Mission Ministry

The Missions Committee is preparing for a busy fall and Christmas with three projects planned. Food baskets for needy families for Thanksgiving, the Care Bear Program, and a Head Start Christmas Party (the first in two years). There will be three signup sheets; one for Thanksgiving pies, one for Head Start cookies and one for helpers for the Head Start party. The Committee will be asking the congregation for help purchasing food and for their support of the Care Bear Program. We are also seeking more members for our group. If interested in assisting, please attend our monthly afternoon meetings (typically the first Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m.) or contact Bill Iverson.

Care Bear Program 2022

Friends and members of Rockfish Presbyterian Church will again be able to give back to children in Nelson County to make their Christmas a bit brighter. We will be getting a total of 60 wish lists from the MAACA Head Start Program, Tye River Elementary School and Rockfish River Elementary School. Over a three week period, members of the congregation will have the opportunity to select a Care Bear gift tag from the Christmas tree, that will be set up in the Narthex beginning November 13th. Gift tags may be selected on the following three Sundays: November 13, November 20 and November 27. Please be sure to sign up for the Care Bear tag number you have chosen (located in the top right corner of the gift tag)!

You are asked to limit your total purchases to $60.00. Please purchase a clothing item and an educational toy, book or game. Suggestions have been provided on the Care Bear tag, but not all suggestions need to be purchased. Please do not wrap the gifts. Place unwrapped gifts in a sturdy gift bag. No receipts are necessary; you may leave the price tag attached to a clothing item in case it needs to be exchanged. Please securely attach the Care Bear tag you had removed from the tree to the outside of the gift bag.

Please return your gifts in the gift bag by 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 11th. They will be distributed to the schools the following week. If you have any questions about the Care Bear program or would like to help with it, please contact Wendy Culberson at (703) 307-6382 or by email at wendy@ronculberson.com. If you wish to participate in the Care Bear program but are not able to do the shopping yourself, please let Wendy know that you would like to contribute $60 to cover the cost of a Care Bear child. You may place your check in the offering plate and designate in the memo line “For Care Bear program.”

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Care Bear program. You can be assured that your gifts will make the holidays much happier for these children and their families.
How beautiful Fall is in Nelson County! As I drive around and visit folks I am constantly in awe of the colors and the magnificence of the landscape. This is the time to be planting the bulbs for Spring and it is hard to motivate myself in that everything is so beautiful~ do I really need them? And yet when Spring comes and those bulbs begin to poke through it is so exciting. Fresh beginnings, a longing for summer weather arrives. Aren't the Seasons awesome?

I am reminded of this as we are now planting the seeds for our future year with budget planning. Looking forward to consider what will be needed and how to best serve God in our community. It's a bit like planting bulbs for me- I don't enjoy the work with numbers but I do enjoy the results. Mac Lumpkin laughed as I showed up for a financial planning meeting with a Redbull in hand. I am thankful that there are so many people who love numbers here. God certainly knows that every community needs many gifts to work well together. Thank you Lord!

As for me- my gifts are in building relationships and there are still many of you I have not had the opportunity to sit with outside of church events. PLEASE reach out to me- it truly is my favorite part of ministry. I WANT to get to know all about you- your families, your likes and dislikes, your dreams for our future.

So many upcoming events that I hope you will join in on as well as invite friends to. Let's celebrate life together! It is such a blessing to live in this place of beauty.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS MEMORIES/RECIPES/STORIES/REFLECTIONS** You are going to LOVE this devotion book!  
RPCImanchester@gmail.com

In His Love,
Pastor Inger

Stewardship Campaign 2023

The Stewardship Committee thanks you in advance for your faithfulness and generosity. Many of you have been faithful in your giving but have not pledged. Might you consider a pledge this year? As always, our 2023 budget is based on the pledges we receive. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex.
Opportunities for Growth

As I write, the Youth are setting up baked goods for sale at the Fall Festival to benefit Hope’s Legacy. This event kicks off their ‘independence,’ if you will, as Session has approved the creation of a new Committee on Youth Programs, separate from the Education Ministry, chaired by Dana Ogilvie, with Sophie Ogilvie as committee liaison on Session. You will continue to see Dana’s articles on the Youth’s activities in Spreading the Word.

Progress continues to supplement Children’s Time with Children’s Sunday School, with training of volunteers completed, and supplies and a curriculum being purchased. We have just hired Ashley Cornelius as the Child Care director.

Adult Sunday School class continues its study of World Religions for several more weeks highlighting Judaism and Islam, and their commonalities with and differences from Christianity. Sessions on Hinduism and Buddhism have generated interesting discussions and some surprising lessons. On November 27th, we will begin ‘Light of the World,’ a four week Advent program with a study book and a DVD series - and with a twist. This program is written by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a Vanderbilt University Professor of Religion, who loves Christmas and its stories, and approaches them from her Jewish background, giving us new insights into familiar scriptures. Join us at 9 on Sunday mornings in the classroom downstairs.

Kirk Nights are now Kirk Noons! With sunset earlier each day and a concern for some about driving our mountain roads in the dark, the steadfast ‘Chosen’ group has voted to start Season Two at noon on Wednesdays, beginning November 2nd, to share lunch, rather than supper, and continue the compelling film series and discussion. Those attending have repeatedly said the series brings the story of Jesus and his followers to life like nothing they’ve ever seen. The discussion which follows has been a wonderful opportunity to share questions and insights and to explore many facets of the familiar story which seem new to us. If you haven’t previously participated, you can catch up by first watching Season 1 on Prime Video. Come!!

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Luscomb, Chair
Christian Education Ministry Team

Youth News

This month the Manthey family filled the Children's Food Pantry bags. Thank you to Nathan & Zackary!!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Bake Sale at Singing for the Horses.

On Sunday, Nov 13 at the 10 a.m. service, the youth will be sharing with the children the history of the Children’s Food Bags and showing them how we fill the bags every month.

Please let Dana Ogilvie know by Nov. 18 if you are interested in participating the History Unlocked Escape Room trip in December.

Be sure to turn your clock back one hour on Saturday, November 5th.
Family Fall Festival

$1770.75 was raised for Hope’s Legacy

Trunk or Treat And Bake Sale
Deciduous Trees and People
By Dave Lawson

When Spring arrives they all come to life sprouting buds and new leaves
Come Summer they all have full and rich green canopies
Some even bear edible fruit
But when Autumn arrives they begin to look different
Some like Red Oak and Maple show glorious red plumage
Others like Hickory are brilliant golden and orange
Still others like Aspen and Poplar turn lemon yellow
Forests of these are the objects of many an artist’s brush
But leaves of others like Locust and Sycamore just turn brown and fall away

People are like deciduous trees
As infants and children they sprout beautiful smiles and lovely countenances
As young adults they, in full leaf, show great promise
Most bearing “fruit” of their own
But in later life they begin to be different
Some mature with an abundance of human kindness and joy
Others age with glorious accomplishments for all to see
Still others grow old faithfully serving their neighbors
Communities of these are the objects of many an author’s word
But there are some whose lives just turn brown and fall away
God does not intend for this to happen to any of His children

So what kind of tree are each of us like?
Have we flourished in the Springs and Summers of our lives
And served as beautiful examples for others in our Autumns?
Will we be painted and written about when we are gone?
Session Highlights 10/18/22

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Elder Mike Smythers presented the Opening Prayer and Devotions. Joys and Concerns were shared. Prayers for Shirley Klokkenga and family for the passing of husband/father Don; Ken and Jeri Engebretson’s friend Carol undergoing emergency surgery; Kate’s friend Hillary Partridge just home from the ICU with health issues.

Clerk’s Report:
Approve minutes of Stated Meeting 9/20/22.

Stewardship/Finance: Elder Mac Lumpkin presented a positive Monthly Stewardship Committee Report. He reported that most budget requests are in and represent a 9% increase (just under $300,000) over last year but 2.5% over the 2020 final budget. The 2023 budget will be voted on by Session in December. He also presented the Stewardship Letter that will be sent out to the congregation soon, which Session approved.

New Business:
• Elder Sue Fulton ~ Protection Policy training and discussion for Session members, original adoption date 4/12/16. A motion from Amelia McCulley (Personnel Ministry Team) was made to adopt the 9/28/22 revised Protection Policy removing reference to protection and associated practices for individuals 65 years of age and older and changing ‘sodomy’ to ‘forcible sodomy’ of children. This better clarifies the focus of the protection of children and incapacitated individuals and removes unreasonable practices that would need to be instituted for gatherings involving people 65 years and older. It also makes clear that sodomy refers to forcible sodomy against children. Session approved the motion. The Personnel Ministry Team will continue to fine tune the Policy for organization and readability.
• Elders Sandy Gallagher and Sally Bryant presented a report on the POJ Stated Meeting 10/15/22.

Rev. Inger Manchester brought a motion for the Youth to become its own committee to be headed by Dana Ogilvie with Elder Sophie Ogilvie serving as the liaison to Session, which Session approved.

Ministry Team Reports:
• Elder Susan Luscomb (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported that current events regarding Adult Sunday School, Wednesday evening Kirk Nights, and the Children’s Programs are all moving forward. The Ministry Team is awaiting background checks so the children can move downstairs to the appointed classrooms following the Children’s Moment. Advent materials are also being sought.
• Elder Bill Iverson (Mission Ministry Team) reported that information is being solicited so the Ministry Team will have names and numbers for their Thanksgiving baskets. He reminds all of the presentation by Ms. Meena Abedi, an Afghan American Psychologist who is actively working to assist Afghan refugees in the U.S., set for October 27 at 11:00 at RVCC.
• Elder Ken Engebretson (Facilities Management Team) reported he has received requests for church groups to stay at RPC for ski weekends. Our facility falls short in allowing this due to: no cots for sleeping bags, the inability to cook in the kitchen, enough shower space and privacy, and an inadequate water heater. He brought a motion to eliminate the line reference for ski groups in the Facilities Use Policy and that no overnight stays will be permitted even when COVID-19 precautions are eased. Session approved this.
Session Highlights 10/18/22 (Cont'd)

- Elder Sandy Gallagher (Outreach Ministry Team) reported that their Ministry Team is hoping to provide children’s hats, mittens, gloves, scarves for distribution to children who may need warmth during the coming winter. Folks who wish to contribute should bring items by November 20. The children in our congregation will collect them for distribution to Head Start programs in Nelson County schools.

- Elder Kate Humphrey Chambers (Worship Ministry Team) brought the following motion, which Session approved:
  - Adjusted service schedules for the winter/holiday season.
    - October 23 onward, early services are to be held INSIDE until further consideration in Spring 2023. On the cold morning of October 9, only eight people arrived for the early service when there are typically thirty-five. Also, no changes are proposed to the order of the early service.
  - November 06 (return to Eastern Standard Time) Communion at ONE service & All Saints commemoration with white theme and potential for overflow seating.
  - November 27 (Sunday after Thanksgiving) a Supply Pastor is being sought, so ONE service that week. This allows Inger to have a vacation break.
  - December 18 ONE service followed by Lessons & Carols at 4pm, hopefully timed so no interference with other holiday parties.
  - December 24 services at 4pm and 6 pm incorporating children into the earlier service. These are our traditional Christmas Eve service times.
  - December 25 Sunday ONE service at 10am

Kate also brought a motion to the Session regarding the movement and placement of both the choir and the children at the 10:00 service, which Session approved:
  - The choir is asked to sit in the loft from the beginning of the service to the PASSING OF THE PEACE.
  - When the Pastor announces the protocols for the PASSING OF THE PEACE, she will also ask the children to make their way to the loft. The choir will also PASS THE PEACE as they transition to sit in the front 2-3 pews.
  - The Children’s Moment occurs with the children in the loft and the choir in the front central pews. As the children finish and exit the sanctuary on their way to Sunday School, the choir rises and takes a few steps forward to sing the anthem. After the anthem, the choir may return to those same front pews or sit with partners in the congregation to listen to the sermon and the remainder of the service.

Celebration and Gratitude:

We give thanks for:
Having children in the church. Not only do they add so much to our adult worship, the children are being touched in meaningful ways. A mother shared this from her daughter, “I am so happy we have a good church that does fun things. And Inger is sooooo nice.” And again, at bedtime she added, “Mom, I just love singing in church and I love kids’ choir. Thank you for taking us!”

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 8:25 PM.

Next Stated Session Meeting: Tuesday, 11/15/21 at 7 P.M., location Fellowship Hall. Devotional and Opening Prayer: Elder Kate Humphrey Chambers

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Fulton, Clerk
# November 2022

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<th>Sun</th>
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<td>6 All Saints Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Soup and Song/Choir Rehearsal Five Cents a Meal Offering</td>
<td>7 4:00 Mission Committee Meeting</td>
<td>8 7:30 Christian Education Meeting</td>
<td>9 10:00 Knitting and Nurture Noon Kirk Lunch</td>
<td>10 10:00 Walking Fun Noon—Men’s Group Lunch 4:00 Worship Committee 5:30 Children’s Community Choir</td>
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<td>13 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Pack Pantry Bags for Kids 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Stewardship Sunday 5:00 Pub Theology at Brewing Tree</td>
<td>14 4:00 Stewardship Meeting</td>
<td>15 7:00 Session Meeting</td>
<td>16 10:00 Knitting and Nurture Noon Kirk Lunch</td>
<td>17 10:00 Walking Fun Noon—Men’s Group Lunch 5:30 Children’s Community Choir 6:45 Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>18 Pantry Bag Packing</td>
<td>19 9:00 a.m. Distribution at Food Pantry</td>
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<td>20 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Decorate the Church/Hanging of the Greens/Soup Potluck and Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>21 <strong>SPREADING THE WORD ARTICLES DUE</strong></td>
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<td>24 <strong>EAT BEEF!!</strong></td>
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<td>27 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service Collect Children’s Hats and Gloves Emergency Relief Offering</td>
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<td>30 10:00 Knitting and Nurture</td>
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