

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Church Telephone: (304) 232-0980

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vancechurch.org

2nd Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 ~ Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1 ~ Luke 13:31-35

**Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
is a welcoming, active, community-oriented,
theologically Reformed congregation
where all people are celebrated and valued
as we worship the Triune God, engage in mission,
and serve our community and beyond.**

Gathering around God's Word

PRELUDE

CHIMES

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

PREPARATION for WORSHIP

Fairest Lord Jesus, GtG 630

CALL to WORSHIP (Psalm 27:1)

Liturgist: The Lord is my light and my salvation;

All: Whom shall I fear?

Liturgist: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

All: Of whom shall I be afraid?

Liturgist: Come, seek God in this time of worship

OPENING PRAYER

God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive. Grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ, that in every way we may prove to be your loving children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

Gather Us In, GtG 401

CONFESSION and time of self-examination *(congregation may be seated)*

Leader: When we cry to God in prayer and confession, God hears. Let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence and faith.

All: Eternal God, as enemies circle and fear grows large, the distance between us feels like absence and we come to believe you are hidden and concealed. Forgive our doubt. Forgive our lack of spiritual seeking. Forgive us when we make our faith all about what you might do for us rather than how we might serve you and work at right relationship with you.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God, GtG 423

DECLARATION OF PARDON (based on Romans 10)

Leader: God does not forsake us in times of trial. Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Amen.

Encountering God's Word

⌘ SONG of ILLUMINATION

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High, GtG 618

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool-aged children are dismissed to the nursery)

The ANTHEM

Lord of the Dance

Also known as *I Danced in the Morning*

Words by Sydney Carter

19th Century Shaker Tune adapted by Sydney Carter

Choral Setting by Don Hart

Lyrics may be found at **GtG 157**.

The SCRIPTURE

HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:

Psalm 27

Psalm 27:1-6, 11-14

Left: ¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

Right: The Lord is the stronghold^[a] of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Left: ² When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—

Right: my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

Left: ³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;

Right: though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

All: ⁴ **One thing I asked of the Lord;
this I seek:**

to live in the house of the Lord

all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord,

and to inquire in his temple.

Right: ⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;

Left: he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

All: ⁶ **Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,**

and I will offer in his tent

sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Left: ¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

Right: ¹² Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.

All: ¹³ **I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

¹⁴ **Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!**

NEWER TESTAMENT READING:

Luke 13:31-35

The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God!**

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (from a Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

By Gracious Powers, GtG 818

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: God calls us to lives of grateful generosity. Let us praise the giver of all good gifts through our offering today.

The OFFERTORY

The Lord Is My Light

Words by J. Paul Williams based on Psalm 27

Music by Patti Drennan

The Lord is my light, God is my salvation,
the Lord is my light, author of creation.
My enemies may surround me, but I will never fear.
The Lord is my light, he is always near.

The Lord is my light, God is my salvation.
The Lord is my light, ruler of the nations.

When troubles come, He will hold me in His everlasting arms.
The Lord is my light, keeping me from harm.

Only one thing I ask: to dwell in the house of the Lord,
beholding His beauty and holiness,
singing with joy of His faithfulness,
praising God, praising God in His sanctuary.

The Lord is my light, God is my salvation.
The Lord is my light, God of confirmation.

False witnesses speak against me, but I will trust the Lord.
The Lord is my light, the Lord is my light,
the Lord is my light, Christ the Living Word.
Amen.

⌘PRAYER of DEDICATION

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. May our offerings provide for others and be used to further Christ's ministry and mission. Amen. (*congregation may be seated*)

MORNING PRAYER & OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in Heaven!**

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen!**

Taking God's Word out, into our Worlds

⌘ CLOSING HYMN *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty, GtG 35*

⌘BENEDICTION

⌘BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Christ, Be Our Light, GtG 314, v. 2*

⌘POSTLUDE

⌘ Please stand if able.

GtG=Glory to God Hymnal

Songs used with CCLI License # 1223079

10:00 a.m. Service of Worship regularly broadcast over WKWK-FM 97.3

Today's worship service liturgy is written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025.

AdVance Announcements

- *Welcome to Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church, a traditional church with Spirit, serving the greater Wheeling Community and beyond!* We welcome our radio congregation listening to our live worship on 97.3 WKWK-FM and to our Facebook Live congregation watching on facebook.com/VancePresbyterian. Remote listeners can go to vancechurch.org, select the "News" tab and choose "Bulletin" to follow along with a PDF of the worship service. If you ever need prayer or would like home communion, please contact the church office at 1-304-232-0980.
- Worship guests are particularly welcome this morning. Please stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex to receive a free gift and to leave us your contact information.
- We thank Joanne Winters for serving as liturgist today.
- For the month of February 2025 tithes and offerings from the congregation were \$22,089. For the same time period building expense for utilities, repairs and other maintenance costs were \$13,276.
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Audrey Abraham
 - Ushers are Diane Crowl, Audrey Abraham, Sue Abraham, John Looney, Ann Bopp
 - Liturgist is Joanne Winters
 - Welcome Center Volunteer is Zach Abraham

Vance Calendar

Week of March 16, 2025 through March 23, 2025

Sun. March 16

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms, 2nd Floor**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Deacon's Meeting, Wheeler Room**
- 6pm, Wash. Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, *Robbie Clarke Rm*

Mon. March 17

- 11am Red Cross Blood Drive, *Fellowship Hall*
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- 3pm, Ohio County Food Security Team Meeting, *ZOOM*
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Tue. March 18

- 4pm, Susan Eismon Bible Study, *Squibb Room*
- 6pm, Ohio County Master Gardeners Meeting, *Wheeler Room*
- 7pm, Boy Scouts Troop 6 and Troop 6000 Meeting, *Fellowship Hall*

Wed. March 19

- **5pm, Pack the Bags for Woodsdale/Steenrod Schools, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*
- **6:15pm, EF&M Meeting**
- 7pm, Jr. League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thur. March 20

- 4:30pm, YWCA Board Meeting, *Squibb Room*
- **5:30pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel, Library, Davis Study, Narthex**

Fri. March 21

Sat. March 22

- 8:30pm, Alcoholic's Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*

Sun. March 23

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms, 2nd Floor**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**

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**Vance Church events are in bold type.**

Vance Church also houses the offices of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery, Young Life, Junior League, Harmony House, and Wishing Well Learning Center.

|                      | <b>ELDERS</b>     |                     |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>2025</b>          | <b>2026</b>       | <b>2027</b>         |
| John Looney          | Elaine Strauch    | Jeanne Finstein (2) |
| Frank Provance (2)   | Zach Abraham      | Diane Crowl (2)     |
| Karen Seabright      | Scott Winters     | Amber Green         |
| Howard Monroe (2)    | Jill Flanagan     | Sue Abraham         |
|                      | <b>DEACONS</b>    |                     |
| <b>2025</b>          | <b>2026</b>       | <b>2027</b>         |
| Denise Williamson    | Janice Carenbauer | Audrey Abraham (2)  |
| Jennifer Shearer (2) | Cheryl Joseph     | Jane Hare (2)       |
| Andy Barger (2)      | Roger Cain (2)    | Joanne Winters      |
| Chase Burdick        | Alan Cline (2)    | Rowena Baker        |

**The PASTOR and CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Erica L. Harley ~ Senior Pastor**

**Janice Carenbauer ~ Church Office Administrator**

**Deborah Podolski Breiding ~ Director of Music**

**Jay Carenbauer ~ Head Custodian**

**Chaz Erazmus ~ Custodian**

**Keith Wilson ~ Sound, Video, and Media Coordinator**

**Michelle Harriman ~ Nursery Coordinator**

**~ MINISTERS of the CHURCH: ALL MEMBERS ~**

**MISSION PERSONNEL of OUR DIRECT CONCERN**

**Caleb and Claire (Seabright) Bermudez**