

---

## THE PATHFINDER

A Publication of West Haven Presbyterian Church for our Members and Friends in Christ

Issue 27

March 2023

**We are growing in grace one neighbor at a time.**



### **A Message from Your Pastor.**

*By Fred Rogers- Mr. Roger's Neighborhood*

*It's a neighborly day in this beautywood*

*A neighborly day for a beauty*

*Would you be mine? Could you be mine?*

*It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood*

*A beautiful day for a neighbor*

*Would you be mine? Could you be mine?*

*“Won’t You Be My Neighbor”*

March 20<sup>th</sup> is Mr. Fred Rogers’ birthday. If he were alive to see it, he would have been 95 years old. Mr. Rogers was an amazing talent, a pioneer in children’s television and a faithful presbyterian. He was an ordained minister in the PC (USA) and a member of Pittsburgh Presbytery for many years. Mr. Rogers was a cultural icon for decades and one of our denomination’s favored sons.

But why? Why was this mild-mannered gentle voiced man so important, beloved and influential for millions of Americans? I think for me, Mr. Rogers was an adult who took me, a child audience member, seriously and did not talk down to me. He was deliberate and measured in order to illustrate focus on the task at hand or to show respect for the person, or puppet, he was speaking with. This sober approach to communication was, and continues to be, in stark contrast to fast edits, hurried dialogue and flashing colors of other kids programs.

Moreover, Mr. Roger’s show was rooted in the Reformed Faith even if it wasn’t apparent. The basics of sharing, mutual respect and grief are all Biblical themes we address as a church all the time. Just see “The Feeding of the 5,000” (Matt. 14:13-21), “Jesus & Nicodemus” (John 3:1-21) and “Mary Magdalene at Jesus’ Tomb” (Matt. 28:1) respectively.

The good work Mr. Rogers did for faith formation and the pure wholesome development of children world-wide is immeasurable. In a time when it seems like our nation rewards the loudest, most disrespectful, and most outlandish voices, Mr. Rogers reminds me what our faith is centered on. Namely, mutual respect, forgiveness, and neighborliness. These values may not be flashy but they are what our Lord calls us toward. So won’t you be my neighbor?

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Tyler Williams

If you are interested in learning more about Mr. Fred Rogers, his life, and lessons there are some recommendations below.

*Movie Recommendations:*

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” 2018 documentary of Mr. Rogers life a career

“A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” is a 2019 a bio-film about Mr. Rogers and Lloyd Vogel, stars Tom Hanks and Matthew Rhyns

*Book Recommendations:*

“Life’s Journeys According to Mister Rogers: Things to Remember Along the

Way”  
by Fred Rogers

“The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers” by Amy Hollingsworth

“The Mister Rogers Effect: 7 Secrets to Bringing Out the Best in Yourself and Others from America's Beloved Neighbor” by Dr. Anita Knight Kuhnley

*Podcast:*

Welcome to the Neighborhood (A Mr. Rogers Tribute Podcast) by Rick Lee James

---

Prayer

Lord, be with us this day—  
within us to purify us;  
above us to draw us up;  
beneath us to sustain us;  
before us to lead us;  
behind us to restrain us;  
around us to protect us. Amen.  
Based on a prayer of Patrick of Ireland (c. 389–461)

---

## Around the Church

### Session News:

**At the stated session meeting on February 28, 2023, the following business was conducted:**

- Approved participation/process in the RIP Medical Debt program with area Presbyterian churches
- Approved Boy Scout Yard Sale for May 6th
- Approved renewing off wedding vows service for Emma & Freddie Martinez during worship on July 23rd

- Approved requiring a 3-month prior approval for wedding music; only sacred music allowed
- John Stratton announced that West Haven Souper Bowl raised \$515 to be donated to St. Andrews Episcopal Food Ministry
- Phil Broomell reported on his attendance at the Presbyter meeting on Feb. 25th.
- Approved Salad Bar luncheon for Palm-Passion Sunday on April 2nd
- Approved Community Maundy Thursday Service with Bethlehem PC on April 6th
- Approved Sunrise Service and Breakfast

## **Announcements**

- Lenten Devotion Wed. March 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th, at 11am in the conference room.
- Community Worship at First Presbyterian scheduled on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 11am.
- Please have all submissions for the April Newsletter in office by Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Salad Bar Luncheon after worship April 2<sup>nd</sup> Palm-Passion Sunday.
- Easter Sunday, April 9th
  - 8 am Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary
  - 8:30 am Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
  - 11 am Easter Service in Sanctuary.
- Boy Scout Yard Sale May 6<sup>th</sup> in Gym!

## **Letter to Church from Jim and Ginger Bruce**

Dear West Haven Family,

We give you thanks for the years that you have prayed for Jim's brother, Ron, as he dealt with Parkinson's Disease. It is a difficult, slow, degenerative process and your prayers for him were precious to us.

We also give you thanks for the prayers, cards, kind words and love you have given to us and our family since his death. Even though we felt somewhat prepared for losing him and knowing that his passing was merciful, it's hard. But you have done what you do so well – lifted us up and eased our grief. We love you all and are so grateful to you!

With love and gratitude,  
Ginger and Jim

---

---



2 APRIL 2023

# Palm-Passion Sunday



WEST HAVEN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

---

## Worship and Mission

Jesus said "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." *Luke 4:18-19*

### **Presbyterian Community Mission March 26<sup>th</sup> -April 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Presbyterian churches in Rocky Mount have banded together to liberate North Carolinians of medical debt. We are in partnership with the charity RIP Medical Debt ([ripmedicaldebt.org](http://ripmedicaldebt.org)) and focusing our efforts to release our neighbors of this debilitating burden. In an effort to emulate our Lord who freed the afflicted of illness and who frees us today of our sins, we are gathering donations to ease the weight of medical expenses, hospital bills and ER visits. Every \$1 donated erases \$100 of debt. With our combined efforts we can eliminate thousands of dollars of debt and free families all over our great state. The community will kick off this mission with a joint worship service at First Presbyterian on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Then through April we will collect donations and have a Celebration Service at First Presbyterian on April 30<sup>th</sup>. There we will share the grand total

raised as well as share a time of fellowship with our fellow Presbyterians.

‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ *Matt. 25:40*

-Rev. Tyler Williams





# THANK YOU!

West Haven Presbyterian Church

raised:  
**\$515**

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



**February 13, 2023**

**Alison Reese**  
Executive Director  
Tackle Hunger: Home of the  
Souper Bowl of Caring

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY







Lenten Devotions  
11 am Wednesdays  
Feb. 22-March 29th  
in Conference Room







Presbyterian  
Women

WED. MARCH 1ST  
AT 12:30 IN  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

**TIME CHANGE COMING UP...**

***MARCH 12 WE'LL SPRING  
FORWARD 1 HOUR***





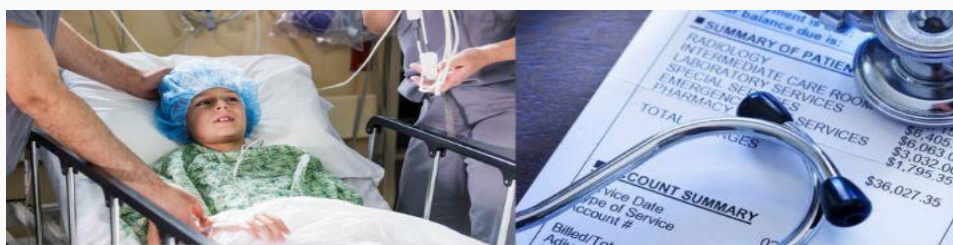
# PRESBYTERIAN MEN

MARCH 14TH  
AT 6:30 PM IN  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Officer In Charge and Greeter Schedule for March 2023:

|          | OIC           | Greeter      |
|----------|---------------|--------------|
| March 05 | Joan Durham   | Pat Adams    |
| March 12 | Phil Broomell | Liz Broomell |
| March 19 | Ann Martin    | Inez Ezzell  |
| March 26 | John Stratton | Nan Stratton |

Thank you, officers and greeters, for your dedication to your Church and community!



## **Rocky Mount Presbyterians Unite!**

Liberate fellow North Carolinians held captive by medical debt! Each Presbyterian church in our city is joining together from March 26 -April 30 to collect donations for medical debt relief.

Just as Jesus has set us free from sin, let's set our neighbors free from the weight of medical debt.

---

Gracie Couch

Ann Martin

Privott Family

**Home Bound Members:**

Guildaroy Baker

Audrey Clark

Ralph Webb

---

**Prayer**

God of love,  
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you,  
living according to your holy will.  
Keep our feet firmly in the way  
where Christ leads us;  
make our mouths speak the truth  
that Christ teaches us;  
fill our bodies with the life  
that is Christ within us.  
In his holy name we pray. Amen.  
-PC (USA) Book of Common Worship

---





## Recipe!

### WEST EDGECOMBE HOMEMAKERS BRUNSWICK STEW

*3 hens or 4 large fryers, and broth*  
*3 lbs. boneless beef, and broth*  
*10 lbs. potatoes, peeled whole*  
*1 pkg. carrots*  
*5 quarts tomatoes*  
*5 quarts butterbeans*  
*2 large size can tomato paste*  
*4 lbs. cabbage, optional*  
*1 bunch celery*  
*5 quarts corn*  
*1 cup raw rice (add last, stirring constantly)*  
*salt, sugar, black pepper, red pepper to taste*

Cook chicken a day ahead, bone and cut. Save broth, refrigerate. Cook beef ahead, refrigerate. Cook potatoes whole. They will come apart, mash apart with wooden spoon. Add raw veges. Add tomatoes, paste and broth. Add meats. Add corn after all other is done. Add rice. Lower heat, stir constantly with wooden spoon until rice is done and stew is thickened. Put into carton, cool, freeze. (Recipe can be reduced.)

*Amaryllis Dawes*





## Prayer

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at my end, and at my departing. Amen.

—Sarum Primer (c. 1514)