

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church

The Messenger—March 2026

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Dear church family,

As we move through the heart of the Lenten season, we are invited to walk a path that echoes Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. In Gospel of Matthew, we read that after fasting for forty days and nights, Jesus faced temptation from the devil. It was at the end of his physical weakness that the tempter came. Temptation often meets us in our most vulnerable moments.

Yet vulnerability itself is not the enemy. In many ways, our resistance to vulnerability is one of the great spiritual challenges of our time. When life is comfortable and predictable, we rarely pause to examine what is stirring within us. Ease can dull our self-awareness. It is when something is at stake—when we feel exposed—that our true selves surface.

We hesitate to let others see our weaknesses. We fear being judged, dismissed, or taken advantage of. Strength is celebrated; weakness is not. And yet, when we look closely at the good news of Jesus, we find that humility and honesty are at the very heart of discipleship.

To follow Jesus is to allow him to uncover what we would rather conceal. We are called to bring our whole selves—strengths and frailties alike—into the safety of the Shepherd's care. As Jesus entered the wilderness, so we enter Lent: not to prove ourselves, but to lay ourselves bare before God. In his presence, vulnerability is not dangerous; it is transformative.

I am reminded of our adopted beagle, Trapper. For a long time, he would not roll onto his back. For a dog, that posture is the most defenseless position of all. It took months—perhaps years—before he trusted us enough to expose his underside without fear. Our golden retriever, Zeke, by contrast, offers that trust freely. What one dog learned slowly, the other seemed to know instinctively: vulnerability is possible where there is safety.

Lent invites us into that same trust. My prayer for you in these weeks is that you would grow more comfortable being fully known by God. It may feel unnatural. It may even feel risky. But spiritual depth requires honesty. Perhaps the sin or struggle you symbolically pinned to the cross on Ash Wednesday has faded from your attention. Or perhaps it remains painfully present, and you have tried to bury it deep within your heart.

Whatever its current place in your life, you need not hide it from God. He already sees. He already knows. This season is a gift—an opening to bring what is hidden into the light. When we stop pretending and allow ourselves to be seen, grace meets us there.

Open your arms wide before the Lord. Let him see you as you are. In that holy vulnerability, you will not find shame, but mercy. And in that mercy, you will discover anew the redemption that is already yours in Christ.

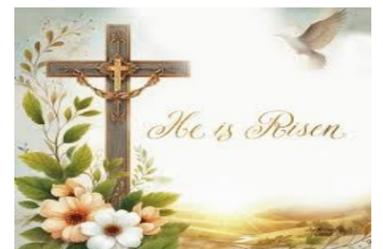
Bless and be blessed,

Michael



UPCOMING Events

Sunday, March 1st	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Children's Church with Brianna Hill	Sunday, March 22nd	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship with The G. Richard D. Min. preaching 10:30am Children's Church with Jen Conrad
Tuesday, March 3rd	Bible Study Resumes 9:30am M&M Meeting 6:00pm Admin. Meeting 7:00pm	Tuesday March 24th	Bible Study 9:30am
Sunday, March 8th	Daylight Savings Time Begins 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	Michael will be away March 26th through March 28th	Palm Sunday Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship at 10:30 Children' Church with Amy Plyler
Tuesday, March 10th	Bible Study 9:30am Session Meeting 7:00pm	Sunday, March 29th	Bible Study 9:30am
Thursday, March 12th	Staff Meeting 10:00am	Tuesday, March 31st	Bible Study 9:30am
Saturday, March 14th	DR Mission Trip departs	LOOKING AHEAD:	
Sunday, March 15th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Children's Church with Michelle Turner	Thursday, April 2nd Maundy Thursday Service with Communion 7:00pm	
Tuesday, March 17th	Bible Study 9:30am Promise of Life Mother's Group 10:00am	Friday, April 3rd Good Friday	
Saturday, March 21st	DR Mission Trip returns	Sunday, April 5th Easter Sunday—Early Service 8:00am with Breakfast Easter Sunday Worship 10:30am	



Deadline for May is April 24th

