January 2021

The Higher Ground Herald

West Newton United Presbyterian Church

300 S. Third and E. Main Streets in West Newton, PA

From the Pastor's Desk...

"For the land which you go to possess … is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year." Deuteronomy 11:10-12

Just as Moses stood on Mount Nebo looking over the promised land, we stand on the beginning of a New Year. As the new year is before us, we need to be like Joshua by entering in knowing that our God will help us possess it. As we begin the adventure of a new year, who knows what we will discover. What new situations will we face? What new opportunities will God give us? What new battles will we have to fight? What challenges await us? What victories will God give us along the way? Embracing and exploring something new can be unsettling, but what encouragement God gives us in His Word: "The Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on you, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year."

In this coming year, may the Lord be the source for everything we need as we walk day by day trusting Him. In Christ, we will have food to eat and water to drink, just as he provided for the Israelites. God will provide the necessities we will need. We simply need to trust Him. If 2020 taught us anything, I hope we learned, "on Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

January Worship Schedule

Worship begins at 10 AM. The services will also be live streamed on our Facebook page.

January 3
Epiphany Sunday/ Communion
"Everyday Epiphany"
Matthew 2: 1-12

January 10
Baptism of the Lord Sunday
"What baptism?"
Acts 19: 1-7

January 17
WNAC Pulpit Exchange

January 24
Begin Series: Faith in Action
Hebrews 11: 1-3

January 31
Series: "Faith in Action"
Hebrews 11: 4

We trust Him, we know that the year ahead of us will be filled with hills and valleys. It will not be flat and all downhill to the point where we can coast. No, if this coming year were flat, there would be nothing to look forward to except the horizon of nothingness. God knows that we need hills and valleys. The heavenly rain that God will send will run off the hills and collect in the valley to water our fields of harvest. And so we will have hills and valleys, not to hurts us, but to help us trust God all the more.

The upward climb of the hills will cause us to go to the throne of Grace to cry out in our time of need so that God himself will send the showers of blessings down into the valley. The hills will give us prospective to look back at what God has accomplished and the ability to look forward to rest and fruitfulness down below.

In spite of not knowing what the future will bring, we can rest in the fact that the Lord will be with us from the beginning to the end. Happy New Year!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

Session Highlights

Brief meeting after worship on December 13

-Approved 2021 church budget

-Approved purchase of cameras/software for online worship, working with Chris Devivo. Congregation will be asked for donations to help offset the cost.

The traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was held in the sanctuary on Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. 53 people celebrated our Savior's birth with communion and worship.

Thank You to everyone that participated in the Salvation Army Kettle Ringing this year. Combined through the entire month and with the other West Newton church's participation the Kettle brought in $1873.50. These funds will be used locally.

Thank you to everyone that purchased gifts for Treasures for Children. We donated gifts to 17 different children ages ranging from 2 –13 within 7 families.

TRUTH SEEKERS

Truth Seekers Bible Study is held via Zoom only on Tuesdays at
11 am. The Zoom ID is 891 3938 9986.

Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

The PW United Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 20 at noon in the social room. Bring a sandwich for lunch. The new Bible study, "Into the Light" will be presented. All women are welcome to attend.

PW Bible Study, "Into the Light" will be ordered on January 5, 2021. They are $10. Contact Linda Blick if you haven't placed your order yet.

PW Sewing will meet Wed. Jan. 27, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, in the McKee room, to prepare items for local and overseas missions. No skill is needed to participate in the sewing group, so please join us for the fellowship.

The PW December Gathering, on Dec.4th was cancelled. A variety of cleaning supplies were donated by the women for the Welcome Home Shelter in Greensburg to use in their mission.

PW Christmas Gift Cards for Giant Eagle were mailed to 20 shut-ins and congregation members over 90 , in place of Poinsettias this year. Greeting cards were sent to 8 members who live out-of-town.

Many thanks to all who so generously donated winter apparel - mittens, gloves, scarves, hats for the PW Mitten Trees last month. They will be distributed to one of the Yough Elementary schools.

PW partnered with the church's Food Basket fund to supply 108 families with Food Baskets for the holidays on Dec. 19. Thanks to all who made monetary donations which were used to purchase a loaf of bread, a pound of margarine, a half-gallon of milk and a box of cereal for each basket. 14 other items in cluding a turkey were provided by the Salvation Army and the Westmoreland Food Bank. Also many thanks to all who volunteered to prepare the Food Baskets.

The PW Thank Offering total was $350 in November. Blessings to all who donated.

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Contribution Envelopes for 2021

If you haven't picked up your Contribution Envelopes for 2021, look for the display in the narthex, just inside the front doors of the church. Please take yours and any others you could deliver to family or a neighbor. This will help cut the cost of mailing. If you don't have envelopes now and would like to have them, please contact Linda Blick.

Year-end Statements

Anyone who made a contribution to the WNUPC during 2020 will receive a year-end contribution statement by the end of January. If you do not need this statement for income tax purposes or any other reason, please contact the office or Linda Blick, Financial Secretary, and your statement will not be printed.

Joy Offering

The Joy Offering from the Christmas Eve service totaled $303.
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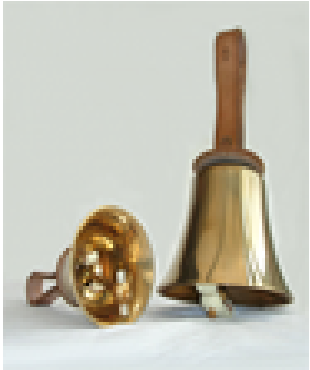
Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir will not meet until further notice. Please contact Jim Sykes for more information.

Bell Choir

Bell choir will resume at a later date.

Joyce Pawlik for more information .



First Tuesday Fellowship Dinner

The next First Tuesday Fellowship Dinner will be on Tuesday, January 12 at 6 pm at Gary's Chuckwagon.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast is held on the third Saturday of the month at Gary's Chuckwagon at 9 a.m. The next Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, January 16 at 9 am.

Coffee Fellowship Hour usually takes place following worship, on the second Sunday of every month, in our social room. The next coffee hour will be determined at a later time.

Many people in our community often struggle to provide food for their families. The second Sunday of each month, we will be collecting money in support of the Westmoreland County Food Pantry now located at our church the second Friday of each month. Thank you in advance for your generosity. The next collection will be January 10th. Envelopes will be available near the offering plate.

Westmoreland County Food Bank, Inc.

The Westmoreland County Food Pantry will be located at our church going forward. This takes place the second Friday of every month.
The next Food Pantry pick up will be January 8. Until further notice we only need a minimum number of people helping. However, if you would like to help with this important mission in the future please contact the church office (724-872-7414)or Linda Shoaf (724-872-7857). for your name to be put on a list. We will rotate volunteers because if too many people are here at one time it is too difficult to distribute.

Our Session

Clerk of Session: Kris Edwards

Class of 20201	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Clark Detman	Deb King	
Ron Chamberlain	Joyce Pawlik	
Colleen Martinelli	Pete Pritchard	
Harry Hepler	Karen Murray	

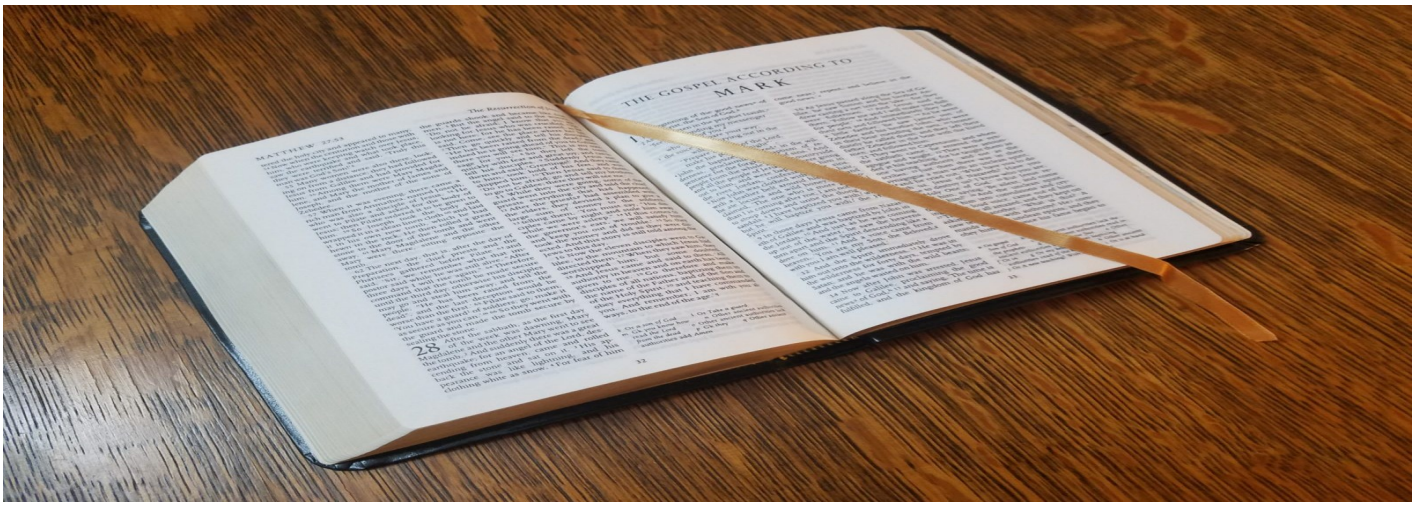
January 6– Epiphany

January 13—What does the Bible Say about War?

January 20—What does the Bible say about peace?

January 27—Titus (Intro & Chapter 1)

Disciples Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 6 pm in the chapel and also via Zoom ID #820 8871 4684



January Birthdays

Tyler Mounts	6th
Rachel Ozegovich	7th
Deborah Sann	11th
Allen Barozzie	11th
Morgan Fisher	11th
Suzanne Mesher	14th
Deborah King	14th
Ed Hustwit	15th
Becky Moran	16th
Greg King	17th
Heather Griffith	18th
Judy Overand	22nd
Paul Edwards	28th
Richard Sahar	29th
Peyton Day	30th
Kaelin Hoak	30th

January Anniversaries

Chuck & Kathy Yelich	1st
Deb & Greg King	7th
Merle & Josephine Johnson	30th

We would love to announce and celebrate your birthday and wedding anniversary. Please let us know when it is…

Announcements

Please submit any announcements by the end of the day on Wednesdays each week.

Deadline for updates and notices for the February publication of *The Higher Ground Herald* will be **Monday, January 25th.**

Contact the church office by phone at 724-872-7414 or email at wnupc1@gmail.com

Office hours are Monday—Friday 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

Weekly attendance

December	Adults	Children	Total	Offering
6	47	9	56	$2448
13	26	4	30	$2286
20	43	5	48	$1811
27	25	4	29	$2632
			4 week total	$ 9177

Would you like a visit from Pastor John?

Or, do you know someone who would?

Please contact him at 724-872-7414 (office) or 606-261-0232 (cell).

Email: wnupc1@gmail.com

Website WNUPC.com

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January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2
3 10 Worship w/ communion	4 WN Borough	5 11 Truth Seekers Cemetery Board Cub Scouts	6 Cub Scouts 6 Disciples Bible Study	7	8 10 Food Bank	9
10 10 Worship	11 WN Borough	12 11 Truth Seekers Cub Scouts 6 1st Tuesday Dinner @ Garys Chuckwagon	13 Cub Scouts 6 Disciples Bible Study	14	15	16 9 Men's Breakfast
17 10 Worship Session WNAC Pulpit Exchange	18	19 11 Truth Seekers Cub Scouts	20 Cub Scouts 6 Disciples Bible Study	21	22	23
24 10 Worship Congregation Meeting	25	26 11 Truth Seekers Cub Scouts	27 Cub Scouts 6 Disciples Bible Study	28	29	30
31 10 Worship						