



Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church

"We take the Bible seriously, but we don't take it literally."

125 W Saveland Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-481-4680 tippechurch@gmail.com
<http://www.tippemission.org>

Welcome To Worship

March 1, 2026

9:30 a.m.



seeking:

*How do we
begin again?*

Welcome to this time of being with God and each other.

"Seeking: How Do We Begin Again?" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧Candle-lighting and Chimes

✧**Prelude** *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus* ~ Walker's Southern Harmony, 1815

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.

In the arms of my dear savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

✧Welcome and community news

Contemplative Outreach of Southeast Wisconsin is hosting ***One Day of Prayer, Reflection, Conversation and Community March 7, 2026 - Saturday, 9:00 am-1:00 pm*** at First Fruits 890 Elm Grove Rd. in Elm Grove, WI 53122 Building 2, Lower Level with elevator access. Gathering includes breakfast, snacks, coffee, tea and lunch. Cost is free-will-offering with a suggested amount of \$15. The flyer (on the bulletin board) includes the registration link, and is also included here (if you access the bulletin online): [Register Here](#)

Life Planning Essentials for Any Age at Forest Park Presbyterian Church 2300 S. Sunny Slope Rd, New Berlin, WI 53151 on **Saturday, March 7 from 10:45 am – 1 pm**. [Registration](#) is required. Flyer will be posted on bulletin board.

Merger Subgroup Meeting: **The Subcommittee for Christian Education** (Adult and Children's Ed) will be held at **Grace Presbyterian on Sunday, March 15th at 11:30 am**. We ask that those who feel drawn to this aspect of church life attend the meeting as we continue to move through the subgroup discussions that help shape our process.

Holy Week worship services:

Maundy Thursday service will take place at Grace Presbyterian 2931 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue Milwaukee 53207 at 7 pm on April 2nd

Good Friday service will take place at Bay View United Methodist 2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee 53207 at 7 pm on April 3rd

Spring Forward! Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 8th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour!

✧**Readying Ourselves for Worship**

Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!

Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!

✧ **A Poetry Prayer as we center ourselves**

Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

how do we begin again?

Do we slide into something new?

Do we make a formal announcement? *Dearest reader,*

I have decided to begin again. Do we turn gradually, a gentle yield
in a new direction; or like a wave,

do we crash onto the shore of a new day?

Do we grieve the change? Are there breadcrumbs on the path?

Will Nicodemus be there?

Will it ever be easy?

I'm not sure exactly how we begin again,

but I know that moths wrap themselves in silk,

and after quite some time,

after many long nights,

after days spent alone,

they break out of their shell.

They pull themselves out under open sky,

and they spend the rest of their days chasing the light.

Maybe it's always that way with beginnings.

Maybe it feels like the protective layer falling away.

Maybe we have to go it alone at first.

Maybe it feels like pulling and dragging yourself into something new.

Maybe there's always open sky at the other end.

~ The Joy of Passing the Peace ~

One: May the peace that surpasses all understanding be with you

All: And also with you

One: Thanks be to God

✧ **Time for Young Hearts** *Goes with You Everywhere*

✧ **Gathering as God's People ~ Second Sunday of Lent**

Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

The lectionary for Year A offers us many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: Nicodemus comes to him in the veil of night, he approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often, an unveiling occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

And so, our Lenten series for this season centers around questions that might feel restorative or feel like a charge or challenge, while others might generate feelings of hope and curiosity. These questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, the aim is for these questions and our exploration together to lead to the possibilities of a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. In the wake of the turbulence of the past few years, many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. Throughout this season, I invite each of us to ask: *What am I seeking? What is God seeking?*

This Lent, let us engage in the spiritual practice of seeking - to stay curious, open, and nimble. May we soften our assumptions and expand our perspectives. May these questions create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.

✧ **Gathering Hymn 274 *You, Lord, are Both Lamb and Shepherd***

✧ **Opening Ourselves to God's Grace**

What is it like to begin again?

It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.

It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.

It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

May we find God in our seeking.

May we learn as we go.

May we be brave enough to begin again.

Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

Call to Confession

One of the things I love about the prayer of confession is it offers us a new beginning. In the prayer of confession, we lay our cards on the table. We speak honestly with God about who we are and who we long to be. And in response, God wraps us in grace and lets us begin again.

So together, with God's grace, let us wipe the slate clean. Together, with God's grace, let us pray this prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession

God of new life, you call us into unknown places,

and we bury our heads in the sand.

You promise all the stars in the sky,

and we doubt it can be true.

You speak of new life in the Spirit,
and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.
Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.
**Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage
to begin again with you. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:

There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine.

No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven.

Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, we are made new.

Join me in saying:

We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We are made new. Amen.

✧ **Special Music Meditation on Psalm 121**

✧ **Prayer for Illumination**

Holy One,

We come to you today with our biggest questions:

Who are we called to be?

What do you need from us?

Where are you in our midst?

How can we follow you more clearly?

As we hear your Word today, we ask that you would weave answers into the text. Speak to us through these ancient stories that we might find what we are seeking in you. With gratitude and open hearts we pray, amen.

✧ **Bible Wisdom Teaching**

Genesis 12: 1-4a

Now God said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

4 So Abram went, as God had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." 3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, Jesus Christ. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must Jesus Christ be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

One: May we hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our tradition.

All: **Thanks be to our God.**

✧ **Message "How Do We Begin Again?"** Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Reflection Questions**

- Do I believe in the possibility of new beginnings?
- Will I be willing to step into the promise of what may be?
- Like Abram and Sarai, how do I follow God's calling to begin again?
- Like Nicodemus, what are the questions I ask in the dark?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn 51 *To Abraham and Sarah I Will Be Your God***

✧ **Our gifts of support**

In the shadows of our questions and the uncertainty of our understanding, God meets us with grace, not condemnation. As Nicodemus discovered, God's love is not earned, but freely given. May we now share our gifts, not as payment or proof, but as signs of our belief, our hope, and our gratitude.

✧ **Offertory Hymn *God of All Good***

Lyrics:

*God of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
use them your ho-ly purpose to fulfill,
to-kens of love and pledg-es brought a-new,
that our whole life is of-fered to your will.*

✧ **Offertory Blessing**

Creator God, your Spirit surrounds and sustains us. As we offer these gifts, stir our quiet faith into confident witness. Replace our hesitant whispers with the courage to speak your truth. Shape our giving into acts of praise. We believe and pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

✧ **Prayers of the People** **Community Prayers** **Pastoral Prayer**

✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in a God who meets us in the shadows,
who welcomes our questions,
who invites us to begin again.
We believe that Jesus showed us a new way,
a deeper faith,
a more compassionate existence.
We believe that all of our beginnings
should return us to this foundation,
and that no matter how many times we lose our way,
God always welcomes us home. Amen.**

✧ **Hymn 182 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say***

Lyrics:

*I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Behold I free-ly give
the living water, thirst-y one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Je-sus, and I drank of that life-giv-ing stream; my
thirst was quenched, my soul re-vived, and now I live in him*

✧ **Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread** **Communion of the People**

Welcome

We are reminded, over and over again of God's promise: that God is our God and we are God's people. This promise of relationship, this covenant, carries us through so many experiences – our struggles, as well as our joys. In this world of scarcity, we are invited to turn our attention, at any given moment, to the abundant promise of God's overflowing grace and abiding love. We celebrate this bountiful covenant each time we gather around this Table.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness will keep us from doing it. In your light, may we see light clearly, and in your service, find perfect freedom.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and juice. May the bread we break and the cup we bless be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, we pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earthmaker, Pain bearer,

Life giver, Source of all that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all.

Loving God, in whom is heaven;

May the hallowing of your name echo through the Universe!

May the way of your justice

be followed by the peoples of the world!

May your heavenly will

be done by all created beings!

May your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and may it come on earth.

With the bread that we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts that we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love.

Now and forevermore. Amen. ~ New Zealand prayer book

Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread

Jesus not only nourishes our spirit but also nourishes our bodies. He invites us to sit with him in the dark, in our uncertainties, to ask questions and to seek, and ultimately, to rest. To settle. To center down.

Come and rest awhile with Jesus. Come and eat – take in the nourishment, absorb his teachings, awaken to the promise of eternal life. Come now and gather around the Table – all are welcome.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Sweet Jesus, thank you for allowing us to rest at your Table. May the sustenance you have provided feed our body and soul, so that we may go out into the world to do the same for others. Amen.

✧ **Benediction**

As you leave this place,
may God bless you with seeking.
Seek out the hungry.
Seek the weary.
Seek the good in every person you pass.
Seek out the hopeful.
Seek the faithful.
Seek God in each of us.
As you seek and as you wonder,
may you find what you are looking for.
In the name of our loving God,
who is always seeking us,
go now in peace. Amen.

Now that the worship has ended, may the service truly begin.

✧ **Our Response:**

Holy One, now we your servants go in peace. Your Word lives on in us.

✧ **Postlude** *The God of Abraham Praise* (Yigdal)