

New Year. New Storms. Same Jesus.

“LORD open their eyes that they may see...” (2 Kings 6:15-17).

It’s a New Year and there’ll be New Storms. But God doesn’t change! Elisha’s God is our God. One moment Elisha’s quietly leading young men in the work of cutting down trees to build a seminary (2 Kings 6:1-7). The next moment he’s facing a mighty Syrian army bent on destroying God’s people... and no hope of rescue in sight (vv. 8-15)! Change comes to most of us. Health suddenly changes into sickness. Friendship suddenly changes into hostility. Wealth suddenly changes into poverty. Storms come unexpectedly into the believer’s life and into the history of the church. Elisha teaches us several things about God’s presence in the storm.

- God’s presence with his people is not necessarily seen by their enemies.**
The king of Syria places his confidence in his cunning, horses and chariots. Big mistake. Pharaoh refused to let God’s people go, Herod thought killing babies under the age of two would secure his kingdom, and Pope Leo X sought to silence Martin Luther. Big Mistake. Sceptics can’t see that God in the midst of His church will vindicate Truth.
- God’s presence with his church is not necessarily seen by many believers.**
Have you ever felt like Elisha’s servant crying, *“O lord! What’ll we do?”* (v.15). You believe you’re a child of God. You believe God will take care of you. But you let the cares of the world weigh you down - blind you to the power of His presence.
- God’s presence with his people and His church is always seen by True servants.**
Take God at his Word, *“Those who are with us are more than those who are with them...”* (v.16). Pray to our ever present and mighty God, *“LORD open their eyes that they may see...”* the LORD opened his eyes, and he looked and saw hills full of horses and chariots of fire... (v.17).

It’s a New Year. New Storms will surprise some. But let’s never forget, our God’s the same, *“Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow”* (Hebrews 13:8). Look and see, the *person* of Jesus Christ is *present* and *powerful*. Three things we can take away from last year.

- It’s good to be on God’s side. Worship. Bible Study. Pray. Serve.
- A Word of caution: Do not embrace half-hearted folks... doubt is contagious.
- Do something great for God in 2023. Dare to see the presence and power of God mightily in His humble church. Strive to build His Westside church. Nehemiah shows us how to cast our cares upon Him and trust in God’s Powerful Presence, *“The God of heaven will prosper us. Therefore, we will arise and build (2:20).*

Vaya con Dios, Pastor Harry

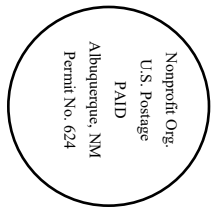


WESTSIDE CUMBERLAND
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 15209
Rio Rancho, NM 87174
(505) 896-8412

Join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 AM
westsidepc.org
Friend us on Facebook

Meeting next to Ace Hardware
At 110 Sabana Grande SE
1 light north of 528 & Southern

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



I.
New Year.
New Sermon Series.
Same Jesus.

Series Title:
The Missionary Spirit

A first in in Westside’s 26-year history!
Four different preachers will unpack the
Apostle Paul’s farewell message to the
elders in Ephesus.

READ...Acts 20:13-38
COME...expectantly!
HEAR...what God has to say
to the Church today!

Begins Sunday, January 8, 2023
10:30 AM Worship

II.
New Year.
New Sunday School Study.
Same Jesus.

Classes for ALL AGES. Pastor & Sally
will be teaching the Children the basics
of the Christian faith and the Adults will
be diving into the Apostle Paul’s letter
to the Ephesians. Whether you are new
to Bible Study or an old hand, there’s a
place for you!

Begins Sunday, January 15, 2023
9:45-10:15 AM
(come a few minutes early
for coffee & a donut)

*To preach and teach biblical TRUTH and to
live that TRUTH in love.
~ WCPC’s Mission Statement ~*



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

***Please pray for:**

Tommy (brother/Kathleen B), diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer that has spread, and in a lot of pain; **Kristy** (daughter/Pastor Tom & Rena B), 4th back surgery scheduled for January 13th; **John C** (brother/Pastor H), recovering from triple bypass surgery (that went very well — thank you, Lord!); **Geri R** (sister/Mark S), recovering from fall, severely broken arm; **Dell W**, recovering from a sprained ankle; **Lola** (7-year-old granddaughter/Tom & Tonya W), diagnosed w/ stage 3 cancer, undergoing treatment, may need two bone marrow transplants following chemo/surgery.

***Continue to Pray for:**

Jobe (daughter-in-law's mother/Kathleen B), recovering from serious stroke; **Dennis** (brother/Judy T); recovering (remarkably!) from nearly fatal complications following surgery in October; **Carolyn L**, as she continues to recover from a serious car accident

***Those serving in the military:**

Nicolas B (E-6 Petty Officer First Class/ Navy, Hawaii); **Josh L** (E-5/Air Force, NM); **Mark V** (Major/Army)

***Our Loving Condolences to:**

The family & friends of **Betty Walker** (member of our sister-church, Heights, and long-time friend of Westside) who went home to her Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ, on November 28, 2022.

2023 Session (Elders)
Melanie C, Sherry M, Steve N,
Kristen P, & Dell W

2023 Diaconate (Deacons)
Ann M, Toni M, & Linda N

Westside Calendar of Events - 2023

January 2023

- 01 - Happy New Year!
First Sunday of 2023 & Communion Sunday
- 08 - **Congregational Meeting**
Ordination & Installation of Officers
Lunch & Church Update from Session
- 10 - Deacons' Meeting
- 14 - **Women's Fellowship Brunch**
- 15 - **Sunday School Resumes**
- 24 - Session Meeting

Weekly Meetings

Thursdays

***Men's Breakfast & Bible Study**
Week's RR, 7:00 AM
Contact: Ken Y, 505.220.2968

Fridays

***Friday Women's Breakfast & Bible Study**
9-11 AM
Hosted by Ida M, 505.814.4154
Resumes January 20th

The Times is a bi-weekly publication and ministry of **Westside Cumberland Presbyterian Church**
Pastor, Harry Chapman, 620-2427
Editor, Nancy Nolan, nancye320@aol.com

WCPC Bulletin Board...

***Many thanks** to our "Times" readers who sent Christmas cards, notes of encouragement and year-end financial gifts. Your prayers and support mean so much!

***Congratulations** to our newly installed (on 1/8) church officers: Deacon **Linda N** and Elder **Melanie C**. Please remember Linda & Melanie in your prayers as they begin their duties in 2023.

***Happy January Birthdays to:**

- Tyson P - Jan. 5
- Kase N - Jan. 8



Westside Happenings

***Congregational Meeting/Light Lunch...** following worship, January 8, 2023. JOIN US to get an UPDATE on the church: where we've been and where we're headed in 2023!!!

***Ladies!!! Save the Date...**January 14th, 10 AM to Noon for our **Saturday Women's Fellowship Brunch** hosted by Cheryl B. Sign up at church or online: nancye-320@aol.com.

***New Sermon Series...**beginning January 8, 2023: **The Missionary Spirit**. A first for Westside: four different preachers will unpack the Apostle Paul's farewell message to the elders in Ephesus. READ Acts 20:13-38, COME expectantly, to HEAR what God has to say to the Church today!

***New Sunday School Study...**beginning Sunday, January 15, 2023. Classes for ALL AGES. Pastor & Sally will be teaching the Children the basics of the Christian faith (*what an opportunity!*) and the Adults will dive deeply into the Apostle Paul's letter to the **Ephesians**.



THANK YOU

***Thank you Westside!!!**...for your generous giving again this (past) year to our **Deacons' Thanksgiving Benevolence Offering** and **2022 Loaves & Fishes Hunger Offering**. *You are a blessing in Christ to your church and community (and beyond)!*



Silent Night, Holy Night

From our Treasurer

***Weekly Giving Envelopes...**for 2023 have arrived and are available on the usher table—be sure to pick up your set. The use of weekly giving envelopes is a great way to prepare you and your family for worship even before you arrive and regular giving by the congregation helps provide consistency in meeting our ongoing expenses.

***2022 Contribution Statements...**are being compiled by our accountant and should be mailed out the end of January. In the meantime, if you have questions about your 2022 contributions, please contact our treasurer, Elder Steve Nolan (250-7941, snolan1011@aol.com).

Giving by mail:
Westside Cumberland
Presbyterian Church
PO Box 15209
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

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