

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church

The Messenger—February 2026

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Dear church family,

The slower, quieter pace that often marks January can be a welcome change, especially after the flurry of Christmas and New Year celebrations. Though the days will gradually grow longer, the light can be slow to return. As we turn the page to February, we might expect to emerge from the silence and darkness—only to find ourselves stepping more deeply into it. More on that in a moment.

Lent comes earlier this year, beginning in mid-February rather than March. As we prepare, we will again celebrate “Fat Tuesday,” also known as Shrove Tuesday, following worship on Sunday, February 15. While the traditional observance falls on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, we gather on the Lord’s Day when we are already together. It is a joyful reminder that there are seasons for celebration—for eating, drinking, and rejoicing. As Jesus says in Mark 2:19, “The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they?” When there is reason to celebrate, we should do so. Each Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, which is why fasting has traditionally excluded the Lord’s Day.

At the same time, Lent begins with the stark penitence of Ash Wednesday. In sharp contrast to “eat, drink, and be merry,” we are reminded that we are sinners who will one day return to the dust from which God created us. Here we return to the silence and darkness. Following Jesus’ forty days of temptation in the wilderness, Lent invites us to look inward, to confront the shadows of our own lives, and to enter a season of reflection and repentance.

As we share a rich fellowship meal before acknowledging the frailty of our human existence, I hope we can recognize the holy tension between these seasons of life and faith, as described in Ecclesiastes 3. For some, this may be a season of joyful gratitude for what God has done. For others, it may feel dark and cold—marked by uncertainty, confusion, or even spiritual silence. Wherever you find yourself, I pray you enter this Lenten season with the humility of a sinner and the joy of a saint saved by Jesus Christ.

Bless and be blessed,

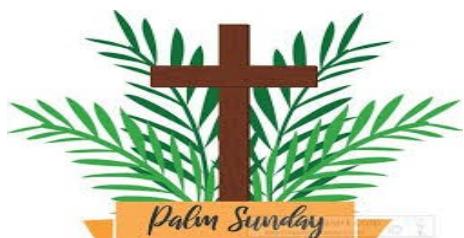
Michael



UPCOMING Events



Sunday, February 1st	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Children’s Church with Amy Plyler	Wednesday, February 18th Michael will be off February 19th thru February 23rd
Monday, February 2nd	1-2-1 going to Elevate Trampoline Park In Zelienople at 5:45pm	Sunday, February 22nd
Tuesday, February 3rd	Ministry & Mission Meeting 6:00pm Admin. Meeting 7:00pm	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship with Rick Vogley 10:30am Children’s Church with Amy Plyler
Sunday, February 8th	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 Annual Congregational Meeting after worship In the Fellowship Hall	Tuesday, February 24th
Tuesday, February, 10th	Session Meeting 7:00pm	Presbytery Meeting at Northminster at 6:30pm
Sunday, February 15th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Coffee House 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Children’s Church with Christine Plyler Fat Tuesday Lunch after worship in the Fellowship Hall	LOOKING AHEAD: Tuesday, March 3rd Bible Study resumes 9:30am DR Mission Trip March 14th—March 21st Sunday, March 29th Palm Sunday
Monday, February 16th	1-2-1 Event	
Tuesday, February 17th	Promise of Life Mother’s Group 10:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am	



Deadline for March is February 24th

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church Staff:

Pastor Michael Spicuzza	Terri Nystrom, Office Administrator
Dr. Jane Karski, Organist	Sally Mescall, Nursery/Pre-K Worker
Charlie Antonelli, Custodian	Gabe Danko, Seminary Intern

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church Ruling Elders:

Jen Conrad	Taylor Lubinski
Cindy Lyons	Nancy Natale
Janice McConnell	Christy Litrenta
Stephen Cowher	Bill Nesbitt
Ed Conti	Sam Plyler
Elinore Snyder	Tom Reynolds
Marissa McCarren	

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church Deacons:

Amy Ball	John Purdy
Nancy Book	Becky Reese
Shirley Book	Debbie Reynolds
Sandra Bumgardner	Barbara Richards
Evelyn Genkinger	Tom Teleis
Shirlie Hardie	Linda Turner
Dave Kerr	Barbara VanHorn
Brenda Matas	Nancy Wozniak

2025 Donation Statements

You can pick up your 2025 donation statements in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or in the office during the week.

DR Book Drive

Support our Spanish Book Drive as we prepare for our upcoming mission trip to the Dominican Republic! We're collecting Spanish-language children's books to donate to the Christian school of La Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana. We aim to promote literacy, education, and a love of reading among children and families. To make giving easy, we've created an **Amazon Gift Registry** with carefully selected books that will be shipped directly to my address. Every book makes a difference—join us in sharing knowledge, hope, and encouragement, one page at a time.

To find the list on Amazon, go to "Find a List or Registry" and search under the name "Amy N. Ball." The registry is titled "Clen-Moore Spanish Book Drive for DR" and should be the only registry that comes up under my name.

Mission Spotlight **February 1-2-1**

Cray Youth and Family Services has been providing services to children and families in Lawrence County since 1984. Many of the children come to Cray with significant problems at home, school, or in the community. Different programming is offered to address a variety of issues-- from truancy prevention to family reunification efforts after foster care placement. Families are referred to Cray's services through Cys, Juvenile Probation, or the child's school district.

Mentoring is the only program offered through Cray that families can access without a referral from another agency. Mentoring is funded through grants and donations, and relies on volunteers to become mentors to the children in our program. When a child wants to be matched with a mentor and their family become involved with us, we work to find a mentor that will help bring out the child's strengths and work with them to help them make good decisions as they grow.

Clen-Moore church has partnered with us for *nearly 20 years*, giving financial support for activities, a church "home" for kids and their families, and encouraging its members to become mentors. The number of children and mentors we have ebbs and flows. Cray mentoring programs have matched over 800 children with a mentor since 1996, and approximately 30 of those have been matched in the "Clen-Moore-Highland Program".

Right now, we are serving 5 mentoring matches through the church based programs, and we are hoping to get back up to 10. In order to do this, we need more male mentors, as we continue to have many young men waiting for a mentor. We ask for your prayers that each child in our community that wants a positive mentor gets one. We also ask for your prayers to bless and strengthen our staff, volunteers, and families as we work to fulfill Cray's Mission—"To Make Life Better for Kids!"



If your focus this year is on nutrition, here is a healthy shopping tip, taken from this month's issue of Good Housekeeping magazine:

"Using the 5-4-3-2-1 method:

When buying food for the week, choose five vegetables, four fruits, three proteins, two sauces or spreads, one carbohydrate, and one treat meal, as well as staples like milk, butter, and flour. Those who have tried it say this strategy lowered their food costs and let them mix and match to make new healthy and delicious dishes."

(Remembering always that careful handwashing is the best way to prevent infection and cross contamination. The flu season is upon us and it isn't too late for a Flu shot)

Scripture: in Psalm 139, David reminds each of us: "Wherever you are, whatever you are doing, God is with you." And in Psalm 63:8, as a prayer, "Father, my soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me."



Meal Train for Kenny Koziol

Clen Moore has been supporting the family of Kenny Koziol with prayers and visits and would now like to provide a weekly meal. Help is needed to prepare food (main course, dessert, etc.) and to deliver the meal to the family of 4. If you feel called to help out with any aspect of this outreach ministry, call or text Janice McConnell (724-333-6001)



Food Pantry/Blessing Box Collection **February 2026**

Instant Oatmeal—variety pack

Cake mix

Instant Potatoes

Frosting

Macaroni & Cheese—box

Toothpaste

Cup of Soup

Toothbrush

Tea Bags

Paper Towels

Jello—box

Powered Sugar