

## A Pastor's Word

Dear Woodland Faithful,

My personal big news is that I am (hopefully, prayerfully) finished with residency! Residency is a two year program a candidate for ordained ministry completes while we are in our provisional status.

It was filled with long days and lots of presentations, but the best part is the people. Connecting with peers who are going through the same process while juggling the demands of family and serving churches produces a reassuring sense of solidarity that is difficult to come by! I still have about 40 pages of paperwork and a pretty intense interview in February, but there feels like there is an end in sight, and for that I'm most thankful!

As a church, we have a lot going on, as usual! We are frequently meeting with additional community partners and are exploring what it might look like to also host another congregation in our space. Some of our existing partners are also growing; our basement is nearly full several times per week, and we are figuring out how to accomodate everyone's need for space.

We are also planning our Leadership Camp toward the end of the month; it is open to everyone wanting to play a part in planning worship and discipleship at Woodland going forward. Check out the link further into the Leaflet.

It is also Stewardship season, and we will be exploring it through metaphors related to trees this year. Also, Charge Conference is quickly approaching, so Leadership is working to get those materials together. Busy! and Blessed! I pray you are mostly the same.

In Christ -

Pastor Valecia



**Sermon Series for October**



# Upcoming Events



Highlighting upcoming events & our regular, ongoing ministries!

## WORSHIP AT WOODLAND

### Camera Crew

We need a couple more people to make sure our service is livestreamed. I've been told it is really easy. Please let pastor know if you can help in this way.

### Sacred Arts

After many, many years of leading our visual arts in the sanctuary, Anita Martz has decided to pass the baton to a group of volunteers! If you'd like to be involved in beautifying our sanctuary, please let Valecia know.



We will be having a leadership retreat at Camp Horizon on October 23 & 24, discussing and planning for what both worship and discipleship look like for Woodland going into the future.

If you're able to join on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will have lots of camp-y activities, including tours led by our students! If just the 24th is better for you, that's OK, too. Please register ASAP so we can make plans for lodging and meals; all ages are welcome to participate!

Our Bible and Embroidery group will be meeting monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:00 p.m. for a short devotion, prayer, and crafts. Mostly, it is a time to check in with one another as we work on our own individual projects, but we've also always got lots of teachers available if you'd like to learn something new! This month, it is on October 12.



Christian Stewardship is all about priorities and being intentional about how we spend our time, talents, and resources to fulfill kingdom goals. At Woodland, trees have been an important symbol for a long time, and they can be a helpful metaphor for understanding how we collectively invest our time, talents, and resources for our congregation and beyond.

The most important part of a tree is its roots; it is what feeds and

nourishes the plant. The roots of our stewardship is an acknowledgement that the earth and everything in it belongs to God. Then comes the trunk, the strong support system that connects the roots with the limbs, leaves, flowers and fruit. For stewardship, we might think of the trunk as being the church itself, connecting God with the world and the world with God. Next comes the branches. Branches can be chaotic, growing all over, or carefully cultivated. Regardless of their shape, branches are what make fruit possible. For stewardship at Woodland, our outreach & community partners are our branches, reaching out into the world and offering it goodness. Lastly is the fruit, the outcome of everything else that helps support life - human and otherwise. In stewardship, we can think of our own missions efforts and the efforts of our partners as our fruit.

**Tour and discussion of trees on the Woodland campus - October 11 after church.**

**Celebrating commitment Sunday with a meal - October 25 after church.**

# Community Partner Events



# Reports

Robin Hull passed away September 26. Her service is at Smith Culbertson on October 2 at 2 p.m., with a visitation from 12-2. Please pray for her family and all who loved Robin.

## Youth Group

Our youth continue to partner with Calvary UMC; thanks to the Martzes, the Smiths, the Friesens, and the Scribners for providing dinner for them last week! Pictured below are one of the sponsors, Bryce Fuhrmann, leading in worship, and Kenzie and Benni playing a game.



## Candidate Forum

Woodland hosted a candidate forum for area Neighborhood Associations so that locals could ask important questions of the folks' seeking public office. Those in attendance included KS House District 92 candidates John Carmichael and Vail Fruechting; KS House District 103 candidates Jordan Chessher and Angela Martinez; and KS Senate District 25 candidates Silas Miller and Christopher Parisho, and moderator Dion Lefler of the Wichita Eagle.



# Sunday School News

## **September 20**

### Joys & Concerns:

\*Kathy is doing better after her tick bite.  
\*Kari requested prayers for the Brown family. Mother and daughter both passed away 2 days apart. the surviving sister, Kaylyn is left alone and is struggling. Our lesson today was given by Steve. To coincide with Valecia's Water series, he showed the first in a "Water Medley". Across Creation video from Butcher Falls, KS, this one focused on baptism. Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan River to be baptized. When he emerged from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to Him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. A voice said, "This is my son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

## **September 27**

### Joys & Concerns:

\*The Griffins are mourning the loss of their friend Carol.  
\* And we grieve the passing of member, Robin Hull. Robin's service will be Friday, Oct. 2, at Culbertson's, 115 S. Seneca (1:00 visitation, 2:00 service)  
\*Beth is joyful that her sister, Pam, is all moved in to an apartment here in town and that Pam is happy and is fitting in nicely. Today's lesson was viewing the Across Creation video titled "The Power of Love". It was filmed at Bridal Veil Falls near Portland, Oregon. God's love for us is more powerful than this giant waterfall! With Valecia's series on Living Water, it fit right in.

## **Events in October**

### Weekly Events

International Rescue Committee (IRC) – 1:00 Thursdays  
Community Potluck – 6:00 Thursdays, Fellowship Hall (FH)

Scouting America – 6:00 Tuesdays, Basement Scout Area

Girl Scouts – 6:30 Thursdays, Basement Scout Area  
Hazan & Friends Dance – 6:00 Mondays, Basement

### Periodic Events

United Methodist Women (UMW) Board – October 7, 1:00, Office  
Stewardship Tree Tour - October 11, 12:00, Lawn  
Bible & Embroidery - October 12, 6:00, Upper Room  
UMW Circle – October 14, 10:00, Terrace Room  
Bread Club, October 24, 1:00, Kitchen  
Stewardship Celebration Potluck, October 25, 12:00, FH  
Leadership, October 26, 5:30, Upper Room  
Drop-in Center Meal Prep, October 27, 1:00, Kitchen  
Woodland Quilters, October 29, 7:30, Upper Room

## October Birthdays!

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Alice Reeves</b>       | <b>10/6</b>  |
| <b>Beth Mounts</b>        | <b>10/8</b>  |
| <b>Bob Ohlson</b>         | <b>10/15</b> |
| <b>Kari Herpolsheimer</b> | <b>10/16</b> |
| <b>Don Eland</b>          | <b>10/24</b> |

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**ALL PERSONS ARE INDIVIDUALS OF SACRED WORTH. WE AFFIRM JESUS' EXAMPLE OF LOVE WITHOUT RESERVATION, AND COVENANT TO DEAL COMPASSIONATELY AND JUSTLY WITH EACH OTHER. THEREFORE, WOODLAND UMC WELCOMES ALL PERSONS OF ANY AGE, GENDER IDENTITY, RACE, ETHNIC ORIGIN, ECONOMIC REALITY, FAMILY STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, DIVERSE ABILITY OR SOCIAL STANDING AS FULL PARTICIPANTS IN THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH DEVOTED TO THE RECONCILIATION OF ALL PERSONS AS CHILDREN OF GOD.**