

January



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Greetings in Christ!

Happy New Year!! And for a few days more, Merry Christmas!! A new year has dawned, and the Christmas season is winding down, coming to an end on January 6th, when we will observe the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany is the celebration of the arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem to honor the newborn Christ, and also to make the Messiah known to the Gentiles. This is an important day in the life of the church, one which we should all take time to think about; it's a good way to start our new year of faithful discipleship!

We hope that your holidays were filled with joy and laughter, family and friends, and beloved traditions; we'd like to take a moment to thank each and every one of you who were so generous and gracious to us during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, your kindness will not soon be forgotten.

As a reminder, 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.

The beginning of a new year is a great time to take a look at the recent past, and to invest some time in thinking and praying about what we'd like to change, in other words, New Year's resolutions! We read somewhere that most resolutions don't survive much past the first week of the new year, but from our perspective the time invested in considering what we'd like to change isn't wasted, even if the resolution itself doesn't remain in force for very long. Self-reflection is almost always a good thing. One resolution that we'd like to offer for everyone's consideration is how we approach our time of worship each Sunday; worshipping together is absolutely essential to grow in our understanding of our faith, and to strengthen our commitment to Jesus Christ and the church. There's also an undeniable

(Continued on next page)

social aspect to coming to church, as it gives us an opportunity to see friends and enjoy being together; but sometimes the line between worshipping and socializing gets a bit blurry. For some of us, worship begins when we enter the sanctuary before the service begins, so that we have time to pray silently and center ourselves for an encounter with the Divine. For others, worship begins when one of our gifted musicians begins the prelude, and for still others, it begins with the Call to Worship. Regardless of when worship starts for you, please be mindful of your fellow congregants who may have already begun their time of worship by lowering your voices, or better yet, by saving your conversations for fellowship time. Thanks!

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 60. This month, we're going to take a look at our order of worship, in particular why we have a confession of sin each week. 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, Toby, and Dr. Greg





**From the Desk of
TOBY THE CHURCH DOG**

January 2025

Happy New Year, dear friends!

Isn't this an exciting time of year?! We have an opportunity to think about the challenges and blessings of the last year, and to have a fresh start as we try to put good ideas into action. I have learned that these ideas are called "resolutions"; but when one is as well-adjusted as I am, it can be difficult to come up with a list! So instead, I am going to share what I believe my parents' list for me would be -- if I let them have one...

1. Putting my toys away in my basket when I'm done playing. (Now, does this make any sense at all? I'm just going to play with them again in a few minutes!)
2. Finishing my kibble at each meal. (It's KIBBLE, people! Would you want old, dry chunks of pressed bi-products when your family is eating plates full of yummy, deliciousness right next to you?! In my opinion, this is the very definition of rudeness!)
3. Coming when I am called- **immediately**; instead of pretending that I don't hear them. (In my defense, they don't often have anything important to share with me.)
4. Not leaving nose prints on the car, truck, or house windows. (This is my signature!)
5. Being compliant and sitting still when my parents want to: give me medication, look in my ears, examine my paws, or scrutinize any other very personal areas. (Being intelligent people, I DO NOT think I need to further explain this to you.)
6. Using my indoor voice all the times. (I'm only trying to be of help when I bark. Besides, I've been blessed with a very pleasing baritone voice!)
7. Staying where they place me in the center of the bed we share. (Now this is annoying... First of all, it is my bed; and if I want to stretch out the headboard, this is my prerogative. Mom and Dad are allow them to sleep with me; but, I don't want them to be the night.)
8. Recognizing God's loving actions that surround me all day long; as loving as I can be in return. (On this, I completely agree!)



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scared in
and being

I wish you a very Happy New Year, my dear humans! May you be blessed by all of God's loving actions created for you, and share love generously in return!

Your Church Dog, **TOBY**

**The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies
are over all His works. Psalm 145:9**

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, January 7th at 9 am.

Deacons-Tuesday, January 7th at 5:30 pm in the church library.

Sessions- Tuesday, January 14th at 5 pm, in the church library.

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

Sunrise Side Drive up Pantry- Saturday, January 18th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

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

Pasties for sale-\$7 each. They are going quickly.

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.

Creative Connections will meet the first and third Thursdays of the month. Come enjoy crafts, games and conversations.

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.

2025 Per Capita
Presbytery of Mackinac Portion \$27.16
General Assembly Portion \$10.84
Synod of the Covenant Portion \$3.40

Total 2025 Per Capita \$41.40

Those Serving

January 5, 2025

Greeters:
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger
Coffee Hour: Cliff & Judy Fisher
Liturgist: Beach Hall
Counters: Dusty & Ed Knaebe

January 19, 2025

Greeters: Beach Hall
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger
Coffee Hour:
Liturgist: Cliff Fisher
Counters: Cliff & Judy Fisher, Lois Allum

January 12, 2025

Greeters: Beach Hall
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger
Coffee Hour: Veronica Frost
Liturgist: Judy Fisher
Counters: Jeanette & Richard Long, Sadie Lucas

January 26, 2025

Greeters:
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger
Coffee Hour:
Liturgist: Beach Hall
Counters: Joan & George Smart, Beach Hall

January Birthdays

Rebecca Peacock 1/02
Peg Redes 1/18
Donald Dehring 1/22
Karen Wagner 1/27

Jenny Peacock 1/03
Alan Pines 1/22
Jacob Gapczynski 1/22
Thomas Peacock 1/29



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're going to take a look at our order of worship, in particular why we have a confession of sin each week. 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 is the order of worship, and what are the primary actions?

The Presbyterian Book of Common Worship describes a four-fold shape of worship, consisting of:

1. Gathering
2. The Word
3. The Eucharist
4. Sending

Within these four primary movements are secondary parts of worship, such as:

1. Gathering: Call to Worship, Hymns of Praise, Confession and Pardon, and the Peace.
2. The Word: Prayer for Illumination, Scripture Readings, the Sermon, an Invitation to Discipleship, the Affirmation of Faith, Baptism, and Prayers of the People.
3. The Eucharist: Offering, Invitation to the Table, Great Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer, Communion of the People.
4. Sending: Songs or Acts of Commitment, the Charge, and Blessing. There is broad historical ecumenical consensus on this liturgical pattern.

The PC(USA)'s Directory for Worship offers a slight variation on this structure, describing five actions centered on the Word of God:

1. Gathering Around the Word
2. Proclaiming the Word
3. Responding to the Word
4. The Sealing of the Word in the Sacraments
5. Bearing or Following the Word into the World.

This characteristically Reformed view of worship emphasizes the centrality of the Word. It frames human actions in worship as a response to God's initiative. Although the framework is somewhat different, this order of worship is essentially consistent with the ecumenical pattern described above.

Why do we have a confession of sin in worship?

In the Service for the Lord's Day, the confession and pardon follow an initial expression of praise in the worship service — usually a hymn and/or prayer of adoration. This adoration of God makes us aware of our sinfulness. As Calvin notes at the beginning of the Institutes, knowledge of God and knowledge of ourselves are inextricably linked so that "our ills prompt us to contemplate the good things of God" (I.1.i), and conversely, contemplation of God's goodness leads us to recognize our sinful nature. In worship, an encounter with God's holy presence comes first, prompting an awareness of human sinfulness. Therefore, we repent of our sins and ask God's forgiveness in the prayer of confession.

Theologian and former professor at Princeton Theological Seminary Hughes Oliphant Old demonstrates that the pattern of praise and confession at the beginning of worship has its roots in Temple worship in the time of David and Solomon. According to this pattern, the pilgrims of the Temple would process to the gates with a hymn of praise and then would hear a penitential sermon, which led them to reexamine their lives and confess their sins. Following this confession, the gates would open, and they would proceed to the Temple. Old says, "It should be noticed that praise and the confession of our sin go hand in hand. Just as Isaiah, when he was confronted by the presence of God in the Temple, was first caught up by the seraphic song, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts!' and then prostrated himself on the ground with this humble confession, 'Woe is me! ... for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell among a people of unclean lips' (Isaiah 6:5), so we approach God in both praise and confession."

But we can never be worthy of God's mercy. Therefore, the invitation to confession assures God's mercy so we can come to humble confession before God. We do not earn God's forgiveness through our expressions of remorse; we have already been forgiven, and therefore, we freely confess our unworthiness and receive forgiveness anew.

The actions of confession and pardon are deeply connected to baptism. "In the waters of baptism, washed in the name of the triune God, we receive God's assurance of forgiveness and cleansing. Claiming the promises of God sealed in our baptism, we boldly confess our sins and accept forgiveness. We are confident that in our dying to sin and old destructive ways, the God of boundless grace raises us to new life." It is, therefore, appropriate to lead this part of the service from the baptismal font or at least to refer to baptism since it is at baptism that we first receive the promises of forgiveness and rebirth.

Some argue that confession does not need to be a part of worship every week. Since Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, one might say that it is an inappropriate time to have prayers of confession. Historically, Reformed churches have included confession on Sundays because they did away with private confession at other times during the week. Thus, confessing sin remains a normative part of Sunday worship for most Presbyterian churches.



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. 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....

Gene Hartwig has joined the Church Triumphant.

Marion Lamb, for healing and freedom from pain.

Gail Stoutenburg, for peace and comfort following the loss of her son Mike.

Dave Miller for healing from successful spinal surgery.

Maggie Morley who is healing from surgery.

June LaBar who will soon be receiving a new valve for her heart.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY – We pray for...

Maci Mae Stowe a 2-year-old diagnosed with a rare cancer, pleuropulmonary blastoma.

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

Aneta Knaebe Pryor, Ed Knaebe's 99-year-old sister, who has been hospitalized for sepsis and kidney infection.

Gene, a friend of Myriam Goodwin's, needs healing prayers after falling from a ladder and breaking his leg in four places.

Joan Chappa, Annette Maynard's sister who has Parkinson's

Lorraine Chappa, sister-in-law of Annetta Maynard, who is hospitalized for a heart concern.

Bergen, grandson of Marian and Owen Lamb, who will be having surgery to improve his hearing.

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

Marcia Schleben, a friend of Ann Clapp's, for freedom from pain.

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

Carol, Judy Fisher's sister, for healing following a knee replacement surgery.

Stan, brother-in-law of Priscilla Jaeger, for healing.

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

Melba Clapp sister-in-law of Ann, who is healing from a break to her femur.

Corey Hentkowski, who has brain cancer.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Nicolas Wilson

And all those serving.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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[Like us on Facebook; Westminster Presbyterian Church of Rogers City](#)

Ministers: **The Members of Westminster Presbyterian Church**

Pastors: Rev. Greg Zurakowski (cell: 734-502-5969)
Email: revgregrc@yahoo.com
Rev. Karen Zurakowski (cell: 734-250-0761)
Email: revkarenrc@yahoo.com

The Pastors' Office Hours are Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Treasurer	George Smart	email: smart6348@gmail.com
Secretary	Michelle Kamyszek	email rcwestminster@gmail.com
Music Leaders	Ann Clapp - Organist	email annb1946@gmail.com
	Myriam Goodwin – Choir Director	email dulaquais65@gmail.com
Church Historian	Kay Morrill	
Pastor Emeritus	The Reverend William C. Koch	Honorably Retired

ELDERS

Judy Fisher	Clerk
Myriam Goodwin	Music & Worship
Erik Stone	Personnel & Nominating
	Christian Education
Mary Ann Heidemann	Building & Grounds
Judy Fisher	Membership/Fellowship/Outreach
Beach Hall	Missions
Beach Hall	Stewardship

DEACONS

Deacon Class of 2024	Deacon Class of 2025	Deacons Class of 2026
Lois Allum	George Smart	Gail Stoutenburg
Cliff Fisher	Joan Smart	
Molly Zielaskowski	Kerry Viegelahn	
Priscilla Jaeger		