, JoAnn Nichols , Johnny Powell, Alice Drennon ,the Mendosa family, and Alice Morgan.



Last Word

we walk by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7