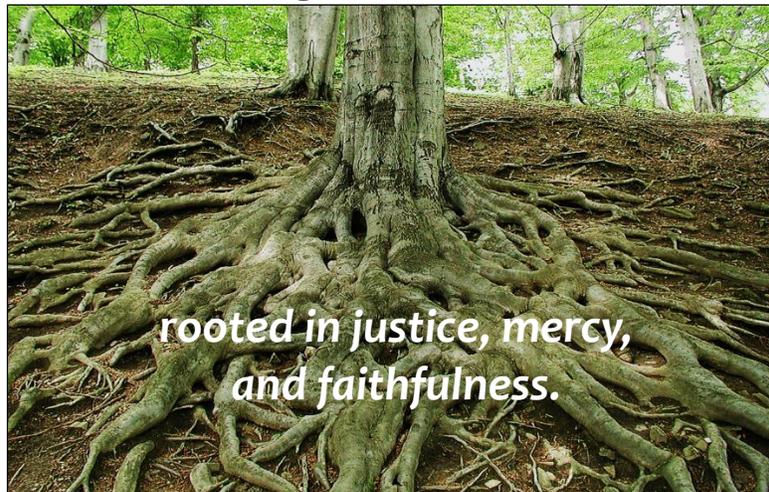


John Knox Presbyterian Church
March 22, 2026 Fifth Sunday in Lent
The good news is...



Welcome! Please be seated and prepare your hearts
and minds for worship.

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Poem

“The Things That Matter Most”

Rev. Sarah Speed

Words of Welcome

The Peace of Christ be with you ... and also with you.

*** Call to Worship**

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

**Welcome to the early risers and those
still trying to wake up.**

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

**Welcome to those hungry for justice and those
desperate for mercy.**

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

*** Hymn**

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

#435

*** Call to Confession**

*** Unison Prayer of Confession**

Holy God,

we love to live our lives by the rules.

We love clear answers.

We love right and wrong.

We love swift justice.
We love to pick up stones,
but you show us another way.
You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.
You prioritize mercy over legality.
You prioritize people over tradition.
You prioritize love over everything.
Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.
Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than
to each other or to you.
Forgive us. Soften our hearts.
Root us in mercy, justice, and love.
With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

*** Words of Forgiveness**

Church family,

Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way.

Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our God is a God of mercy.

Our God is a God of compassion.

Our God is a God of grace.

**We are forgiven, loved, and invited
to choose another way.**

Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.

Amen.

***Sung Response**

“Grace Alone”

#2162

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Matthew 23: 23

CEB

“How terrible it will be for you legal experts and Pharisees! Hypocrites! You give to God a tenth of mint, dill, and cumin, but you forget about the more important matters of the Law: justice, peace, and faith. You ought to give a tenth but without forgetting about those more important matters.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Time with our Young and Growing

Second Reading

John 8: 2-11

CEB

Early in the morning he returned to the temple. All the people gathered around him, and he sat down and taught them. The legal experts and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery. Placing her in the center of the group, they said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone women like this. What do you say?” They said this to test him, because they wanted a reason to bring an accusation against him. Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with his finger.

They continued to question him, so he stood up and replied, “Whoever hasn’t sinned should throw the first stone.” Bending down again, he wrote on the ground. Those who heard him went away, one by one, beginning with the elders. Finally, only Jesus and the woman were left in the middle of the crowd.

Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Is there no one to condemn you?” She said, “No one, sir.”

Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, don’t sin anymore.”

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Maggie Lewis

*** Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

**It sounds like welcome
and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter
and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love
and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
I have seen it alive in the world.**

**And even when my heart aches,
even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.**

**I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.**

**I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*** Hymn**

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

#795

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Church and Community Life

Minute for Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call for the Offering

Offertory and Sung Response

“Wounded World that Cries for Healing” #2177

Please remain seated for the first two verses and then stand for the third verse as our offerings are presented for dedication.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Response: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

* **Sending Song**

“Be Rooted in Hope”

Paul Vasile

* **Charge and Blessing**

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.

Postlude

Liturgist: Eileen Sheelar
Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Pianist: Adam Robinson
Music Director: Anna Robinson

We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks. Copyrighted music is projected and recorded under One License #A-735693, CCL#3162413, or by permission of the author or publisher. Liturgy and poetry by Rev. Sarah Speed, © A Sanctified Art. sanctifiedart.org/ All rights reserved.

Church and Community Life

THIS LENT, we return to the roots of Jesus' life and teaching—good news that is radical, joyful, and grounding—calling us to love our neighbors, seek justice, care for the vulnerable, and trust God's expansive grace. Even when it challenges or unsettles us, the good news is alive among us, inviting us not just to believe it, but to embody it in a world hungry for hope.

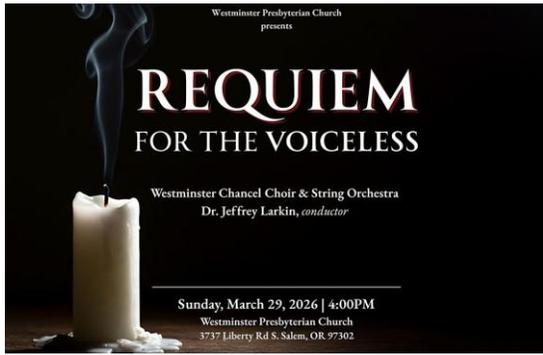
PRAYERS for Shirley's continued recovery are appreciated, and she also appreciates cards and visitors. She will be in Room 202, Salem Transitional Care of Cascadia, located at 3445 Boone Rd SE, Salem, OR 97317, for a couple of weeks to regain her strength. Their phone number is 503-576-3000. This facility is a separate building from Bonaventure South, but located in the same complex.

FELLOWSHIP TIME after worship is a wonderful time to talk with friends and make new ones. It's even more pleasant with goodies in hand. Please see Joan to provide goodies, just bring some, or leave a free-will offering in the basket on the table so we can purchase refreshments when home-baked treats aren't available. Thanks!

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 2, at 6:00 pm, you are invited to join us in a simple meal of soup and bread, followed by worship with Communion. Please let us know if you need a ride and we'll see what we can do. Maundy Thursday remembers the new commandment (mandatum) that Christ gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another. We also celebrate the Lord's Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death.

Please plan to bring flowers for the flowered cross on Easter. If you want to help attach the flowers to the cross, see Dixie.

This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people. We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.



On **Sunday, March 29th, at 4:00 PM**, come to Westminster Presbyterian Church for an evening of music that remembers, bears witness, and looks toward hope. Featuring the Westminster Chancel Choir and String Orchestra, Requiem for the Voiceless offers a powerful choral and orchestral journey honoring stories that must not be forgotten.

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When Voices Fell, we mourn the lives and voices lost too soon. Stories Not Lost gathers memory, resilience, and the enduring echoes of truth. And A Shared Tomorrow turns our gaze forward—toward healing, compassion, and the promise of a more just world.

Through music, we remember. Through memory, voices rise again. Join us for this unforgettable experience.

JKPC February 2026 Financial Report

INCOME	Actual	Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Pledges	\$5,375	\$5,175	\$7,770	\$8,640	\$83,680
Offerings	930	417	1,305	833	5,000
Misc.	374	708	444	1,417	8,500
Christ Jar/ CHP	101	100	151	200	1,200
Building Use	45	100	90	200	1,200
Per Capita	500	200	500	200	600
Food Bank Donations	100	150	250	300	1,800
Backpack B Donations	100	175	200	350	2,100
INC. TOTAL	\$7,525	\$7,025	\$10,710	\$12,140	\$104,080
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$5,981	\$6,496	\$30,240	\$29,252	\$113,070
PROFIT/ <LOSS>	\$1,544	\$529	<\$19,530>	<\$17,112>	<\$8,990>
<i>Including Investment Income, unrealized loss/gain and fees</i>					
	\$7,143	528	<\$8,362>	<\$17,112>	<\$8,990>

Treasurer's Notes

February ended with a net gain in operating revenue of \$1,543.19. Pledge income was \$200 above budget, and we have received \$500 in gifts to offset our per capita payment to presbytery. No unusual expenses were noted.

March 17 Session Notes

The session meeting opened with prayer and a review of events scheduled over the next month – Holy Week events, Easter, April session, and the presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian/Vancouver on April 24-25. Bronwyn advised us of minor adjustments to the 2026 budget for ease of bookkeeping. We heard updates on a potential candidate for our pianist/accompanist, and authorized Pastor Maggie, as head of staff, to continue with the interview and hiring process.

We adjourned after offering prayers for many local and world concerns.

Looking Ahead

March 29 10:30 Sixth Sunday in Lent – Palm Sunday

Worship: *The good news is...
inspiring us to act*

4:00 Requiem for the Voiceless
Westminster Chancel Choir & String
Orchestra, Westminster Pres, Salem

April 2 6:00 Maundy Thursday simple meal @ JKPC
and table worship with Communion

April 3 5:30 First Presbyterian Good Friday service
7:00 Westminster Pres Good Friday service

April 5 10:30 RESURRECTION OF THE LORD-Easter
Flowered cross
Enhanced fellowship time

Looking Far Ahead – Salem Community Chorus Concerts
Decades of Broadway

Monday, May 11 – 6:30 pm @ St. Mark Lutheran Church

Saturday, May 16 – 3:30 pm @ Oak Park Church of God

Monday, May 18 – 6:30 pm @ St. Mark Lutheran Church

March Celebrations

Birthdays			
2	Sally H	9	Bronwyn C.
8	Adam R.	31	CJ H.
Anniversary			
6	CJ and Carrie H.		

John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)

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Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Pastor's email: pastormaggie18@gmail.com

Pastor's phone: 510-435-7836