

# West Berlin Presbyterian Church

## The MESSENGER April 2025



The mission of West Berlin Presbyterian Church is to follow God's law and act in true faith by being a welcoming place where community members come to learn, take part in worship, find fellowship, and serve those in need, for the glory of God.

**The Small Strong Church with a Big Heart**



### **From the Pulpit**

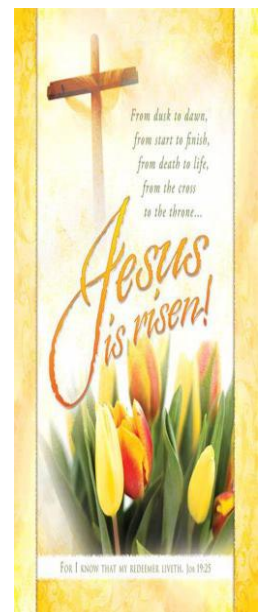
In our Monday evening Adult Study for Lent, we are halfway through Rev. Robb's book and videos entitled "Remember – God's Covenants and the Cross." The following excursus on covenant from "The New Interpreter's Study Bible" is helpful in defining where we are in our study.

The Hebrew word *berit* is translated "covenant." It may derive from the word *biritus*, an Akkadian (an East Semitic) word meaning "to fetter." A covenant is an agreement between two parties, including the obligations implied in the agreement and the resulting relationship. In the ancient Near East, covenants were treaties. They could take place between parties of equal strength (parity treaties) or of unequal strength (suzerainty treaties).

Covenant as a suzerainty treaty is central theme throughout the Old Testament to describe God's relationship to creation and to the Israelites. The theme is introduced after the flood, when the Lord makes a covenant with Abraham (week one of our study). God also makes a covenant with Abraham (week two of our study), promising him both offspring and the land of Canaan as a homeland.

The exodus from Egypt illustrates the Lord's loyalty to covenant obligations (week three of our study) and launches the Israelites on a journey to the promised land of Canaan. The wilderness journey explores the Israelites – not the Lord's – obligations in covenant. The change in focus is indicated in the opening wilderness story when God tests the Israelites with law.

The revelation of divine Law on Mt. Sinai, in the form of the Decalogue and the Book of the Covenant, states the Israelites' covenantal obligations to YHWH. The conclusion of the Book of the Covenant outlines the benefits to Israel of remaining loyal to YHWH.



The larger structure of Exodus 19-24 indicated that the revelation of Law at Mt. Sinai is meant to be a covenant ceremony. It is introduced with YHWH's proposed covenant and the section concludes with a covenant ceremony.

I hope you can join us for the second half of our Lenten study which includes: David: An Eternal Covenant (March 31), From Jeremiah to Jesus: The Covenant of the Heart (April 7), and Jesus and the New Covenant (April 14).

### Chicken Noodle Dinner

Mark your calendar!! Our annual Chicken Noodle Dinner is coming up Friday, April 25, 2025, from 4:30 - 7:00 PM. Please plan on two things.

- 1) Inviting friends and neighbors.
- 2) Volunteering to help by supplying food and helping the day of the event.

More on this as we get closer. See you there!!!



### Women's Society Luncheon

The Women's Society met on March 5, 2025, at noon for a St Patrick Day themed lunch. They did a wonderful collection of the food items for the Open Table Food Shelve. Women's Society Directories for 2025 are now available from Amy Martindale. The next regular luncheon is May 7, 2025, at noon.



### Important Dates!!! April 2025

**April 6**  
Worship\*  
Communion

**April 7**  
Adult Study  
7:00 p.m.

**April 8**  
Session Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

**April 9**  
Deacon & Mission Bd  
Noon

**April 13**  
**Palm Sunday**  
Worship\*

**April 14**  
Lenten Study  
7:00 p.m.

**April 15**  
Education Committee  
7:00 PM

**April 17**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
**Service**  
7:00 PM

**April 18**  
**Copmmunity Good**  
**Friday Service**  
St. Mary Catholic Church  
Cross Walk 11:00 AM  
Service 12:00 PM

**April 20**  
**Easter**  
Worship\*  
Special Treats  
10:00 AM

**April 21**  
No Adult Study  
7:00 PM

**April 25**  
Chicken Noodle Dinner  
4:30 – 6:30 PM

**April 27**  
Worship\*

**April 28**  
Adult Study  
7:00 PM

**April 29**  
Administrative Committee  
7:00 PM

## Deacon and Mission Board – Challenge

Twice during the year (Advent and Lent), we make a concerted effort towards our collection of food, hygiene, and clothing items for the Open Table Program at our neighboring Grace Point Church. You are encouraged to use the season of Lent to accumulate items.

- All shelf-stable food items are welcomed, but Open Table folks say the following are their highest need: canned fruit, cereal, mac/cheese, fruit bars, Ramen noodles, sugar, flavored oatmeal, and spaghetti sauce.
- Hygiene items needed include shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, denture care items, Kleenex, Q tips etc.
- Gently used or new clothing has been added to what we are collecting.

We have a special collection time from 11:00 – 2:00 PM, Saturday before Palm Sunday (April 12, 2025) and Palm Sunday (April 13, 2025). Of course, donations can be brought at any time and placed in the Red Wagon just inside the east door.



## Important Holy Week Dates – April 2025

Palm Sunday – April 13  
Maundy Thursday – April 17  
Good Friday – April 18  
Easter – April 20

## One Great Hour of Sharing (March 5 – April 20, 2025)

We will highlight collection of Fish Banks on Easter Sunday (April 20). For over 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. OGHS is a focus of giving during Lent (March 5 – April 20, 2025).

Please designate on donations that this is for One Great Hour. More can found at <https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing> .



## April Birthdays:

6 – Charline Barrie  
7 – Eileen Doucher  
8 – Tom Gooding, Aaron Roll  
11 - Jaycen Jordan  
21- Blaire Martindale  
22 - Debbie Fisher  
25 – Julia Roll



## Anniversaries:

4 – Aaron & Jaymi Roll

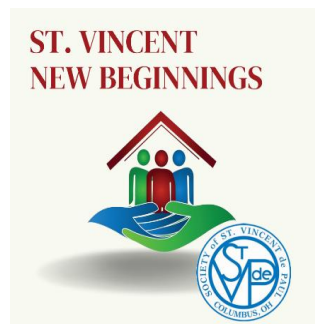
## PRAYER LIST:

Rodger Glenn, Dan Cottrill, Gene Ford, Timothy Smith, William Nierman, Debbie Rucker, Debbie Rucker, Bill Philput, Jr., Linda Fields, Krista George, John Temple, Janet Thompson, Kipp McGlone, Grace Glaros, Tony Howard

## St. Vincent New Beginnings

The Deacon and Mission Board heard a presentation by Mr. Daniel Bouhall introducing us to St. Vincent New Beginnings. It is a non-profit 501c3 organization located in Delaware, Ohio. It is working to open a house for single men leaving jail, prison or treatment facilities and returning to the Delaware area.

They are asking local individuals, businesses, and organizations to become Sponsors. Contributions will go toward direct expenses associated with opening a house for up to 5 men. To learn more or donate to this cause go to <https://www.stvincentnewbeginnings.org/>, or see the church bulletin board.



### From the Treasurer

#### March Attendance:

Mar 2 - 35  
23 On-site  
12 On-line

Mar 9 - 21  
19 On-site  
2 On-line

Mar 16 - 34  
22 On-site  
12 On-line

Mar 23 - 29  
19 On-site  
10 On-line

Mar 30 TBD

#### Contributions:

Mar 2 \$ 551  
Mar 9 1,263  
Mar 16 1,026  
Mar 23 786  
Mar 30 TBD  
**\$ 3,626**

Please make your contributions via mail to Church Treasurer Edmund Cox, 257 Pennsylvania Av, Delaware, OH 43015. On-line giving through [westberlinpc.info](http://westberlinpc.info)

## Painting in the Annex

Thanks to a volunteer crew organized by the Education Committee, on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> the annex received a new coat of paint! Same color as before but now looks fresh and clean. The historic photos have been moved over the piano in the annex in preparation for some new graphics to come.

Thanks to prep and paint crew of Kathy Thompson, Ed Cox, David Howell, Charles Glass, Jerry Stein, Yvonne Gustafson, and Bob Gustafson.



### **Open House for Neighbors**

The worship and Outreach committee will be publicizing an Open House for Neighbors on April 21, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 2 PM (in Parallel with our Open Table Pantry Collection time). This is an attempt to for us get to know some of our neighbors and for them to be introduced to us, in particular those new to our area.

This is an informal event with the goal of getting to know the needs of our neighbors and what we can offer them.

### **Upcoming Adult Ed**

Our Lenten Study series using the book and videos **Remember – God’s Covenants and the Cross** by Rev. Susan Robb continues Monday evenings 7:00 PM through April 21, 2025. We will take April 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday after Easter) off before beginning our Spring Series April 28<sup>th</sup> through Mary 19<sup>th</sup>.

Watch for the weekly announcements and attend either at the church or online.

### **Special Presbyterian Women (PW) Gathering on April 3 by Zoom.**

Join us on April 3, 2025, for a special evening to hear from a mission team (that included members from Covenant PC and Broad Street PC) on their recent trip to Costa Rica and their visit with Mission Co-Worker Mark Hare, his wife Jenny Bent, and Karla Koll. The program begins at 7 p.m.

Men as well as women are invited to this program. Register by emailing Martha Pool ([mjpool53@gmail.com](mailto:mjpool53@gmail.com)) by April 1st. A Zoom invitation will be sent out on April 2nd.

### **Member Contact Information**

Please help us maintain correct contact information for all our members and friends. If you change email address, made a phone change, or change of address, let us know. Or if you just want to make sure we have the correct information, please send information to [gustafson15@gmail.com](mailto:gustafson15@gmail.com).

Thanks for your assistance!!!