

Glad Tidings

WEKIVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
211 WEKIVA SPRINGS LANE LONGWOOD, FL 32779-6123

January 2025



Douglas Family Lights Advent Candle



Christmas Eve 2024
with Pastor Oscar



PW Plant Sale treasures



Stocking Stuffers and Carols Music Dept. Concert



Trimming the Tree 2024



Live Nativity Full Display



PW Cookies for CCC Project



Honoring Alice Mathias

A Leadership Journey

One of the themes for this year at Wekiva will be leadership. This theme emerged out of a shift I have seen taking place at our church for two years, where I realized that leading a congregation is not a solo endeavor but a community endeavor. In fact, the Presbyterian system thrives when shared leadership is practiced, where Elders, Committees, Pastors, and individuals collaborate to make decisions that benefit the entire community. It reminds me of **Ephesians 4:11-12**:

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

As our church experiences growth, the importance of leadership and unity becomes evident. It ensures that we all progress in the same direction and initiate new endeavors collectively.

I also have discovered that leadership is not something most are born with, me included. We get thrown into the arena of making decisions, leading others, and learn through trial and error. We are like all the people in the Bible, whom God called to a task larger than themselves and needed guidance.



As the year unfolds, we will delve into the books of 1 and 2 Samuel, studying the lives of prophets, kings, and individuals whom God designated to lead and guide others. Like all human drama, they succeeded and failed; hey, no one is perfect. Leadership becomes important because all of us are leading someone. Whether it's at our jobs, clubs, sports, at home, with our children, or even with our aging parents. All of us make decisions that impact others. How do we ensure that we're making the right choices? Does God provide guidance in Scripture on how to lead? The answer is a resounding **yes!**

In the month of January, we will start this leadership journey by going back to our Vision Statement: ***Rooted in Faith, Grounded in Love, and Moved to Serve***. My sermons will focus on how we have tackled each one of these vision statements and what is on the horizon. As I have shared many times, my only goal for Wekiva is simple: A place where Jesus Christ is exalted, loved, and we grow as disciples of Him.

Please pray for our leaders, staff, teachers, and everyone at our church who leads others. May God nurture us this year as we all learn to follow the master leader, Jesus, who taught us that it is better to serve than to be served.

Blessings,

Oscar



Rev. Oscar Clavel
Pastor

Notes from the Loft

by Betsy Bone, Director of Music and Worship Arts



Happy New Year!! We'd Love for you to join us!

Beginning Handbell Choir...This intergenerational group rehearses Sunday's following worship for an hour (**11:15am – 12:15pm.**) We are learning how to read music and count rhythms together. This is a great way to plug into a music group! **We start the New Year on Sunday, January 5th.** Please contact Betsy Bone if you are interested in participating.



Grace Notes ... our advanced handbell choir. This group is looking for someone who has rung before. If you are wanting to get back behind a bell table, please give Betsy a call. If you have a friend who used to ring and is wanting a group to ring with again, please encourage them to contact **Betsy Bone**: betsy@wekivapresbyterian.org or **TEXT me** at 407-399-5035. We rehearse on **Monday evenings 7:00 – 8:30pm**, and start the New Year on **December 30th**.



Chancel Choir ... All voices are welcome! Please come sing with us. We are a group of busy volunteers, but we find the time to come together and sing. **We start our rehearsals back on Thursday, January 2, 2025 ... 7:00 – 8:30pm.** Contact **Betsy Bone** so she can have music ready for you.

Kids Club Choir and Cherub Choir ... These groups will start the New Year on **January 8th**. If you have a child who would like to be a part of either one of these ensembles, please contact **Aloma Bratek**, aloma@wekivapresbyterian.org



Current ... our guitar ensemble ... If you play the guitar and would like a group to play with, come strum along with us! Some say, "I don't play well enough"... if you can play the following chords: D, G, C, A, E, Bm, Am, F#m, and Em ... then you can most certainly play along with us easily. The guys share how they finger different chords all the time. They are happy learning together and sharing with those in the group. **Current will start back on Wednesday, January 8th, 5 – 6:30pm.** Contact **Betsy Bone** if you'd like to strum along!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Nurture Faith, Support Missions, Work for Justice and Peace, and Build Community

Happy New Year!

"Behold, I am making all things new!" This timeless verse from Revelations 2:5, reminds us that God has once again ushered in a new year filled with hope, new possibilities, and exciting opportunities to serve. Presbyterian Women are celebrating this gift of a new year because we see it as a fresh start to achieving new goals– namely increased success in our mission outreach and spreading the word of the gospel. We invite you to support any of our PW mission projects throughout the year by either lending a helping hand or donating.



Cookie Delivery to our Teachers

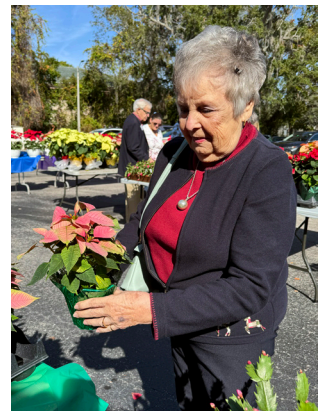
After baking dozens of holiday cookies, Presbyterian Women gathered on **December 10th** in Reception Hall to prepare the cookies and candies for delivery to our **CCC staff**. We packed



31 colorful tubs and sealed them with bows and notes of appreciation. For the **40 Endeavor School teachers**, we filled three large trays with treats. All of our PW helpers enjoyed the fun and fellowship of working together and all agreed it was one of the most meaningful and memorable highlights of the season!

Christmas Plant Sale

The PW Winter Plant Sale started bright and early. Even as the Green's Nursery truck was being unloaded, WPC members and visitors were checking out the wonderful selection of colorful poinsettias and seasonal potted flowers. There were many varieties of year round landscaping plants as



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well. Inside Reception Hall were hand-painted greeting cards by **Trina Laing** and **Lois Harvey**, and crocheted and knitted Nativity figures by **Sylvia Ballerstein** and **Lois**. And totally new this year were jars of delicious homemade jams from Farmer **Jim Ballerstein**. Our plant sale organizer, **Martha Newhart**, would like to thank all those who arrived early to help unload the truck. Martha reported that the Plant Sale was a success, and generated much needed funds for all our PW mission projects.



Gifts of Women Sunday

Mark your calendars for the **March 9th** Gifts of Women Sunday. We will celebrate the important contributions that women make in the life of the church. The worship service will be conducted by members of Presbyterian Women, and our guest speaker will be the **Rev. Olivia Haney**, Interim Co-Executive Presbyter at Central Florida Presbytery.

CRAFTS • MUSIC • BIBLE STORIES • SNACKS

Kids Club meets every Wednesday throughout the school year. Kids Club is for kids in elementary school, Kindergarten through Fifth grade. Drop off is at **3:30pm** at the playground at the back of the church and pick up is at the front of the church by the Christian Child Center sign at **5:30pm**.



Please go to the link below to register your child:

www.wekivapresbyterian.org/kidsclub

Please feel free to contact Lisa Prewitt at lisap@wekivapresbyterian.org if you have any additional questions or need more information.



The Bible Recap is kicking off on **Jan. 1st**.

The Bible Recap is a chronological Bible reading plan with a short daily recap that highlights and summarizes that day's Bible reading in a casual, easy to understand way. Each day's Bible reading is approximately 12 minutes long and each recap is about 8 minutes long. With the Bible Recap, you can READ, UNDERSTAND, and LOVE the Bible!

<https://www.thebiblerecap.com/start>

The deadline for the **FEBRUARY 2025 GLAD TIDINGS** is **Wednesday, January 22nd**

Send your submissions to abbie@wekivapresbyterian.org

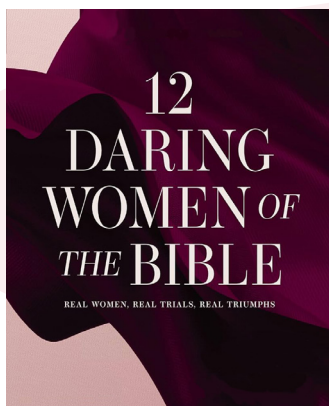
CNC Nurture Notes

Good News and Happy New Year. The New Year brings us new group sign up for **Crazy Ate!** Crazy Ate Groups consist of **8 people** who will meet four times throughout 2025 to share in food and fellowship. Look for the sign up soon!

*For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I also!*
~ Matthew 18:20

Crazy Ate
Share a Meal Program

CNC Committee is
signing up folks after
worship each Sunday



LOFT BIBLE STUDY for 2025

In this twelve-session video Bible study, some of today's best-loved Christian authors and speakers look at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve daring women in the Bible and what they mean for you today.

As you look at each of these women's lives, you will discover how to:

- Apply biblical lessons to your own modern-day struggles.
- Live through your failures as well as your successes.
- Draw near to God in a world filled with trials.
- Find lasting contentment in every situation.
- Overcome rejection and insecurity . . . and much more.

D Group will be starting a study of the **book of Acts** on **January 7th**. D Group is a weekly Discipleship Group that meets on **Tuesdays at 6:30 pm** in the **Wekiva Heritage Room**.

If you are interested in joining, email **Tara Dalles** at: tndalles@gmail.com



We meet every other Thursday in Reception Hall

Mornings 9:30-11:30am and

Evenings 6:30-8:30pm on these dates:

Jan 9 & 23, Feb 6 & 20, Mar 6 & 20, Apr 3 & 17, May 1 & 15

Need more Info? Email Lisa Prewitt at:

lisap@wekivapresbyterian.org



Did you know?

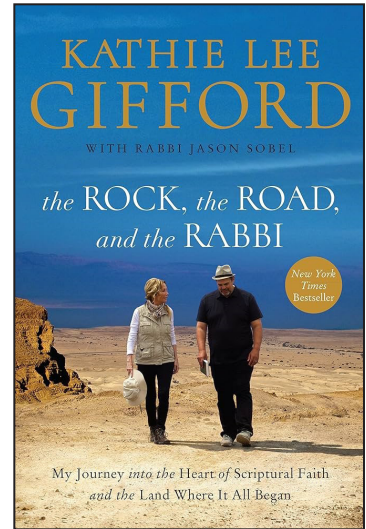
Each Sunday's Worship Bulletin is uploaded to the Church Website on Thursday and is also linked in the weekly eNews blast? We are trying to make the liturgy such as the Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith, available to folks who view the worship service via YouTube/Vimeo.

FOUNDATIONS Class: from Jan. 5th - Feb. 9th we will be studying *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi* by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel.

As a lifelong student of Scripture, Kathie Lee Gifford has always desired a deeper understanding of God's Word and a deeper knowledge of God Himself. But it wasn't until she began studying the biblical texts in their original Hebrew and Greek—along with actually hiking the ancient paths of Israel—that she found the fulfillment of those desires.

Now you can walk with Kathie on a journey through the spiritual foundations of her faith:

- **The Rock** (Jesus Christ): Hear directly from Kathie about her life-changing and ever-deepening connection with Jesus, the Lover of her soul.
- **The Road** (Israel): Explore dozens of ancient landmarks and historical sites from Israel, the promised land of God's covenant.
- **The Rabbi** (God's Word): Go beyond a Sunday-school approach to the Bible by digging into the original languages and deeper meanings of the Holy Scriptures.



Join us upstairs in the **Wekiva Heritage Room** on Sunday mornings.

Contact information for the leader and registration information: **John & Tara Dalles** at: tndalles@gmail.com

SEEKERS Class: is studying *Act Like Jesus* by Randy Frazee.

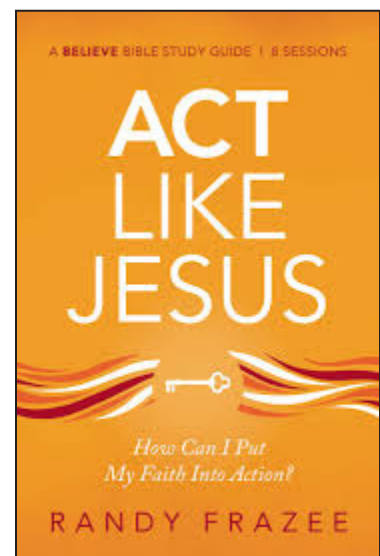
There is a difference between believing something and allowing those beliefs to shape your actions. It is the practice of reaching up to God and out to others that will drive beliefs from your head to your heart so you can act like Jesus. Learn the life-giving spiritual disciplines that will lead you in fulfilling your mission to love God and love your neighbor.

In this 8-session, video-based Bible study you'll develop practices such as:

- How to pray more deeply and attentively.
- How to develop lasting, Christ-centered relationships.
- How to share your faith with authenticity.

And you'll explore the answers to essential questions like:

- How do I worship God?
- How much of my life does God want?
- How do I use my money to serve God?
- What spiritual gifts has God given me?



This group meets in **Pioneers of Faith Room** at 9:00 am led by **Jack & Jenny Perry**.



WEKIVA

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

211 Wekiva Springs Lane

Longwood, Florida 32779 - 6123

Phone 407-869-1608

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



CUBA NEWS

Planning is ongoing for the eventual installation of the "Living Waters for the World" (LWW) Water Purification System in Remedios.

Eric Saegebarth, Chris Polly and Ken Lasseter will go to Remedios

March 26-31 for a 'Development' trip. This trip is required by the LWW organization as a trip to help the people in the Remedios church make plans for operating the system and planning their site preparations which are needed before we arrive for the installation. At the end of this trip, we will be able to establish the date for the installation, hopefully in September.

We expect to be joined on this trip by some people from Myers Park Presbyterian Church, our partner church in this project. If anyone from Wekiva wants to join us on this trip, see **Ken Lasseter** for more details. We expect the cost to be about \$1500.

Thank you for supporting this project.



Thu Jan 2, 2025

6:30pm - 7:30pm HR Committee
Where: Pastor's Office
7pm - 9pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Where: Sanctuary

Sun Jan 5, 2025

9am - 9:45am Children's Sunday School 3rd-Eighth Grade
Where: Crow's Nest
9am - 9:45am Children's Sunday School PreK - 2nd Grade
Where: Room 110
9am - 9:45am Foundations Group
Where: Wekiva Heritage Room
9am - 9:45am Joy Group
Where: Reformation Room and via Zoom
9am - 9:45am Seeker's Class
Where: Pioneers in Faith Room
10am - 11am Children's Worship
Where: Room 107
10am - 11am Worship Service
Where: Sanctuary
11:15am - 12pm Beginning Handbells Rehearsal
Where: South Transept Room

Mon Jan 6, 2025

7pm - 8:30pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
Where: South Transept Room

Tue Jan 7, 2025

CCC Classes Resume
Where: Education Hall, Playground, Reception Hall
9am - 10am Outreach Team
Where: North Transept
9:30am - 11:30am CCC Chapel
Where: Sanctuary
2pm - 3:30pm Reserve Study/Endowments Committee
Where: Reception Hall

Wed Jan 8, 2025

9:30am - 10:45am CCC Chapel
Where: Sanctuary
9:30am - 10:30am Pastor Bible Study
Where: Reception Hall no ZOOM
1pm - 2pm Book Club
Where: Reception Hall
1:30pm - 2:30pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal
Where: Children's Music Room
3:30pm - 5:30pm Kids Club After School Program
Where: Sanc., Rec. Hall, Ed. Hall, Aloma's Room, Crow's Nest
5pm - 6:30pm Wekiva Current Rehearsal
Where: Choir Room
6:30pm - 7:30pm Worship Committee Meeting
Where: Wekiva Heritage Room
7pm - 8pm Mission & Benevolence Committee
Where: Reformation Room

Thu Jan 9, 2025

9:30am - 11:30am Loft Morning Bible Study Group
Where: Reception Hall
1pm - 2pm Cong Nurture Committee
Where: North Transept
2pm - 3pm Caring Friends of Wekiva
Where: Reformation Room
6:30pm - 8:30pm Den Meetings
Where: Rooms 107-110
6:30pm - 8:30pm Loft Evening Bible Study Group
Where: Reception Hall
7pm - 9pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Where: Sanctuary

Fri Jan 10, 2025

9:30am - 12pm CCC PreK-K Ginger Bread Hunt baking
Where: Big Kitchen and Small Kitchen

Sun Jan 12, 2025

9am - 9:45am Children's Sunday School 3rd-Eighth Grade
Where: Crow's Nest
9am - 9:45am Children's Sunday School PreK - 2nd Grade
Where: Room 110
9am - 9:45am Foundations Group
Where: Wekiva Heritage Room
9am - 9:45am Joy Group
Where: Reformation Room and via Zoom
9am - 9:45am Seeker's Class
Where: Pioneers in Faith Room
10am - 11am Children's Worship
Where: Room 107
10am - 11am Worship Service
Where: Sanctuary
11:15am - 12pm Beginning Handbells Rehearsal
Where: South Transept Room
11:15am - 12pm Board of Trustees Meeting 2025
Where: Pastor's Office

Mon Jan 13, 2025

7pm - 8:30pm CCC Board Meeting
Where: via Zoom
7pm - 8:30pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
Where: South Transept Room

Tue Jan 14, 2025

9am - 10am Outreach Team
Where: North Transept
9:30am - 11:30am CCC Chapel
Where: Sanctuary
10am - 11:30am PW CT MEETING
Where: Reception Hall
6:30pm - 7:30pm Communication Committee Meeting
Where: North Transept
6:30pm - 7:30pm Property Committee
Where: Reception Hall
7pm - 9:30pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision
Where: Crow's Nest

Wed Jan 15, 2025

9:30am - 10:45am CCC Chapel
Where: Sanctuary
9:30am - 10:30am Pastor Bible Study
Where: Reception Hall no ZOOM
1:30pm - 2:30pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal
Where: Children's Music Room
2pm - 3pm Liz Minton Book Club
Where: Reformation Room
3:30pm - 5:30pm Kids Club After School Program
Where: Sanc., Rec. Hall, Ed. Hall, Aloma's Room, Crow's Nest
5pm - 6:30pm Wekiva Current Rehearsal
Where: Choir Room
6:30pm - 7:30pm Finance Committee
Where: Reformation Room

Thu Jan 16, 2025

7pm - 9pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Where: Sanctuary

Fri Jan 17, 2025

10am - 12pm CCC PreK-K Senses Centers
Where: Education Hall and Reception Hall



Sun Jan 19, 2025

9am - 9:45am Children's Sunday School 3rd-Eighth Grade

Where: Crow's Nest

9am - 9:45am Children's Sunday School PreK - 2nd Grade

Where: Room 110

9am - 9:45am Foundations Group

Where: Wekiva Heritage Room

9am - 9:45am Joy Group

Where: Reformation Room and via Zoom

9am - 9:45am Seeker's Class

Where: Pioneers in Faith Room

10am - 11am Children's Worship

Where: Room 107

10am - 11am Worship Service

Where: Sanctuary

11:15am - 12pm Beginning Handbells Rehearsal

Where: South Transept Room

4pm - 5pm Youth Committee

Where: Crosswalk**Mon Jan 20, 2025**

CCC Closed MLK Day

Church Office Closed

7pm - 8:30pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

Where: South Transept Room**Tue Jan 21, 2025**

9am - 10am Outreach Team

Where: North Transept

9:30am - 11:30am CCC Chapel

Where: Sanctuary

10am - 12:30pm PW Morning Circle

Where: Reception Hall and ZOOM

2pm - 4pm PW Afternoon Circle

Where: Reception Hall

6:30pm - 8pm PW Evening Circle

Where: Reception Hall + Zoom**Wed Jan 22, 2025**

9:30am - 10:45am CCC Chapel

Where: Sanctuary

9:30am - 10:30am Pastor Bible Study

Where: Reception Hall no ZOOM

1:30pm - 2:30pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal

Where: Children's Music Room

3:30pm - 5:30pm Kids Club After School Program

Where: Sanc., Rec. Hall, Ed. Hall, Aloma's Room, Crow's Nest

5pm - 6:30pm Wekiva Current Rehearsal

Where: Choir Room

7pm - 9pm Session Meeting

Where: Reformation Room**Thu Jan 23, 2025**

9:30am - 11:30am Loft Morning Bible Study Group

Where: Reception Hall

6:30pm - 8:30pm Loft Evening Bible Study Group

Where: Reception Hall

7pm - 9pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Where: Sanctuary**Fri Jan 24, 2025**

CCC Staff and WPC Member Registration Begins School Year

Fri Jan 24, 2025 - Thu Jan 30, 2025

9am - 1pm CCC Staff Birthday Lunch

Where: Big Kitchen**Sat Jan 25, 2025**

10am - 1pm Church Volunteer Work Day

Sun Jan 26, 2025

9am - 9:45am Children's Sunday School 3rd-Eighth Grade

Where: Crow's Nest

9am - 9:45am Children's Sunday School PreK - 2nd Grade

Where: Room 110

9am - 9:45am Foundations Group

Where: Wekiva Heritage Room

9am - 9:45am Joy Group

Where: Reformation Room and via Zoom

9am - 9:45am Seeker's Class

Where: Pioneers in Faith Room

10am - 11am Children's Worship

Where: Education Hall

10am - 11am Worship Service - Kids Club Choir Sings

Where: Sanctuary

11:15am - 12pm Beginning Handbells Rehearsal

Where: South Transept Room

11:30am - 12:30pm New Elder Orientation

Where: Reformation Room**Mon Jan 27, 2025**

7pm - 8:30pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

Where: South Transept Room**Tue Jan 28, 2025**

9am - 10am Outreach Team

Where: North Transept

9:30am - 11:30am CCC Chapel

Where: Sanctuary

6:30pm - 8:30pm PW Game Night

Where: Reception Hall**Wed Jan 29, 2025**

9:30am - 10:45am CCC Chapel

Where: Sanctuary

9:30am - 10:30am Pastor Bible Study

Where: Reception Hall no ZOOM

1:30pm - 2:30pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal

Where: Children's Music Room

3:30pm - 5:30pm Kids Club After School Program

Where: Sanc., Rec. Hall, Ed. Hall, Aloma's Room, Crow's Nest

5pm - 6:30pm Wekiva Current Rehearsal

Where: Choir Room**Thu Jan 30, 2025**

7pm - 9pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Where: Sanctuary**SPECIAL DATES IN JANUARY 2025**

Jan 01 — Office Closed - New Year's Day

Jan 20 — Office Closed - Martin Luther King Day

Jan 21 — PW Circle Meetings

Jan 22 — Session Meeting

Jan 25 — Quarterly Church Volunteer Work Day

Jan 28 — PW Game Night - BINGO!

