



## Westminster Presbyterian Church On Course Newsletter

### Celebrating March: Traditions and Transitions

March is a month marked by a blend of cultural celebrations, religious observances, and the welcome arrival of spring. It offers a vibrant tapestry of traditions and transitions, inviting us to celebrate heritage, embrace renewal, and reflect on the deeper meanings of the season.

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17th, is a cultural and religious holiday observed around the world. Rooted in Irish tradition, this day commemorates St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, who is credited with bringing Christianity to the Irish people.

The spring equinox, typically occurring around March 20th or 21st, marks the official beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This day is characterized by nearly equal daylight and nighttime hours, symbolizing balance and renewal.

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter and marks the beginning of Holy Week in the Christian liturgical calendar. It commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where followers greeted him with palm branches.

Holy Week is a sacred time for Christians, encompassing the events leading up to Easter Sunday. It begins with Palm Sunday and includes significant days like Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

March is a month rich in tradition and renewal. Whether you're celebrating cultural heritage with St. Patrick's Day, welcoming the growth and balance of spring, or reflecting on the solemn and sacred moments of Holy Week, there are countless ways to engage with this dynamic time of year. Embrace the opportunities March brings to connect with others, nature, and your own personal growth journey.

--MK

# Pastor's Message

Greetings in Christ!

During February, winter seems to have tightened its grip on Northern Michigan, and much of the rest of the country, with none of the anticipated (hoped for?) hints that the season might be beginning to wind down, at least a little bit. The snow continued to pile up, and we had to cancel the Ash Wednesday worship service so that everybody would be safe. As we write this message, the wind chill is  $-8^{\circ}$  and there's a whole lot of fresh snow on the ground; the weather forecast is calling for a bit of relief at the end of the week, but it does appear that March is going to come in like a lion. Oh well, it's still beautiful to look out on the pristine vistas!

It's very unfortunate that we were unable to gather on Ash Wednesday, one of the most moving worship services of the year, but the fact remains that we are now fully into the holy season of Lent. A time of penitence and growth, the forty days of Lent (not counting Sundays) are an incredible gift, beckoning us to reflect on our past and prepare for our future; acknowledging our sins, and seeking God's guidance and Christ's companionship. We urge you to take full advantage of this season to strengthen your faith.

The month of March, in addition to containing the bulk of the Lenten season, also brings us the World Day of Prayer on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Rogers Day and the vernal equinox (first day of spring) on the 20<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and of course the beginning of Holy Week. That's a lot, but it's all important and special in the lives of the faithful. This is such a powerful time in the life of the church, a transformative time that leads us to the cross and beyond, beyond to the hope and promise of the Resurrection that is the touchstone for all Christians. Please join us in the journey!

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 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

## March Happenings

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

**Deacon's-** Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 pm in the library.

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

**Worship & Music Committee-** Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10 a.m. in the library.

**Session-** Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:15 pm in the library.

**Sunrise Side Drive Up Pantry-** Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. **We are in need of volunteers. If interested, please let the church office know.**

**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.

**Sermon on the Mount** a six-week bible study Mondays from February 23<sup>rd</sup> thru March 30<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm in the library.

**One Great Hour of Sharing Special offering** February 18<sup>th</sup> thru April 5<sup>th</sup>.



SPRING FORWARD

**Daylight Savings time begins Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Set your clocks ahead one hour at bedtime on**

**Saturday night.**

### Birthdays

Debra Gapczynski	3/3
Joe Signorelli	3/6
Laurie Hopp	3/8
Jeanette Long	3/12
Ken Rasche	3/25
Irene Faust	3/26
Roger Faust	3/28



From the desk of:

**TOBY THE CHURCH DOG**  
**March 2026**

Hello dear friends!

I hope your ears are perky and your tails are wagging! How are you making out with all of the ice? There are times that it is helpful having four paws instead of the two that you have; I can balance pretty well. However, I am probably more prone to tripping than you are!

I don't like to admit to having many limitations because I do have a reputation to maintain, but I guess with my dearest humans I'm safe in confessing some things about myself that may shock you. I know, I know; you see me as pretty poised and confident and suave with all my cocker spaniel swagger, but I do face some challenges. My height, for instance-- I fit in with my breed standard, but out in the world my face doesn't live at a very comfortable level (in many ways that I'm sure you understand). When I rise up on my hind legs to get nose-to-nose with the world, I'm often scolded. (I do not like to be scolded!) I've been taught that it is respectful to look a person in the eye when speaking with them, but gosh does my neck ever get stiff! My days are filled with people looking down at me, and I've learned that in the human world this sometimes means that I'm seen as "less-than" or diminished in some way. I want to shout out that my size doesn't define me, but instead I try to win folks over by being loving and helpful. As I continue my lists of attributes that are perhaps unflattering, I'll admit to being a bit obstinate, to having a strong voice and boisterous nature, and a deep understanding of how the world could behave if they were to do things correctly. Yes, I have some faults.

During Lent we are reminded that the only perfection we can have is being made clean and new through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our Savior offers us this wholeness throughout an eternity together with him; a gift that was given at the extreme cost of Jesus' sinless death on a cross. I don't know about you, but I'm accepting this gift! And, because of the gratitude I feel in receiving it, I want to be my best self for God and God's creation. Dear friends, I hope you will accept this gift too and live out the Lenten season stepping into an even deeper relationship with this One who loves us best. And remember, I love you too!

Your Church Dog,

***TobY***

***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17***

## Elevator Update:

To date, \$8,272.50 has been raised to help bring our elevator into compliance with new building code requirements. Special thanks go to our Food Pantry for providing a \$5,000 donation, because they consider the elevator essential to their work. Furthermore, six individual donors have stepped forward to make contributions large and small. We need and appreciate every addition to the elevator update fund. Our goal is to cover half the \$27,500 project cost with new contributions and supply the balance with savings from our church special project fund. Due to the generosity of our congregation, we are already more than half-way to our goal!

It is not too late to make your own contribution. Cash or checks can be dropped off in the church office or simply placed in the collection plate on Sunday. Please label your contribution "Elevator Update" to make sure it gets to the right place.

Otis Elevators has been selected to complete the compliance work. The work itself is expected to take just three or four days. However, due to the large number of elevators needing attention before the regulatory deadline, work contracted today is scheduled for three or four months into the future. Parts are ordered and the project is put in line once payment is received... in advance. Otis will work with church staff to arrange construction times that minimize disruption to church services and events.

Thank you, Congregation, for adding our elevator to your prayer list.

--Mary Ann Heidemann, Chair, Building and Grounds Committee

## Those Serving

### March 1<sup>st</sup>

Greeter:  
Coffee Hour:  
Flowers:  
Liturgist: Beth Getzinger  
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger

### March 8<sup>th</sup>

Greeter:  
Coffee Hour:  
Flowers: Mary Ann Heidemann  
Liturgist: Mary Ann Heidemann  
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger

### March 15<sup>th</sup>

Greeter:  
Coffee Hour:  
Flowers: Jeanette & Richard Long  
Liturgist: Beach Hall  
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger

### March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Greeter:  
Coffee Hour:  
Flowers:  
Liturgist: Gene LaPointe  
Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger

### March 29<sup>th</sup>

Greeter: Flowers: Easter Flowers  
Coffee Hour: Liturgist: Preservice Music: Beth Getzinger

**Westminster prays for:**

**Lucy Luetzen** of Germany, granddaughter of Richard & Jeanette Long, for healing following ankle surgery.

**Joan Downs, sister of Jeanette & Richard Long**, who is in Hospice care.

**Tim, Gail Stoutenburg's son**, for healing following a second knee replacement.

**Anita, Ed Knaebe's sister**, who is in Hospice care.

**Beth Getzinger**, for healing following eye surgery.

**Russ Brege**, for healing and guidance of his medical team as he seeks answers for the healing of his heart.

**Moya Newman**, granddaughter of Myriam Goodwin, for healing.

**Jackie Polk**, for healing after a fall.

**Dr. Bob Case**, for healing.

**Sue Brown**, for healing.

**Lori Storms Hilla**, David Storms' daughter, for healing.

**Geri Andrzejewski**, for healing.

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

**Marci Schefke**, who is now receiving Hospice care.

**Amy Calhoun**, niece of Priscilla Jaeger and cousin of Michelle Kamyszek, as she waits to have part of her pancreas removed in April, due to a large cyst.

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

**We pray for those mourning.**

The family and friends of **Dr. Robert Taylor**, as they Mourn his passing.

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

## 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 of Session

Beach Hall

Treasurer

Myriam Goodwin

Music & Worship

Don McLennan

Personnel

Christian Education

Mary Ann Heidemann

Building & Grounds/Nominations

Judy Fisher

Membership/Fellowship/Outreach

Beach Hall

Missions/ Stewardship/Finance

### DEACONS

Deacon Class of 2026

Deacon Class of 2027

Deacons Class of 2028

Gail Stoutenburg

Shelby Carrier

Maggie Morley

Lois Allum

Cliff Fisher

Gene LaPointe



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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