

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church

The Messenger—April 2026

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Dear church family,

April is a full and meaningful month for our congregation, and I want to make sure you're well-informed about everything ahead.

We begin with Holy Week. On **Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7pm**, we will gather to share in communion, remembering the Upper Room and the weight of what our Lord Jesus was about to bear. Then, just three days later, we celebrate the glory of **Easter Sunday**—beginning with an early service at **8am**, followed by a breakfast together in Fellowship Hall, in addition to normal Sunday morning events. Just as the seasons are turning from gray to bright, so the resurrection turns us from grief to joy. He is risen indeed.

The following **Sunday, April 12**, I want to invite you to something special: our seminary intern, **Gabe Danko**, will be preaching his very first sermon. I hope you'll join me in surrounding Gabe with encouragement. Watching someone grow into the calling of pastoral ministry is one of the great joys of church life, and your presence and support will mean the world to him.

The **remaining Sundays in April—the 19th and 26th**—I will use my sermon time to share more personally about my sabbatical: what it is, why it matters, and how this season can be a gift not just for me, but for all of us together. I hope you'll lean in with an open heart.

Which brings me to the sabbatical itself, and I want to speak to this directly, because I know it has raised some questions and understandable concern.

First, please know that our session and staff have been working carefully and prayerfully to make sure this transition goes smoothly. You'll be hearing more about those plans throughout April, well before the sabbatical begins.

During the sabbatical, our friend **the Rev. Rick Vogeley** will be with us on a part-time basis, covering essential pastoral needs. We are grateful for his willingness to serve, and I have full confidence in him.

But this is what I really want you to hear: **this church does not rest on my shoulders alone—and it never should**. You have trusted and elected **thirteen elders** to lead alongside your pastor, and they are gifted, faithful people. In fact, the very word *Presbyterian* comes from the Greek New Testament word *presbuteros*, meaning "elder." We are, at our core, an **elder-led church**. Your pastor is one elder among many, with a particular role—but the design was always shared leadership.

What you will begin to see during my absence is something I'm genuinely excited about: your elders stepping more visibly to the forefront. They will be participating in worship leadership April through June, contributing in place of my newsletter articles, and much more. My hope is that what emerges is a growing sense of **confidence and mutual ministry**—the kind that can worship, serve, and thrive in all circumstances.

We do not have a one-person church. We have one Good Shepherd—the One who walked out of the tomb, who freed us from the chains of fear so that we might serve God from a place of joy. He provides under-shepherds and fellow laborers to tend His flock, and I have seen that provision clearly in the people He has placed among us here.

Bless and be blessed as we encounter the upcoming Easter season and beyond!

Michael

UPCOMING Events

Thursday, April 2nd	Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm	Tuesday, April 21st	Bible Study 9:30am Promise of Life Mother's Group 10:00am
Sunday, 5th	Early Easter Service 8:00am Breakfast 8:30-9:30am Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Easter Worship 10:30am No Children's Church	Sunday, April 26th	Pray Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Children's Church with Amy Plyler
Tuesday April 7th	Bible Study 9:30am M&M Meeting 6:00pm Admin. Meeting 7:00pm	Michael's Sabbatical begins on Monday, April 27th through Monday, June 14th	
Thursday, April 9th	Life Line Screening in the Fellowship Hall 9:00am-5:30pm	LOOKING AHEAD:	
Sunday, April 12th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship with Communion 10:30am Children's Church with Christine Spicuzza	Sunday, May 3rd: Pine Valley-Minute for Mission Sunday, May 10th: Communion Graduation Sunday: TBD	
Tuesday, April 14th	Bible Study 9:30am Session Meeting 7:00pm	Office Hours the week of May 4th will be: Monday, May 4th & Tuesday, May 5th 9:00am-4:pm Wednesday, May 6th 9:00am-12:00 noon Closed Thursday, May 7th & Friday, May 8th	
Thursday, April 16th	Staff Meeting 10:00am		
Sunday April 19th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Children's Church with Christina Plyler		



Deadline for May is April 24th

