

March 2026

INSIGHTS

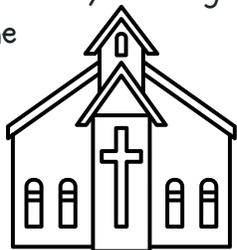


Looking ahead:

COMMUNION DATES: MARCH 1ST
MARCH 29TH
APRIL 5TH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All are welcome to attend Sunday mornings at 9:45! Adults meet in the large classroom near the choir room. Children have several rooms in which to meet depending on the age group. Nursery is also available if needed for the younger guests.



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Pastor's Corner:

As we journey through the wilderness of Lent, these 40 days will encompass the majority of March who's last 3 days see us entering into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday as we move towards the cross in Holy Week; During this time of year, you should seek to do some- thing, whether it be fasting or taking on, that draws you closer to God and strengthens your faith. This year's Lenten theme "Unbound: Longing for Wholeness" includes some contemplative practices for the days of Lent, and I'd like to share one of the practices, and one of the foundations the creators used. Hopefully, you will find these two items meaningful for use in your own Lenten journey.

First, is the Merton Prayer. This prayer, in weekly parts, is used by the curriculum to open each contemplative practice. Thomas Merton's famous prayer, as written in Thoughts on Solitude, offers an honest look at how we may wrestle with our faith towards God and how we can make our way into a future which can often feel uncertain. Merton (1915-1968) was an American Trappist monk (The Trappist Order is a Catholic monastic community. The order emphasizes a strict adherence to the Rule of St. Benedict, focusing on a life of prayer, contemplation, silence, and manual labor) who lived at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Kentucky. If you're curious, you can search the abbey online and learn more about Merton and the order he was a part of. During his life, Merton wrote extensively about faith and spirituality, and is credited with being one of the people who reintroduced contemplative prayer into modern Christian practice. I encourage you to read and then pray the Merton prayer below. If you find it meaningful and useful, perhaps you can pray this each day throughout Lent, for 'Merton's prayer is like a flashlight, illuminating the dark corners, helping us to go a little further and deeper into our reflection and practices' (Unbound Curriculum).

Continued on page 2

Pastor's Corner continued:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

"The Merton Prayer" from [Thoughts in Solitude](#) by Thomas Merton. Copyright © 1956, 1958 by The Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani.

The second thing I want to offer to you for the season of Lent through March is a short practice offered by the Unbound theme. This practice is "Five Minutes of Stillness and Silence". This is a simple practice, and that's the point. Something you should be able to do with relative ease, but for any of you that's felt uncomfortable when I've held silence in church for longer than a few seconds, you may be able to understand why 5 minutes may be difficult. In a world where there always seems to be noise, things, and life binding us up, these 5 minutes are meant to be a practice which allows us to be released from all which holds us captive, and let our minds settle from always being at work.

"To enter this practice, find a space where you are likely to be uninterrupted for a few minutes. Sit with your feet flat on the floor, back straight, and close your eyes. Allow the distractions to melt away and take a few deep breaths. Notice how simply by breathing deeply, your body already begins to find some ease. Set a timer and enter into stillness for five minutes. If (and when) you find yourself mentally wandering away from stillness, simply return to your breath. Allow yourself to be present to the moment, to yourself, and to God. When the five minutes are up, take a moment to notice what the experience was like for you" (Unbound Curriculum).

I hope that this prayer and practice furthers your Lenten journey, and offers you a way to deepen your relationship with God and strengthen your faith. For this is meant to be a time and journey of honest reflection as we prepare for the hardships of Holy Week. May your Lenten journey open you up to God's work in your life!

*Blessings,
Pastor Patrick*

5 Short Prayers for Lent

If you don't have a lot of time to set aside to pray or feel like you have the right words to pray, don't worry! God knows your heart and any length of prayer is powerful! These short prayers can be used daily or during moments of reflection and meditation throughout the Lenten season to enhance your spiritual journey.

- 1. Prayer for Repentance:** "Dear Lord, during this Lenten season, help me to recognize my sins and turn my heart toward you in genuine repentance. Grant me the strength to make amends and grow in your grace. Amen."
- 2. Prayer for Guidance:** "Heavenly Father, as I embark on this Lenten journey, guide my steps and illuminate my path with your wisdom. May your Word be a lamp to my feet and a light to my soul. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."
- 3. Prayer for Spiritual Renewal:** "Lord Jesus, during Lent, I seek spiritual renewal and a deeper connection with you. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, cleanse my heart, and draw me closer to your love and grace. Amen."
- 4. Prayer for Self-Denial:** "Gracious God, as I practice self-denial during Lent, may I grow in humility and reliance on you. Help me to turn away from worldly distractions and focus on your presence and purpose. Amen."
- 5. Prayer for Compassion:** "Dear God, during this Lenten season, open my heart to the needs of others. May I reflect your love and compassion in my actions, serving those who are suffering or in need. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

MUSIC NOTES FROM MARY SCOTT



Culpeper Live 2026 (formerly Culpeper Concert Series) is a series of performances that now require a ticket for admittance at Culpeper Baptist Church. To see the schedule and purchase tickets go to:

<https://culpeperbaptist.org/concert-series/>

Concerts scheduled:

- Thurs. March 26th 6:30 p.m. organist Paul Fey
- Sat. May 2nd 6:30 p.m. The Raleigh Ringers (handbell choir)
- Sun. May 3rd 4:00 p.m. Virginia State University Concert Choir

*** Additional Concerts to be announced. We will have concerts featuring community groups, contemporary Christian artists and comedians. If you have an idea for a concert or would like to sponsor a concert - contact Dan -

dcarlton@culpeperbaptist.org ***

Spotlight:

Lynn & Paul Craycraft



You have seen them most Sundays in the choir. They both love to sing and enjoy being part of the church choir.

They both grew up in Pennsylvania. Paul worked as an accountant and Lynn worked at the PX, a store very similar to our Kohl's.

Paul had two children, a son and a daughter. He lost his daughter to a heart attack at a young age. Lynn has a daughter, and between them they have four grandchildren.

This is a second marriage for both. They met on Match.com. After talking, they realized they only lived a couple miles from each other. They were married six months later and decided to move to South Carolina. They lived in South Carolina for 14 years before moving to Culpeper to be near Lynn's daughter and granddaughter.

Before coming to Culpeper, they were very much involved in music in SC. Lynn was in the choir at their church and Paul was a member of The Irwin Male Chorus, which originated in 1913 and had as many as 75 members and is still in existence today. After moving here to Culpeper, they were riding around one day and saw the sign for Mitchells Presbyterian Church and decided to come visit. After their visit, they said it felt like home. We are very glad they drove by that day, chose to visit and make it their "home" church.

Thank you Lynn & Paul.

CALLING ALL THOSE WILLING TO SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH THE NEXT GENERATION!

Barring snow, there will be a meeting in the Adult Sunday School room on Sunday, March 22nd following worship to learn about plans to be prepared to have Sunday School activities ready for kids and youth that we believe God will be bringing to us in the future. There will be lessons and materials all ready to go that anyone can pick up and present to youth or children. There is no preparation needed on your part for this meeting other than to pray for this opportunity to minister and be available and ready to say "Yes, Lord, here am I". Please PRAY about how God can use you to share your time and talents with others.

We look forward to seeing a great group of willing servants. Grab snacks and a drink from the fellowship hall and come to see what God can do.

In your prayer time this month, think about those who taught you about Christ when you were young and thank God for those people!





CAR SHOW COMMITTEE

It's time again to make a crucial decision- Do we go forward with the 3rd Annual Auto Show?

We need your input & ideas: Planning, promoting, marketing & community engagement, etc.

Tentative meeting after worship service March 8th.



USHERS:

IAN & BETI TURNER

Good Timers have tentatively planned for the following places -

March - Silk Mill Grill (in Orange)

April - Dark Horse Pub (Flint Hill)

May - Clearwater Grill (Locust Grove)

Update on Ronnie Settle

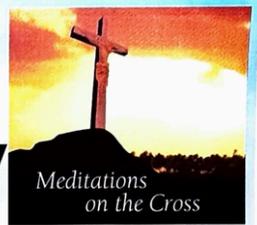
Ronnie is finishing up his antibiotics and has had several doctor visits to discuss his health and preparation for surgery. He is scheduled for gallbladder removal on March 20.

Debbie would like to express how thankful they are for Ronnie to be on the church prayer list and uplifted by so many friends. She appreciates the continued prayers.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

We want to make sure we're celebrating all our loved ones milestones on the monthly calendar. To ensure we have these important dates, please let us know if there are any additions or changes.

Lenten Book Study



Tuesday Evenings, 6pm

6 Sessions

February 24th - PigNSteak,

-313 Washington St, Madison, VA -

March 3rd - Craft & Crust,

204 E Main St, Remington, VA

March 10th - La Naranja,

182 Byrd St, Orange, VA

March 17th - Far Gohn Brewery,

301 S East St, Culpeper, VA

March 24th - 1781 Brewing Co,

11109 Plank Rd, Lake of the Woods, VA

March 31st - Potluck,

Mitchells Presbyterian Church

Spring Clean Up Day.

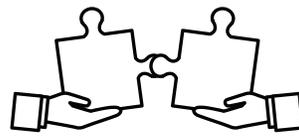
COME HELP CLEAN UP BOTH THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH - FROM THE PEWS TO THE BUSHES, WE'LL CLEAN IT ALL!

03.21.2026 — 9:00am



PUZZLE & BOOK EXCHANGE

THE COLLECTION SHELF IS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR ANY PUZZLES OR BOOKS THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO BRING TO SHARE WITH OTHERS. FEEL FREE TO BROWSE THE ITEMS AND TAKE A DIFFERENT ONE TO READ/COMPLETE.



Puzzle in progress:

If you want to help build the 'Mitchells Church' puzzle, it's on display in the fellowship hall. This puzzle was made several years ago for the teen youth group, started but never finished. Now is the time to help complete the beautiful church photo puzzle.

MORNING WORSHIP 11:00AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45-10:30AM
CHOIR {WEDNESDAY} 7:30PM
GOOD TIMERS { 4th Thursday-Variou Locations}..... NOON
CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
 { 2nd Tuesday-Variou Locations }.....6:00PM
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN { 2nd Sunday }..... Following Worship
SESSION { 1st Sunday/Each Odd Month }..... Following Worship

Listening Assistant Devices

Available for those who would like to control the volume of worship. Folks are encouraged to bring their own headphones that plug into an AUX outlet. If you need assistance with devices, ask an usher to help.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

At the January 2025 Session meeting, I advised the Session that I would be willing to serve as Treasurer through Dec. 31, 2026. I will be retiring from practice as of Dec. 31, 2026 and in conjunction with that retirement I will no longer have access to either the hardware or software that I have utilized to maintain the Church's financial records. In addition, and more importantly, I am ready to step aside as Treasurer.

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in serving as Treasurer, effective no later than Jan. 1, 2027, please contact Patrick (moderator of Session) or Steve Hicks (clerk of session).

I will obviously be available to assist with any transition.

I appreciate your assistance and support.

--Ron Evans



Did you know..... the monthly newsletter isn't just for committee news?

We want to share your favorite verse, quote, joys, shout-outs, announcements, community news, etcemail by the 25th to:

mskaffy2@gmail.com

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1	2 Madelynn Kapp	3	4	5	6 Lara Grotz	7
8 	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18 Peter Inskeep	19	20 Kara (Cuccherini) Coddington Smitty Smith Alan Wohlleben Paul Inskeep	21 
22	23	24	Vic & Teresa Squire	26 Christiane Jaderborg	27 Lou Priehs	28
29 Bo Chase Patricia Hawkins	30	31		25		

HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES: 8th : DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

17th : ST PATRICK'S DAY

21st : WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

NOTES

TOP PRIORITIES

TO DO LIST
