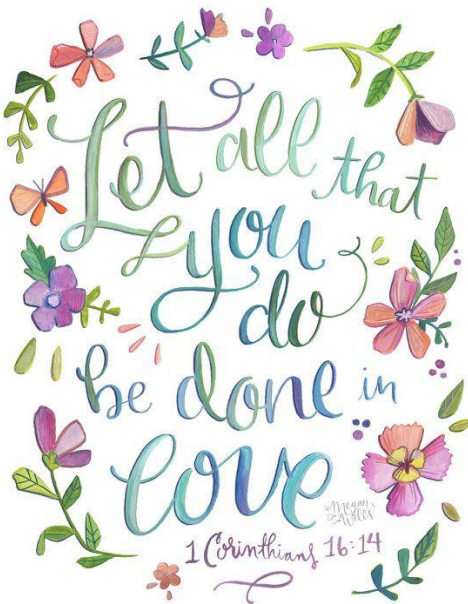


THE MESSENGER

Newsletter from Westminster

OUR MISSION IS TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE IN ALL WE DO

Faith, Hope, Love



03 ~ Mary Vandiver
07 ~ Valery Clark
12 ~ Margo McClane
13 ~ Adrienne Müller
22 ~ Mikey Hobbs

The Tree of Healing

Winter, it seems, can drain the energy out of us. The cold weather can zap us of our vitality and motivation. Long nights, short days, early darkness, bleak landscapes can all lead one to feel as if the bears got it right with their hibernation during these months. Wake me in the Spring. Now branches look dead, there's little foliage and the chilling, dry winds discourage all but the hardiest of us to venture outdoors. Into the cold and the fatigue of winter comes our Lenten season beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 18.

This month as we hold our Ash Wednesday service and move into the Lenten season, just as it is barren outside, internally we are reminded of our mortality, sinfulness, and our desolation which cries out our need for a Savior. Ash Wednesday and Lent fall in the starkest time of the calendar year, begging for a renewal of life within and around us. Lent is longer in duration than Advent. Maybe this is because we need more time to reflect upon what is broken within our lives and to be truthful about what hurts and where we need to be healed. There is also a collective sadness as we contemplate the state of violence and hatred in our world and we need space and time to lament and to draw upon the hope we hold deep in Christ. Lent calls us to renew our commitment to daily and weekly repentance; and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin. Lent calls us as witnesses to the power and beauty of our union with Christ and to the daily dying and rising with Christ that this entails. Perhaps Lent is longer than Advent because we need more time to walk through the difficult parts of life and to trust them to our Savior whose life, death and resurrection makes rebirth possible in us.

To this end, this year on Ash Wednesday, we will be erecting a bare tree in the sanctuary. This tree, impoverished as it is, is a healing tree. The empty branches cry out for new life and newness of being. Each week as we enter the sanctuary, we will be able to bring life to the tree, one leaf at a time, by clipping leaves onto the branches. Each leaf will hold an action we can take that week which will encourage life to flourish. Actions taken can be as simple as calling to encourage a person or more complex as we seek to make amends with another. An action might be a note written to an estranged family member, or the wiping out of a small debt. Actions can also be a promise to God to quit blaming others, to give up entitlement, to cease from over commitment and busyness, to stop gossiping, to quit ignoring things that matter or anything else that will be an action leading to fresh life. Confession and repentance enter into this opportunity for new life as we take the moment to do both. Write on the leaves any place in your heart that needs healing; the relationships that need healing; the hurts that need forgiveness or the places you need to forgive.

Each week until Easter we will have an opportunity to add leaves to the tree as we give up or cease from destructive behavior and work towards living our lives out in the blessing of our union in Christ and relationships with others. As Lent progresses toward Easter, the tree will gradually bloom with many "dangling leaves."

It is challenging and courageous to give up old hurts. As we do so each week we will see the tree's branches spreading out with fresh leaves showing the many healing possibilities held in its branches. Every leaf added to our healing tree helps bring us closer to God and to one another in fresh ways.

~Continued from p. 2~

By Easter Sunday this tree will be full of leaves of confession, repentance, forgiveness, and healing. From Easter Sunday forward it will become a tree of life. The six weeks from Easter Sunday to Pentecost we will have opportunities to add flowers to the tree alongside the leaves. These flowers will name places of gratitude, places where we have given or received encouragement, kindness, and joy. These flowers hold peace in places where we have loved and served and are a physical demonstration where we have lived into the kingdom of God in intentional and God honoring ways.

We love and serve a God who loves us, who redeems us through Jesus, and who by the power of the Holy Spirit, empowers us to live as beloved children. Let us fill our tree with healing life.

~Pastor Angie~



February 18, 7:00 p.m.

Joint Service at The Methodist Church.—

This year we will be putting up a tree in the sanctuary and each week throughout Lent we have an opportunity to attach leaves to the trees with the parts of our lives that need healing written on them.

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

*God's Love
Endures Forever*



Westminster Presbyterian Church Chapter 1337—“Prayers and Squares” The Prayer Quilt Ministry.



Westminster Presbyterian joined “The Prayers and Squares—The Prayer Quilt Ministry” in 2024 and became Chapter 1337. Our first meeting was held April 22, 2024 and soon after, The Versailles United Methodist Church joined us in this ministry.

The purpose of the Prayers and Squares Ministry is to promote an active prayer life among the participants, as we make and give away quilts. We strive to involve as many people as possible in our prayer efforts.

Please join us for this fun, creative, worthwhile mission. All are welcome and if you do not know how to sew, we will show you! Meetings are from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, every first Saturday and every third Monday of the month at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Text message Holly Cagle if you have any questions at Ph. # 816-244-2543.

Pictured below is Shirley, 91 years old and a recipient of a Prayer Quilt.





Come Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us!
Community Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
Friday, March 13—5:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.
Westminster Presbyterian Church and The United Methodist Church,
together are hosting at a corned beef and cabbage dinner for the
community. All are welcome!

Dinner Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church
208 N. Fisher St., Versailles.
Please enter through the side door.



Donations received will benefit The Versailles Area Ministerial Alliance (VAMA)

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2026

 THE SERVANT'S CHRONICLES

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 18

PALM SUNDAY
March 29

HOLY MONDAY TO HOLY WEDNESDAY
March 30 to April 1

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 2

GOOD FRIDAY
April 3

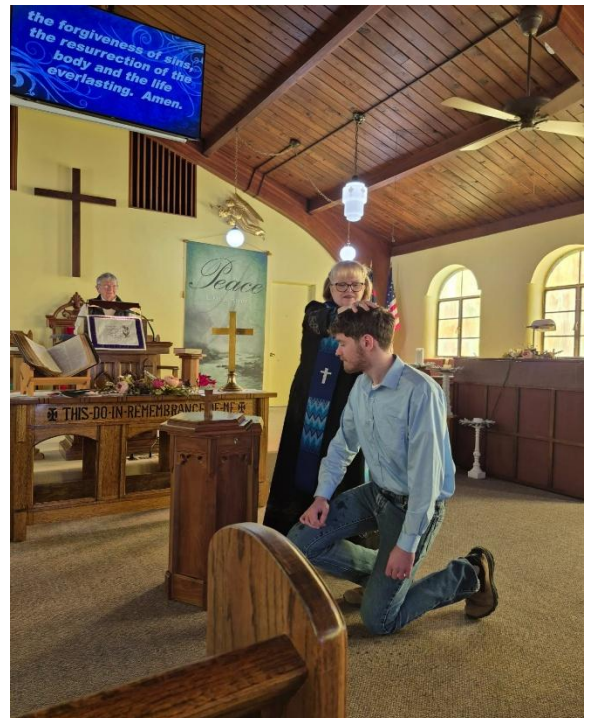
BLACK SATURDAY
April 4

EASTER SUNDAY
April 5

**January 11, 2026
Installation of Officers
Adrienne Müller and
Randy Washburn**



**January 11, 2026
Baptism of Gregory Allen**



INFORMATION

- ▶ **GOOD SHEPHERD NURSING HOME**—Pastor Angie will be leading Vespers 2:30 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home every 2nd Sunday of the month. February date is Sunday, February 08. All are welcome to join in this ministry.
- ▶ **LENT:** Wednesday, February 18 – Thursday, April 2
- ▶ **ASH WEDNESDAY**— February 18 at 7:00 p.m. at The Methodist Church.—This year we will be putting up tree branches in the sanctuary and each week throughout Lent we have an opportunity to attach leaves to the trees with the parts of our lives that need healing written on them.
- ▶ **ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER** – Friday, March 13 —5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m. Together with The United Methodist Church, we are hosting (at our church) a corned beef and cabbage dinner for the community. Donations received can benefit the Versailles Area Ministerial Alliance (VAMA)
- ▶ **HOLY WEEK:**
 - Palm Sunday**— March 29, 10:30 a.m.
 - Maundy Thursday** - April 02 – we are having a Seder Meal/Service at our church — 6:00 p.m.
 - Good Friday** - April 03 - Community Service. Time and place to be announced.
 - Journey to The Cross** - April 04, at the Methodist Church — 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 - Easter Sunday Service** – April 05, 10:30 a.m.
- ▶ **MINISTRY HOUSE**—We will provide a meal at Ministry House, April 16, 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ **QUALITY INDUSTRIES**— We will sponsor the Quality Industries birthday celebrations for the months of March and May.
- ▶ **LITURGISTS/LITTLE LAMB TIME SCHEDULE** — Please check the Schedule so you do not forget which Sunday you are the liturgist & Little Lamb time leader. Please sign up for available dates.
- ▶ **MINUTE FOR MISSIONS**—If you see the kids, during the Offertory, with “Bounty Buckets” please give them your change. We are collecting loose change for missions in our community via the Love Fund.
- ▶ **TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER** — 9:00 a.m. - upstairs in the conference room.
- ▶ **TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY**— 10:30 a.m.—downstairs in Clingan Hall.
- ▶ **MEN’S WEDNESDAY MORNING COFFEE**— starting approx. 7:00 a.m. downstairs in the dining area “Hill Hall.”
- ▶ **PRAYERS AND SQUARES CHAPTER 1337**—Together with the United Methodist Church, we shall meet on the first Saturday and the third Monday of the month 9:00 a.m. to Noon. February meetings: Saturday, February 07 and, Monday, February 16. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Holly Cagle. Ph. # 808-244-2543
- ▶ **REFRESHMENT AND OR POTLUCK SIGN-UP LIST**— Please check the refreshment sign-up list in the kitchen to sign up on available dates. Please do not forget your date. Thank you!
- ▶ **SUNDAY SCHOOL—ADULT & CHILDREN**—9:30 a.m.
- ▶ **SESSION MEETING**—Wednesday, February 25, 10:00 a.m.

Hours:

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship/refreshments after Worship

CONTACT US:

•Church Office ph. #: 573-378-4975

•Church Website: www.westminpres.com

•Church Email: presby1902@gmail.com

•Church Facebook:

http://www.facebook.com/VersaillesWPC

Live streaming starting at approximately 10:30 a.m.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

208 N. Fisher Street

Versailles, Missouri 65084

TO: