

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

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vancechurch.org

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 08, 2026 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Exodus 17:1-7 ~ Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11 ~ John 4:5-42

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 (Psalm 95:1-7a)

Liturgist: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Liturgist: For the Lord is a great God, and a great ruler above all gods. In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are God's also.

All: The sea is the Lord's, for God made it, and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

Liturgist: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, the fountain of life, to a humanity parched with thirst you offer the living water of grace which springs up from the rock, our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant your people the gift of your Spirit, that we may learn to profess our faith with courage and announce with joy the wonder of your love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

⌘ OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

Woman in the Night, GtG 161

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

Leader: As we wander through the wilderness of Lent, we come closer and closer to confronting human sin, both our own sin and our collective sin. It is with honesty about how we have hurt others, and hurt ourselves, that we can move closer to the healing that God wills for us. Confession allows us to exercise such honesty, knowing that the God who hears us is the God who already loves us. Therefore, we need not fear confession, but draw near to the love that is God, in honesty and candor, first together, and then in silence...

All: God of endless renewal, God who calls us to lives restored, God who rescues the lost and saves the afflicted, there are times when our way grows confused. We struggle to know what to do. Or worse, we know what needs to be done and find it easier to stay on the wrong path. Forgive us for failing to heed opportunities to follow a better way. Remind us that you stand more ready to forgive than we are to confess those aspects of our lives that stand in need of your

grace. And thus forgiven, help us to lean in to what you would teach us about how we are to be. We pray all these things in Jesus' name, and for his sake.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

O How He Loves You and Me,
The Celebration Hymnal 349

O how He loves you and me! O how He loves you and me!
He gave His life; what more could He give?
O how He loves you; O how He loves me;
O how He loves you and me!

Jesus to Calv'ry did go; His love for sinners to show.
What He did there bro't hope from despair.
O how He loves you; O how He loves me;
O how He loves you and me!

DECLARATION OF PARDON (Romans 8:34)

Leader: Who is to condemn?

All: It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes who was raised, who is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us.

Leader: Believe the promise of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

⌘ **PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST**

May the Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

Encountering God's Word

⌘ **SONG of ILLUMINATION**

Ho, All Who Thirst, GtG 479

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

Traditional Spiritual arranged by Kyle Johnson

Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.

No one can do like Jesus, not a mumbling word he said;
he went walking down to Lazarus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.

Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.

When Jesus was on earth, the flesh was very weak;
he took a towel and girded himself and he washed his disciples' feet.

Yonder comes my Savior, him whom I love so well;
he has the palm of victory and the keys of death and hell.

Oh, Lord, my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.

Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm,
a shelter in the time of storm.

The SCRIPTURE
OLDER TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 17:1-7

GOSPEL READING

John 4:5-42

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Excerpted from the Confession of 1967)

All: God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

⌘HYMN of AFFIRMATION

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd, GtG 274

⌘INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: From the dust of the earth, God made our mortal bodies, and with God's breath, life was instilled in us. There is nothing that we have that is not a gift from God. Remembering all of God's manifold blessings, let us worship God with our tithes and our offerings.

The OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace! Amazing Love!

Arranged by Earlene Rentz

Words by John Newton and Charles Wesley

TUNE: **KINGSFOLD**, English melody

Please refer to **GtG 649**.

Amazing love, how can it be the Savior died for me?
Amazing love, amazing grace, God's wondrous gift to me.

⌘PRAYER of DEDICATION

Holy God, from abundance upon abundance, you have said that we may freely take, and freely share. As we return to you what is already

your own, we ask that you would bless these gifts and multiply them. May we, in turn, be blessed, as we see your reign unfolding before us, through Christ our Lord, 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

Hope of the World, GtG 734

The LENTEN WREATH and a SERVICE of DIMINISHING LIGHT

On this Third Sunday in Lent

ALL please sing:

Christ Be Our Light, GtG 314, Verse 3.

⌘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 Baron Mullis, 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.
- We thank Drew Seabright for serving as the Liturgist today.
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Audrey Abraham
 - Welcome Center Volunteer is Cheryl Joseph
 - Liturgist is Cheryl Joseph
 - Ushers are Drew Seabright, Andy Barger, Tom John, Janet Hart

Vance Calendar

Week of March 08, 2026 through March 15, 2026

Sunday, March 08

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Liturgist Training, Sanctuary**

Monday, March 09

- 11am, Red Cross Blood Drive, *Fellowship Hall*
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting/Cake Bake, *Fellowship Hall and CE Classrooms*
- **7pm, Session, Squibb Room**

Tuesday, March 10

- **10am, Staff Meeting, Church Office**
- 4pm, Susan Eison Bible Study, *Squibb Room*
- 6pm, Ohio County Master Gardeners, *Robbie Clarke Room*
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Wednesday, March 11

- **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, March 12

- **Organ Maintenance, Sanctuary**
- 4:30pm, Vets with Guitars, *Merriman Chapel*
- **5pm, Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery with Comedian Mickey Bell, Merriman Chapel**

Friday, March 13

- **7pm, Nailers Hockey Game, Wesbanco Arena**

Saturday, March 14

- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Potter Chapel*

Sunday, March 15

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Communion Server Training, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Deacon's Meeting, Wheeler Room**
- **3pm, Let The Music Live: Bob Troeger Organ Recital with Debbie Breiding and Gail Looney, 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.

**The PASTOR and CHURCH STAFF**

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

**Janet Hart ~ Clerk of Session**

**Janice Carenbauer ~ Church Office Administrator**

**Deborah Podolski Breiding ~ Director of Music**

**Jay Carenbauer ~ Head Custodian**

**Chaz Erasmus ~ 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**