

The WORD

March 2026

Volume 57 Issue 3



Westville United Methodist Church

Communion
March. 1, 2026

**“Reach up, Reach in, Reach out
Reach up to God, Reach in to know
God, Reach out in Love”**

Sunday Morning Schedule:

Sunday School 9:15 am –

Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15am

Drive In Service Radio Station 91.3



Community Meal

Free Community Meal Mar 18th

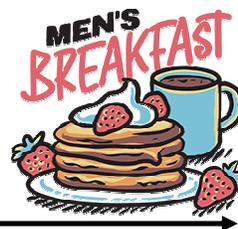
March Madness/

Hot Dogs & Nacho Bar

5-6:30pm,

Men's Breakfast

March. 14th 9 am



Good Friday Service Apr 3 ,7pm

Easter Breakfast 8 am

SS and Egg Hunt 9 am

Worship 10:15 am



JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!!!

THE WORD is a publication of Westville United Methodist Church at 154 Main St.,
P.O. Box 619; Westville, IN 46391 (219) 785-2314

******CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9-noon /Tues.—Thurs. am**

Our Web Address is www.westvilleumc.org

In order to go green The Word will be e-mailed to you. Be sure to e-mail your address to Jane at
secretarywumc@csinet.net

Printed copies will continue to be available at the church for those who do not have e-mail.

.From the Pastor's Desk — March Newsletter

“Letting Go” in the Season of Lent

Dear Westville Church Family,



March brings us deeper into the season of Lent—a time when Christians traditionally take stock of our lives, loosen our grip on what weighs us down, and make a little more room for God to work. It's a season that invites honesty, courage, and sometimes the uncomfortable realization that we may be holding on to things with the tenacity of a toddler clutching a cookie.

Our theme this year, *“Letting Go,”* pairs beautifully with our scripture focus from John 3:17, where we're reminded that Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save it. That's good news for anyone who has ever felt overwhelmed, overburdened, or overcommitted—which, if we're honest, is most of us.

Letting go doesn't mean giving up. It means releasing what keeps us from living freely and fully in God's grace. Maybe it's letting go of guilt that's been hanging around longer than it was ever invited. Maybe it's loosening our grip on fear, resentment, or the belief that we must hold everything together by sheer willpower. Or maybe—just maybe—it's letting go of the idea that we can't ask for help until the situation has reached “biblical plague” levels.

Lent gives us permission to breathe again. To trust again. To remember that God's purpose is not condemnation but restoration. Jesus comes not to pile on more burdens but to lift them. Not to shame us but to save us. Not to tighten the knots in our shoulders but to loosen the knots in our souls.

As we journey toward Easter, I invite you to join me in practicing the holy art of letting go. Let's release what no longer serves us, so we can receive what God longs to give us: hope, healing, and the joy of resurrection life.

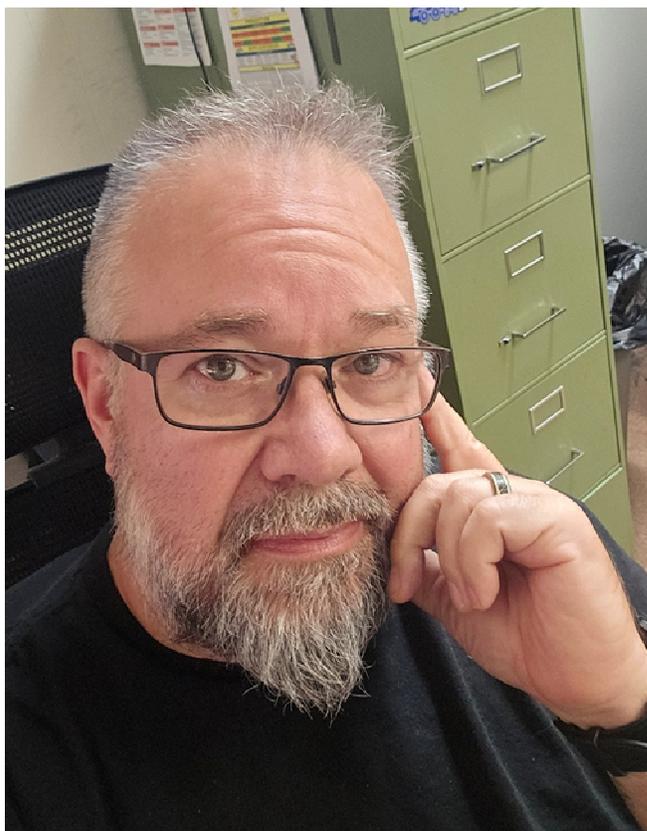
And if along the way you discover that letting go also includes cleaning out that one drawer in your house where everything goes to hide—well, consider it a bonus spiritual discipline.

Grace and peace to you this Lenten season.

In Christ,

Pastor Toby





Holy and gracious God,
You know the things we cling to—
our worries, our habits, our fears,
our need to be in control.

Teach us to loosen our grip
and trust the One who came not to condemn but to save.

As we release what burdens us,
fill the empty spaces with Your peace,
Your courage, and Your renewing love.
Guide us through this Lenten journey
so that by Easter morning,
our hearts are lighter, our spirits freer,
and our lives more open to Your grace.
Amen.

Join us in local missions!

Items needed for the Food Pantry:



- 3/1 Cleaning products: laundry soap, dish soap, mopping products
- 3/8 Pastas, noodles, macaroni, sauces, Pasta sauces
- 3/15 Canned fruits and vegetables, soup
- 3/22 Crackers, Cereal, Canned Meat, Hamburger Helper

TIME & LOCATION

Food Pantry Information:

The American Legion is now working in cooperation with the WMC Food Pantry ministry. Please drop off donations of the above mentioned items at the Legion. **For those receiving donations, items may be picked up at the American Legion on Thursdays from 4:30—5:30.**



IMPORTANT REMINDER

INFORMATION FOR THE WORD IS DUE BY March 24th IN ORDER TO BE READY FOR PUBLICATION BY March 26th AT THE LATEST. CAN BE EMAILED TO secretarywumc@csinet.net

**Family Life Center is available for rental for parties and celebrations.
Contact the church office at 219-785-2314 for more information.**

Save your pop cans and bring them to the church. The money earned from the can collection supports the Heifer Project.



BLESSINGS FROM GOD

Blessings Corner

During the month of February, Care & Share + got off to a good start. 50 easy to make meal kits were assembled. Many volunteers made quick work of putting Shantrece's meal kits together with instructions on how to make a meal for 4. Ground beef has also been given away, in addition to the meals. Our storage totes are almost empty, so it's time to make more meal kits.

Special thanks to Parkman farms for the first order of 50 pounds of ground beef.

Rotzien farms will provide our next 50 pounds. Thank you for volunteering to support this ministry by building or distributing these meals.

God is Good, ALL THE TIME! Praise God and the United Methodist Church for enabling us to love our neighbors through feeding others.



Care & Share Plus

“There’s a blessing in every moment.”

From the Pastor's Desk: Why St. Patrick Still Matters (and Why We Wear So Much Green)

Friends,

March has arrived, which means two things:

1. We're inching closer to spring, and

Every store shelf is suddenly covered in shamrocks, leprechauns, and more green than a John Deere convention. So let's talk about the man behind all the green—**Saint Patrick**.

Contrary to popular belief, Patrick was *not* Irish. (I know. I'll give you a moment.) He was actually born in Britain around the late 4th century. As a teenager, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave. Not exactly the study-abroad experience he had in mind. But during those years of hardship, Patrick's faith deepened. Eventually he escaped, returned home, and later felt God calling him back to Ireland—not for revenge, but for ministry.

That alone is worth celebrating. Most of us struggle to go back to a restaurant that once messed up our order, let alone return to the place where we were enslaved. But Patrick did, and he spent decades sharing the love of Christ with the very people who had once harmed him.

Over time, Patrick became known for his preaching, his compassion, and his ability to explain the Christian faith in ways people could understand. Legend says he used a shamrock to teach about the Trinity. Whether or not that's historically accurate, it's a pretty clever sermon illustration—and far more memorable than most PowerPoint slides.

So why do we celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

Because Patrick reminds us that **God can transform hardship into calling**, that **forgiveness is stronger than fear**, and that **faith can take root in the most unlikely places**. Also, because humans will use any excuse to eat corned beef, wear green, and pinch people who don't follow the dress code.

As we journey through Lent, Patrick's story fits beautifully with our own theme of "Letting Go." He let go of bitterness, fear, and the desire for payback. He embraced God's call with courage and humility. And through him, God changed a nation.

May we have the same courage to let go of what holds us back and step boldly into the life God is shaping in us.



A St. Patrick's Day Prayer

Holy God,
 As we remember Patrick, give us hearts that are brave, forgiving, and full of your love.
 Help us let go of fear and resentment, and lead us toward the people and places where your grace is needed most.
 Fill our days with your light, our steps with your peace, and—
 if it's not too much to ask—keep us from getting pinched this March 17.
 Amen.



Challenge Accepted

Our Pastor along with other Pastors has been challenged by our District Superintendent with raising money for our United Methodist Summer Church Camps for Kids. Pastor Toby accepted the challenge and passes it along to us. Our goal for the month of March is \$1000.00

Do you have memories of church camp as a kid? I do. At Pine Creek Camp we built a bridge across the creek, slept outside all week, made new friends and enjoyed fellowship with the counselors and other kids. At Battle ground we slept in cottages, sat around camp fires and I felt a calling to become a Christian while I was there.

Later as an adult my husband and others from our church took a group of kids to camp at Epworth Forest for a weekend. We also took the kids to a Youth Rally with crazy music.

So many memories and steps toward becoming the Christian I am today.

Maybe you want to become a camp counselor??????

We will be collecting through the month of March to reach our goal of \$1000.



Westville United Methodist Church wants to

Egg Your Yard

We will deliver Easter eggs filled with candy and trinkets to your home and hide them in your yard (or leave them at your door if you prefer). We will also be providing coloring pages, crayons, and an Easter craft.

\$20 for 40 eggs

\$10 for each additional 20 eggs

***All proceeds will go to our**

Youth Event Outreach Fund



Extra order forms available at the Westville United Methodist Church and the WUMC Resale Shop on Main St.

Delivery Dates: You can choose between Friday, April 3rd or Saturday, April 4th. We will deliver sometime between 8pm-10pm.

Deliveries will be made in Westville, though nearby locations may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Deadline for orders and payment: March 27, 2026

Contact Amanda Kelly with questions: 219-229-2765 or ankelly13@gmail.com

***In the event of snow or heavy rain, deliveries will be made to your front door.**

Westville United Methodist Church wants to

Egg Your Yard

Help support WUMC Youth by letting us Egg Your Yard. We will deliver filled Easter eggs to your home and hide them in your yard (or leave at your door if you prefer). We'll also provide coloring pages, crayons, and a craft.

\$20 for 40 eggs

\$10 for each additional 20 eggs

***Form and payment due by March 27th**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____-____-_____

Egg My Yard? (Circle One): Egg My Yard Leave Basket at Door

Call or text after delivery? (Circle one) Call Text None

of Eggs (minimum of 40): ____ # of Children in Household: ____

Allergies or Specific Instructions: _____

Date (Circle One): Friday, April 3rd Saturday, April 4th

Preferred Time of Egging between 8pm and 10pm (not a guarantee): _____

Please mail this form and payment to:

Westville United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 619

Westville, IN 46391



***You may also leave the form and payment with cashiers at the Resale Shop on Main St.**

Contact Amanda Kelly with questions: 219-229-2765 or ankelly13@gmail.com

***In the event of snow or heavy rain, deliveries will be made to your front door.**

Care & Concern

Health and Healing

Kelly Murphy
 Pete Buckmaster
 Sheryl Elliott
 Rita White
 Bob & Sheila McCaughey
 Donna Bunch
 Tina Dickinson
 Colleen Parker
 Kerry Cole
 Christopher Watson
 Butch Weston
 Scott Piotrowicz
 Wes Bane
 Terry Ream
 Kevin Jones
 Aline Hernandez-DuPuis
 Amir DuPuis
 Paul White
 Ed Carda
 Kathy MCarty

Kristi – Health Journey
 Jerry Adrian
 Lee Bently
 Nash & Family
 Richard Lee
 Hemi Ostroski
 Diane Toomire
 Jerry McCall
 Samera Mohammed
 Frank Bagwell
 Ramey Salyer
 Warren Howard
 Pam McKee
 Tony Arcinaga
 Carrie Ann
 Lothar Tascher
 Evert White Jr
 Letrisha Falls
 Cheryl Hamilton
 Kim Buchanan

Pastor Toby
The Family of Jeff Lantz

The Care Corner

Adele Lundahl

Guidance & Protection

Quinn Bacon Preston Wilson
 Aaron Hale

All Military Personnel
 All Victims of War



**HAVE YOU
 TALKED
 TO GOD
 TODAY?**

*HE
 cares for you*

PRAYER CHAIN

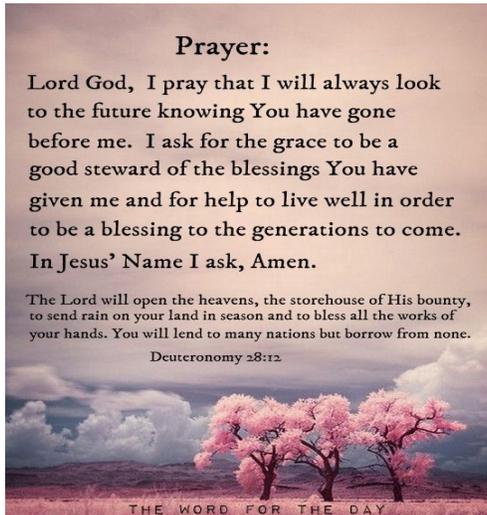
If you have a special need for prayer, the prayer chain can be activated by calling church Secretary Jane Bachman (785-2314)

Prayer:

Lord God, I pray that I will always look to the future knowing You have gone before me. I ask for the grace to be a good steward of the blessings You have given me and for help to live well in order to be a blessing to the generations to come. In Jesus' Name I ask, Amen.

The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the works of your hands. You will lend to many nations but borrow from none.

Deuteronomy 28:12



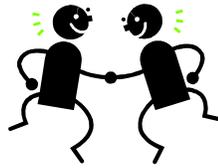
THE WORD FOR THE DAY

Pastor Toby Guill maybe reached @ **219-850-3768**
 Or email at **toby.guill@inumc.org**

******* Church Office Hours *******
Monday 9am—noon, Tues-Thurs am
My hours vary, please call 219-898-3077

Mar. Dates of Joining

- 3/23/1986 Amanda Elkins
- 3/9/2008 Kim Glassley
- 3/9/2008 Nicole Glassley
- 3/9/2008 Mark Glassley
- 3/30/1969 Charley Herrold
- 3/30/1969 Jean Herrold
- 3/27/1988 Eric Long
- 3/9/2008 Bob McCaughey
- 3/9/2008 Sheila McCaughey
- 3/9/2008 Cheryl White
- 3/4/2012 Paul Lawson



Mar. Birthdays

- Adele Lundahl 1-Mar
- Renni Stallings 2-Mar
- Kathy Hutchison 7-Mar
- Teresa Stowers 11-Mar
- Pam McKee 12-Mar
- Leah Nittner 16-Mar
- Ava O'Brien 16-Mar
- Carol Bloom 17-Mar
- Jane Pawlik 18-Mar
- Shantrece Salyer 20-Mar
- Clayton Herrold 24-Mar
- Sandra Lee 26-Mar
- Sara Jerde 31-Mar

Mar. Wedding Anniversary's

- George & Carol Wyels 3-Mar
- Kim & Marc Klein 24-Mar



WELCOME STATEMENT

“With open hearts, open minds and open doors; we welcome people of all races, nationalities theologies and abilities. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We offer a safe and compassionate place to reconcile faith, identity, hope, understanding and mutual respect”.



Westville United Methodist Church

Give as the Lord calls you to give: be as generous to God as God has been to you!

Thank you for being Faithful Givers

Your tithes and offerings maybe mailed to :

WUMC P O Box 619, Westville, In 46391

QR Code for giving...



Feb. Giving

Date	Worship	SS	Giving
2/1/2026	68	19	\$2,326.25
2/8/2026	53	20	\$1,514.00
2/15/2026	59	19	\$1,844.00
2/22/2026	53	18	\$1,711.00



H O L Y W E E K

March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		TRI KAPPA RESALE SHOP 9-12		Lions Club 4-9pm Resale shop 1-4pm		Resale Shop 9-12
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Trustee/Church Council 6pm	Resale Shop 9-12		Resale Shop 1-4 pm		Men's Breakfast r 9 am Resale Shop 9-12 Lions Chili Supper
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		St. Patrick's Resale Shop 9-12	Community Meal 5 -6:30pm FLC	Resale Shop 1-4pm		Kairos Ministry 8-1pm Resale Shop 9-12
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Resale Shop 9-12		Resale Shop 1-4pm		Resale Shop 9-noon
29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4
		Tri Kappa FLC Resale Shop 9-12		Resale shop 1-4pm	Good Friday Service 7 pm	Resale Shop 9- noon