

## **NEWS OF INTEREST**

**Pennies From Heaven:** the monies collected help send children to the camp of their choice (mostly Seneca Hills). Your donations are appreciated and well spent. Other charities are often contributed to as worthy causes from Pennies From Heaven also.

## **PRAISES AND PRAYER**

*Please pray for God's guidance in the future of our church. Please pray for the peace of the world. Pray for the leaders of our country as they earnestly seek peaceful solutions to the problems and crises around the globe. Please pray for our military and police forces and their safety throughout each day. Pray for our public school system. Pray for the mental health of people everywhere. Pray for our mission to Ghana. Pray for all the Christian's who are being persecuted in the world.*

Would you like to know what our church has been up to? On the bulletin board in the entryway are the minutes and financial ledgers for each month. Please feel free to copy them and if you have a question, ask any session member or the pastor. We think this is the best way to keep everyone informed.

## **REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AT HOME or HOSPITALS**

Jen & Marty Gilliland, Rudy Liebmann,  
David Shearer, Pat Karns, Joe Karns, Kathleen Raecke,  
Gary & Teri Chisholm, Kevin Gladd  
John Vickers, Mary Lou Buckley, Amy Zemanski, Bonnie Copeland,  
Kohen Dunmire (Wendy Bellin's Grandson), Dottie Dillan.  
Becky Hedglin, Family of Rudy Liebmann

**Polk Presbyterian Church**  
**P.O. Box 1027**  
**Polk, PA 16342**  
[polkpresbyterianchurch.com](http://polkpresbyterianchurch.com)

**CHURCH OFFICE: 814-437-3153**

**Pastor Larry Myers 412-417-5737**  
**flyfisher@windstream.net**

### **SESSION MEMBERS:**

**Gary Chisholm 724-376-3731**  
**Scott Heffern 814-673-8667**  
**Pam Bottomley 814-671-4998**  
**Judy Krizon 814-432-4189**  
**Alan Wood 814-671-0873**  
**John Vickers 814-227-8562**

### **IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE PLEASE CONTACT:**

#### **FINANCIAL SECRETARY:**

**Scott Heffern 814-673-8667**  
**scottheffern@yahoo.com**

#### **SECRETARY:**

**Pam Bottomley 814-671-4998**  
**psbtweety@yahoo.com**

#### **CLERK OF SESSION:**

**Cindy Swendsen 814-671-6100**  
**swendsen1@verizon.net**

**Upcoming dates & activities:**

**2/18 Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7 pm**

**2/25 Genesis Bible Study 6:30 pm**



**Polk Presbyterian Church  
Calendar of Events  
February**

**Sunday School at 8:30am**

**Children Sunday School at 8:30am**

**Bible Study on Wednesdays at 6:30pm at the church & via Zoom**

**<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/559705244> Meeting ID 559 705 244**

**The passcode is 202020**

**Per Capita for 2026: \$37**

**February Missions: CLA ultrasounds, \$28 each, Souper Bowl for Caring, Chair-Lift Repair**

**Pam B. will be on vacation 2/13 thru 2/21.**

**Lynn Harriger from Nazarene church in Franklin is collecting grocery bags to make Mercy Mats and also jigsaw puzzles for the Soldiers & Sailors Hospital in Erie. Amy Zemanski will see that Lynn gets any donations.**

**Save your Poptabs for a hospital in Pittsburgh. There is a container in the Narthex.**



**Polk Presbyterian Church,  
February 18, 2026  
Ash Wednesday**

**Enter Silently and Reverently  
Lighting of Candles**

**CALL TO WORSHIP: Joel 2:12-17**

**L:** “Repent and return to God,” says the prophet.

**P:** We know the confession and repentance will be our focus.

**L:** “God is gracious and merciful,” says the prophet.

**P:** As our faults come home to us, we need God’s mercy.

**L:** “God is slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,” says the prophet.

**P:** We come as a faithful people before you, O God. We are ready for the Lenten time of reflection.

**INVOCATION**

Gracious and merciful heavenly Father, we realize that we have been formed from the dust of the earth and the breath of life has been breathed into our human form. We have been called to this sacred assembly on this first day of the Lenten season for true spiritual repentance and renewal. We humbly request your divine presence to be among us and to fill us with the Holy Spirit so we might rekindle our divine spark. Enable us to be reconciled to the triune God and to each other. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (P) Amen  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (P) Thanks Be to God**

**HOMILY: “Reconciling with Almighty God”**

**Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline**

**Psalm 51 (Read Responsively)**

**L:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**P:** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

**L:** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**P:** Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

**L:** Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**P:** You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**L:** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**P:** Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

**L:** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**P:** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**L:** Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**P:** Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION: BCW**

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change. Open to us a future in which we can be changed. Grant us grace to grow more and more into the likeness and image of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be in peace. Amen and Amen.

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES: (Read Responsively)**

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ’s resurrection.**

### **THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES:**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gifts are we given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

**“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” Gen. 3:19**

### **INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS**

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Compassionate heavenly Father you have heard the individual spiritual offerings that have been lifted to place before your throne of grace. You have received those prayers that have been given in a spirit of humble repentance. May we accept in all humility the manner in which you choose to address these issues.

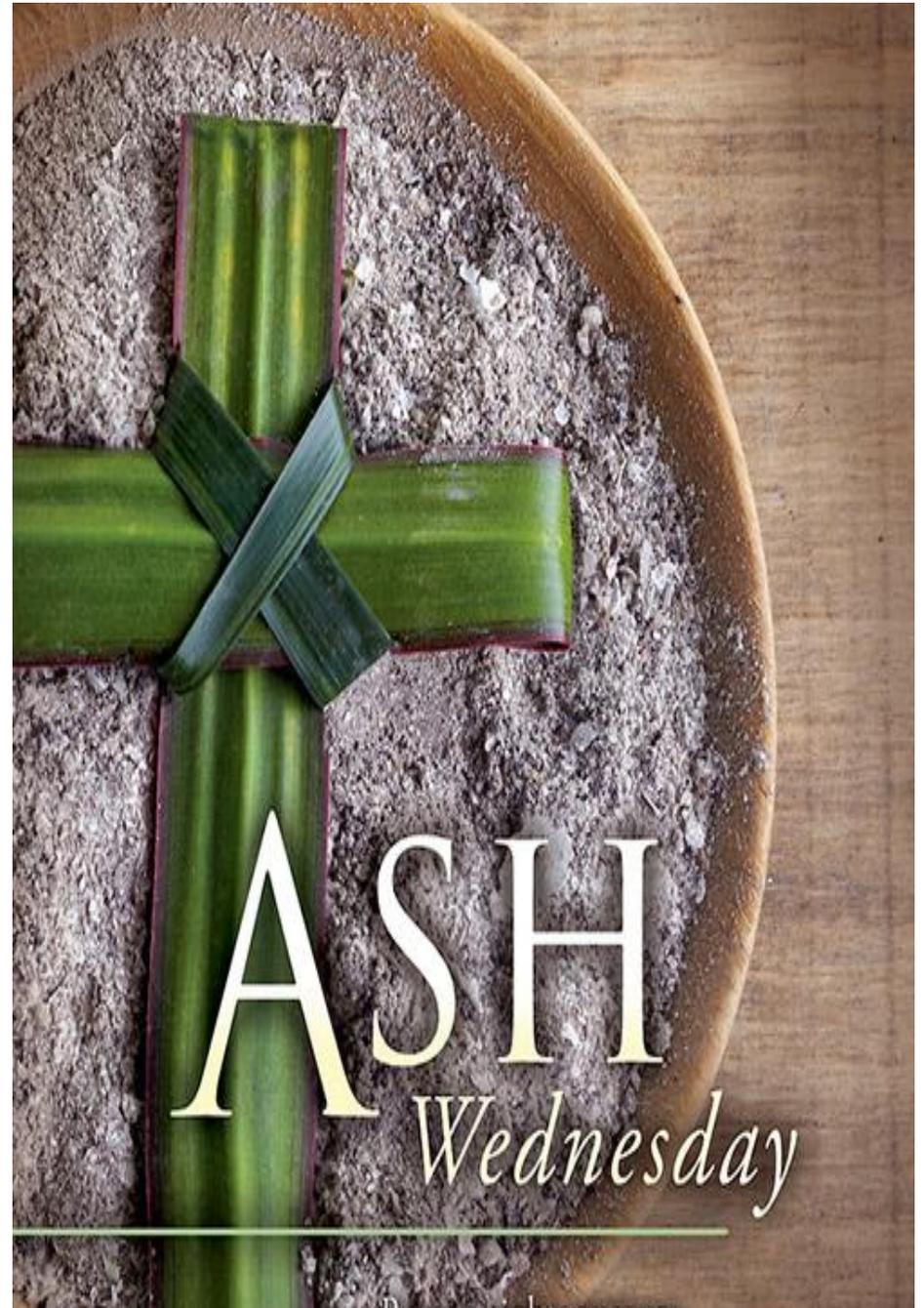
Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts so that we truly repent of our sins and acknowledge our brokenness. May the Holy Spirit lead us to approach the God of all mercy where we may obtain a full pardon and forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, in whose name we pray. Amen.

#### **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

May the God of peace himself, sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless, free from every sinful fault, at the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go in peace to love and serve the triune God and the Kingdom of God.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen and Amen.

**Exit Silently and Reverently**  
**Light goes out before us**



**Pastor: Larry Myers**