

# THE LAMP

A Newsletter of The Juniata Valley Shared Ministry

## March 2026

[www.jvsm.org](http://www.jvsm.org) and [www.facebook.com/jvsm2016](https://www.facebook.com/jvsm2016)

**The Sacred Silence of the Wilderness** Lent is traditionally a season of voluntary “stripping away”. We give up sweets, we step back from social media, or we forgo certain habits to create space for God. But this year, our church feels like something major has been stripped away without us asking for it.

The retirement of a beloved, longtime pastor leaves a distinct kind of silence in the sanctuary. For years, their voice was the one that guided us through Scripture, pronounced the benediction, and comforted us in crises. Their absence can make us feel a bit like the Israelites in the desert-unsure of the map, looking for a leader, and feeling the vulnerability of the wilderness.

Yet, Scripture tells us that the wilderness is the Holy Spirit's favorite Classroom.

When the familiar voice of a human leader quiets, the voice of the Good Shepherd has a chance to resonate with new clarity. This Lent offers us a rare and profound spiritual opportunity: **to rediscover that our church's foundation is not a person, but a PERSON.**

While we are grateful for the years of faithful leadership we enjoyed, God is calling us now to “put our roots down” into him directly. We are being invited to mature. Just as a parent eventually steps back so a child can learn to walk, this season of vacancy is an invitation for us-the laity, the elders, the volunteers- to step up and realize that the Holy Spirit lives in us, too.

This Lent, let's not view the empty pulpit with anxiety, but with anticipation. Let's treat this interim time as a “fast” from what was familiar, so that we may feast on the new thing God is preparing. The Shepherd has not retired. He is here, leading us through the wilderness, one step at a time.

**Reflection Questions:** In the absence of our former pastor, in what ways might God be calling me to step up in spiritual maturity or service? What is one specific fear I have about this transition that I can surrender to God during these days?

**Closing prayer:** In this time of waiting, we ask for a **renewal of our trust**. Remind us, O God, that You are the Head of this church. You are the one who builds the house; the rest of us are but laborers. **Comfort us** in our grief over the past; **Quiet us** in our anxiety about the future; **Unite us** in our present purpose. We place our church, our memories, and our future into your loving hands. In the name of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Pastor Lon Kuehn from Centre Presbyterian Church, our Session moderator, shared this devotional reflection at our last Session meeting. I asked Pastor Lon for his permission to share his reflection with our church family. He was happy to do so. Thank you, Pastor Lon.



## **HIGHLAND UNITED PRESBYTERIAN**

11 Church Road  
Newport, PA 17074

E-mail:

[hupcsecretary@embarqmail.com](mailto:hupcsecretary@embarqmail.com)

Phone #: (717) 567-9577

### **Clerk of Session**

Patricia Shutt

### **Church Secretary**

Linda Bitting

### **Church Treasurer**

Kathy Smith

### **Financial Secretary**

Geri Hall

### **ELDERS ON SESSION**

Nancy Campbell

Jessica Bryson

Michael Byers

Cecile Willet

Dennis Tressler

Robert Rolston

Pat Shutt

Kathy Smith

Patrick McIntyre

### **DEACONS**

Elaine Buffington

Lori Little

Michelle Byers

Carol Kauffman

Wendy Brunner

Susan Robinson

Melissa Neidigh

Sharon Delancey

Geri Hall

### **Serving Carlisle Presby.**

Bill McHenry

### **Commission on Ministry**

Dennis Tressler

### **Com. On Prep for Ministry**

James Turner

Permanent Judicial Com.

Meeting ID: 810 4019 1828 Passcode: 958689  
One tap mobile +13017158592,,81040191828#  
+13052241968,,81040191828#

## **LENT BIBLE STUDY**

Our Lent Bible Study will be a brand-new Adam Hamilton Study.

Why Did Jesus Have to Die? The Meaning of the Crucifixion  
Monday evening Zoom, and Saturday Morning in person.

This is a great time for folks who have never joined Bible Study to come and see what this is all about.

Any Questions - Reach out to Bill

March 2nd Via Zoom 6:30 pm

March 7th Starting at 9 am (order earlier) at Harling's in Mifflin

March 9th Via Zoom 6:30 pm

March 14 Starting at 9 am (order earlier) at Shine in Liverpool

March 16 Via Zoom at 6:30 pm

March 21 Starting at 9 am (order earlier) at Harling's in Mifflin

March 23 via Zoom at 6:30 pm

March 28 Starting at 9 am (order earlier) at Shine in Liverpool

## **Deacons**

The Deacons had a kindness calendar, passed out Sundays February 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

If you have completed the whole calendar, make sure to turn it in to Linda. We will draw a name from those sent for a prize. Don't forget to put your name on your calendar.

Everyone that took part will receive a gift on Easter Sunday.

## **Mission**

The previously planned, April yard sale is cancelled. People can still bring stuff we WILL be having one. When a new date is chosen, it will be announced in Sunday Announcements and the Lamp. Anyone wishing to donate items, may do so by putting items in the last Sunday School Room on the right.

## Kitchen Ministry

Monday night meals will continue through May 18<sup>th</sup>. and then resume on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Everyone is welcome to attend for food and fellowship. In case of inclement weather, there will be a cancellation notice on TV channels 21 & 27. Facebook will also announce the cancellation, or you can call the church after 3:00pm. If no one answers, the meal is cancelled.

## Worship Committee

Good News Singers are presenting a concert to celebrate the 250th Birthday of America and also the 50<sup>th</sup> season of Good News Singers performing on Sunday, March 29, 2026 @ 3:00pm. @ Highland.

A Combined Maundy Thursday Services will be held at Highland United, Thursday, April 2 @7:00pm with Reverend Troy Howell, officiating.

## Mission Committee

We are working with Homeland Hospice to make meals for those under the care of hospice. If you have ever had a loved one or friend under hospice care, you know how hard it is to take care of them. By making meals for both the patient and caregiver, we are trying to help them by making life a little easier, so they can spend valuable time with their loved ones. This will be a continuing mission. Please help us make somebody's life a little easier. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate asking Janice Zaring or anyone on the committee.

**Prayer Requests** David & Marjory Miller, Delroy & Avon Wagner, Paul Richard, Elizabeth Harren, Charles Ebling, Enslee Shuman, Taylor McIntyre, Jen Hockenberry, Wayne Perkins, Jan Patton, Darlene Adams, Rob Sweger, Ann Amsler, Nancy Altimore, Dottie Crouse, Bob Baker, Elaine Buffington, Mary Ann, Erin Alderfer and Donald Morrow and family

Thank you for all the delicious meals that you provide for the community on Monday evenings this Fall/Winter. Not only a scrumptious meal but nice fellowship for those that attend and prepare the meals. A lot of organizations and work goes into the dinners. You are touching many lives in our community. Thank you for this ministry to Perry County residents. M J Ludt

Dear Caring Crafters,

Wendy Brunner delivered a beautiful blanket to my husband Wayne. We both want to thank you for this very beautiful gift. It has been a very long and sometimes a dark walk for the love of my life. He is finally getting better each day. The many, many prayers have been received and have been felt. God's Blessing and Much Love, Wayne and Barb Perkins

## Monthly Mission for March - Camp Krislund

In 1962 the Presbyterians of Huntington and Northumberland, elected members of a task force to search for suitable land for the development of a camp and conference center. An area of land was found in Sugar Valley in the Nittany Mountains. Carlisle Presbytery joined in a purchase of service agreement in 1973. This increased the number of campers that could attend Krislund. Krislund is nestled on over 800 acres. Krislund offers faith-based summer camp programs in addition to year round conference and retreat facilities. The mission is for all people to encounter God, build relationships and experience creation. The vision is a world where everyone can have a holistic experience of Gods.



## Distance Ministry

The Juniata Valley Shared Ministry offers the opportunities for worship and study via zoom each week. If there's a week you are ill, you are not physically able to leave your home this ministry is for you! See all the links below.

### ZOOM LINKS: (HIGHLAND)

#### **BIBLE STUDY LINK:** Joint Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81040191828?pwd=PuaJnFxxPpcGBeq6cAXs6rjhWua4b7.1>

Meeting ID: 810 4019 1828 Passcode: 958689

One tap mobile +13017158592,,81040191828# +13052241968,,81040191828#

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (8:30am) (HIGHLAND)** Meeting ID: 619 915 621 Passcode: 129308

### DISTANCE MINISTRY

#### **WORSHIP LINK 9:00 a.m. Sunday** Worship - (HIGHLAND)

IF YOU ARE USING A CELL OR LAND LINE: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 912 154 723 Password: 664159

#### **WORSHIP LINK (WESTMINSTER)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86533397349?pwd=MUE3M1BHVXQyRVhRUWRGZINRNGtiQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 3339 7349

Passcode: 920593

Dial by location: 1 646 558 8656

Highland Secretary Hours: Tuesday 8:00-12:00 Thursday 8:00-2:00 Friday 8:00-12:00

Westminster Secretary Hours: Wednesday 8:00-5:00 Friday 7:30-12:30

If you sow seeds of happiness, Your harvest will be sweet, You'll give a smile and get a smile, From everyone you meet.

Keep your passport to Heaven up to date.

**HIGHLAND UNITED FINANCES—JANUARY 2026**

<u>Date</u>	<u>G. Fund</u>	<u>B. Fund</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>K. Ministry</u>	<u>Per Capita</u>	<u>Totals</u>
01/04/26	\$ 2,924.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 3,344.00
01/11/26	\$ 2,485.53	\$ 125.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 2,850.53
01/18/26	\$ 467.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 492.00
01/25/26	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 5,876.53</b>	<b>\$ 350.00</b>	<b>\$ 215.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 245.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,686.53</b>

**Per Capita Assessment for 2026 is for 113 members @ \$34.66/member-\$3,916.58.**

**Total given to date for 2026 is \$245.00**

**January Mission Perry Human Services—\$215.00**

**December Mission Peyton Walker Foundation —\$175.00**

**HIGHLAND UNITED FINANCES—FEBRUARY 2026**

<u>Date</u>	<u>G. Fund</u>	<u>B. Fund</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>K. Ministry</u>	<u>Per Capita</u>	<u>Totals</u>
02/01/26	\$ 4,104.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 4,794.00
02/08/26	\$ 1,469.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 1,634.00
02/15/26	\$ 2,086.10	\$ 175.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 242.30	\$ 2,563.40
02/22/26	<u>\$ 905.00</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	<u>\$ 70.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,075.00</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 8,564.10</b>	<b>\$ 505.00</b>	<b>\$ 265.00</b>	<b>\$ 70.00</b>	<b>\$ 662.30</b>	<b>\$ 10,066.40</b>

**Per Capita Assessment for 2026 is for 113 members @ \$34.66/member-\$3,916.58.**

**Total given to date for 2026 is \$907.30**

**February Mission Bethesda Mission—\$265.00**

**January Mission Perry Human Services—\$215.00**

## WESTMINSTER

3<sup>rd</sup> and Lemon Streets.  
Mifflintown, PA 17059

### E-mail:

[Westministerupc@gmail.com](mailto:Westministerupc@gmail.com)

### Clerk of Session.

Kit Parks

### Church Secretary

Judy Armstrong

### Church Treasurer.

Mary Ann Willis

### Sunday School

#### Superintendent

John Shirk

#### Sunday School Secretary

Shelly Horning

#### Sunday School Treasurer.

Diane Marshall

### Elders on Session.

Aaron Geedey

Kit Parks

Jody Satzler

Jackie Wilt

Crrissy Campagne

Michelle Parks

Chris Fisher

Pat Brown

### Trustees.

Judd Parks

Roger Parks

Shelly Horning

Peter Crater

Mike Stoner

Rachel Dowling

Brett Satzler

## WESTMINSTER UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

**Mar. Lector:** Aaron Geedey

**Mar. Ushers and Greeters** Aaron and Meghan Geedey and Family

**Mar. Counter:** Deb Heisey

**Mar. Closer:** Deb Heisey

**Mar. Children's Ministry:** **1** Shelly Horning and Jody Satzler  
**8** Campagna Family **15** Book Family **22** Geedey Family  
**29** Parks Family

**Mar. Birthdays:** **1** Curtis Crater **4** Amelia Book **13** Gabe Book  
**15** Mike Stoner **21** Harry McNaight **27** Cassett Trout

**Mar. Anniversaries:** **16** Paul and Jackie Wilt

### Prayer Requests

Barbara Koppenhaver, Curtis Beatty, Derek & Kerri Lentz, Jody Satzler, Jacob Smith, Lawrence Beale, Don "Butch" Quigley



**SHINE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS** – Westminster's Mission is the Bethesda Mission in Harrisburg. Their mission statement is: Reaching into our community, one man, one woman, one child at a time, offering the love of Christ in tangible ways. Bethesda's Vision is to aspire to be God's House of Mercy, through which He brings about life recovery and restoration for hurting, hopeless, and homeless men, women, and children in our shelters, in our community, and throughout the region. We desire to holistically serve those in need, equip them to engage purposefully and meaningfully with society, and lead them to experience the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

Bethesda's services include Men's and Women's Missions, a Community Center, a Mobile Mission, Medical & Dental Clinics, and a Food Bank. "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40). Please give as you are quite led.



- 3/5/26:** 4:45 p.m. Trustees meeting in church office.  
**3/26/26:** 6:00 p.m. Session meeting in Sunday School room.

Mission for the month of March is Meals on Wheels for Juniata County.



**THANK YOU** to our friends at Westminster Church for your generous donation to Shelter Service Inc. from your First Sunday School Mission. We are grateful for your kind-heartedness and support during these challenging times and appreciate you coming alongside us in an effort to help the homeless, both inside and outside our shelter. With your help, we can continue to aid and assist those in desperate need. Thank you for all you do and contribute.

Blessings to you, Scott Allen, Site Coordinator, Jane Neff, Executive Director



**THANK YOU** to our friends at Westminster Church for your generous donation to the Juniata County Food Pantry to help our neighbors in need. Winter is the most dangerous time of year for the 3,000 children, adults, and elderly living in poverty in Juniata County and struggling to survive. Daily choices include whether to buy food or heating oil; gas for the car or medicine for the kids. Your gift will help to provide many families not only with essential food and supplies, but also with hope in the knowledge that someone cares.

Sincerely, Your Friends at the Juniata County Food Pantry



"Thank you for your recent gift to Bethesda Mission. Please know that your support is a crucial part of what sustains the Mission and impacts the lives of men, women, and children every day. Your gifts and prayers are truly appreciated, and we look forward to your continued support."

George T. Chochos, Executive Director

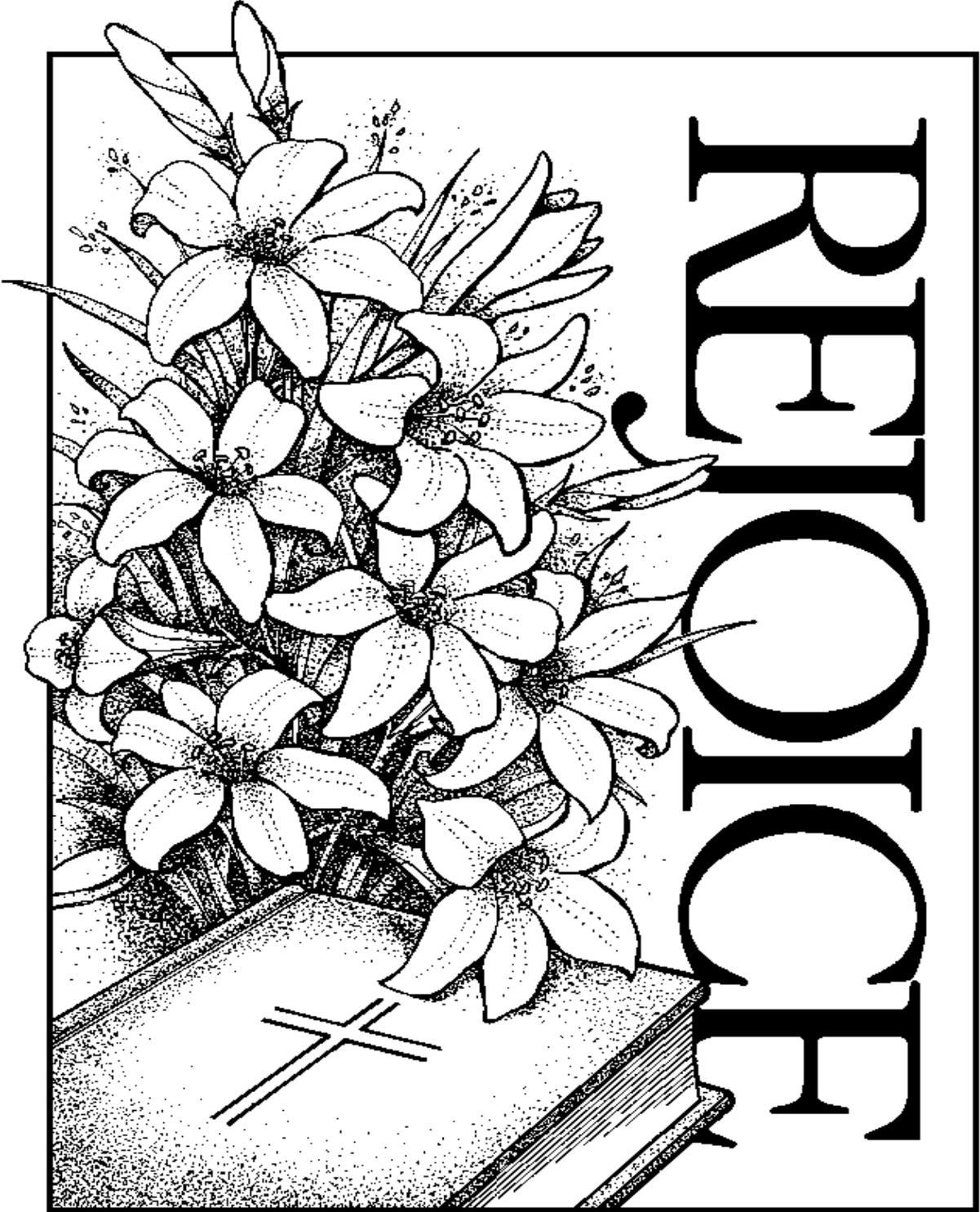


**JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** All non-perishable foods especially canned beets and cereal, toilet paper, paper products and cleaning supplies. Donations and gift cards are also appreciated.

# March 2026

**Sun**                      **Mon**                      **Tue**                      **Wed**                      **Thu**                      **Fri**                      **Sat**

<p>1 Adult S.S. 8:30am Worship 9:30am Westminster 10:30am Coffee Hour following Worship Rev. Rebecca Myers</p>	<p>2 Grief Support Grp. 9:30-11am Monday Meals 4:30-6:00pm</p>	<p>3 Deacon (H) 6:00pm</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Trustees (W) 4:45</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Adult S.S. 8:30am Worship 9:30am Westminster 10:30am Rev. David Bowerman</p>	<p>9 Grief Support Grp. 9:30-11 am Monday Meals 4:30-6:00pm</p>	<p>12 SAIL EXERCISE 10am11:00am</p>	<p>11 Session (H) 5:00pm</p>	<p>13 SAIL EXERCISE 10am-11:00am</p>	<p>13)</p>	<p>14 Bible Study @ Shine, Liverpool 9:00 a.m.</p>
<p>15 Adult S. S. 8:30 Worship 9:30 Westminster 10:30am Rev, Jeanette Mater</p>	<p>16 Grief Support Grp. 9:30-11am Monday Meals 4:30-6:00pm Bible Study Zoom-6:30pm</p>	<p>17 SAIL EXERCISE 10am11:00am</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 SAIL EXERCISE 10am- 11:00 am</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Bible Study @ Harling's, Mifflin 9:00 a.m.</p>
<p>22 Adult S. S. 8:30 Worship 9:30 Westminster 10:30am Rev, Troy Howell</p>	<p>23 Grief Support Grp. 9:30-11am Monday Meals 4:30-6:00pm Bible Study Zoom-6:30pm</p>	<p>24 SAIL EXERCISE 10am11:00am</p>	<p>25 Grief Support Group 5:30-7:00</p>	<p>26 SAIL EXERCISE 10am-11:00am</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Bible Study @ Shine, Liverpool 9:00 a.m.</p>
<p>29 Adult S. S. 8:30 Worship 9:30 Westminster 10:30am Good News Singers @3p Rev. Troy Howell</p>	<p>30 Grief Support Group 9:30-11am Monday Meals 4:30-6:00pm Bible Study Zoom6:30pm</p>	<p>31 SAIL EXERCISE 10am11:00am</p>	<p>1 APRIL</p>	<p>2. APRIL Maundy Thursday 7p Combined @ Highland United SAIL EXERCISE 10am11:00am</p>		



**Highland United Presbyterian Church**

**11 Church Road**

**Newport, PA 17074**