

# West Berlin Presbyterian Church

## The MESSENGER March 2024



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**

I know it seems early, and it is, but Holy week really does begin Sunday March 24, 2024, with Palm Sunday. In my reading, I came across an article that does a wonderful job of describing Holy Week and what happened each day of Holy Week. The article is by Meg Bucher, a writer from here in Ohio.

Space does not allow sharing the full article, so I am sharing part in hope that you will then follow the link to find and read the full article. I will have copies on the information table at church. If you want me to email (or mail) a copy to you, just let me know ([gustafson15@gmail.com](mailto:gustafson15@gmail.com))

Pastor Bob

#### **What Is Holy Week? - 8 Days of Easter You Need to Know**

Meg Bucher

<https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/easter/what-is-holy-week.html>

[What Is Holy Week? - 8 Days of Easter Explained \(crosswalk.com\)](#)

Holy Week is a string of eight days that allow us an opportunity to reflect upon the shift in humanity Jesus' sacrifice on the cross launched. It starts with Palm Sunday when Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem. The week leads us through the Last Supper, His crucifixion, and ends on Easter Sunday with His resurrection. This is the basis of Christianity; His sacrifice launched the New Covenant God promised and many had prophesied throughout the Old Testament.



Each day of Holy Week allows us to peek into the heart of our Savior at intently close proximity. His love for us is reflected in every significant step toward the cross, every breath up to the last, and His resurrection.

### **How Holy Week Leads to Easter Sunday**

Though Jesus didn't walk the earth incarnate until He was born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph, He exists and works throughout the entirety of the Bible. Scripture assures us that He was present at Creation with the Father, that He is the Word, and many prophecies were fulfilled explicitly during this final, holy week of Jesus' life on earth. Each Gospel has a narrative of the last week of Jesus' life.

(Matthew 21-28; Mark 11-16; Luke 19-24; John 12-21).

### **What Is Holy Week?**

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Sunday. During this one week, many biblical prophecies were fulfilled. Jesus came to earth to save humanity by dying on the cross on Good Friday and resurrecting on Easter Sunday. By enduring and defeating death sacrificially for us, He swung open the gates of heaven, allowing our sins to be forgiven and ushering us into the presence of God (Romans 5:8).

Due to the sinful nature of humanity as a result of Adam and Eve's fall in the garden of Eden, it's impossible for us to be "good enough" to be in the presence of God and forgiven for our sins. Jesus died to make the way for salvation. The Old Testament Law offered many sacrifices to God, but Jesus was the perfect atoning sacrifice once and for all. He endured the cross out of His great love for us. Holy Week is a sacred opportunity to study the foundation of Christianity. Our God is not one of coincidence. Every step toward the cross was intentional, every lesson laced with His personal love for all of us.

(The article continues with a brief explanation of "What Happened" on each day of Holy Week. You can find it at [What Is Holy Week? - 8 Days of Easter Explained \(crosswalk.com\)](https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/questions/holy-week-8-days-of-easter-explained) )

### **Women's Society Luncheon**

The Women's Society will be meeting on March 6, 2024, at noon for a lunch meeting. Come and enjoy some fellowship!!!

Please bring a box of new cards (thinking of you, get well, blank) to the meeting. Let one of the hostesses - Diane Cox, Yvonne Gustafson, and Mary Johnson - know if you plan to attend.

### **Important Dates: March 2024**

**March 3**  
Worship/Communion

**March 4**  
Lent Adult Study  
7:00 p.m.

**March 5**  
Session Meeting  
7:00 pm

**March 10**  
Daylight Saving's Time  
(Spring Ahead)  
Worship

**March 11**  
Lent Adult Study  
7:00 p.m.

**March 13**  
Deacon & Mission Board  
12:00 p.m. (bring  
lunch)

**March 17**  
Worship

**March 18**  
Lent Adult Study  
7:00 p.m.

**March 19**  
Education Committee  
7:00 p.m.

**March 24**  
**Palm Sunday**  
Worship

**March 25**  
Lent Adult Study  
7:00 p.m.

**March 28**  
Maundy Thursday  
Service  
7:00 p.m.

**March 29**  
Community Good Friday  
Service  
St Mary Church,  
Delaware  
12:00 p.m.

**March 31**  
**Easter**  
Worship

**Worship Services**  
**10:30 a.m.**  
**Every Sunday**

## One Great Hour of Sharing (February 14 – March 31, 2024)

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.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Hunger Program

Self-Development of People

- all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

This will be a focus of giving during Lent (February 14 – March 31, 2024). Please designate on donations that this is for One Great Hour.



## Food Shelf Drive

Twice during the year (Advent and Lent), we do a concerted effort towards our collection of food items for the Open Table Food Shelf Program at 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 are planning to have collection the 12:00 – 2:00 PM, Saturday before Palm Sunday (March 24, 2024) and Palm Sunday (March 25, 2024). Of course, donations can be brought at any time and placed in the Red Wagon just inside the east door.

## March Birthdays

8– Charles Glass,  
20–Travis Martindale,  
24–MaryAnn Johnson,  
29–Coleen Parrish,  
30–Paul Martindale



## Anniversaries

None

## Prayer Lists

Bruce Combs,  
Rodger Glenn,  
Sharon Hough,  
Debbie & Karl Gustafson,  
Colton Russell,  
Frans & Hanna,  
Gary Amburst,  
Sharolyn Back,  
Judy Wilson,  
Vicki Schalk,  
Billy Galloway  
Amelia Ann Hall  
Mary Jo Stein,  
Dan Cottrill & son,  
Gene Cottrill,  
Family of Michael Barry,  
Family of Beth Wood,  
Debbie and Mark Russel,  
Sue Cox

## Join Lenten Study

It is not too late to join the WBPC Lenten Study on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM. The study is entitled: "Entering the Passion of Jesus – A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week" by Amy-Jill Levine. Remaining weeks include:

March 4 Teaching: Risking Challenge

March 11 The First dinner: Risking Rejection

March 18 The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends

March 25 Gethsemane: Risking Temptation

Sessions are all hybrids. You can attend at the church building or join Zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6145951009> Dial (sound only) 929 436 2866 or 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 614 595 1009

## February Stats from the Treasurer:

### Attendance:

February 4 39 (18  
On-site, 21 On-line)  
February 11 39 (18  
On-site, 21 On-line)  
February 14 (Ash  
Wednesday) 13 (15  
On-site, 5 On-line)  
February 18 37 (22  
On-site, 15 On-line)  
February 25 35 (20  
On-site, 15 On-line)

### Contributions:

February 4 - \$1,279.00  
February 11 - 1,008.00  
February 14 - \$691.00  
February 25 - 1,046.00  
\$4,024.00

## Opportunities from Presbytery

OSU Kirk is excited to host speaker, songwriter, and author David LaMotte April 9th-11th and you are invited to join us! David will be giving a presentation on "World changing 101" at Jacob's Porch (45 E 13th Avenue) on Tuesday April 9th at 7:00pm.

This event is open and free to everyone, though we encourage attendees to consider donating to OSU Kirk. We are hopeful you will also get a glimpse of campus ministry at OSU! David will be staying in Columbus and sharing with our OSU students during his time with us. *He will also be sharing his musical talents on Thursday April 11th at 7:00pm in concert at Cityview Church in downtown Columbus. This event is also open to the public and we hope you join us for this as well!*

If you are interested in supporting OSU Kirk and Jacob's Porch or have questions about these events, please contact Rev. Taylor Barner at [taylor@jacobsparch.com](mailto:taylor@jacobsparch.com) or 412-613-0835.

Signup for the weekly Presbytery of Scioto Valley Newsletter at <https://psvonline.org/newsletters/> This brief but informative newsletter can help you stay abreast of what happening for Presbyterians in our area.