



Staying Connected 19 December 2021

Office Details

Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 08:30 to 14:00
Fri : 08:30 to 13:00

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A reflection for Advent 4

"I relax, release, and enjoy the wonder of the present moment."



The fourth candle of advent is lit to celebrate Joy, a reminder of the surprising good news, "Unto us a child is born." This is a reminder that when things seem darkest, joy can appear in unexpected places and small packages! Children are a reminder of the joy of playing, learning and loving, and they do it so spontaneously and with delight. Christmas is not an event that happens only in December, but constantly as we open ourselves to the possibility of hope from faith, seek peace and give love. The joy that is Christmas happens all the time, daily!

In Advent we are invited again to open our lives to the deep joy that comes from knowing the power and intimate presence of God with us, no matter what. We are then able to declare, "Joy to the World!"

Advent

This Sunday, 19 December is the **Fourth Sunday in Advent**. Advent (from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning 'coming towards') is a four week season of preparation for Christmas and is also the beginning of the Church liturgical year. We celebrate Advent by lighting candles on an Advent wreath. The lighted candles symbolise the light of Christ shining in the darkness and the evergreens of the wreath represents the new life that Christ brings into the world.

Blue Christmas

A Blue Christmas Service will be held at **18:30 on Thursday 23 December 2021**. A quiet, reflective service for those who are feeling grief, sadness, loneliness, pain, stress or are just in need of a time of stillness.



Christmas Services

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 25 December '21 | 07:00 |
| (Christmas Day) | 08:30 |
| 26 December '21 | 09:00 |
| (Sunday) | |



Contact Details

Minister

Michael Bishop 079 4999 139

Society Stewards

David Jordan 082 922 9385
Amanda Kenny 083 330 8780
Ashley Sellwood 083 650 7612
Dave Oldacre 082 784 6282
Jane Bainbridge 084 746 2004
Brandon Walker 084 912 8188
Brenda Siswana 079 485 4870
Natalie Moolman 073 438 8153

Bible Readings

19 to 25 December 2021

Sunday Luke 1 : 46 (b) -50
Monday Psalm 126 : 1 - 6
Tuesday Micah 5 : 2 - 5 (a)
Wednesday Luke 1 : 46 - 55
Thursday Colossians 1 : 15 - 20
Friday Psalm 113 : 1 - 4
Saturday Luke 2 : 1 - 7



Greetings Westville Methodist Church Family!

Looking back on the past two years particularly, highlights the huge amount of change and challenge that we've all faced in some way. From a personal perspective, I am convinced that only with the support and care of this church community have I coped during this time. I owe each member of Westville Methodist Church a sincere "thank you" for this journey!

I am also deeply grateful for the torrent of greetings, well-wishes and conversations with which I've been blessed in the past weeks as my relocation loomed close. I cherish each of those contacts, and despite there being many, there's something I remember about each of them! Furthermore I am extremely thankful for the generosity shown to me, particularly in the farewell services and the wonderful gift I received from you as a congregation.

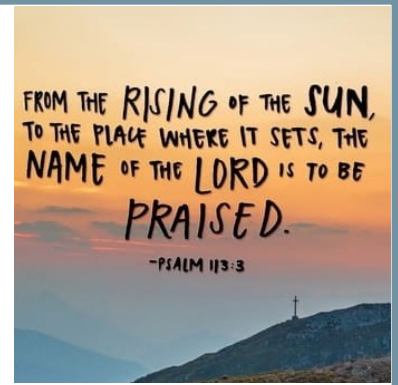
My comments here could continue to great length, as did some of my sermons, however suffice to say that the years my family and I spent among you in Westville will be remembered by us as significant, formative and a gift to us.

You have faced much change in the past few years and there's more to come. So, may I encourage you to do what you have done so well? Love and accept all who become part of your community, go the extra mile to show compassion and care, be generous with your time and resources, and continue being a light for God in a world where darkness is never far from us.

With love and blessings,

Please Pray for

- Baby Luca Anderson (Hearing)
- Lorraine Bekker (Recuperating at home)
- John Cave (Cancer / more comfortable)
- Mike Hoole (Frail)
- Mary Irving (Idiopathic Pulmonary Disease)
- Andrew Kenny (Recuperating in Rehab Centre)
- Dave and Cheryl McDougall (Business concerns)
- Bheki Mthembu (Not well)
- Ria Munroe (Cancer)
- Doff Ponsie (Care Facility)
- Mary Quilling (Cancer)
- Shelley Reed (Motor Neuron Disease/ALS)
- Siswana Family (Family difficulties / Employment needs)
- Marjorie Tarbett (Recovering in a care facility)
- Shirley Whelan (Convalescing after Stroke)



Pray for all the health care workers and those infected and affected by Covid.

Pray for wisdom for our government as they guide the country through this 4th wave.

Ongoing Prayer

- Lance Bainbridge, Margaret Bosman, Florrie David-Sullivan, Evelyn Kolbe, Michael Madlala, Letitia Norris, Judy Odendaal, Nicky Proctor, Emma, Ross and Cris Reay, Steve Smith, Sherwyn Sullivan, Geoff Taylor.

Giving

Christmas Day Collection

The entire Christmas Day collection goes to the Ethelbert Child and Youth Care Centre in Malvern. Please bear this in mind when you prepare for this time, and if you would like to give to this worthy cause, even if you are planning to be away over Christmas, let us have your contribution in an envelope clearly marked "**Ethelbert**" before you leave



Flowers in the Church

Each week a team of very talented people arrange the flowers that are on display in the church during the Sunday Service. If you would like to donate towards these displays in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a milestone birthday or special occasion, please contact the church office.



Church Bank Details

Acc: Westville Methodist Church
Acc No: 58880668126
Bank: First National Bank
Branch: Westville **Br Code:** 223526



Finances

| 2021 YTD | Actual | Budget | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Total Income YTD | R1 666 314.72 | R2 046 033.00 | R 379 718.28 Under Budget |
| Total Expenses YTD | R1 754 235.89 | R2 004 738.00 | R250 502.11 Under Budget |
| Net Loss YTD | | | (R 87 921.17) |

In comparison to pre-Covid figures:

- EFT Payments have dropped by R 19 773
- Planned Giving Envelopes have dropped by R 19 330
- Cash Collections have dropped by R 22 112
- Total decrease R 61 215**