

# Westwood Friday Update

**Wednesday, November 24 to Friday, December 3, 2021**

*Happy Thanksgiving Eve, Westwood! This week's update is coming to you a few days early. I pray that you have a safe and restful Thanksgiving weekend.*

*The season of Advent begins next Sunday! The first week of Advent we will focus on HOPE. Please make plans to join us in person or online each Sunday in Advent this year. I know that it will be a blessing.*

*Also, don't forget to sign up for our Advent dinner potluck being held on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in Whitten Hall. Our special speaker will be Beth Willetts. Signups occur in the Narthex before and after worship or you can call the church office. I hope you will join us!*

*This Thanksgiving I am giving thanks to God for the Westwood family. I'm so glad that you are a part of it! I'm looking forward to what God is planning to do through us in the year ahead. There is a quote from former UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld who said, "For all that has been, thanks. For all that shall be, Yes!" This time of year reminds us to say thanks – but also to say YES to what will be. I'm glad that you are along for the ride.*

*~Pastor Bryan*

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Thanksgiving office closure
- Hanging of the Greens – with Pizza!
- Advent Study
- Women on a Mission (New)
- Advent Dinner
- Advent Tree (New)
- Support the Quanit family (Updated)
- Noel in the Narthex
- Global Missions Offering

- The Neighborhood is open for registrations
- Feed the Youth!
- Continuing Ways to Connect

## **THIS WEEK'S NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### **Happy Thanksgiving from Westwood!**

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26.

### **Hanging of the Greens**

Please join us this Sunday, November 28 at 5 pm for the annual Hanging of the Greens, the day we decorate the church for the Advent season. A considerable amount of greenery, lights, and other decorations need to be hung and assembled, and we would love to have as much fellowship as possible. Even if you haven't helped in the past, "many hands make light work." Pizza will be provided to feed the hungry workers.

~ Lera League

### **Advent Study**

This Monday, November 29, we continue our four-week Advent Study of *A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas* by author and pastor Kathy Escobar. Contact Pastor Stephen if you're interested in joining us. The study meets in Whitten Hall and on Zoom.

### **Women on a Mission on December 1**

I cannot believe Thanksgiving is going by so quickly and our December Women on a Mission meeting is close behind! We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. in Whitten Hall. Please join us on Wednesday, December 1, for fellowship and mission work. You'll be glad you did!

~ Judi Kern

### **Church-wide Westwood Advent Potluck Dinner**

This Sunday, you are invited to sign up to attend a potluck dinner on Sunday, December 5 at 6 p.m. Chicken and drinks will be provided. You are asked to bring a side dish/salad or a dessert. Social distancing will be observed and food will be served to guests. Our guest speaker for the Advent Dinner will be Beth Willets.

The signup list will be at the Welcome Center. You may also sign up by calling the church office. If you have any questions, contact Sandy Milam.

### **The Advent Tree Is Coming!**

The Advent Tree will be in the Narthex on Sunday, December 5. On the tree you will find cards with needs from Springfield Gardens families as well as needs for our Before School/After School program. Gifts will be due by Sunday, December 19. More details will be available in next week's Friday Update.

### **Opportunity to Support Qanit Family**

Westwood has assigned \$7,730 of designated mission funds for Afghan Refugee Family Support. IN ADDITION, we have set up a Designated Fund for Afghan Refugee Family Support and encourage members and friends to donate to the fund. The money will be used for a variety of things, including the cost of setting up the home, rent assistance, and other needs. The funds will be distributed by the Community Involvement Ministry Team.

YOU can support this fund by writing "Afghan Refugee Family Support" on your check or on the memo section of your online giving.

Watch for details next week about how you can sign up to provide volunteer assistance to the Qanit family.

### **Noel in the Narthex**

Calling all Student Instrumentalists! Are you a current student of piano or another instrument? Do you love playing Christmas music? Sign up and share your gift of music by playing Christmas music in the Narthex during December! Instrumental music will take place between Sunday School and the worship service. This opportunity is for any student of piano or other instrument regardless of skill level or number of years that you have been taking lessons. Click on the link for the Google Form for more info and to sign up. Questions? Text Robin Brock at 410-463-0231.

### **Christmas Global Missions Offering**

Throughout the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we receive gifts for our Global Missions Offering. This special offering is shared with our mission partners around the world as follows:

- CBF Global Missions: 75%
- MACBF (Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Baptist Fellowship): 5%
- Baptist World Alliance: 4%
- ServeTrust (Viveka Garnepudi Memorial Fund): 4%
- BGAV State Missions (Alma Hunt): 4%
- ECHO: 4%
- NorthStar Church Network Missions (Dorothy Allport): 4%

*Note: This year our donations to ServeTrust from the Global Missions Offering will go to the Viveka Garnepudi Memorial Fund, which was created in memory of Leena Lavanya's mother. Donations to the fund will go towards the families of the Temple Village, a ministry that was important to Leena's mother.*

Global Missions Offering envelopes are available in the packet of envelopes you receive at home. You may also mark your donation "Global Missions" in the memo line of your check. Prayerfully consider what God would have you do to help others hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

### **The Neighborhood Update**

You may have noticed some new banners outside the church; registration is open now for The Neighborhood! You can visit our website <https://theneighborhood-westwood.com/> to find out more information and register!

We are hiring! If you know anyone who would be interested in joining our team, have them email [theneighborhood.westwood@gmail.com](mailto:theneighborhood.westwood@gmail.com) for more information!

~ Pastor Emily

### **Feed the Youth!**

Our youth department would still love to have your help! We are hoping to line up a few more folks to provide dinner for SNL during the last six weeks of the year. If you would be able to do so for one Sunday evening, please contact the church office or Charlie Burts.

## CONTINUING WAYS TO CONNECT EACH WEEK

*Sunday School /Life Groups* – Children's and Youth classes are meeting in person. Most adult groups are meeting hybrid - in person and via Zoom. Masks are required for in-person gatherings. If you would like to join a class/group, please e-mail Pastor Stephen for information. (stephen.gray@westwood-baptist.org)

*Sunday Worship* - Sundays at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary OR on FACEBOOK LIVE (facebook.com/WestwoodBaptist), and on our church website (<https://westwood-baptist.org/connect-online/live-worship/>). **This Sunday, November 28**, Pastor Bryan's message will be "Rules for Exiles." Sunday's scripture passages will be Mark 10:35-45 and Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 NLT.

*Sunday Night Live!* – SNL meets Sunday nights at 6 p.m. in person and via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3024978916>). The in-person meeting on November 28 will be in Whitten Hall.

*Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal* – There will be no choir rehearsal this evening. Join us on December 1 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

### **In-Person Attendance**

Westwood has resumed in-person Sunday School, Life Groups, and worship in the sanctuary. Here is what you need to know:

- Face masks are still required for all individuals while inside the building.
- One section of the sanctuary is still marked off for social distancing. The other sections will not have restrictions.
- We ask those attending worship to check in at the Welcome Desk (in case we need to do contact tracing).
- Worship Bags are available for kids just inside the doors to the sanctuary. Make sure you pick one up for your child.

**Happy Thanksgiving to All!**