

# Westminster Weekly Window

February 11, 2024

## Today's Message

"An Unnerving Mountaintop Experience"

## Lectionary Readings

Today:

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50 1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.

February 18, 2024

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

## Serving This Morning

Organist - Polly Brecht  
Usher – Bonnie & John Jackson  
Greeter – Dick Helfrich  
Coffee Hour – Bonnie Jackson

## Serving Next Sunday - Feb 18

Organist - Polly Brecht  
Ushers – Abbie Alexander  
Greeter – Dick Helfrich  
Coffee Hour – Wanda Grimes

## Happening This Week - February 11-18, 2024

Feb 11 - Sunday Worship 10a – Coffee Fellowship 11a  
Feb 12 - WM Food Pantry Open 9-11a  
Feb 15 - Choir Rehearsal 6p  
Feb 18 - Sunday Worship 10a

## Add to your Calendar

Ash Wednesday Worship Service with Communion – Wednesday February 14, 2024 at 7PM

Iben Series Concert – Ukrainian Tribute – Sunday February 25, 2024 at 4PM

On the anniversary of the Russian Invasion into Ukraine we will have a tribute to the music of that country featuring John Orfe, Marcia Henry Liebenow, Polly Brecht and others.

Iben Series Concert – Eric Ginsberg Trio from WIU – Sunday March 3, 2024 at 4PM

Clarinetist Eric Ginsberg will be joined by friends from Western Illinois University in works by Beethoven and Muczynski.

## February Birthdays

2	Anna Bussian	12	Conrad Stinnett
3	Jordan Case	18	Dick Helfrich
10	Carol Borders	28	Diane Case
11	Sally Fitch		

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## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Monday - Thursday, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Facebook

[WPC Page](#)

## The Meaning of Lent

by Christopher Kirwan, Pastor-Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church

### Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of the church which we call Lent

On that day, we receive ashes on our forehead to remind us that we are mortal beings, that we were made out of dust and will one day return to dust.

During Lent, the paraments in the church are changed to purple. The color purple is significant for a couple of reasons. One, it indicates a period of preparation, which is why we use it for both Lent, preceding Easter and Advent, and preceding Christmas. Another is that purple was often associated with royalty and a welcoming of a King, and for us that would be the two welcomes of Christ, our King: One to celebrate the birth, and the other to celebrate the gift of eternal life.

The term Lent refers to the penitential period preceding Easter. Early Christians felt that the magnitude of the Easter celebration called for special preparation. As early as the second century, many Christians observed several days of fasting as part of that preparation.

Over the next few centuries, perhaps in remembrance of Jesus' fasting for 40 days in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-2), 40 days became the accepted length of the Lenten season. From the earliest years of Christianity, it was considered inappropriate to fast on the day of the resurrection [Easter], so Sundays were not counted in the 40 days. Thus, the Wednesday 46 days before Easter came to be regarded as the beginning of Lent.

In the early centuries, the season before Easter was also the usual period of intense training for new Christians. During this period, the catechumens (those learning what it meant to be Christians) went through the final stages of preparation for baptism, which usually occurred at dawn on Easter Sunday. As the practice of infant baptism increased, the emphasis on Lent as a training period decreased.

That, in an elongated nutshell, is Lent. That is also why we, as a reformed church, do not adhere to it as strictly as some others might. We observe the Lenten time, but we do not specifically devote to fasting or specific education during this period. Instead, most commonly people focus on giving up some other vice or habit that might be detrimental to one's health and well-being.

Lent is a time for us to reflect on our own lives, or own habits, and our own anchors that are weighing us down from being the best people we could be. Perhaps too, it provides us an opportunity to parallel Christ's journey in the wilderness where he forfeited food, companionship and help.

Lent is also a time to reflect and see what we can change about our lives for the better. It can be used as a time to understand our own weaknesses and shortcomings, as painful as that can be. It is a time when we recall that we are mortal, we may be insignificant in the eyes of the world, but **we are significant enough for God to care about us and love us.**

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### Westminster Elders

Peggy Bragg, Christian Education, Class of 2026

Kim Mitchell, Member Care, Class of 2025

John Jackson, Properties, Class of 2024

Larry Hicks, Finance & Personnel, Class of 2025

James Burnham, Clerk of Session, Class of 2024

Elizabeth Richmond, Missions & Outreach, Class of 2026

### Westminster Deacons

Janet Baker, Class of 2024

Phyllis Rafferty, Class of 2026

Susan Leighty, Class of 2024

Abbie Alexander, Class of 2026

Alice Nash, Class of 2025

Wendy Bowles, Class of 2026

Edna Nugent, Class of 2025

Jean Schlesinger, Class of 2026

Sue Burnham, Moderator, Class of 2025