



## **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

### **On Course Newsletter**

#### **New beginnings: Embracing January's fresh start.**

January, the first month of the year, offers a unique opportunity to wipe the slate clean and embrace new beginnings. It's a time filled with hope, potential, and the excitement of unexplored possibilities. Whether it's setting new goals, adopting healthier habits, or simply welcoming change, January invites us all to start anew.

One of the most popular ways to embrace a fresh start in January is by setting goals. Whether personal, professional, or a mix of both, goals provide direction and motivation.

January is also an ideal time to focus on personal growth. This could involve attending church, learning a new skill, picking up a hobby or even reading more books.

Starting new, healthier habits can significantly enhance your quality of life. Consider focusing on nutrition, exercise or mental health.

Change can be daunting, but it's also an essential part of growth. January is the perfect time to step out of your comfort zone and embrace new experiences, meet new people, travel.

January is a month brimming with potential. As you embark on this journey of new beginnings, remember to be patient with yourself, celebrate small victories, and remain open to the endless possibilities that lie ahead.

## Pastor's Message

Greetings in Christ!

Happy New Year! And Merry Christmas (until the Epiphany of the Lord on January 6<sup>th</sup>)! As we write this article, the weather outside is truly frightful, with gale force winds and lots of snow that is paralyzing Rogers City and most of Northern Michigan. Hopefully, the storm will settle down a bit, and we can clear the driveway and sidewalks; the drift between the manse and the church is monumental! Regardless, it's a great time to snuggle in and reflect on the year that was (2025) and look forward to the year that is to be (2026). We're not big on New Year's resolutions, but we're very big on the possibilities the new year will bring!

Advent and Christmas were, as they always are, wonderful celebrations; as we worked our way around the candles on the Advent wreath, we learned about the meaning of each candle, and how the hope, peace, joy, and love they represent can guide us through our lives. Of course, on Christmas Eve, we lit the Christ Candle at the center of the wreath in joyous celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. The warm glow of the candles on the wreath, and in the hands of each worshipper at the Christmas Eve candlelight service, was beautiful to see. We have to make note of the great soup luncheon following worship on December 7<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Outreach and Membership Committee of the session; great food and better fellowship was enjoyed by all!

The month of January only has one "special" day in the life of the church; Epiphany. In the Western church, Epiphany is the day that the Magi, or Wise Men, arrived in Bethlehem to pay homage to the Christ Child. In the Eastern church, Epiphany also commemorates the baptism of Jesus and the wedding in Cana, where Jesus performed the first of his public miracles. As a practical matter, Epiphany marks the end of the Season of Christmas, but it doesn't mark the end of the hope, peace, joy, and love that filled our hearts and souls. At least it shouldn't; the time following Epiphany is the time to incorporate those things into every aspect of life, so that our celebration of Emmanuel, God with us, never ends.

We still have some wearable items commemorating our 100th Anniversary available for purchase, as are copies of Mark Thompson'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

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 January??

## Let's take a look!

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

**Deacon's-** Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the library.

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

**Worship & Music Committee-** Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the library.

**Sessions-** Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. in the library.

**Sunrise Side Drive Up Pantry-** Saturday, January 17<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.

**Annual Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> following worship.

### *Presbytery Monthly Newsletter Link*

#### **2026 Per Capita**

Presbytery of Mackinac portion \$27.34

General Assembly portion \$11.26

Synod of the Covenant portion \$3.40

**Total 2026 Per Capita \$42.00**



## ***From the desk of Toby the Church Dog***

***January 2026***

Happy New Year, dear friends!

It's 2026; can you believe it??? I just know it's going to be a great year, because I'm going to concentrate on making a few improvements in my life. They call these New Year's resolutions, don't they? Here we go...

1. I will perfect on my "pleading stare," which is closely related to my "I love you" pout. The "pleading stare" requiring direct eye contact, so I must be ready to shift positions immediately if one's victim; er, I mean, object of focus, is not willing to look at my face. My eyes must be wide open with a soul-wounded expression. A tear in the corner of each eye; pooling but not dripping over the edge, truly sells this look. I find that it is the combination of sad and hopeful that really gets the point across, which means I need to remember to have my eyebrows down and my ears up. I plan this to be my "money" pose of 2026—I'll let you know how it works out for me.
2. While I have worked at this next resolution for nine years, I plan this to be my year of success. I must get my parents to understand once and for all that they are sleeping in MY bed, and MY bed would be so much more comfortable for ME if they would each move to their edge of the bed. Some of my friends have suggested that I could just cause them to move completely from the bed by eating very ripe fruit and an interesting combination of food right before bed time, if you get my drift. Unfortunately, this is not at all pleasing to me either. Besides, I love them and sleep better when I can smell them nearby. So, this year I plan to perfect my lateral stretch and my close-up sleeping posture. (This is a push and roll move) Wish me luck!
3. This is a resolution I try to keep every year; to love all of God's children in a meaningful way. I suppose this means not shouting at our postal carrier or the delivery people; that is SO much fun though... I plan to help all people understand that they are important to me by jumping up on them when they arrive, planting kisses on their noses; allowing them to pet me; and sitting close by their sides when they need my support. I will entertain them by sharing my toys for games of toss; and make sure a bit of my fur clings to their clothing, so that they easily remember our time together.



I wish you every joy and blessing in your new year, my dear ones. Know that the love of Christ surrounds you at all times; and that I love you too.

Your Church Dog,

***TobY***

***"And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:24***

## *Those Serving*

### *January 4<sup>th</sup>*

*Greeters:*

*Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger*

*Liturgist: Beth Getzinger*

*Coffee Hour:*

*Flowers:*

### *January 11<sup>th</sup>*

*Greeters:*

*Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger*

*Liturgist:*

*Coffee Hour:*

*Flowers:*

### *January 18<sup>th</sup>*

*Greeters:*

*Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger*

*Liturgist:*

*Coffee Hour:*

*Flowers:*

### *January 25<sup>th</sup>*

*Greeters:*

*Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger*

*Liturgist:*

*Coffee Hour:*

*Flowers:*

## January Birthdays

January 2<sup>nd</sup> Rebecca Peacock

January 5<sup>th</sup> Jenny Peacock

January 18<sup>th</sup> Margaret Redes

January 22<sup>nd</sup> Donald Dehring

January 22<sup>nd</sup> Jacob Gapczynski

January 22<sup>nd</sup> Alan Pines

January 27<sup>th</sup> Karen Wagner

January 29<sup>th</sup> Thomas Peacock



**“January is a time for renewal,  
a chance to embrace the new”**

*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 Hefele**, for God's perfect care and healing.

**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.

**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.

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

**Sue Brown**, for healing.

**Myriam Goodwin**, for healing following pacemaker surgery

**Marion Lamb**, for healing of a respiratory infection.

**Dylan**, daughter of the Brooks', who sustained a serious leg injury in a fall and we pray for God's guidance of her medical team and for perfect healing.

**Diane**, daughter-in-law of Ann Clapp, for relief from back and foot pain.

**Kevin Cross**, a relative of Ann Clapp, who had emergency gall bladder surgery.

**Judy Fisher**, for correct diagnosis and treatment.

**Lori Storms Hilla**, David Storms' daughter, who has had a recurrence of cancer.

**Marcia Schleben**, for freedom from pain.

**Geri Andrzejewski**, for healing.

**Knox**, great grandson of Veronica Frost, for healing following surgery.

**Maggie Morley** for continued healing.

**Roger Faust and his caregiver, wife.**

**Marci Schefke**, who seems to be struggling of medical issues, for God's perfect care

**Tim**, Gail Stoutenburg's son, for healing following shoulder replacement surgery.

### **We pray for those in the Military**

### **We pray for those mourning.**

**We hold in prayer the family of Vonnie Gleason**, who joined the Church Triumphant on December 26<sup>th</sup>. A Celebration of Life will take place in the spring or summer.

**We hold in prayer David Storms** who is experiencing the sting of loss in the death of his beloved cat.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

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email [rcwestminster@gmail.com](mailto:rcwestminster@gmail.com)

[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-Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Treasurer Beach Hall email: [bbh827@charter.net](mailto:bbh827@charter.net)

Secretary Michelle Kamyszek email [rcwestminster@gmail.com](mailto:rcwestminster@gmail.com)

Music Leaders Ann Clapp - Organist email [annb1946@gmail.com](mailto:annb1946@gmail.com)

Myriam Goodwin – Choir Director email [dulaquais65@gmail.com](mailto:dulaquais65@gmail.com)

Church Historian Kay Morrill

Pastor Emeritus Reverend William C. Koch Honorably Retired

**ELDERS**

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

**DEACONS**

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|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 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      |                      |                       |