



18 JANUARY 2026

Westville Methodist Church STAYING CONNECTED

OFFICE DETAILS

Office Hours

Mon-Thu 08h30 - 14h00
Fri 08h30 - 13h00

Address

38 Jan Hofmeyr Road, Westville

Office

031 266 5222

WhatsApp

081 885 4928

Email

office@westvillemethodist.co.za

Website

westvillemethodist.co.za

Sunday Service Times

07h30 09h00 18h30

CONTACT DETAILS

Minister

Michael Bishop 079 499 9139
michael@westvillemethodist.co.za

Pastoral Assistant

Nhlanhla Mbatha 084 434 1161
nhlanhla@westvillemethodist.co.za

Church Executive

Natalie Moolman (Youth & Children)

0734388153

Sybil Scott-Adams (Prayer)

0837872680

Paul Bryan (Mission)

0613096635

Felicity Williams (Hospitality)

0828478059

Anelisa Jidana (Discipleship)

0793755886

Benny van der Merwe (Property)

0823188785

Lynn White

0832705043

Milton Marnies

0844400043

Caren Marnies

0846030742

BIBLE READINGS

18 January to 24 January

Sunday John 1:29-42

Monday Acts 8:26-40

Tuesday Psalm 40:6-17

Wednesday Matthew 9:14-17

Thursday 1 Samuel 1:1-20

Friday Psalm 27:1-6

Saturday Luke 5:27-32

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

DESERT WISDOM

Anglican theologian Urban Holmes wrote that although we think of the Desert Mothers and Fathers of the 3rd to 5th century as holy people who fled a corrupt society to find God in the wilderness, this is an over-simplification. He says that in reality, "they thought of themselves more properly as going out to fight evil" - to confront the demons in the desert.

But maybe fighting demons looks a little different to how we may imagine it. Holmes says that the besetting sin of these early monastics was acedia (also described as "the noonday demon"). Acedia is "spiritual boredom, an indifference to matters of religion, or simple laziness" and these holy men and women felt most vulnerable to it in the heat of the day.

We face this enemy too. It can manifest as restlessness, boredom, inertia and even obsessive activity or workaholism. It can make treasured relationships and callings seem meaningless and oppressive. When put like that, we can see why these men and women took the battle with acedia so seriously!

What wisdom do they offer us for our struggle with the noonday demon? Two key things:

1. Perseverance in prayer and work (the Benedictine rule of ora et labora) and
2. Cultivating wonder and gratitude. As GK Chesterton wrote: "You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and the pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing, and grace before I dip the pen in the ink."

Why this sudden interest in the sayings of ancient desert people? Well, this Lent we will be keeping company with the Desert Mothers and Fathers in our services, in our small groups and individually using the Lectio365 app. The journey begins on 15 February and we will share more details closer to the time.

STREETWISE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

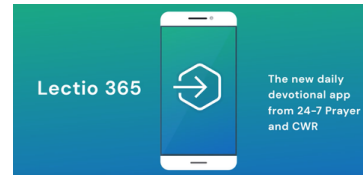
The boys from Streetwise were delighted to receive soccer goalposts donated by WMC in December 2025

The boys from Streetwise were grateful to receive stationery in January 2026



Sew 'n Sews

DONATE



Happy Birthday

- Sandie Carpenter** Wednesday 21 Jan
- Keith Young** Thursday 22 Jan
- Tina Warby** Friday 23 Jan
- Calah Pillay** Saturday 24 Jan
- Nhlakanipho Mshengu** Saturday 24 Jan
- Katie Lloyd** Saturday 24 Jan

MISSION OF THE MONTH



- STATIONARY** glue, exam pads, pencils, pens, A4 exercise books, colour pencils, roll-ups
- TOILETRIES** bath soap, shampoo, toothpaste
- PANTRY STAPLES** cereals, oats, long life milk, peanut butter, jam



24 January 9.30am





New participants are welcome.
Meeting details:
 * **Wednesdays: 1.45pm to 3.45pm.**
 Contact Pam 0824646379.
 * **Thursdays: 1.45pm to 3.45pm.**
 Contact Glenda 0826557795.

CHURCH BANK DETAILS
 Acc: Westville Methodist Church
 Acc No: 58880668126
 Bank: First National Bank
 Branch: Westville
 Br Code: 223526

WMC Prayer Requests

<i>Denise Blevin</i>	(Josi Savage's mom) - Pancreatic cancer- stable with no pain
<i>Margot Smith</i>	Recovering at home
<i>Kurt Munstermann</i>	Cancer
<i>Mike Higgs</i>	Cancer treatment going well
<i>Aubrey Beard</i>	(Megan's Woolridge's twin brother) - Cancer Treatment
<i>Arnie Kerr</i>	Post surgery recovery going well
<i>Chrissie Smith</i>	Macular Degeneration
<i>Joshua Geldenhuys</i>	Doctor is happy with his progress
<i>Russell Untiedt</i>	Continuing cancer treatment
<i>Bruce Perrow</i>	Health challenges - feeling stronger
<i>Michael Mullan</i>	Health Challenges
<i>Nick Naidoo</i>	Cancer Treatment
<i>Tienie Dearham</i>	Virus in her left ear, affecting balance and hearing
<i>Hane van der Merwe</i>	Recovering from Surgery
<i>Sané Ndlovu</i>	Endometriosis - treatment
<i>Letitia Norris</i>	Strength and Peace
<i>Horizon Farm</i>	Financial Stability
<i>Brandon Walker</i>	Effects of long covid - pain, inflammation & fatigue
<i>John Cave</i>	Cancer, pain control
<i>Zayden Govender</i>	Kidney function Improvement
<i>Shelley Reed</i>	Motor Neuron Disease / ALS

Ongoing Prayer


Mo Taylor , Helene Herbst, The Sullivan Family, Sue Carter, Lance Bainbridge, Lorraine Bekker, Janita Downing, Evelyn Kolbe, Megan Moody, Doff Ponsie, Nicky Proctor, Siswana Family

Children and Youth ministry starts this Sunday and we look forward to a fruitful year by God's grace.

24th January mini empowerment session for leaders and parents at 9:30-10:30 at the church.

1st February will be youth leaders prayer of dedication.
20 February its our 1st parents connect for the year. All parent's are invited.

There is still room to serve God in the Children and Youth ministries. We encourage those who feel called to serve with us to come on board, you can get in touch with Nhlanhla.





KnitWits handover of the Kip McGrath blankets x 12 plus 22 of blankets at St Philomina's Children's home in Sydenham December 2025

Westville Methodist Church Financial Report

December 2025	Income	Expenses	Surplus/ Deficit
Actual	214,100	231,900	- 17,800
Budget	203,295	194,965	8,330

YTD	Income	Expenses	Surplus/ Deficit
Actual	2,405,566	2,345,994	59,572
Budget	2,439,540	2,339,580	99,960

FINANCE