



**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

## **On Course Newsletter**

### **Christmas Blessings**

As the festive season approaches, it's a time to reflect on the joy and warmth that Christmas brings into our lives. This holiday is a wonderful opportunity to spread love, kindness, and cheer to everyone around us.

Christmas is a season of joy, love, and reflection. It is a time to cherish the simple pleasures of life and to be grateful for the blessings we have received. As you celebrate this joyous occasion, may your heart be filled with contentment and your days be bright with the promise of new beginnings.

Wishing Christmas blessings to all, may your holiday be as wonderful as you are!



## Pastor's Message

Greetings in Christ!

Welcome to Advent! A new season of the church year has begun, far sooner than many of us were ready for, but here we are. The muffled hum of leaf blowers will soon be replaced with the roar of snowblowers and snowplows, and our porches will be loaded with packages from on-line retailers as we get ready for the joys of Christmas Day!

Pantries are being re-stocked with holiday favorites; travel plans are being made (or plans to greet family and friends to our homes), and the airwaves are filled with much-loved Christmas songs. What a great time of the year we're in! But, as we've pointed out for many years now, Advent comes before Christmas, and the two seasons are not interchangeable!!

Advent is all about preparations. Preparing our hearts and minds and spirits for the birth of the Christ Child. Have you given as much thought to those preparations as you have your holiday shopping and decorating plans? Have you let the reminder of the sacrifice Jesus the Christ made on our behalf, that we received on Christ the King Sunday, shift the focus of the holiday just a little bit? We hope so, because without the Passion of the Christ providing context, Christmas Day is just another birthday party. This isn't meant to dampen the fun of the holiday season, only to nudge you to keep your "eyes on the prize" of Christ's birth.

We were delighted to participate in the annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service, this year held at St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church. It is good to gather as friends and neighbors to celebrate the great blessings we all enjoy as citizens of a free nation.

The Advent Bible study, Our Dear Christ Enters In, starts on December 1<sup>st</sup> to help with your spiritual readiness; all are welcome! We share a meal following class, so this is great opportunity to learn, and to avoid doing the dishes on Monday evening! Looking at the calendar for the month of December, we'll be enjoying a time of post-worship fellowship on December 7<sup>th</sup>, with a soup luncheon, and of course our traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm. We hope to see you at these joyous events!

We still have some wearable items commemorating our 100th Anniversary available for purchase, as are copies of MarkThompson's book.

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 Midweek 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 online!

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, Toby, and Dr. Greg



# What's happening in December??

## Let's take a look!

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

**Deacon's-** Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the library.

**Choir Practice-** Tuesday's at 11 a.m.

**Worship & Music Committee-** Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. in the library.

**Sessions-** Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. in the library.

**Sunrise Side Drive Up Pantry-** Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**AA meetings-** Mondays and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

**Westminster Sings!!-** Tuesdays at 2 p.m. at The Brook.

**Seeking Liturgists**, greeters, and coffee hour hosts. Also looking for people to lead the children's moment. Sign-up sheets on the bulletin board. Training provided.

**Carl D. Bradley, His Stone Church, and the Golden Days of Rogers City Books** for sale for \$20. (Profits are being donated to the church.) **Church wearables** are also available for sale.

**The Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan** will be having the annual Giving Tuesday Open on their website, cfnem.org, November 25<sup>th</sup> thru December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**The Membership and Outreach Committee** is hosting a Holiday Potluck on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> following worship. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

**"Our Dear Christ Enters In"**, Advent bible study starts Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 3 pm in the library. Cost of books is \$8.

**Christmas Outreach** tree in the Narthex. If able, pick a tag or 2. Please return wrapped gifts by Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Poinsettia order forms** are in the Narthex, please return to Beth Getzinger by December 7<sup>th</sup>.

[\*Presbytery Monthly Newsletter Link\*](#)



From the Desk of

**TOBY THE CHURCH DOG**  
**December 2025**

Hello dear friends!

I LOVE this time of year! Now we are in the Advent season when we prepare our hearts to receive the birth of our Savior and all of the wonderful gifts from God that come along with this. Specifically, we recognize the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love; gifts that I endeavor to share with my loved ones year round. People around me hope that I will give them a kiss on the nose; and golly, how I can deliver that gift with speed and accuracy! Some folks don't even know that they need peace in their lives until they hear the beauty of my verbal stylings and marvel at my vocal chops! Joy; why I bring joy to others wherever I go! And, I am an excellent cuddler and have a keen understanding of people's needs for empathy and comfort. This is how I best share my love with others. I think I am all set for the Advent season!

But I have a bone to pick with those who share with us the story of Jesus' birth. I expect you are familiar with it. "Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

The baby Jesus was placed in a manger! This is where animals go to eat! Our Lord and Savior was born in a place where animals lived! We commonly hear of oxen, donkeys, and sheep gathered around the babe, and sometimes tradition suggests the presence of camels, horses, and other livestock. But here is my question; WHERE ARE THE COCKER SPANIELS in this narrative??? If Jesus were being born anywhere near me, I would want to be there! Certainly, some of my ancestors must have been present! And so, I would suggest that when you are readying your homes for Christmas, you place a cocker spaniel in the manger scene too.

My dear loved ones, let us all seek Christ's presence in our lives as we enter into these holy seasons of the year; and let us strive to share hope, peace, joy, and love with others.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas from your church dog,

**TobY**

***"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:12***



## *Those Serving*

### *December 7<sup>th</sup>*

Greeters:

Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger

Liturgist: Beth Getzinger

Coffee Hour:

Flowers: Myriam Goodwin

### *December 14<sup>th</sup>*

Greeters:

Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger

Liturgist: Veronica Frost

Coffee Hour:

Flowers:

### *December 21<sup>st</sup>*

Greeters:

Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger

Liturgist: Beach Hall

Coffee Hour:

Flowers: Poinsettias

### *December 28<sup>th</sup>*

Greeters:

Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger

Liturgist: Mary Ann Heidemann

Coffee Hour:

Flowers: Poinsettias



12/2 Michelle LaBar

12/5 Lexi Jo Hincka

12/9 Joyce Florip

12/10 Hilary McLennan

12/10 Wendy Persinger

12/15 Lilla Sneen

12/20 Cameron Streich

12/22 Marion Lamb

12/27 Case Nash

12/28 Pat Beebe

12/28 Richard Long

12/31 Sara Lamb-Sneen





This poem is recommended to all who have recently lost a loved one.  
Submitted by Mary Ann Heidemann

#### THE LOVED ONES

The loved ones we call the dead  
depart from us for a while  
and are absent. And then as if  
called back by our love, they come  
near us again. They enter our dreams.  
We feel they have been near us  
when we have not thought of them.  
They are simply here, simply waiting  
while we are distracted among  
our obligations. At last it comes to us:  
They live now in the permanent world.  
We are the absent ones.

-Wendell Berry

*Use this in your prayer time for our Westminster family and loved ones.*

*If you want the prayer changed, added or removed, please let the church office know at 989-734-3929 or email us at [rcwestminster@gmail.com](mailto:rcwestminster@gmail.com)*

### **Westminster prays for:**

**Taylor Hefe**le, for God's perfect care and healing.

**Melissa, a friend of Judy Fisher's**, who is awaiting the results of a bone biopsy.

**Sadie Lucas**, for healing following a medical event

**Matthew**, Gail Stoutenburg's nephew who suffered a heart attack this week.

**Cliff Fisher**, for healing following eye surgery.

**Michael, nephew of Jeanette Long**, for God's care and healing following abdominal surgery.

**Skeeter Heath, a friend of Veronica Frost's**, who was in a very serious car accident and will have a lengthy recuperation.

**Mike, Karen Maher's son**, who has had extensive back surgery.

**Jeanette Long**, pray for God's perfect healing.

**Geri Andrzejewski**, for healing.

**Barb Harris**, for continued healing during her rehab following a broken leg.

**Roger and Renee Faust (caregiver)**; it is difficult for him to be without Renee's care.

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

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

**Etta Meinecke**, Ann Clapp's friend for healing.

**Kyle Andrzejewski** (son of Shannon & the late Bernie Andrzejewski) for healing following major brain surgery.

**Tammy Risner**, a friend of Ann Clapp, who is having a very delicate surgery on her adrenal glands Monday.

**Brian Brooks**, for proper answers and treatment for concerns with his lungs.

**We pray for those in the Military**

**We pray for those mourning.**





**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](mailto:revgregrc@yahoo.com)  
Rev. Karen Zurakowski (cell: 734-250-0761)  
Email: [revkarenrc@yahoo.com](mailto:revkarenrc@yahoo.com)

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

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

### ELDERS

Judy Fisher	Clerk
Myriam Goodwin	Music & Worship
Don McLennan	Personnel & Nominating
	Christian Education
Mary Ann Heidemann	Building & Grounds
Molly Zielaskowski	Membership/Fellowship/Outreach
Beach Hall	Missions
Priscilla Jaeger	Stewardship/Finance

### DEACONS

Deacon Class of 2025	Deacon Class of 2026	Deacons Class of 2027
George Smart	Gail Stoutenburg	Shelby Carrier
Joan Smart	Lois Allum	Cliff Fisher
	Kerry Viegelahn	