

VAN WYCK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday January 7, 2024
Baptism of the Lord Sunday

PRELUDE Janesta Williams

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Vivian Calcote

CALL TO WORSHIP Vivian Calcote

Leader: There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God. Do you ever feel that way?

All: Yes. We do. The world can be a harsh place; we often need that reminder.

Leader: Well then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the truth we each need to hear. Church, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

All: Friend, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

Leader: Let us worship the God who knows our names and also calls us "Beloved."

*HYMN NO. 409 God Is Here

CALL TO CONFESSION Vivian Calcote

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Vivian Calcote

All: Loving God, From the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced "good" with "not enough." Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Vivian Calcote
Leader: Our story begins with belovedness. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us. We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Rev. Carson Montgomery
HYMN NO. 265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Vivian Calcote

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 42: 1-9

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 3: 21-22

SERMON **We Trust Our Belovedness**

Rev. Carson Montgomery

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (written by Rev. Sarah Are Speed)

All: I believe that the God I see in Scripture is a God of love. I believe that God created me and delights in that creation. I believe the psalmist who says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139) I believe that, just as God called Jesus "beloved," God extends this same term of endearment to us. I believe that no matter our earthly challenges, nothing could strip me of that sacred title. I could fail every test, miss every goal, drop every ball, and I would still be God's beloved. Therefore, I cling to this promise like a rock in the storm. I anchor myself with this good news, allowing the anxiety of

the day to roll over me as best I can, because I know where I belong.
I am a child of God. I am beloved. I strive to live this way. Amen.

RECEIVING A 2024 WORD OF INTENTION

PRaises AND PRAYER CONCERNS Rev. Carson Montgomery
PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Lord God, you are connecting us for your glory. Bless our time, passions, and financial gifts to make your hope, peace, joy, and love known in our weary world. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 548 May God Support You All Your Days

*BENEDICTION Rev. Carson Montgomery

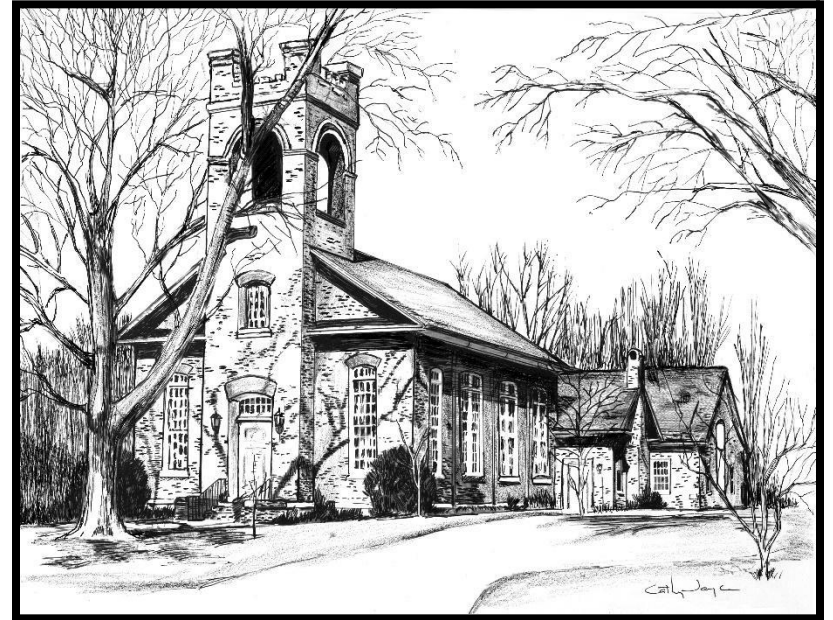
*Stand as you are able

**The ministry of the church continues. Please mail your tithes, pledges, and offerings to the church, Attention: Treasurer, P.O. Box 68, Van Wyck, SC 29744. You may also give online through the "Giving" tab on the church website www.vwpc.org

Worship liturgy and sermon theme, "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" is written by Rev. Sarah Are Speed and the writers of Sanctified Art, LLC. sanctifiedart.org

Van Wyck Presbyterian Church

Established 1884



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Director of Music – Janesta Williams (alwilliams@comporium.net)

Secretary – Donna Fox (vwpcsecretary@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Stuart Graham (stugraham84@gmail.com)

Elder of the Day

This Week: Laura Clark

Next Week: Tony Flanagan

Announcements

- Sunday Jan 7** 10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
- Monday Jan 8** 11:30am Strengthening Committee Meeting
7:00pm Mission Team Meeting
Safety and Grounds Committee Meeting
- Tuesday Jan 9** 10:00am Sisters of the Heart (Galatians)
11:30am Taking Down Advent Decorations
- Saturday Jan 13** 8:30am Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday Jan 14** 10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
*3:00pm Called Presbytery Meeting (ZOOM)
7:00pm Presbyterian Women's Evening Group
- Saturday Jan 20** 8:00am Mental Health First Aid (Bethelwoods)
5:00pm YOUTH serve dinner at Bethel Shelters (Rock Hill)
- Sunday Jan 21** 10:00m Sunday School
11:00am Worship & Installation of the Elder Class of 2026

*The stated purpose of the called presbytery meeting is to:

1. To receive a report from the Stated Clerk Search Committee and take action accordingly.
2. If approved, to Install the New Stated Clerk
3. To approve adjustments to the Stated Clerk Job description.

Happy JANUARY Birthday to YOU!

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 – Carson Montgomery | 24 – William Sims |
| 4 – Bob Campbell | 26 – Shirley Caurhen |
| 5 – Mike Helms | 27 – Pat Oglesby |
| 13 – Donald Baker | 30 – Libby Sweatt-Lambert |
| 15 – Lily Cargill | 31 – George Baker |
| 21 – Krista Manus | |

December Prayer List

Disciples: Toug Brunson, Dana Denton, Sam Dunlap, Julia Willingham
Friends: Bernard Bagley, Dana Boatwright, Mary Crenshaw, Odie Dick, the family of Larry Griffin, Gail Stogner, April Young, Rick Young, the family of Kevin Watson
Community: Van Wyck and Lancaster communities, our teachers and students
Providence Presbytery: Bethesda Presbyterian Church (Camden, SC)
Wider World: Israel and Gaza, all affected by Hurricane Idalia, Libya, Maui, Turkey & Syria, Ukraine, Russia, our country and elected leaders
Youth: Cody Campbell, Harrison Cargill, Rachel Graham, Stuart Graham, Charlie Haynes, Alena Massey, Kate McCalmont
Vocational and College Students: Genevieve Cook, Carson Helms, Christian Moss, Ashley Overstreet, Devon Overstreet, Fritz Walker
Homebound Disciples: Eloise Williams, Vicky Lott
Session: Class of 2023: Laura Clark, Tony Flanagan; Class of 2024: Linda Pelletier (Clerk); Class of 2025: Holly Massey, Craig Denton
Staff: Donna Fox, Stuart Graham, Barbara McAfee, Janesta Williams, Rev. Carson Montgomery



Next steps for engaging
the spiritual practice of the Star Words (words of intention).

1. Keep the word visible so you might ponder over the word of intention daily and weekly.
2. Pray for God's Spirit to speak the Lord's wisdom to you through your word of intention this year. The hope is that it may encourage, challenge, renew, and transform your faith a little more.
3. It is perfectly normal for you to not like the word that chose you. Be open for God's Spirit to work on your heart and mind in surprising ways! If you love the word that chose you, expect God to do a new thing through this word that is already familiar and comfortable.
4. Look up your word in the dictionary for a deeper meaning and its etymology (origins).
5. Look up the word (or its synonym) in the Bible and write down the verse(s) that hold your word of intention.
6. Keep the eyes of your heart open to God's nudges. Consider keeping a journal and write your reflections of what the Spirit is saying to you.