



What's Up Wickliffe!

FEBRUARY
2023

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience, we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever.

Historically, Ash Wednesday was a time when penitents were presented for church discipline during Lent, culminating in reconciliation on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is also the occasion when would-be disciples of Christ known as catechumens were enrolled in the catechumenate, a special time of learning the basics of the faith in preparation for baptism on Easter Sunday or during the Easter Vigil. In some traditions, Ash Wednesday is a fast day, beginning the Lenten time of fasting and preparation for the Great Three Days that culminate in Easter.

A TIME TO TURN

An excerpt from the [Companion to the Book of Common Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2003, 109-110)

The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. This first day of Lent reminds us that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. In many traditions, this is symbolized through the imposition of ashes — placing a cross on one's forehead. During the imposition of ashes the words: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) are repeated again and again. We are to remember

that we are but temporary creatures, always on the edge of death. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten trek through the desert toward Easter.

Ashes on the forehead is a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not to show off one's faith. The ashes are a reminder to us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die.

Trusting in the "accomplished fact" of Christ's resurrection, however, we listen for the Word of God in the time-honored stories of the church's Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed "on the way" to Jerusalem and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of *metanoia* ("turning around"), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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FEBRUARY SCHEDULE



February 1	Nancy Truslow
February 19	Janelle Truslow
February 21	Cathy Garstka
February 23	Ron Salo
February 24	Debby Marshall
February 26	Gracie May Magan

- February 5 5th Sunday After Epiphany

- February 12 6th Sunday After Epiphany
 - ◆ Congregational Meeting
 - ◆ Support Meeting

- February 19 Transfiguration of the Lord
 - ◆ Installation of Officers

- February 26 1st Sunday in Lent
 - ◆ Communion

Church Office Hours:
 Monday - 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Tuesday - Closed
 Wednesday - Closed
 Thursday - 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Friday - Closed

(Hours may vary. Please contact the office for an appointment if you need in the church)
 Church Website: www.wickliffepc.com
 Secretary's Email: wickliffepc@gmail.com

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TLCC Daycare and Preschool
 Director, Norma Johnson
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ATTENTION!
THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 12, 2023. EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!



Wednesday, February 22, 2023



IN STEP WITH SESSION

Your Session met after Worship on January 22nd. Our Team was small but mighty. We still had a quorum and were able to bring quite a bit to the table. We will be installing officers on Feb 19th. Please make a point to be in Service.

We will be starting our Coffee Hour back up the first Sunday in February. Please take time to sign up to bring either doughnuts or cookies. The signup sheet is in the Narthex. Let's keep it to a minimum. Just a slight snack. We also ask that you not bring anything in unless your name is on the list. We appreciate your generosity.

We will also be having our Congregational Annual Meeting which has been changed to Sunday, February 12th. We are going to have you bring in something to share for a meal this year. Many people wanted to return to the old way and so we are still going to meet in the Sanctuary for the meeting and then move into the Fellowship hall for our luncheon. Just for you to be aware, each of you will be responsible for your own dish. No particular team is hosting the luncheon. We, as your Session, felt that keeping the meeting and luncheon separate created less chaos as we take time to share our reports with our members. The dishes you bring in should be ready to eat. No one will be working in the kitchen to heat your dishes. Thank you for your understanding.

Your Session will be meeting to work on a guide line for "What we are looking for" in a Pastor. We need to decide on what we should expect from a Pastor first before we can start the process. We want you to understand that it won't be easy but it's a job we need to take one step at a time. Please be patient. We've been told that the availability is sparse. I wish we had more answers for you, but we will keep you informed as we hear anything. Meanwhile Janelle T is making calls to find Pastors etc. to fill the pulpit. Ruth C is in charge of finding lay leaders. These two are working diligently to make each Sunday meaningful. Please be willing to be a lay leader when asked. Also, thank you Audrey, for working with each person that fills the pulpit so that we have a bulletin to refer to on Sunday mornings.

FYI: We have had issues with our furnace and boiler along with leaks in the Sanctuary roof. We are trying to stay afloat literally to make sure we have a comfortable building to hold our Worship Services. We need to thank Jeff B and also Jeff P for making our building as pleasant as possible. I know that we have questions and concerns as we notice changes such as a TV screen rather than using the old projector. Please understand that we need to make the changes that we can afford at this time. Nothing is set in stone, but we need to give any changes a chance before we complain. We know you mean well, but please help us as we try to do what's best for the good of the whole. Thank you....

Blessings to all as we Try To Do Gods Work to the best of our ability....

Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session

CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

BECAUSE CHRIST IS
GIVEN, WE GIVE



We were unable to take up the Christmas Joy Offering because we did not have services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Time is extended through February to be able to donate even a small amount for this important mission to offer aid to retired Pastors and church leaders when in financial need through no fault of their own. Also, the offering supports Presbyterian supported colleges for students needing financial aid for college. These students often are majoring in church

related careers. Please be as generous as possible and remember if we donate a little, it adds up to a lot!

Gratefully, Donna Cooper



2023 Per Capita has increased to \$32.50. Per Capita information flyers are available at the church.



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Our sympathy and prayers for comfort are extended to the family and friends of **Grace Leash**, who passed away on Monday, December 26, 2022. Grace was an Elder, Deacon and member of Wickliffe since the 70's. Her funeral service was held Thursday, December 29 at Higgins Reardon Funeral Home in Austintown. May she rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon her.



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Our sympathy and prayers for comfort are extended to the family and friends of **Barbara Williams**, who passed away on Sunday, January 8, 2023. Her funeral service was held Thursday, January 12 at Lane Funeral Home in Austintown, followed by a bereavement luncheon held at Wickliffe Church. May she rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon her.



"POP TABS—Reminder"
 This is a reminder that you take time to collect **Pop Tabs** for our **RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE Outreach**. You will find the tall plastic container in the Narthex. Let's please see how fast we can fill the jug this time. Blessings to all for your support of this worthy cause!
 ~ Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session

REMINDER FROM JEFF



Jeff Bryant is still collecting **aluminum cans** this year for a project with the VFW called "**Cans for Vets**". Please bring your cans to the church (garbage can is placed near the door) or set them by the garage for this very worthy cause. Jeff will be collecting the cans for the remainder of the year.
 Thank you in advance for your Christian generosity!

Needle's Eye Soup Ministry

Look for your initial and please give cans of soup, beans, or peanut butter! Hopefully there will be some donations for February! These donations are given to the elderly in our area who find their food supply very low at the end of the month.

Thank you for your generosity!
 Donna Cooper

This month's initials are: R—S—T



A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE



God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:30 AM Goodtimers	2  5:45 PM Tops	3	4
5 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	6	7	8	9 5:45 PM Tops	10	11
12 10 AM Worship Service 9:00 Support Mt 11:00 AM Cong. Mtg. 800 PM AA Mtg.	13	14 Presbytery Mtg. via Zoom at 2 PM 	15 12:00 PM Esther Circle	16 5:45 PM Tops	17	18
19 10:00 AM Worship Service Installation of Officers 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 	23 5:45 PM Tops	24	25
26 10:00 AM Worship Service Communion 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	27	28 12:00 PM Discovery Group				