



## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2024

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**Reverends Karen & Dr. Greg Zurakowski**



Greetings in Christ!

The month of November has arrived, and with it several important dates on the calendar. First up is Veteran's Day, the day on which we honor all those who have served our nation in uniform; the same day, November 5<sup>th</sup>, is also Election Day. This year's elections have been called the most consequential of our lifetimes, but we've heard this claim before. It's safe to say that this election is important, with control of the Federal government and many state governments at stake; and it's also safe to say that this election season has been highly contentious (if not downright ugly). And it's probably safe to say that many of us can't wait for it to be over. Regardless of your political leanings, please vote (if you haven't already done so); if you don't vote, you give up your right to complain about the outcome. And of course, the month draws to a close with the celebration of Thanksgiving Day on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

We're happy to announce that Westminster will again play host to the annual Community Thanksgiving Service, this year falling on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm. There will be representatives from other churches in our area joining in worship leadership, and our choir will be augmented by singers and musicians from around the community. Please mark your calendars for this special community event, and kick off your holiday season on a high (and grateful) note!

(Continued on next page)



There are still wearable items commemorating our 100th Anniversary available for purchase, as are copies of Mark Thompson's book. And we can take special orders for wearables in different sizes/colors than we have on hand.

November is a time of change. The leaves are coming down, after their display of color, patio furniture is being put away for a long winter's nap, and other warm-weather items are being winterized and covered up, all to be replaced with snow-fighting gear and warm coats, hats, and mittens. As noted above, the holiday season is almost upon us, and soon enough decorations will be in place, heralding the arrival of Advent and then Christmas. Our treasured Up North landscape may well be covered in snow by the end of the month! But our faith is unchanging, because the God we worship and the Christ we follow never change, and that's a good thing. For all the controversy and conflict in the world, isn't it good to know that we can rely on the constant love of God, the everlasting grace of Christ, and the comforting fellowship of the Holy Spirit; God in Three Persons keeping watch over us and guiding us every step of the way.

We are continuing to post our written worship service via email, to live-stream our services on Facebook at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Rogers City, and to send out our weekly Wednesday Pastors' Update. Please let us know if you aren't receiving these so that we can correct our distribution list. If you aren't able to be with us in the sanctuary, please consider joining us on-line!

Elsewhere in this month's "On Course" you'll find the next installment of "Presbyterian 101" that we started in February of 2020 – this is Part 58. This month, we'll wrap up our study of what it is we *don't* believe as a denomination. While we share many, many things in common with our Christian brothers and sisters around the world, there are a few widely held beliefs that aren't a part of who we are as Presbyterians. We hope that you find these articles interesting and informative. If something you read prompts questions, please send a note or give one of your pastors a call, and we'll be happy to discuss things with you.

May God bless you and keep you, and all whom you love, and all whom you are called to love, safe and well.

Rev. Karen, Justice (Go Scots!), Toby, and Dr. Greg



Caring for Creation Bible Study  
Four-week bible study led by Dr. Greg  
Starting October 28<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.

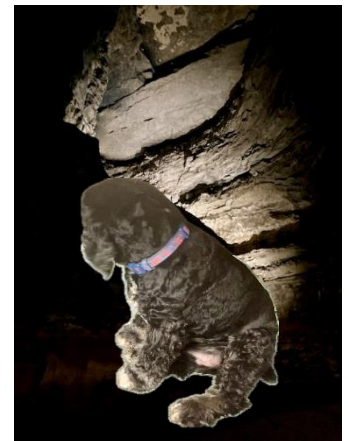
This study will examine what Scripture teaches about caring for creation. Each session begins by exploring key Scripture verses in context. Then we discuss how these verses might be applied faithfully in our modern context.



**From the Desk of  
TOBY THE CHURCH DOG  
November 2024**  
Hello dear friends!

I have just been on a grand adventure with my family that included Mammoth Cave National Park! I assumed the role of directing our journey from my perch in the back seat as Dad pulled my box on wheels from one wonderful place to the next.

Caves make me a little uneasy. First of all, they are very dark and mysterious—the darkest dark I have ever seen! There is no way to tell what might be in there looking back at me, or if my steps might lead to danger. Secondly, they smell like nothing I have ever experienced before. There is a cool damp quality to the air that isn't really unpleasant, just different. I would swear that some sort of critters lived within, but I never saw them. Also, I pride myself in my excellent directional hearing, but those caves threw me off! It seems sounds were bouncing back and forth, leaving me without an understanding of origin. As I said, they just made me feel uneasy, and I didn't have a great desire to enter one.



However, if one is unwilling to enter a cave because of discomfort and fear, magnificent discoveries will be missed: tiny passages leading to extraordinarily grand spaces; mighty stalactites and stalagmites; brilliant crystal formations, and even underground rivers and streams! Caves are a whole new world to be discovered!

I think that my past letters have established that I am a very brave boy, but I do experience times of anxiety. The seasonal changes that come with autumn make me cautious about stepping into my yard in the dark and placing my pads down on sticks and rustling leaves. Wind and snow are a shock to my system that lead to me needing to brace myself before I move outdoors. And yet when I face my fears, I often find that my fear was bigger than the reality of the situation called for.

And so what are we to do when anxiety strikes and we are put in a position of moving into something scary or unfamiliar? We, Christians, are called to turn to God who will make a path for us, walk with us, and even show us something marvelous in the midst of our trepidation. Isn't that something!?! We can rest in our God in all times and all places and be guided through!

Life can become pretty challenging and scary, my friends. I hope you will let God carry you through the frightening places and into times of joy.

I love you,  
Your Church Dog, **TOBY**

**It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8**

# *WPC Church Announcements!!!*

**Worship-** 11 a.m. on Sundays. **Communion**, the first Sunday of the month.

**Choir Practice-**10 a.m. on Tuesdays.

**Worship & Music Committee-** Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

**Deacons-**Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the church library.

**Sessions-** Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm, in the church library.

**Westminster Sings!!-** Tuesdays at 2 pm at The Brook.

**Sunrise Side Drive up Pantry-** Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**Community Thanksgiving Service** on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm here at WPC.

**Community Thanksgiving Dinner** at St. Ignatius School gym, on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at noon. Signup sheet in the Narthex.

**A New Membership Class is forming.** If you are interested in becoming a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, please contact Rev. Karen or Dr. Greg.

**Seeking Liturgists**, counters, greeters, and coffee hour hosts. Sign-up sheets on the bulletin board. Training provided.

## **Westminster Fundraiser—**

There are copies of Mr. Thompson's book, ***Carl D. Bradley, His Stone Church, and the Golden Days of Rogers City*** for sale for \$20. (Profits are being donated to the church.) **Church wearables** are available for sale. They make great gifts.

**Pounds A Weigh Group –** (Formally Tops) Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

## **AA Meetings:**

Mondays at 7 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm at Calvary Bible Church

Wednesdays at 7 pm in Posen at the building next to St. Casimir (their educational building)

Thursdays at 7 pm at the Grand Lake Fire Hall

Fridays at 7 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church

People can find more info by searching District 28 AA meetings (for weekend meetings in Alpena, Hillman, etc.).



## *November Birthdays*

Andrew Hanson	11/5	Ann Clapp	11/20
Sara Carpenter	11/7	Brian Peacock	11/23
Cody Wirgau	11/16	Linda Knopf	11/27



### **Those Serving**

#### **November 3, 2024**

Greeters:  
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger  
Coffee Hour: Veronica Frost  
Liturgist: Beth Getzinger  
Counters: Jeanette & Richard Long, Sadie Lucas  
Allum

#### **November 17, 2024**

Greeters: Sue & John Viegelahn  
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger  
Coffee Hour: Sue Viegelahn & Geri Andrzejewski  
Liturgist:  
Counters: Joan & George Smart, Beach Hall

#### **November 10, 2024**

Greeters:  
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger  
Coffee Hour: Beth Getzinger  
Liturgist: Judy Fisher  
Counters: Owen & Marion Lamb, Lois

#### **November 24, 2024**

Greeters:  
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger  
Coffee Hour:  
Liturgist:  
Counters: Dusty & Ed Knaebe

### **Presbyterian 101**

We're continuing on our exploration of the Presbyterian Church; the "how's and why's" that define us as a denomination. This month, we'll wrap up our study of what it is we don't believe as a denomination. While we share many, many things in common with our Christian brothers and sisters around the world, there are a few widely-held beliefs that aren't a part of who we are as Presbyterians. If anything you read in this article, or in any of the others, raises more questions than answers, please feel free to drop one of your pastors a note or give us a call; we're always available to talk about our church!

## What *don't* Presbyterians believe? – Part III

Some people have joined the Presbyterian Church by transfer from other denominations, and may not have considered some of the contrasts between their former tradition and the Presbyterian heritage. Others who have been Presbyterian all their lives have picked up a fair amount of their religious ideas, not from church school, but from notions floating about in the culture at large. We'd like to clarify a few things that Presbyterians *don't* believe:

### Beliefs about the Bible: Yes to authority, No to inerrancy

Presbyterians have always had a very strong doctrine of biblical authority, but historically most have shied away from calling that doctrine inerrancy.

*Inerrancy* is a word that points to complete factual accuracy. It is easy to assume this must be the right word to describe Scripture since it is the Word of God and therefore must not have any mistakes in it. But this reasoning does not quite work, for a couple of reasons:

1. While you can apply the idea of inerrancy to a history quiz, it is hard to see how to apply it to a work of art. An inerrant quiz paper is one in which all the answers are factually accurate.

But what would it mean to apply the term *inerrancy* to a work of art like "American Gothic"? What do you think when you look at that painting? Perhaps it is "How determined farmers are, in the midst of life's adversities!" But it is not "Ah, now I know what this particular couple looked like." We recognize that a great work of art often "says something" that has little to do with an exact reproduction of "the facts." It would miss the point to argue for the inerrancy of a masterpiece.

The poems, songs, parables and sagas of the Bible are literary masterpieces. For example, the Parable of the Good Samaritan: Jesus made up this brief yet poignant story to answer the objection of the lawyer who asked about eternal life. Defending the inerrancy of this story misses the point. The point is to obey the authority of the story.

2. Believing in the inerrancy of Scripture commits us to the factual accuracy of individual texts, while believing in the authority of Scripture presses us to know the message of Scripture as a whole.

In order to be inerrant, the factuality of a statement has to be able to stand on its own: "The Battle of Gettysburg took place in 1863" is true or false on its own merits. Contrast this with Psalm 103:3 telling us that the Lord "heals all of your diseases." Or Jesus declaring that he "was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel" (Matthew 15:24). Or the description of final judgment that tells us "all liars" will end up in the lake of burning sulfur (Revelation 21:8). If the term *inerrancy* can be applied to these statements, then they can stand on their own, and we can believe with confidence that they are the truth.

Does the Lord heal all of our diseases? Was Jesus sent only to the lost sheep of Israel? Will all liars be cast into the lake of fire? We may want to quibble at this point and say, "Well, you have to view those statements in their context in order to see what they really mean." If we say that, we have given up on the doctrine of inerrancy: we have conceded that these verses cannot stand on their own, with their plain meaning to be accepted as the truth.

The doctrine of authority, in contrast, focuses on the whole Bible, rather than particular texts. With regard to topics like healing or inclusiveness or final judgment, this doctrine prompts us to ask, "What are all the verses that talk about this? How do they fit together to form one cohesive Biblical teaching? And how do I follow that teaching and live it out in my life?"



*Use this in your prayer time for our Westminster family and loved ones. To include someone in the prayer list Please make a note on the "Attendance Registration" pad or email us at [rcwestminster@gmail.com](mailto:rcwestminster@gmail.com). We normally print names for one month. If you want the prayer changed, added or removed, please let the church office know at 734-3929.*

### **WESTMINSTER PRAYS - We pray for....**

**Dave Miller** for healing.

**Elaine Mayer**, who has entered into Hospice care.

**Donna Peacock** rehabbing at home

**Gene Hartwig** for complete healing in her treatment for lymphoma.

### **FRIENDS AND FAMILY – We pray for...**

**Andrea, Cliff Fisher's daughter** is suffering from severe migraine headaches.

**Shawn, Karen Maher's daughter**, for healing of her breast cancer and God's comfort and peace in the journey.

**Case Nash**, Ann Clapp's grandson as he receives an infusion for treatment of his Crohn's Disease.

**Becky Hanson and her caregiver, husband, Bill**, as they navigate evolving health challenges.

**Nicole Wilson, daughter of Molly and Emil Zielaskowski**, was diagnosed with cancer and undergoing chemo.

**Maggie Hilla**, infant great granddaughter of Dave Storms for continued strength, improved health and growth.

**Corey Hentkowski**, who has brain cancer.

**Tom Stone** who is in care at Medilodge of Rogers City

### **THOSE IN THE MILITARY**

Nicolas Wilson

And all those serving.

## Westminster Leadership

### **Ministers**

Pastors

Organist  
Choir Director  
Treasurer  
Church Secretary  
Church Historian

### **All of our Members**

Dr. Greg Zurakowski  
Rev. Karen Zurakowski

Ann Clapp  
Myriam Goodwin  
George Smart  
Michelle Kamyszek  
Kay Morrill

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Cell Phone Rev. Karen – 734-250-0761

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### **ELDERS**

Judy Fisher  
Myriam Goodwin  
Erik Stone

Mary Ann Heidemann  
Judy Fisher  
Beach Hall  
Beach Hall

Clerk  
Music & Worship  
Personnel & Nominating  
Christian Education  
Building & Grounds  
Membership/Fellowship/Outreach  
Missions  
Stewardship

### **DEACONS**

Deacon Class of 2024  
Lois Allum  
Cliff Fisher  
Molly Zielaskowski  
Priscilla Jaeger

Deacon Class of 2025  
George Smart  
Joan Smart  
Kerry Viegelahn

Deacons Class of 2026  
Gail Stoutenburg

