

# **THE PRESBYTERIAN PRESS**

The monthly newsletter of West Point  
Presbyterian Church

May 2024



EST. 1837

*WELCOME: Grace and peace  
to you in the name of Jesus  
Christ.*

*At WPPC, we are Seeking,  
Serving, and Sharing...*

*Seeking...to Nurture  
Lifelong Christian  
Disciples.*

*Serving...the  
Congregation, Community  
& World in the Name of  
Jesus Christ.*

*Sharing...God's Love in the  
Reformed Tradition.*

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# Church Calendar

# May

# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Liturgist-Debbie Von Hollen	Head Usher- Robert/Lori Heath	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Host Bradley/White				
			1 YOUTH Prayer 7:30 Google Meet	2 LEO 8 a.m.	3	4
5 <b>Unity Sunday</b> <b>@WPPC</b>  Youth Bible Study @FBCWP	6	7	8 YOUTH Prayer 7:30 Google Meet	9 LEO 8 a.m.	10	11
12 <b>Communion</b> <b>Sunday</b> Youth Bible Study @FBCWP 3-4pm	13	14	15 YOUTH Prayer 7:30 Google Meet	16 LEO 8 a.m.	17	18
19 <b>Covered Dish</b> <b>Session Meeting</b> Youth Bible Study @FBCWP 3-4pm	20	21	22 YOUTH Prayer 7:30 Google Meet	23 LEO 8 a.m.	24	25 Target Practice and Ms. Joan's Birthday @The Gilbert's Farm 10:00 AM
26 Youth Bible Study @FBCWP 3-4pm	27	28	29	30	31	



*Welcome  
May!*

*Wishing you a fantastic month!*





By Rev Jerry Ledbetter...

How many Americans say they attend religious services each week?

How many actually do?

According to Gallup polling 21 percent of us say we attend religious services every week; 41 percent say they attend at least monthly.

However, the data says otherwise.

Devín Pope, a business school professor at the University of Chicago, studied cell phone geodata from over two million Americans to examine their behavior with respect to religion. He found that only 5 percent attended services weekly, and only 21 percent attended monthly. As an

article reporting  
Pope's study  
headlined, "People  
who say they go to  
religious services  
weekly are probably  
lying."

The story raises a  
cultural question:  
Why would so  
many people claim to  
attend religious  
services so much  
more often than they  
actually do? The  
answer is quite  
simple: They are  
"Cultural Christians"

– or Christians who  
find some cultural  
benefit from  
belonging to a  
religious  
organization,  
whether they attend  
regularly or not.

But we experience the  
transforming power  
of Christianity not  
by identifying with  
it as a religion but  
by experiencing the  
living Christ  
personally. Saul of  
Tarsus was changed  
not by changing his



religious identity from Jewish to Christian but by meeting the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. He would later explain this reality to the rest of us: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

This is how all relationships work. Marriage changes your life not because

you are "married" but because you commit your life to your spouse and they to you. The same is true with parenthood, education, or employment—it is not identifying with the institution but experiencing the relationship it offers that matters.

However, this is especially true with Christianity. Unlike your spouse or parents, your Lord

lives in you by his  
spirit (2  
Corinthians 3:16).

Unlike your  
employer or professor,  
Jesus has the divine  
power to forgive your  
every sin (1 John 1:9)  
and to transform  
your character into  
his (Romans 8:29).

Here's the bottom  
line: Cultural  
Christianity is a  
contradiction in  
terms, but biblical  
Christianity  
transforms culture.

When last did the  
living Lord Jesus  
change your life?

(taken from "The  
Denison Forum")

Yours in Christ,  
Jerry





Disciples Youth Group by Rev Sherrad Hayes

The Disciples celebrated the arrival of Spring in April with a cookout by West Point Dam! We enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, throwing a football, and meeting new friends by the scenic waters of the Chattahoochee River.

Also in April, we continued our exploration of the wisdom literature of

the Bible by beginning a study in Ecclesiastes. Join us on Sunday afternoons from 3-4 at FBCWP. We'll enjoy snacks and drinks as we study the Scriptures together.

On May 24, we will have a Youth Six Flags Trip to celebrate the end of school and the start of summer! If you have a student who would

like to go, please let Sherrad know by May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, Summer Camp is just around the corner! It's June 10-14 for rising 3<sup>rd</sup> graders through graduating 12<sup>th</sup> graders. If your student is interested (or you are interested in going as a chaperone), please let Sherrad know by May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday from 3-4,  
Bible Study at  
FBCWP

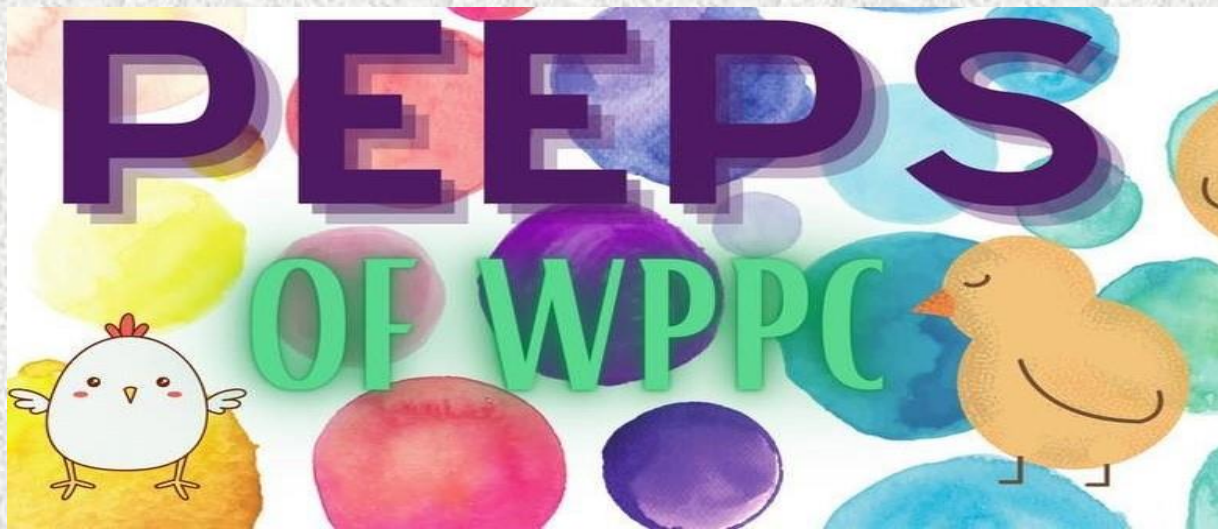
Wednesdays 7:30  
p.m., Prayer Time  
(meets virtually)

Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>  
Youth Six Flags Trip

June 10-14 Youth  
Summer Camp at  
Camp ToknowHim  
near Pisgah, AL

Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup>  
Youth Baseball Trip to  
Montgomery. AL





We always have a Scripture lesson based off the sermon, and we do a related craft.

We read Childrens bible stories and we do bible related colorings and play bible games.

We have snacks and play.

*Our awesome teacher is Ms. Terri!*

*Her helpers are Woody and Alice Moon, Mr. Randy (the Candyman), and for special events Ms. Helen, Ms. Lachelle, and Ms. Debbie.*

*Sunday school 10:00 am-10:50 am Children's Church 11:00 am - 12:00 pm*



**We gather for prayer time at 10:00 am and head to Sunday School at 10:15-10:50. At this time we have two classes.**

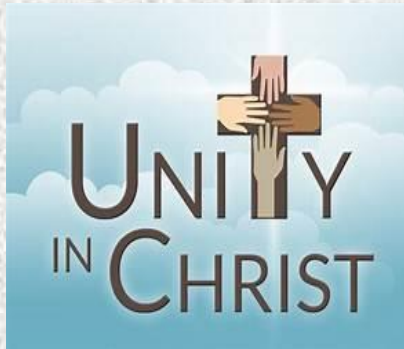
**Dan Bass facilitates a class in the Turner classroom. Currently studying out of the book of Acts.**

**Debbie Von Hollen facilitates an all-women's class in the Stanley classroom. Currently studying 1 Corinthians.**

**\*\*\*Please note this is a loving women's ministry, so if someone needs or wants to talk, we will postpone class to minister to one another. What is said in this class stays in this class.**



# Church Life Events



Our next unity service with First Baptist of West Point is May 5th. We will meet at WPPC @ 10:30. Tom will deliver the message.



May 19th is our next Session Meeting, following the Covered Dish Luncheon in the Stanley Room.



is May 19th following our fellowship service.

**The Bradley/White families will be our Hosts.**



Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to noon.



By Lori Heath, Terri Workman, and Debbie Von Hollen

It has been a minute since there has been a formal "Ladies Ministry" here at West Point Presbyterian Church, and we have heard and seen that there is a need and a want by some of the ladies in our

congregation. If you are one of these ladies (either a member or not), please let Lori, Terri, or Debbie know.

We are hoping to kick this off with a Ladies Retreat, if we get enough ladies who are interested to commit to coming. The idea is for somewhere close (maybe the Pine



Mountain area?), so that those who work can bring their own dinner, and join us Friday evening, we hope to have all day Saturday to fellowship, maybe a Bible Study, and maybe even facials. Just a time to get to know each other outside the church walls in a relaxing and carefree atmosphere. We would plan some easy meals that we all would contribute to for Saturday, and a continental breakfast for Sunday morning, so we can make it back to West Point for church services with our families. We are

thinking like maybe September or October. Depending on how many ladies show an interest, we can look for an Airbnb to house us all and split the cost. Once it is planned you would be asked to fully commit and pay a non-refundable deposit (amount to be determined). If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please see the sign-up sheet on the back table where we keep the bulletins. This is only to show how many ladies would be interested in possibly attending! No

commitment is being asked yet! Also, if you know of an Airbnb or someone who owns one that could house say 15-20 (or even less) ladies,

please let us know that as well.

Thank you,

Lori, Terri, and Debbie

## Target Practice (re-scheduled)



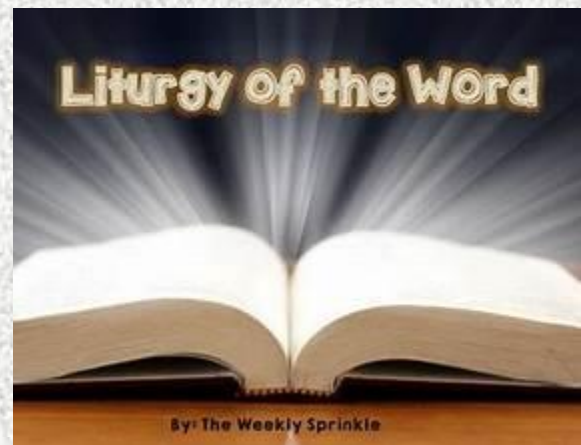
May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., WPPC is going to meet to do some target practice. We are hoping to have a safety instructor on site, but this isn't a promise. We have invited our friends from FBCWP to join us in this time of fellowship.

Please note, May 25<sup>th</sup> is also Ms. Joan's birthday, gifts are not required, but well wishes to Ms. Joan are highly encouraged. We love our Ms. Joan!





If you are hesitant about volunteering as host/hostess, please be assured it's easy. We even have a cheat sheet. Also, don't hesitate to partner with someone. Makes for ½ the work and twice the fun.



### **Liturgist**

Do you like help with the service? Please add your name to the Liturgist sheet in the Narthex.

**Our Liturgist for the month is Debbie Von Hollen.**



If you would like to bring flowers for our worship service, please sign up on the flower calendar on the bulletin board in the Narthex. These flowers can be from anywhere! You are responsible for arranging the flowers and putting them in containers, and place them in the Sanctuary Sunday mornings by 10:45 am.



Do you like to talk with/greet people? Sign up to be Head Usher for a month. It's easy and a great way to serve. You can even volunteer to assist the Head Usher a time or two to learn the ropes.

**Robert/Lori Heath are our Head Usher(s) for the month.**





**Session:**

Lori Heath, Congregational Care (24),  
Debbie Von Hollen, Admin. & Finance  
(24),  
Kris Cagle, Building & Grounds (25),  
Tony White, Education (25),  
Randy Workman, Outreach(26), Dan  
Bass, Music & Worship (26),

**Clerk of the Session:** Bill Nixon

**Treasurer:** Ray Gilbert

**Senior Pastor**

Rev. Gerald (Jerry) Ledbetter

**Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry**

Rev. Sherrad Hayes

**Organist Emeritus**

Mr. Austin P. Cook, III

**Music Director**

Mr. Michael Ledbetter

**Children's Church Director**

Mrs. Terri Workman

**Accompanist**

Mr. Randall Smith

*WE PROUDLY SUPPORT*



**Website: [nhct.org](http://nhct.org)**

**Phone 706.643.7529**

**Address: 411 West 8<sup>th</sup> St**

**West Point, GA 31833**

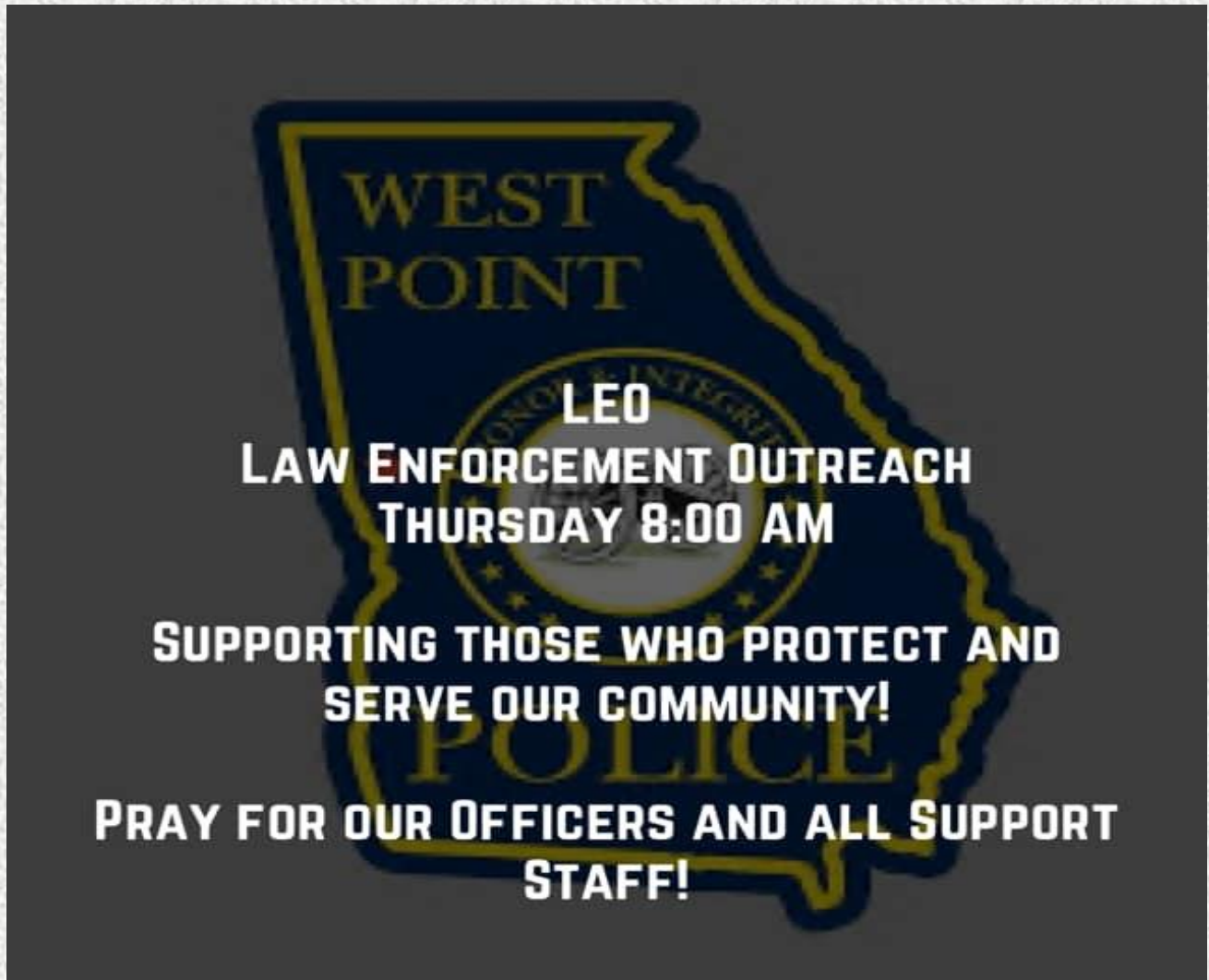




Our P.E.E.P.S. use their pennies for Jesus money to buy food for our pantry, won't you consider helping them?



Thornwell began as a dream in the heart of a young Presbyterian minister, William Plumer Jacobs of First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, SC.



We support all Law Enforcement Agencies as well as Fire and EMS!

Pastor Jerry does a weekly outreach, we call it LEO, (Law Enforcement Outreach), on Thursdays at 8 am. If you would like to get involved see Jerry.





**Building a Better World,  
One House at a Time**

For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God\* Hebrews 3:4

## **Foundational principles**

**We at the Fuller Center for Housing believe that: We are part of a God movement, and movements don't just stop. We have been called to this housing ministry; we didn't just stumble into it. We are unashamedly Christian, and enthusiastically ecumenical. We aren't a church but we are a servant of the Church. We are faith-driven, knowing that after we've done all we can do the Lord will help finish the job — something that requires us to stretch beyond our rational reach. We are a grass-roots ministry, recognizing that the real work happens on the ground in communities around the world through our covenant partners — so a large, overseeing bureaucracy isn't needed. We try to follow the teachings of the Bible and believe that it says that we shouldn't charge interest of the poor, so we don't. Government has a role in our work in helping set the stage, but that we shouldn't look to it as a means to fund the building of homes.**



A knock at the door might not seem like a big deal to many of us. But, to a homebound senior, it could signal the arrival of the only person they might see all day or all week long. It brings hope. It brings health. It brings the nutrition and care that will completely make their day. A knock from Meals on Wheels can even save lives.

**THE POWER OF A KNOCK TRANSFORMS LIVES.**