



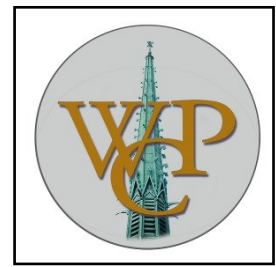
CHIMES - February 2025

Westminster Presbyterian Church

<http://www.wpclynchburg.org> (434) 847-6655

e-mail: wpclynchburg@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska



A reflection on power and love brought to us by one of Pastor Shawn's favorite modern theologians, Henri Nouwen, from his book "In the Name of Jesus."

"You all know what the third temptation of Jesus was. It was the temptation of power. "I will give you all the kingdoms of the world in their splendor," the demon said to Jesus. When I ask myself the main reason for so many people having left the Church during the past decades in France, Germany, Holland, and also in Canada and America, the word "power" easily comes to mind. One of the greatest ironies of the history of Christianity is that its leaders constantly gave in to the

temptation of power—political power, military power, economic power, or moral and spiritual power—even though they continued to speak in the name of Jesus, who did not cling to his divine power but emptied himself and became as we are [Philippians 2:5-11]. The temptation to consider power an apt instrument for the proclamation of the Gospel is the greatest of all. We keep hearing from others, as well as saying to ourselves, that having power—provided it is used in the service of God and your fellow human beings—is a good thing. With this rationalization, crusades took place; inquisitions were organized; Indians were enslaved; positions of great influence were desired; episcopal palaces, splendid cathedrals, and opulent seminaries were built; and much moral manipulation of conscience was engaged in. Every time we see a major crisis in the history of the Church such as the Great Schism of the eleventh century, the Reformation of the sixteenth century, or the immense secularization of the twentieth century, we always see that a major cause of rupture is the power exercised by those who claim to be followers of the poor and powerless Jesus.

*What makes the temptation of power so seemingly irresistible? Maybe it is that power offers an easy substitute for the hard task of love. **It seems easier to be God than to love God, easier to control people than to love people, easier to win life than to love life.** Jesus asks, "Do you love me?" We ask, "Can we sit at your right hand and your left hand in your Kingdom?" (Matthew 20:21). Ever since the snake said, "The day you eat of this tree your eyes will be open and you will be like gods, knowing good from evil" (Genesis 3:5), we have been tempted to replace love with power. Jesus lived that temptation in the most agonizing way from the desert to the cross. The long painful history of the Church is the history of people ever and again tempted to choose power over love, control over the cross, being a leader over being led. Those who resisted this temptation to the end and thereby give us hope are the true saints."*

*Painting is entitled "The Love of God" by Sabrina J Squires.

Birthdays

- 4 Queen Webb
- 8 Christopher Reed
- 14 Reymond Ferguson
- 16 Sally Mock
- 18 Charlie Ross
- 18 Anna Bradley McCall
- 19 Mary Sue Childress

* * * * *

Please remember our homebound members.

Kathleen Smith Westminster Canterbury 501 VES Rd, H-429 Lynchburg, VA 24503	Sylvia Viar 15 John Rucker Drive Ruckersville, VA 22968
Maymie Keys R&P at Liberty Ridge 30 Monica Blvd. Unit 35 Lynchburg, VA 24502	Becky Maxey 57 Beech Avenue Hamilton, NJ 08610
Eloise Peters Westminster Canterbury 501 VES Rd, B-706 Lynchburg VA 24503	Queen Webb 2209 Yorktown Ave. Apt. C-3 Lynchburg, VA 24501
	Doris Hailey 209 Woodland Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501-2127

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Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Hurricane Relief



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is in communication with affected presbyteries and National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster) to share information and coordinate resources as damage is assessed. PDA has deployed a National Response Team to Tampa Bay Presbytery, Presbytery of Western North Carolina and Northeast Georgia Presbytery. Please join us in praying for everyone affected by Hurricane Helene.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE RESPONSE, designate gifts to DR000169

Israel/Palestine

As violence escalates in and around Israel/Palestine, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance. PDA has approved solidarity grants and will continue supporting our partners providing humanitarian assistance. Our response efforts will encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions, including but not limited to medical supplies, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and non-food items and delivering crucial psychosocial support to individuals.

To support our response, designate gifts to DR000081-Israel/Palestine

**“While it is February, one can taste the full joys of anticipation.
Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch.”**

— Patience Strong

ALLEGRO MUSIC SCHOOL

TEACHER RECITAL

"Music in Film"

FEBRUARY 7, 2025 | 7:00 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church

no tickets needed



February is full of legends and traditions. After Groundhog Day on the 2nd, we celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th. There are many stories surrounding the origins of Valentine's Day. The legend most popularly retold is the

story of a Christian priest, named Valentine, who is said to have married people in secret while imprisoned. He was executed by Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd century but was later declared a Saint by Pope Gelasius I in the late 5th century. That same Pope is said to have replaced the Roman festival of Lupercalia (a celebration of the coming spring where men and women were paired together in a fertility lottery) with St. Valentine's Day. Whatever really happened, just remember to let your loved ones know how much you think of them, and be sure to say a prayer of gratitude to the Lord for the blessings of friends and family! Happy Hearts Day!



February 2nd has been Groundhog Day since 1887 here in the United States. However, it has its roots in a Christian holiday, known as Candlemas Day, in Europe. Many hundreds of years ago, on February 2nd, Christians would take their candles to church to have them blessed, hoping to bring blessings to their household for the remaining winter.

As time went on, songs written and sung about the day highlighted the idea that a "second winter" would follow a bright and sunny Candlemas Day. Clouds and rain on Candlemas was supposedly a foretelling of better weather. When the tradition made it to Germany, a hedgehog was introduced as the animal whose shadow would forecast more winter/spring. German immigrants in Pennsylvania continued the tradition in the United States, using a groundhog in place of a hedgehog.

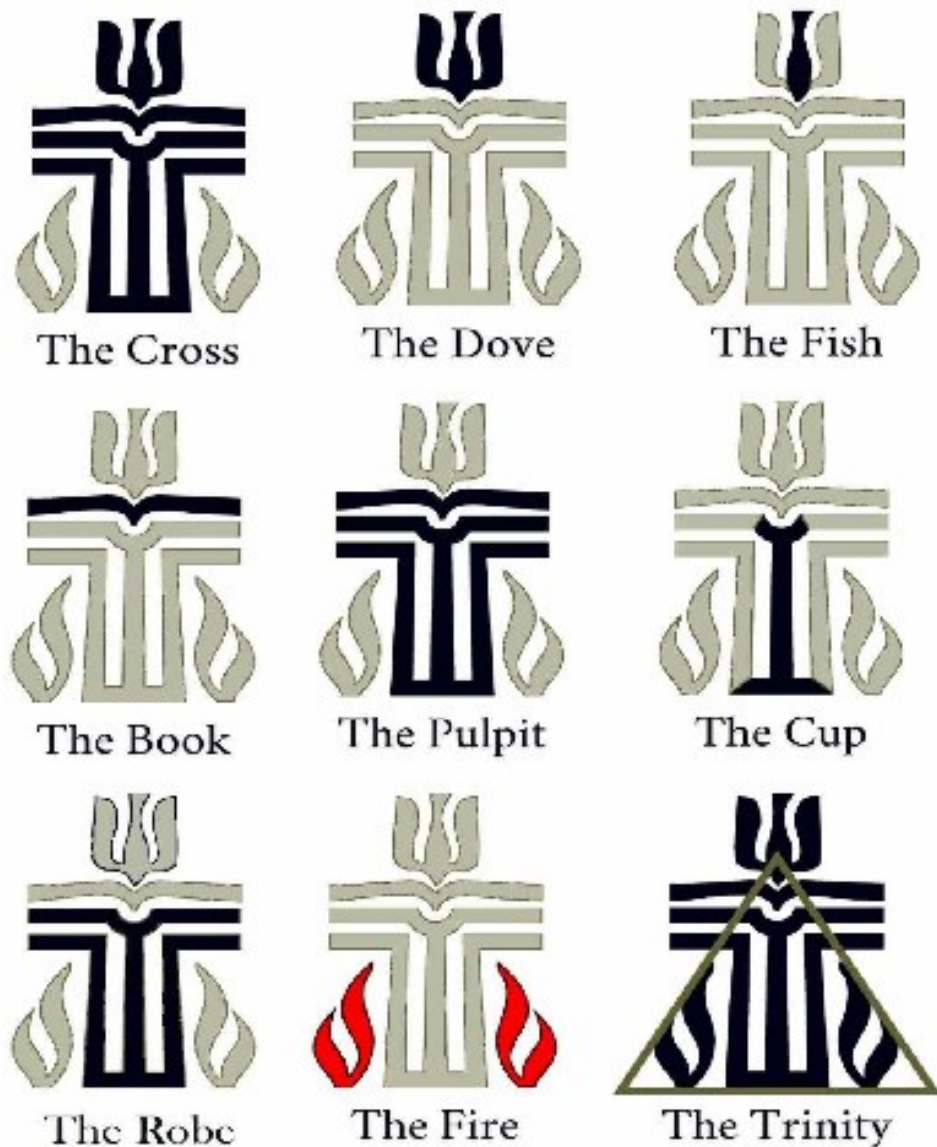
Festivities begin in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania at 3 AM! They have music, activities, and even fireworks, all before sunrise. It is at that time, as the sun begins to crest the horizon, that Punxsutawney Phil, the miraculously aged, 200+ year old groundhog (wink, wink), is coaxed from his home by an official Punxsutawney Groundhog Club member, to await his reaction to the sun. If he sees his shadow, in fear he flees back into his burrow to wait out another six weeks of winter. If he doesn't, then we are expected to welcome an early Spring. This year, ole Phil saw his shadow. How do you feel about six more weeks of this cold and flu season? I'll be praying for all of us through this "Second Winter!" Maybe Shawn will bless our candles to ward off the ick?



**CHILI
COOK-OFF**

Sunday, February 9th --
We will have the chili cook off on Souper Bowl Sunday after the worship service. All interested in bringing chili, please sign up on the sheet outside the office. It promises to be fun and delicious. All are welcome!

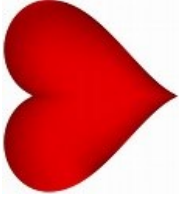
Bring your chili and your appetite.



The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form

Symbols incorporated within the seal are the cross, a descending dove, representing the Holy Spirit and the sacrament of baptism, a fish, representing the church, an open book, representing Scripture, a pulpit, representing the preaching of God's word, a cup or chalice, representing the sacrament of communion, a robe, representing the humanity of Jesus, flames, suggesting both God's revelation to Moses in the burning bush and the appearance of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and, finally, a triangle representing the trinity.

FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2 4th Sunday After Epiphany Communion Scripture: Jer. 1:4-10 and Ps. 71:1-6; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30 Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson Ushers: Valerie & Chris Harris Counters: Hoc Hughes, Charlie Ross Liturgist: Pix Mahler Communion: Valerie & Chris Harris Communion Prep: Ashley Thulin</p>	<p>3 Lunch Bunch 12:00</p>	4	5	6	7	8 Blessing Place Event 9:00— 11:30 a.m.
<p>9 5th Sunday After Epiphany Scripture: Isa 6:1-8 (9-13) and Ps. 138; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Luke 5: 1-11 Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson Ushers: Joe & Lucy Slette Counters: Hoc Hughes, Joe Slette Liturgist: Hoc Hughes</p>	<p>10 PW Circle 11 a.m.</p>	11	12	13	14	15
						
<p>16 6th Sunday after Epiphany Scripture: Jer. 17:5-10 and Ps. 1; 1 Cor. 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26 Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson Ushers: Ann Allen and Charlie Ross Counters: Hoc Hughes, Charlie Ross Liturgist: Aidan Thulin</p>	<p>17</p>	18	19 Session 5:15 p.m.	20	21	22 Blessing Place Event 10:00— 1:00
<p>23 7th Sunday after Epiphany Scripture: Gen. 45:3-11, 15 and Ps. 1-11, 39:40; 1Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke:27-38 Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson Ushers: Jimmy Reed, Wilbur Duncan Counters: Hoc Hughes, Orro Vallastro Liturgist: Mike Harris</p>	<p>24</p>	25	26 Free Clinic 8:00 a.m.	27	28	

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1022 FLOYD STREET

LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24501



**Feb. 2nd 4th Sunday After Epiphany
Communion**

Scripture: Jer. 1:4-10 *and Ps. 71:1-6*; 1 Cor.13-1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska

Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson

Ushers: Valerie & Chris Harris

Counters: Hoc Hughes, Charlie Ross

Liturgist: Pix Mahler

Communion: Valerie & Chris Harris

Communion Prep: Ashley Thulin

Feb. 9th 5th Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: Isa 6-1-8 (9-13) *and Ps. 138*; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Luke 5: 1-11

Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska

Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson

Ushers: Joe and Lucy Slette

Counters: Hoc Hughes and Joe Slette

Liturgist: Hoc Hughes

Feb. 16th 6th Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: Jer. 17:5-10 *and Ps. 1*; 1 Cor. 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska

Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson

Ushers: Ann Allen, Charlie Ross

Counters: Hoc Hughes, Charlie Ross

Liturgist: Aidan Thulin

Feb. 23th 7th Sunday After Epiphany¹⁵

Scripture: Gen. 45:3-11, 15 *and Ps. 1-11, 39-40*; 1Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke:27-38

Pastor: Rev. Shawn Hyska

Acolyte: Raymond Ferguson

Ushers: Jimmy Reed & Wilbur Duncan

Counters: Hoc Hughes, Otto Vallastro

Liturgist: Mike Harris