



Snow Creek Christian Church

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FEBRUARY 2023

Reflections

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward...And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward...And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting." Matthew 6:2, 5, 16

Forgive me, for I am going to be a hypocrite for a moment and sound the trumpet for some upcoming opportunities this month to give alms, pray, and fast. This month marks the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 22 and these are three common and very beneficial Lenten practices. The purpose of Lent and assuming these disciplines is to prepare us for the celebration of resurrection on Easter. But you cannot have resurrection without death, Easter Sunday without Good Friday. Lent is meant to focus us on penitence that God's Easter grace might become all the more evident.

One way of doing this is to show compassion for others in their misfortune through the giving of our own possessions. I cannot think of a better opportunity to do this than the Week of Compassion beginning on February 19 and running through February 26. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is how we as Disciples follow in the footsteps of Christ to try and bring healing and hope to the world. There will be more about this elsewhere in the newsletter, but I cannot ask enough times for you

to please consider being a part of this ministry through your giving.

Another way of reconnecting with the meaning of Easter is to reconnect with the God whose grace we gather to celebrate on that day. We should not just think about God on Easter and we should not just pray during Lent, but sometimes we need to intentionally rekindle that connection with God in our lives. To help with this the church will send out daily Lenten devotions via email as we have experimented with doing the past few years. I do not care if you read what I have to say, but I would encourage everyone to find a time each day during Lent to commit yourself to prayer. I would also suggest that you accompany this with a reading of scripture because that is one way that we can hear God's interaction with our prayers. My part of that in the devotions is to simply give you different perspectives with which to engage that scripture so that it stays fresh and continues to be a living Word in your life.

Finally, I would encourage everyone to fast. Give up a luxury for the forty days of Lent. This practice serves

two purposes. It helps bring us closer to God by making us realize the abundance of blessings we are surrounded by on a daily basis. It also gives us practice in relying on God to lead us from the temptations that are ever present in our lives. To help kick this off, I would further invite you to join in this year's Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd at 7:00. As with last year, we will join together with Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church for this act of worship as they will host our congregation in a joint service there at Pleasant Grove. Its purpose and the purpose of

embarking on these Lenten disciplines is not to toot our own horns and have others admire our piety. Instead,

I see it as quite the opposite. It is a way to join together with others in charity, in prayer, and in worship to help us all put God back in the rightful position of being the focus of our lives as we prepare to celebrate all that that God has done for us in the life, death, and Easter Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God be with you, Scott.



February Lectionary Readings

Sermon topic in *italics*

February 5 (5th Sunday after the Epiphany)

- *Isaiah 58:1-12*
- Psalm 112
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-16
- Matthew 5:13-20

February 19 (Transfiguration Sunday)

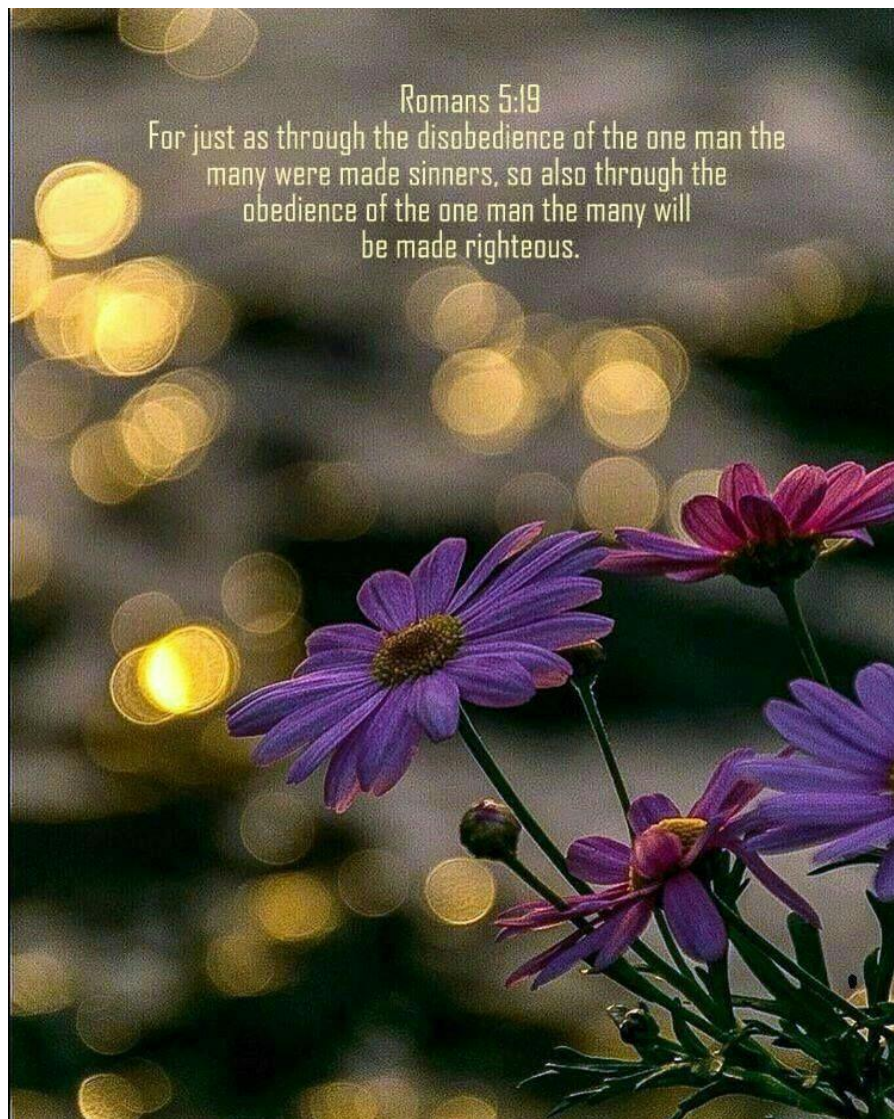
- *Exodus 24:12-18*
- Psalm 2 OR Psalm 99
- 2 Peter 1:16-21
- Matthew 17:1-9

February 12 (6th Sunday after the Epiphany)

- *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*
- Psalm 119:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
- Matthew 5:21-37

February 26 (1st Sunday in Lent)

- Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
- Psalm 32
- Romans 5:12-19
- Matthew 4:1-11



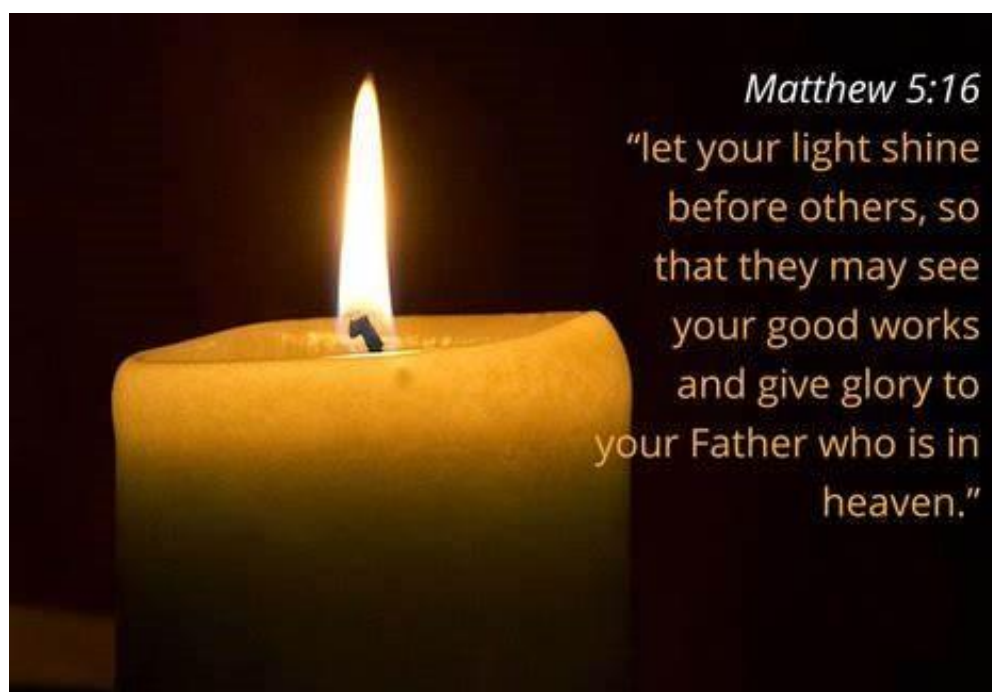
Week of Compassion Special Offering

On February 19th and 26th, Disciples churches across the US will collect the annual Week of Compassion Offering. These offering funds, the relief, refugee, and development work of the church. Just this past year, Week of Compassion provided money for projects on five different continents and in 19 different states here in this country. Included among those are my own former congregation in the Lynchburg area. They are partnering with another church to sponsor the resettlement of families fleeing retribution in Afghanistan. While I was away in January, I spoke to a disciples' minister in western Kentucky who had also received grant money from Week of Compassion for long-term expenses involved in providing relief from the tornadoes that hit there a little over a year ago. This included helping to rebuild a Disciples church that was demolished by one of the tornadoes.

You do not have to look far to see your Week of Compassion generosity at work. But you can. They are also helping to provide typhoon relief in the

Philippines, helping to fund sustainable education programs in India and Sierra Leone, and helping to fund refugee support for victims of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in six different Eastern European countries. In places that we may not even know exist and places not far down the road, Week of Compassion has become a way that Disciples of Christ like you and I can show kindness and physically help others in their sufferings and misfortune. I would strongly encourage everyone to prayerfully consider supporting the church and the denomination in this endeavor.

If you would like to do so, checks can be made out to Snow Creek Christian Church but please make sure to designate any checks or cash given as meant for 'Week of Compassion'. The address to mail any contributions is Snow Creek Christian Church, 4970 Snow Creek Rd., Martinsville, VA 24112. The church cannot thank you enough for being the compassion of its Week of Compassion offering.



Board Minutes

No Board meeting was held during the month of January and previous minutes have not been made available for this month.



A special thanks to Reverend Bob Mooty
For serving as our guest preacher for two
Sundays during the absence of Minister Scott.

THE INSTALLTION OF THE NEW OFFICERS OR CURRENT OFFICERS IN A NEW POSITION BY MINISTER SCOTT. JOYCE AND LINDA ARE REPRESENTING THEMSELVES AND OTHER NEW OFFICERS NOT PRESENT.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO BETH OLIVER, MOTHER OF OUR MINISTER SCOTT.
SHE MADE THE BEAUTIFUL WALL HANGINGS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON
IN THE CHURCH WORSHIP HALL.



Upcoming Events

February 5 at 9:30 am Sunday School for the middle school group.

February 12 at 9:30 am Sunday school class for adults. All are welcome.

Minister Scott will plan an activity for the youth. No youth Sunday School.

February 19 at 9:30 am Sunday School for middle school youth thru April 2.

February 19 Youth Sunday during worship service. More details to follow.

Wednesday February 22 at 7:00 p.m. Joint Ash Wednesday worship at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Please contact Scott if you are willing to participate in the service.

Thursday April 6 at 7:00 Joint Maundy Thursday worship at Snow Creek Christian Church. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Please contact Scott if would be willing to participate in the service.

Friday April 7 at 7:00 pm Joint Good Friday service at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Please contact me if you are willing to participate in the service.

Saturday April 8 at 10:00 a.m. Community Easter Egg Hunt at the Church. Events for Elementary age youth and older youth. More details to follow.

Sunday April 9 during worship service on Easter. Planned baptism of Landon Mitchell, Ryland Mitchell, and Addison Brown.

SCC Youth





Please keep Opal Hanks in your prayers as she is in the process of moving apartments. She is still at King's Grant Retirement Community in Martinsville but her address has changed. She greatly appreciates the cards that everyone sends and would love to hear from everyone. Her new contact information is as follows: Scott

Opal Hanks
350 King's Way Rd.
Apt. A7
Martinsville, VA 24112



LET'S CELEBRATE



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Misty Martin
- 6 Steve Jordan
- 11 Phil Winn
- 11 Evan Mitchell
- 12 Veronica Doyle
- 14 Oaklyn Washburn
- 15 Baylee Dalton
- 15 Tony Plybon
- 16 Silas Amos
- 22 Heather Via,
- 22 Susan Gardner
- 23 Del Smith
- 25 Ruby Mae Oakes,
- 25 Phillip Haynes

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Davy & Lynn Mitchell
- 15 Jim & Nancy Compton

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Susan Walker
- 2 Kellyn Eanes
- 5 Doug Davidson,
- 5 Ryland Mitchell
- 6 Bryce Mitchell
- 9 Joshua Washburn
- 11 Nancy Robertson
- 20 Stevie & Davy Mitchell
- 22 Layla Jennings Washburn
- 24 Louise Washburn
- 30 Breanna Robertson
- 31 Todd Martin

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Tony & Nancy Plybon

Please email me any additions or corrections to the birthday or anniversaries list.

If you have information for the newsletter on our church family, please email me at barbsmith@b2xonline.com or call me at 540 352 4535 or relay in person.

If you are currently not receiving a Newsletter by email and would like to receive one, please email me to add you to the email mailing list at barbsmith@b2xonline.com.