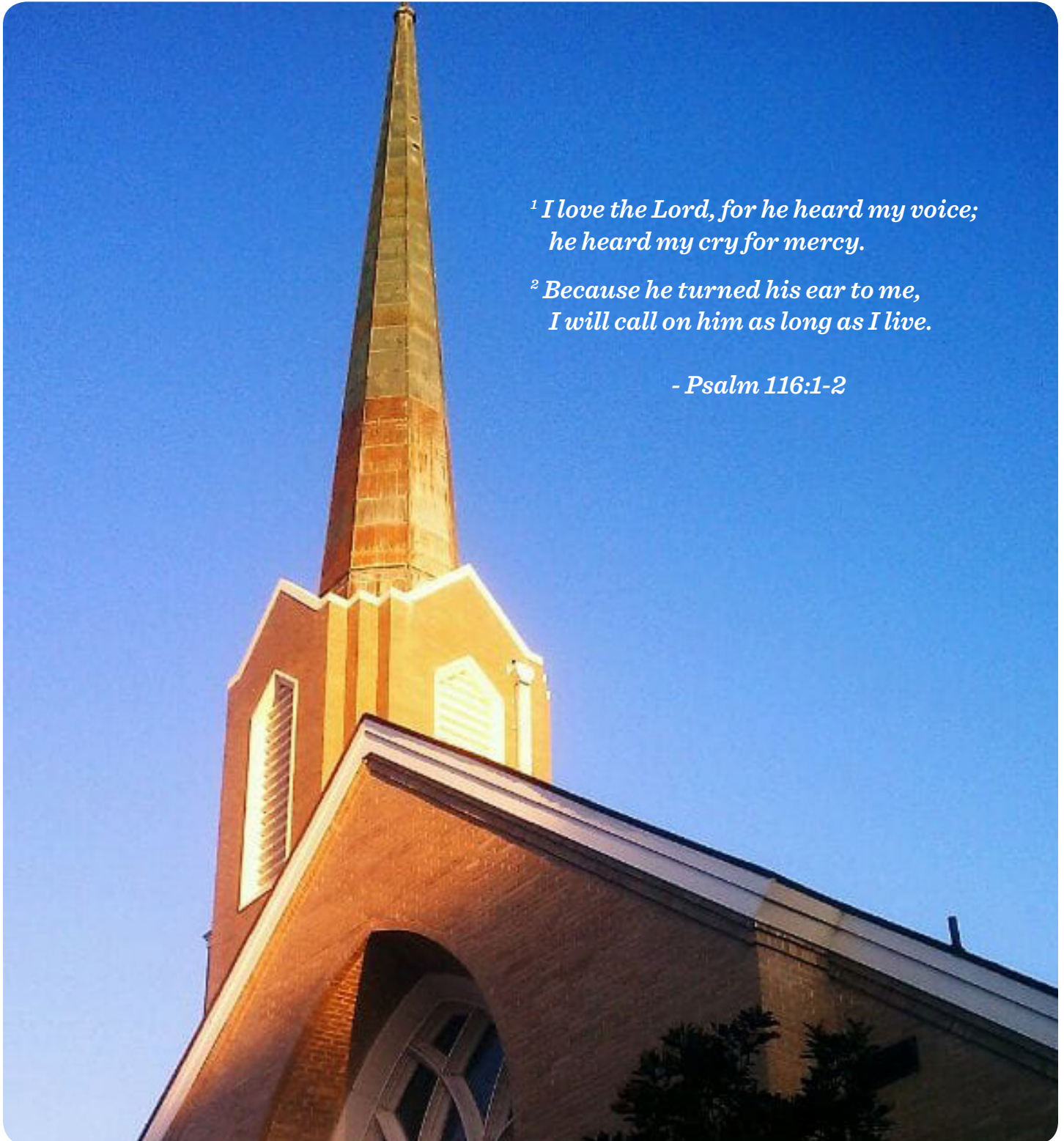




Westminster Presbyterian Church

# NEWSLETTER

February 2021



*<sup>1</sup> I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for mercy.*

*<sup>2</sup> Because he turned his ear to me,  
I will call on him as long as I live.*

*- Psalm 116:1-2*

*Worship Joyfully. Serve Faithfully. Give Generously. Live Worthily.*

# PASTOR GREETING

I want to lift up two truths:

1. Life is a roller coaster.
2. God has designed us to ride it with him.

First: Our highs are high, and our lows are low. There are days of inexpressible joy and days of utter desperation. You've been there and seen both ends of the spectrum. It is as it should be! God has designed us to experience the full range of emotion- feeling joy and pain. We know it is by his design because we see the full range of emotion in Jesus.

Second: Isn't it great that God wants to be with us through it all? In the Psalms, he's given us model prayers for how we can share those experiences, good and bad, with him. Are you lonely? There is a psalm for that! Are you so excited you are about to burst? There is a psalm for that! Did you screw up? There is a psalm for that! Are you worried, sick, thankful, dying, or confused? Right there in the Psalms, we find model prayers for how we can walk with God in those moments. In worship in the coming weeks, we'll be studying the Psalms and how to pray them. If you'd like to grow in faith, strengthen your prayer life, and connect or re-connect with God, you're invited to join in!

Praying together!



Pastor Daniel

## FROM THE PULPIT

Have you ever wanted to pray but weren't sure how? Do you ever have feelings inside that are hard to put into words? You're not alone!

Starting in January, we'll begin a teaching series on Praying the Psalms. In the highs and the lows of life, there are model prayers that teach us how to approach God.

<b>January 24</b>	Psalm 13	Praying the Psalms when life is not fair.
<b>January 31</b>	Psalm 121	Praying the Psalms when you worship.
<b>February 7</b>	Psalm 116	Praying the Psalms when you are thankful.
<b>February 14</b>	Psalm 6	Praying the Psalms when you long for healing.
<b>February 21</b>	Psalm 51	Praying the Psalms when you messed up.
<b>February 28</b>	Psalm 150	Praying the Psalms when you are filled with joy.
<b>March 7</b>	Psalm 137	Praying the Psalms when you are angry.
<b>March 14</b>	Psalm 136	Praying the Psalms when you think about the past.
<b>March 21</b>	Psalm 84	Praying the Psalms when you face death.
<b>March 28</b>	Psalm 22	Praying the Psalms when you are alone.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 2/1 Andy Anderson  
Kelly Massagee
- 2/2 Ginnie Yarborough  
Adam Robinson  
Sarah Schumann
- 2/3 Sylvia Coker  
Henry Shepard  
Jake Vaughn
- 2/4 Robert Dounian  
Priscilla Holtzclaw  
Benjamin Teitsort
- 2/5 Maury Grayson  
Brooke Eisenhower
- 2/6 Carolyn Niblock  
Audrey Leitner
- 2/7 Caroline Gill  
Jerry Acker  
Anna Kerr  
Graeme Maki
- 2/9 Jim Hammersmith  
Ann Froneberger  
Carol Cummings  
Bobbie Whittington
- 2/10 Patty Stokes
- 2/11 John Dounian
- 2/12 Virginia Hook  
Anna Spann
- 2/13 Jean Lewandowski  
Pat Painter
- 2/14 Lydia Crosby  
Jairus Schumann
- 2/15 Hunter Platts  
Andrew Snider
- 2/16 Jamie Vaughn  
Denise Floyd
- 2/17 Eric David  
Robin Steinberger
- 2/18 Eleanor Grayson
- 2/19 Heather McInnes
- 2/20 Alexis Friedrichs  
Robbie Yarnall
- 2/22 Wyatt Stokes  
Ruby Mae Eisenhower
- 2/23 Kate Pennekamp
- 2/24 Richard Leitner
- 2/25 Corey Lewandowski  
Jackie Dadlin
- 2/26 Heather Hulon  
Baillie Anderson
- 2/27 Beth Shepard  
Janie Daniels
- 2/28 Mark Patrick  
Tanner Gentry



# SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

**9:00 - 9:45 a.m. via ZOOM**

## For Adults

Meeting ID: 856 1961 4490  
Passcode: 12345  
Dial in by phone: 646-558-8656

## For Children

Meeting ID: 867 718 0847  
Passcode: 1776  
Dial in by phone: 646-558-8656

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, February 14  
11:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, February 14 at 11:50 a.m. (immediately following the 11:00 worship service.) The purpose of the meeting is to review the financial reports from 2020, review the Session-approved budget for 2021, and in accordance with G-2.0804/G-1.0501 review and vote on changes in the terms of call for our pastors. You may attend in-person or by ZOOM; The Login code will be made available the week prior to the meeting.



# ASH WEDNESDAY

**Wednesday, February 17  
6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. It's called Ash Wednesday because as a sign of repentance, believers through the centuries have received the mark of an ashen cross on their forehead. The ashes remind us of God's words to Adam when he sinned—"remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," and it reminds us of the Old Testament practice of wearing sackcloth and having ashes placed on the head as a sign of spiritual poverty. Because of Covid protocols, we will not be able to offer ashes, but we are gathering for worship and The Lord's Supper on February 17 @ 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Following worship, we'll have the opportunity to participate in the Backpack Buddies ministry. All ages welcomed; the service will be livestreamed for those unable to attend in-person.



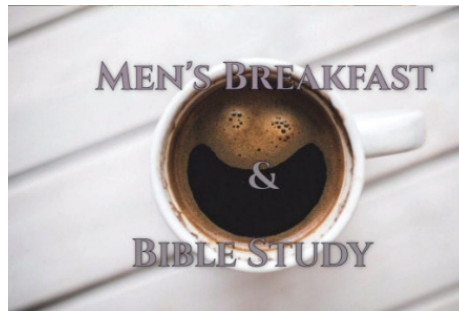
## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*Tuesday, February 2  
7:30 - 8:30 a.m. on ZOOM*

We're starting the Men's Bible Study back the first Tuesday of every month virtually (meaning you must supply your own coffee and breakfast from home!), and hopefully we'll soon be able to make the transition to in-person. Pastor Daniel is leading; join us for the Fellowship and Encouragement!

Here is the ZOOM login information:

- Meeting ID: 856 1961 4490
- Passcode: 12345
- Call in: 646-558-8656



## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

*Sunday, February 7*

While the Youth may not be able to host the Soup Luncheon this year, we will still be accepting monetary donations for the Backpack Buddies program at Westminster. We also encourage everyone to bring non-perishable food items for our food pantry.

Stay tuned to Facebook and the E-news for a special Souper Bowl "Commercial" from the Youth for more details.



## BACKPACK BUDDIES

*Wednesday, February 17  
6:30 p.m. in the Breezeway  
(right after Ash Wednesday Worship)*

Join us as we pack weekend food kits for students at Goodwin Elementary School. We will pack outside in the breezeway wearing masks and social distancing. The work takes about 45 minutes, and all ages are welcome. Hand sanitizer will be provided, and masks are required. Please call Dee Bee Wright at 843.729.7005 with any questions!

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year! The year we have been looking forward to since March has finally arrived. The Preschool year is halfway over, and it has been a success so far. Things are still different, staff are still the only ones allowed in the school, no field trips and limited time in Chapel and Funnastics, but the students are happy. In January, we added our after-school programs with Covid protocols which include Yoga, Dance, and Eat & Explore. The parents were so excited that the children could participate in these programs.

In January, we opened Registration to our current families and church families and on February 1st to the public. We are pleased to have continued interest in attending the school but would like to see more families enroll. We give tours after school hours and on weekends. It is our hope that the enrollment will increase for next year. We have also advertised with Lowcountry Parent Magazine and their online school fair through all Post and Courier publications.

Please continue to pray for the teachers and staff as they navigate these complicated times. They have worked so hard this year without the usual perks that our families often provide.

Happy New Year!  
The Preschool

## LA PATRIA CLOSING

The Presbyterian Church in Guatemala has made the difficult decision to close LaPatria for the 2021 school year. We hope to be able to continue the scholarship program for families in need, for whichever school they attend in the coming year. If you have faithfully contributed to the program in the past and are interested in continuing, please keep watch for news as things develop. And remember our friends in your prayers as they adapt to the changing environment in Coban.



## Happenings

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS CALENDAR

As announced last month, the annual Flower Signup Calendar can now be accessed on the church website [www.westminstercharleston.org](http://www.westminstercharleston.org). Under Quick Links, Click on Flower Calendar, chose the date and whether you want the flowers in the sanctuary or narthex (we don't place flowers in the sanctuary during Lent and Advent, but can place them in the narthex).

The cost is \$50, and payment may be made by accessing your [onrealm.org](http://onrealm.org) account: menu -> Giving -> Fund -> Flower Fund Designated. On the memo line, please indicate either Sanctuary or Narthex Flowers. Alternatively, you may always mail a check to the church (made out to WPC) and indicate flowers and date requested on the memo line.

For questions, or to order flowers by phone call Nita in the church office. For questions about serving on the Worship Committee or Flower Committee please contact Carole Russell (843-442-5276). The Worship/ Flower Committee thanks Robin Zemp for creating this great online option!

## THANK YOU FOR ALL THE COATS

We have been told by TriCounty Ministries, Chicora, and Mary Ford that they have enough coats to hand out for this winter. For that reason, we are asking our members not to bring any more winter coats or jackets to the church. The schools have been told that if a need arises they will call us and let us know so we can get the word out.

Thank you to all who made this project so successful. We gave approximately 300 adult coats to TriCounty during their winter coat distribution. We gave six or seven dozen elementary size coats to Chicora, and maybe three to four dozen of the wee sizes to Mary Ford. Everyone was thrilled with our efforts. Believe me they were much needed and will help protect families through the winter.

## HANDS OF CHRIST

### *Volunteer Opportunity*

At the end of 2020, Hands of Christ restarted an Emergency Clothing Distribution for Charleston County School. After purchasing varying sizes that were running low, we were able to handle up to 1000 more children for the remainder of the school year. The Emergency Distribution ending in December resulted in 822 children getting full school uniforms from 29 schools.

If you would like to help us deliver emergency clothing to the schools when needed please contact either Nita in the Church Office or Jim Frye at 843-729-2183, or email: [fecr1@yahoo.com](mailto:fecr1@yahoo.com). We will add your name to the volunteer list and will contact you if and when you are needed.

# MEMORIAL GIFTS

## *In Memory of*

Jim Holtzclaw

Carol Mattox

Bob & Nella Peele

## *Given by*

Bob & Jackie Dadin

Howard & Jenny Fulwiler

David & Sharon Petke

# SABBATICAL UPDATE

*"Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." -Genesis 2:3*

**Sabbatical** is a word whose roots are in the creation story: God took a Sabbath rest after six days of creation. In the church today it refers to a time for pastors, usually in the seventh year of a call, to take a break from the unique stresses and time demands of ministry. More than an extended vacation, it is a time of intentional renewal and created space so God can replenish the soul. It's designed so pastors can stay healthy, remain faithful, and stay longer. The Charleston Atlantic Presbytery mandates such pastoral renewal. When Westminster called Pastor Daniel to serve as our pastor in 2015, the congregation voted unanimously to include this stipulation: "In the seventh year of service, the congregation will provide for a three month Clergy Renewal Leave, continuing the salary and benefits for that period, and providing for pulpit supply in the pastor's absence." Pastor Daniel will begin his seventh year with us in June 2021 and will take his Clergy Renewal Leave from July 1st through September 30th.

Last March in anticipation of Pastor Daniel's sabbatical, Daniel along with the Session applied for a Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal Grant, intended to be used to support renewal activities for both the congregation and pastor. A detailed report of both Pastor Daniel's clergy renewal plans and the plans for pulpit and staff supply were submitted. Unfortunately, the Lilly Foundation notified us in October that Westminster did not receive the grant.

At the October Session meeting, the Session agreed that the plans that had been laid out for the Clergy Renewal Leave should go forward. An ad hoc committee has been established to examine and resolve the financial obligations, the pulpit supply and the staffing needs to support and renew the congregation as well as Pastor Daniel during the sabbatical period. Westminster values the ministers who serve us with their time, leadership, pastoral care, teaching and spiritual guidance. Now we are called to care for Pastor Daniel by seeing that his needs for spiritual and personal renewal are met as we honor the commitment we made to him at his call in 2015. In the weeks and months ahead of the sabbatical look for further exciting details regarding the renewal plan for Westminster and Pastor Daniel.

# WESTMINSTER FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR 2020 AND 2021

The year 2020 ended with so many changes this past year that it is hard to recall a normal year and yet we have a ways to go in 2021 to approach a more normal time.

Our financial situation in 2020 turned out to be a pleasant surprise. Our giving exceeded our expenses by approximately \$14,000. The positive result in 2020 is through prayer and the generous giving of the congregation and friends of Westminster.

We were also able to complete our ADA bathroom, repaint the hallway in the Administrative wing, provide needed maintenance and repairs to our stained glass windows, and make some paving repairs.

The other good news is that we exceeded the budget in the area of Benevolences and Missions by approximately \$17,000. I am sure you agree that if we are going to exceed the budget, the area of Benevolences and Missions is the right place to be generous. Above and beyond that good news, we continue to support the food pantry, the Blessing Box, backpack buddies and other special missions.

By all measures, 2020 was a successful year for Westminster. Now is the time to look to the financial needs for Westminster in 2021. Challenges do face us in 2021. Our Stewardship Program this past fall focused on Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, declared the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign resulted in \$600,000 in pledges; however that is \$40,000 less than in 2020. Given the severe economic consequences of the Pandemic, this was completely understandable. The Session also adjusted the anticipated unpledged giving for 2021 by \$15,000.

We were able to hold our budgeted expenses similar to last year to continue to provide full support for all our Missions and Programs at Westminster. However there were two notable increases: the establishment of a Pastor Development line item in support of our Pastors and an increase in our insurance premium.

With the reduction in income and the increase in expenses the Session approved a 2021 budget with a Budget Contingency (the projected shortfall between income and expenses) of \$112,611. How was the Session able to do this? The Session has Faith that the Congregation will respond with their continued generous giving and the Session will be diligent in looking for ways to reduce spending.

Also, this was possible because of the generous giving of the Congregation in the past. We have gone the past three years with fully meeting or exceeding our budgeted giving and reducing our expenses. These extra dollars have been accumulated in the Session Discretionary Fund and available in times of need.

What can you do? I think back to Pastor Daniel's sermon in early August on 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5 verses 16-18: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances to God the Father in the name of his son Christ Jesus, for this is his will for you."

May Westminster rejoice in the good financial situation of 2020, be in prayer for 2021 and give thanks for God's will to be done in our Congregation.

Finally, if you did not make a financial pledge for 2021 or would like to increase your pledge, you may do so by emailing bookkeeper Tommye Owen at [finance@wpccharleston.org](mailto:finance@wpccharleston.org).

*Norman Hook, Finance Committee Chair*

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Rev. Lissa Long, *Associate Pastor*  
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Robin Zemp, *Director of Music*  
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Joan Foster, *Childcare Coordinator*  
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Meg Dorsel, *Communications Coordinator*  
[mdorsel@wpcccharleston.org](mailto:mdorsel@wpcccharleston.org)

Carol Smith, *Church Hostess*

#### Sundays at Westminster

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**9:00 a.m. ZOOM Sunday School for Children & Adults**

**11:00 a.m. In Person and Livestream Worship Service**  
*In-Person following Covid Protocols and also available on Facebook Live, Westminster's YouTube channel, and [www.westminstercharleston.org](http://www.westminstercharleston.org).*

#### Westminster Session

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##### **Class of 2021**

Allyn Bruce  
John Dounian  
Norman Hook  
Dale Norman  
Michael Patrick  
Paul Patrick

##### **Class of 2022**

Nancy Dixon  
Sandra Pell  
Kendall Ramsay  
Carole Russell  
Nathan Snider  
Graham Wade

##### **Class of 2023**

Matthew Akery  
David Boyd  
Earl Frasier  
Brenda Gibson  
Tim Platts  
Nathan Ward

##### **Clerk**

**Assistant Clerk**

**Treasurer**

**Assistant Treasurer**

Priscilla Holtzclaw

Carole Russell

Doug Earnst

Patty Stokes