



Staying Connected 24 December 2023

Office Details

Office Hours:

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

Address:

38 Jan Hofmeyr Road, Westville
PO Box 47, Westville, 3630

Phone:

031 266 5222

WhatsApp:

081 885 4928

Email:

office@westvillemethodist.co.za

Website:

westvillemethodist.co.za

Sunday Service Times:

07:30
09:00
18:30

From the Minister's Desk

At our Blue Christmas service this week, I told everyone that apparently there is a Japanese word to describe the very specific kind of sadness that one experiences after having a bad haircut. Not a sadness I have known lately, probably because it's difficult to have a bad haircut when you have as little hair as I do :) But there is something brilliant about there being a word for that particular kind of sadness. It may not be an especially tragic kind of loss, but it means that when you use that word, others will know exactly what you are experiencing, and in that moment, there is a shared connection and a sense of being less alone in your sadness.

Our Blue Christmas service recognises that, for many people, Christmas is not just a time of joy and festivity; it is also a time of sadness, often loneliness, even despair. During our service on Thursday, we acknowledged our pain and numbers of people came forward to light candles at the altar, symbolising a prayer request, or a naming of our sadness. Our sadnesses are all different, but there was something very powerful about being together in our pain and seeing all those little lights shining together this week. We are not alone.

As you prepare for Christmas this year, may you be very conscious of the God who comes close to us in Jesus, the God who calls himself Emmanuel - God with us. And may you be encouraged by the reminder that the light of Christ shines in the darkness and the darkness will never put it out.



Ethelbert : Christmas Day Collection



Ethelbert Child and Youth Care Centre, based in Malvern, is a residential place of safety that cares for 65 children who have been removed from their parents because of sexual and / or physical abuse, severe neglect, abandonment, and those orphaned by HIV/Aids. They have been caring for and loving children since their inception in 1907.

The entire Christmas Day collection goes to Ethelbert. 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 away over Christmas, let us have your contribution clearly marked 'Ethelbert'.

One Service Sunday : 24 December 2023



Please note : There will be **NO** morning services on Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve). There will only be **one** service at 18:30.

Contact Details

Minister

Michael Bishop 079 499 9139

Email : michael@westvillemethodist.co.za

Church Executive

Amanda Kenny (Communication)	083 330 8780
Ashley Sellwood (Mission)	083 650 7612
Brandon Walker (Worship)	084 912 8188
David Jordan (Finance)	082 922 9385
Dave Oldacre (Property)	082 784 6282
Glenda Gorven (Discipleship)	082 655 7785
Jane Bainbridge (Fellowship)	084 746 2004
Louise Walker (Pastoral Care)	084 580 3471
Natalie Moolman (Youth & Children)	073 438 8153
Sybil Scott-Adams	083 787 2680
Paul Bryan	061 309 6635

Bible Readings

24 to 30 December 2023

Sunday	Luke 1 : 26 - 38
Monday	Luke 2 : 1 - 14, (15 - 20)
Tuesday	Hebrews 8 : 1 - 13
Wednesday	Mark 11 : 1 - 11
Thursday	Psalm 148
Friday	Isaiah 49 : 5 - 15
Saturday	2 Peter 3 : 8 - 13

Have a blessed
Christmas





W.A. Diary

The 2024 W.A. Diary is available from the church office at a cost of R30 each.



Amy Harms

Lynda Tarbett

Rujeko Kachisi

Steve Smith

Brandon Walker

Gavin Linnett

Shirleen Prydderch

Ursula Rohrs Ameen

Mike Hoole

Dorothy Foster

John Cave

Zayden Govender

Debbie Ivins

Shelley Reed

Fall - Surgery - Broken

Femur - In hospital

Recovering from Skin

Surgery

Recovering from

major Spinal Surgery

Recovering

Effects of Long Covid

Recovery

Bipolar Treatment

Pancreatic Cancer

Frail

Recovering from Surgery

Cancer - Cardiac Stent inserted -

pneumonia

Kidney function Improvement

Autoimmune Disease

Motor Neuron Disease /

ALS



Christmas Eve
Sunday 24 December at 18:30

Christmas Day
Monday 25 December
07:00 and 08:30



Services
Sunday 31 December 2023
(New Years Eve)

07:30

09:00

There will be NO 18:30 service

Ongoing Prayer

Stephen Adams, Lance Bainbridge, Lorraine Bekker, Rose Chislett, Florrie David-Sullivan, Janita Downing, Gwen King, Evelyn Kolbe, Linda Lodge, Megan Moody, Sané Ndlovu, Doff Ponsie, Nicky Proctor, Siswana Family, Sherwyn Sullivan, Marjorie Tarbett.



TAFTA Christmas Lunch Sponsorship

Thank you : As a result of your generous giving we were able to sponsor 10 elders to a wonderful afternoon of good food (a delicious 3-course festive meal), good company, music, dancing and fun. Each guest also received a gift bag of toiletries.

"Thank you and may God bless you for your kindness." **Fermada Shamam : CEO : TAFTA**

Soup Kitchen : Vulindlela Appeal for Funds



A full meal is provided to the indigent folk of Westville five days a week, on the church premises. This is a ministry of the Fraternal Churches of Westville. At present funds are very low.

If you would like to donate to this worthy ministry, please reference "**Soup Kitchen**" when making a payment to the WMC bank account.

Church Bank Details

Acc: Westville Methodist Church

Acc No: 58880668126

Bank: First National Bank

Branch: Westville Br Code: 223526



Planned Giving Envelopes for 2024 are available for church members that used them during 2023. Your faithful giving to the work of your church is really appreciated. Please contact the church office if you would like further information about planned giving or would like to sign up.



Planned Giving



Holiday Office Hours

The church office is closed and will re-open at 08:30 on Tuesday 2 January 2024. For any pastoral concerns please contact one of the Society Stewards or the Minister.