VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003
Church Telephone: (304) 232-0980
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vancechurch.org

1st Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026 ▪ 10:00 a.m.

<u>Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:</u>

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 ~ Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19 ~ Matthew 4:1-11

**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

CALL to WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 32)
Liturgist: The steadfast love of God surrounds us always — even in the wilderness!
All: Thanks be to God! Let us be glad and worship!

OPENING PRAYER
O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. So guide us, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE
Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days, **GtG 166**

CONFESSION and time of self-examination *(congregation may be seated)*
Leader: In a time of testing, let us pause to examine our own hearts, looking for how we have failed to live up to that which God has commanded.
All: Merciful God, you know all about our troubles. Your Son was tested in the wilderness, tempted by the powers and principalities of the age. We confess how easily and often we give in to them. Yet, you continue to forgive us, reminding us there is nothing we can do to lose your love. Holy God, turn us from the evil powers in high places, that we may return to you and the path to which you have called us. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE *When We Are Tested,* **GtG 783**

DECLARATION OF PARDON
Leader: Hear and receive the good news: In Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven! Know this and be at peace.
All: Amen.

⌘ PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST
May the Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

Encountering God's Word

⌘ **SONG of ILLUMINATION** *I Danced in the Morning,* **GtG 157**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

Hope of the World

Incorporating *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*
Words and Arrangement by Lloyd Larson
Dr. Gail Looney, flute

Hope of the world, help to the helpless; a humble Servant, Savior, Friend;
God's only Son, sent to redeem us; hosannas ring praise without end.

Amazing love! How great a Savior! Christ comes to set the captive free.
A love beyond all comprehension, the grace of God for all to see.
Amazing love for you and me!

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, He had to walk it by Himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for Him; He had to walk it by Himself.

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, despised, rejected and alone.
He carried our sorrows, griefs and burdens. He had to bear them all alone.
Jesus bore them all alone.

Amazing love! How great a Savior! Christ comes to set the captive free.
A love beyond all comprehension, the grace of God for all to see.
Amazing love for you and me!

The SCRIPTURE
OLDER TESTAMENT READING
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
GOSPEL READING
Matthew 4:1-11
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)
All: In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

⌘HYMN of AFFIRMATION *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*
The Celebration Hymnal, 602

1. I have decided to follow Jesus, No turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me; No turning back…
3. Tho' none go with me, still will I follow, No turning back…
4. Will you decide now to follow Jesus? No turning back, no turning back.

⌘INVITATION to the OFFERING
Leader: God is generous and calls us to offer our time, talents and resources back to God, the giver. God has modeled this generosity like a parent giving up an only child. Love and gratitude lead us to give abundantly.

The OFFERTORY
Presented by members of VANCE VOICES of the VALLEY
The Word Was God
Music by Rosephanye Powell
Text: John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made that have been made.
Nothing was made, He was not made.

All things were made by Him…

⌘PRAYER of DEDICATION
Take these, our gifts, as we offer them today, O God. Use them for your glory and kin-dom's expansion. May these gifts go toward freeing the captives, feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, and healing the world. As Christ's body, use us too, in service to repairing the breached, broken places in our community. Amen.

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 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus,* **GtG 216**

The LENTEN WREATH and a SERVICE of DIMINISHING LIGHT

On this First Sunday in Lent
ALL please sing:
Christ Be Our Light, **GtG 314, Verse 1.**

⌘BENEDICTION

⌘BENEDICTION RESPONSE VANCE CHOIR

⌘POSTLUDE

⌘ Please stand if able.

GtG=Glory to God Hymnal
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10:00 a.m. Service of Worship regularly broadcast over WKWK-FM 97.3

Today's worship service liturgy is written by Shea Watts, and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook,* 2026.

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.

- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 22nd immediately following the Worship Service in the Sanctuary.

- Next week is as follows:

    - Greeter is Marjorie Easton
    - Welcome Center Volunteer is Carol Stryker
    - Liturgist is Karen Seabright
    - Ushers are Diane Crowl, Sue Abraham, Audrey Abraham, John Looney, Ann Bopp

Vance Calendar

Week of February 22, 2026 through March 01, 2026

Sunday, February 22

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, *C.E. Classrooms***
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- **10am, Worship Service, *Sanctuary***
- **11:15am, Annual Congregational Meeting, *Sanctuary***
- **11:30am, Fellowship Snacks, *Narthex***

Monday, February 23

- 11am, Red Cross Blood Drive, *Fellowship Hall*
- **11am, Christian Education Commission Meeting, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting/Cake Bake, *Fellowship Hall and CE Classrooms*

Tuesday, February 24

- 4pm, Susan Eismon Bible Study, *Squibb Room*
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Wednesday, February 25

- **12noon, Lenten Mid-Week Service, *Merriman Chapel***
- **5pm, Nourish to Flourish, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6000, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Junior League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thursday, February 26

- 4:30pm, Vets with Guitars, *Merriman Chapel*
- **6pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, *Narthex***
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, *Merriman Chapel***
- 6:30pm, PEO Meeting, *Robbie Clarke Room*

Friday, February 27

Saturday, February 28

- 12:30pm, Birthday Party for 2-year-old, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Potter Chapel*

Sunday, March 01

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, *C.E. Classrooms***
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- **10am, Communion Worship Service, *Sanctuary***
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

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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.
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