

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

Rev. Alan Jeffries, Minister, First Presbyterian Church
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COME AND WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

MARCH 2025

MARCH

March likes to tease and make us think
That spring's around the bend;
The winds are soft and gentle
Like a little lamb and then--
Before we know what's happening
The winds are harsh and cold;
We know that winter's still around--
We are not really fooled.
March is so unpredictable,
It can't make up its mind--
But we need a little patience
And one day we will find
That there are little catkins
On the pussy willow trees;
Spring is just around the corner
And the wind is just a breeze.
--Edna C. Lovelace

Transfiguration of the Lord
(Sunday, March 2, 2025)

Pancake Supper

Trinity Episcopal Church at 1 Oak Ave, Moundsville will be holding a Pancake Supper on March 4 (Shrove Tuesday) from 4:30-6:30pm. Prices are \$6 Adult; \$3 Child (12 & under); \$15 Family

Ash Wednesday Service

The Presbyterian Church and the First Christian Church will have a combined Ash Wednesday Service again this year. It will be held at the First Christian Church at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

The Symbolism of Ashes

On the first day of Lent, pastors in many churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by

burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

God's people have used ashes as a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. In the Old Testament, ashes were used as a

purification offering. The New Testament speaks of repenting in "sackcloth and ashes" (Luke 10:13, NRSV).

On Ash Wednesday, Christians are pained because our sins—private and public—led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing it leads to resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Lenten Lecture Series

Theodicy: The Problem of Evil

The Trinity Episcopal Church presents 2025 Lenten Lecture Series on Thursday evenings. This is a Free Event with a light meal at 5pm and Lecture at 6pm. The event dates are March 5; March 12; March 19; March 26; April 2; April 9. For more information- trinitymoundsville.org/lent

First Sunday in Lent

(Sunday, March 9, 2025)

Daylight Savings time

Daylight Savings time begins Sunday, March 9. Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour before retiring on Saturday evening.

Deacons

The Deacons will meet on Sunday, March 9 immediately following worship.

Holy Communion

Sunday, March 9, is the **First Sunday in Lent**. Holy Communion will be celebrated on that Sunday. The Elders serving will be Bill Groft, Janet Marchlenski, Phil Marchlenski, and Jane Marsh.

A fresh look at Holy Communion

A minister was having lunch with a retired college professor when the professor said that he looked upon Communion as a form of cannibalism. The pastor was so astounded that he decided to examine the meaning of the sacrament again.

His re-examination of the meaning of the Lord's Supper yielded these thoughts:

1. Communion is extremely important because Jesus asked his followers to follow the practice often – in remembrance of him. (See Luke 22:19) Was that a request we should ignore? Communion is significant because it reminds us of the price Christ paid for our salvation – his death on the cross. “This is my body, which is given for you” (Luke 22:19, NRSV).
2. It is also a symbol of the new covenant which God has made with us in Christ. Upon taking the cup of wine, our Lord said, “This is my blood of the new covenant” (Matthew 26:28, NRSV). He is our Lord. Communion helps us remember that we are his people, servants of the covenant-maker.
3. The sacrament is a vivid reminder that we are grateful that we are tied to Christ and look forward to his ultimate triumph on Earth. We partake of Communion joyfully, thanking God for the gift of Christ and anticipating his final victory when he shall be known worldwide as “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:16 NRSV).

Loose offering

The loose offering collected on Sunday, March 9 will be given to the Deacons to help with their projects.

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women will be collecting “powdered sugar” during the first two weeks of March. Then “brown sugar” the second two weeks.

MAMA Lenten Services

Lenten Services are being hosted by the Moundsville Area Ministerial Association. They will be held at noon with a light lunch to follow. The Lenten Services will be held March 12 at the Messiah Lutheran Church; March 19 at St. Jude Catholic Church; March 26 at the First Christian Church; April 2 at the Calvary United Methodist Church; April 9 at the Ash Avenue Church of God.

Session Meeting

The Session will meet immediately following worship on Sunday, March 16.

St. Patrick's Day

(Monday, March 17, 2025)

An Irish blessing

May God grant you always
A sunbeam to warm you,
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel
So nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you -
And whenever you pray,
Heaven to hear you.

On Saint Patrick's Day

May music fill your heart,
May luck bring you cheer,
May God's brightest blessings
shine on you all year.