

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church

The Messenger—January 2026

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Dear Church Family,

This is the time of year when many people make resolutions—plans to make life different and better than before. From a practical standpoint, New Year's resolutions rarely work. What I do believe in, however, is the power of a clean slate. Even when nothing has technically changed, the mindset of a fresh start can do wonders for the body, mind, and soul.

This is something I am committing myself to in 2026. Each year—each day, if I'm honest—I can see ways I fall short of who I want to be as a husband, father, friend, and pastor. I know I am not alone in this. Scripture reminds us in **1 John 1:8**, “*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*” The good news is that in Jesus, no sin or stain can ultimately hold us back because of the grace He offers. The key word is *can*.

That word brings to mind a quote from Dallas Willard you've heard me share before: “*Grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action.*” While we are powerless on our own, God rarely changes our lives for the better without some willingness and engagement on our part.

As we step into 2026—both individually and as the faith community of Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church—my hope and challenge is that we learn new ways to put our faith into action. This does not mean abandoning worship, Bible study, or the other essential ways we gather. After spending more than half a year in the *Sermon on the Mount*, we have no shortage of knowledge. The time has come to live it.

A word of caution: it is easy to get stuck between knowing we are saved by grace through faith and showing that faith through action. This is not about working harder. Moving faster in the wrong direction only takes us further from where we are meant to go. My personal goal for 2026 is that we keep the name of Jesus Christ at the front of our minds and on the tips of our tongues—not in a mindless way, but intentionally. If we are the body of Christ, He should naturally be at the center of more of our conversations and actions.

Putting faith into action is a long-term journey, one the elders and I began discussing late in 2025. Please don't feel overwhelmed. We will walk this path together through sermons and other church activities. I encourage you to prayerfully search your own heart and consider how a fresh start might renew your faith and your involvement in our church community.

Happy New Year,
Michael



UPCOMING Events



Thursday, January 1st	Happy New Year Office Closed	Sunday, January 18th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Children's Church with Michelle Turner
Friday, January 2nd	Office Closed		
Sunday, January 4th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship with Tom Wilson 10:30am Children's Church with Brianna Hill Take down Christmas decorations	Sunday, January 25th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Children's Church with Jen Conrad
Monday, January 5th	Michael will be off		
Tuesday, January 6th	No Bible Study until March Ministry & Mission Meeting 6:00pm Admin. Meeting 7:00pm		
Sunday, January 11th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship with Communion 10:30am Children's Church with Courtney Plyler	<u>LOOKING AHEAD:</u> <u>Annual Meeting—Date & Time TBD</u>	
Tuesday, January 13th	Session Meeting 7:00pm	<u>February 15th</u> <i>Fat Tuesday Luncheon</i>	
Thursday, January 15th	Staff Meeting 10:00am	<u>February 18th</u> <i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>	
		<u>February 22nd</u> <i>Presbytery Youth event at the Olympic Fun Center Time TBD</i>	

Deadline for February is January 22nd

