

---

---

# Longwood Presbyterian Church

## Newsletter

---

---

Volume 25 Issue 11

November 2023

---

---

### PASTOR'S CORNER:

From the  
Pastor



<sup>7</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.   
1 John 4: 17-21

Back in ancient days [when dinosaurs roamed the earth] and I was a Boy Scout working on my Religious Award, my Pastor had me memorize this passage, and it has stayed with me. It challenges, encourages and warms me – especially in those moments when my visceral responses to others are not what they should be.

In a year when there are no major elections, so we're not bombarded with constant ads telling us how bad the other person is – and how pure our candidate is – and our only concern is what Medical Supplement to have [and that should be over soon!], we'd hoped for a quiet season.

Instead, the airwaves, the social media and the Robocalls – are filled with dire predictions of how bad it will all be if we don't [pick one] "send money" "threaten this politician" "condemn that public figure" "lecture our family/neighbors on why they're wrong".

I'm tired of the politicians who cherry-pick some Bible passage [or another religious text] to justify their outrageous actions. When someone tells us their life is guided by the Christian Scriptures, but they obviously haven't read Matthew 25 about the Sheep & Goats – much less this passage – I could weep.

Believing that the core nature of God is love – and Grace – we need to re-examine who we are – and



whose we are.

P. S. This wasn't the column I meant to write. I made the human error of deciding what I wanted to say, then searching for a passage to justify it. And then the passage called me a different direction. This column is written **to** me more than **by** me!

**Added note from J. R.**—Phil, thank you for your article! This clearly brings to mind an experience I recently had. In the following article, you will read about our General Presbyter leaving for another position within PC USA. At our November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, as the moderator of the Personnel Committee, it became my responsibility to present an award to our departing GP, and I was very nervous about this duty. After calling our Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Dan Festa, to ask for a time slot, he learned of my "fear." Without hesitation, Dan says, "J. R., don't worry. Everyone at the meeting will want you to succeed in your presentation!" What wonderful words! And, oh by the way. The words on the award to Deborah were, "**Never underestimate the Difference You Made in the Lives You Touched.**" Dan and Phil, that inscription goes for you, too!

### MISSOURI UNION PRESBYTERY

Many of you know by now that the Rev. Dr. Deborah Boucher-Payne has resigned her office with MUP, effective the end of this year. Our November Presbytery meeting was her last regular meeting with our group, and we were saddened but excited for her. She has accepted the position of Synod Executive with the Synod of Mid America, of which we are part. So, we will continue to see her, just in a different position. Deborah, blessings and best wishes to you in all that you do! LPC family

You can read more about our Presbytery on the internet: [www.mupresbytery.org](http://www.mupresbytery.org)

## PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Longwood and Covenant Marshall PNC members continue to meet and search for a new pastor. We have had very few referrals from the new CLC2 website, but are investigating the ones we have. It is a slow process.

As mentioned before, please let Pastor Phil know how much we appreciate his dedication! Come and worship with us! Everyone is welcome! Sunday worship times:

- Longwood 9:00 a.m. (Thanksgiving noon meal after worship, everyone welcome)
- Covenant 10:30 a.m. (Covenant will also host the Marshall Ministerial Alliance community Thanksgiving service at 7:00 p.m. Tues. 11/21.)

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

We continue to pray for our friends and family members, some who have health concerns and some who are on the mend. We especially pray for:

- Charles Lawrence (healing from hernia surg.)
- Debbie Brown
- Deb Olson
- Eva Nell Paxson
- Jan Pummill

Email your news-worthy information to:  
[jrgreer@iland.net](mailto:jrgreer@iland.net) Thanks!!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW met on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 with 7 members present. Our bible study was Lesson #7, "Sabbath & Self-Care" from the Horizons Bible Study. The key idea from this lesson was: "Even though self-care is a crucial part of the Christian journey, it's important to remember that Sabbath is not primarily about caring for ourselves. Sabbath is first about honoring God."

During our meeting we discussed how nice it was that our Lord's Acre luncheon was such a success. We appreciate everyone who helped, contributed & supported our endeavors. This luncheon is our sole money-making project and is used basically for mission & supporting our church. In the meeting it was voted to send \$200 each to Open Door Pantry, Open Door Kitchen & Salvation Army. We also voted to send money to CASA (amount to be determined) for their Christmas families & dinner baskets, and contribute to the church Christmas project.

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful

Thanksgiving Holiday and hope everyone enjoys a holiday filled with friends & loved ones.

Sharon Greer

## Projects at Longwood PC

We have all of the vinyl siding panels needed to replace the west faces of the church building. Jeff Barnes (with help from Becky) has replaced the damaged pieces of the garage west face, and he did a great job. We have replaced the badly damaged window screens on the church, so it's down to the siding.

If you would like to volunteer some of your time, please get in touch with Sam Barnes or JR Greer (building maintenance committee) and we will set forth a plan.

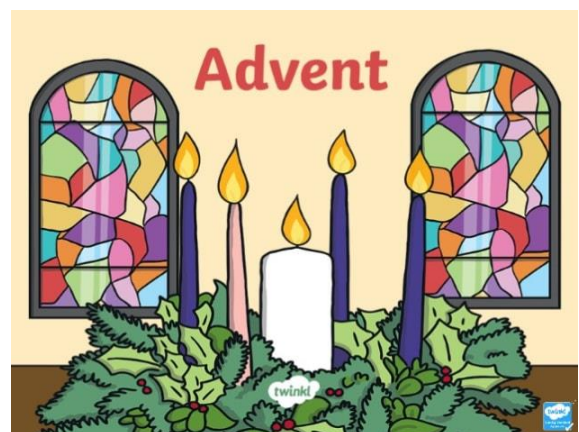
Thanks for your help in advance. —J. R.

## Sunday school activities

We've started exploring the Bible with our lessons and new Bibles. The kids are also learning the books and how to find them. We'd like to welcome Emma's friend, Taylor, to our group;

## Lord's Acre Sale

Thanks to everyone who helped bring our annual sale together!! We had a nice day, great lunch, new auctioneer, Scott Slaughter. Proceeds were a little over \$6300 for the "all donated" goods, and \$726 for the women's lunch. Thanks again to everyone who helped, either with goods, physical help, buying, or all of the above! Blessings to all!



...is coming!!!