



Snow Creek Christian Church

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FEBRUARY 2024

Reflections

Valentine's Day is not normally thought of as a day of penitence and sacrifice. Forgetting Valentine's Day may lead to this being necessary, but normally we think of Valentine's Day as a celebration of romance and love. This year, I would invite everyone to rethink Valentine's and the six weeks or so following it.

By happenstance, Valentine's Day this year, Wednesday, February 14th, is also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the 40-day (not counting Sundays) period of penitence and sacrifice meant to prepare us for Easter. To inaugurate this season of preparation, Rev. Steve Weedling and the good people of Pleasant Grove United Methodist will be joining us at Snow Creek at 7 o'clock that evening for worship and the imposition of ashes. While not dinner and a movie, you may find it much more meaningful.

Anyone who has been in a long-term romantic relationship can tell you that for it to last it has to be about much more than flowers and candy hearts. It requires self-examination, maturation, honest confession, and a healthy dose of penitence from time to time. No relationship is perfect. They take work to maintain. This is what the ashes are there to remind us of.

Our relationship with God is no different. We will get out of it much more than we could ever put in, but that relationship will certainly be strengthened by our own effort. That means being honest about the ways in which we are not perfect. Typically a Lenten discipline is undertaken during this forty day period in which to grow or even simply just to give ourselves practice in turning away from temptation and towards God. Take some time to consider whether there is a habit or temptation that is interfering with your own relationships with loved ones or with God that maybe you could go without, even if just for forty days. One has to start somewhere. Ash Wednesday is as good a place as any.

But Lent is not just a time to go without. It is also a time to make new habits. Think about designating a time during each day for conversation with a loved one. Do the same for God through daily prayer. To aid with that conversation, the church will resume its annual email devotions. The focus this year will be following Jesus on the Way of the Cross as told in Mark, the lectionary Gospel for this cycle.

I hope that you will find that Lent can also provide addition by subtraction. A final way to see that in our lives has traditionally been through the giving of alms during Lent. A worthy cause that I would

suggest contributing to is the Week of Compassion offering that will be taken up between Sunday, February 18th and Sunday, February 25th. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that has been working with partners since the aftermath of World War II to alleviate suffering throughout the world. If 50 people, an average crowd most Sundays at worship, could commit to a *minimum* donation of \$40, just a dollar for each day of Lent, we could easily raise \$2,000. Think of the love that could be spread beginning on Valentine's Day this Lenten season.

For though Lent is meant to be a solemn and serious time, love is not meant to be absent from it. Valentine's Day should thus be seen as an appropriate time for Lent to begin. Lent is a time to

prepare ourselves to better receive the Good News of God's eternal love on that greatest celebration of love, Easter Sunday. With that said, I wanted to close with an announcement of some more good news. On Sunday, February 11th we will welcome into our church community through baptism Alley DeShazo and Lukas Perdue. As the Lenten season comes to a close, we are planning to baptize Leslie Amos, Kellyn Eanes, and Max Mitchell on Easter Sunday, March 31st. I invite everyone to come and join us on both those dates and welcome those individuals with love. Then make a date with God this Valentine's Day to come to our Ash Wednesday service. Bring your sweetheart.

God be with you,

Scott.

February Lectionary Readings

Sermon topic in *italics*

February 4 (5th Sunday after the Epiphany)

- *Isaiah 40:21-31*
- Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- 1 Corinthians 19:1-7
- Mark 1:29-39

February 11 (Transfiguration Sunday)

- 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Psalm 50:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 6:12-20
- *Mark 9:2-9*

February 18 (1st Sunday in Lent)

- Genesis 9:8-17
- Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Peter 7:29-31
- Mark 1:9-15

February 25 (2nd Sunday in Lent)

- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
- Psalm 22:23-31
- Romans 8:1-13
- Mark 8:31-38 OR Mark 9:2-9

Week of Compassion Special Offering

Each year in February, congregations across the United States and Canada collect a **Special Offering** for **Week of Compassion**. While many congregations choose to collect their offering during this designated week, the offering fuels Week of Compassion's work and witness throughout the whole year!

Funds received through the offering enable Disciples to respond to disaster when it occurs, because Week of Compassion works with partners to provide grants right away, addressing urgent needs, emergency supplies, water, shelter, and food.

The February **Special Offering** is set aside for congregations to lift up and celebrate this important work that we do together - not just in domestic and international disaster response, but in refugee and immigrant response, and sustainable development funding worldwide.

Each year, Week of Compassion creates a **Resource Guide** to help churches engage this Special Offering. The Guide contains theme reflections to use in worship planning, activity ideas for all ages, conversation starters on generosity and world concerns, and more. We also send out posters and bulletin inserts, and create social media and promotional materials for congregations.

These special offerings will be collected on February 18 & 25.



**Praise you the LORD: for
it is good to sing praises to
our God; for it is pleasant;
and praise is comely.**

—Psalm 147:1

Board Minutes

Snow Creek Christian Church

Board Meeting – December 10, 2023

G.B. Washburn called the meeting to order. Bud Hippisley had our opening prayer. The October, November, and November Congregational meeting minutes were reviewed. Bud made a motion to approve the minutes, Janet Purdue seconded, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Bud reported for November; there were four Sundays in November and a fifth offering this year for Disciples in November. There was a miscellaneous Backpack offering of \$585.00. Revenues and expenses were normal. Under Worship, the Wings, were for angel wings, Flowers were for Ruth Davidson's funeral and Bread was for communion bread. We caught up on our District Dues for 2022 and 2023. Doug Purdue made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Linda Hippisley second, the motion carried.

Committee Reports

- No reports

Pastor's Report

- In January we will start a baptism class for middle schoolers, with plan to culminate in baptism on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.
- The youth Christmas play is scheduled for Sunday, December 24th as part of the worship service.
- The annual Christmas Eve service will be held at 9:00 pm on December 24th.
- I will not be traveling to Kentucky for class in January as originally planned.
- Jim Compton will serve as guest preacher on Sunday, December 31st.
- I am waiting to hear back from Piedmont Community Services about their plans to use the church as a host site for their mobile unit. I expect they will start sometime in January.
- Friday, December 22nd, the youth are planning to carol to homebound members and deliver fruit baskets
- Thank you to everyone for their continued monetary support of the church as well as for the special offerings at Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- S&K Office Products came by this past week for the fourth time since this summer to repair the copier machine. They were in to repair the machine this past Friday and it is

not working properly this morning. They can no longer get parts for the model we have since Cannon stopped producing parts for our machine. S&K provided a quote for a comparable replacement B&W copier: \$1,400, plus additional costs for an extra tray, with a \$450/year maintenance contract. [Note: Del Smith has been printing the bulletin and newsletter on his personal copier for free.] This led to a discussion of the best investment for the church to make. Since the church does not normally have high volume printing requirements, it may be more cost effective to purchase an all-in-one B&W printer with copy capability and go to an outside printing company for color printing requirements rather than invest in another office-style copier. Bud will research printer/copier options. Additionally, the question came up on whether moisture in the conference room may be adding to the maintenance problems of any electronic equipment we may procure.

Old business

- See Piedmont note in Pastor's Report

New Business

- Reimbursement for Visiting Pastors. In the past, we've provided \$150.00 to visiting pastors. Question was asked if this is an adequate amount or should it be increased? Pastor Scott will check with the District to see if they provide any guidelines.
- At the Congregational meeting a motion was passed for the Church Finance Committee to evaluate funding and determine an amount to donate to the Snow Creek Rescue Squad Fund. The Finance Committee completed this review and recommends a donation of \$10,000. Vivian Doyle moved to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to donate \$10,000 to the Snow Creek Rescue Squad Building Fund, Linda seconded and the motion passed.
- During Christmas we normally give a love offering to the Pastor and music leaders. Recommendation is \$500 each to Mike Doyle and Debbie Haynes, and \$1,000 to Pastor Scott. Joyce Ingram moved that a love offering be given to the Pastor and music leaders as noted, second by Janet Purdue, motion passed.
- Goodie bags will be provided during the Christmas Eve service

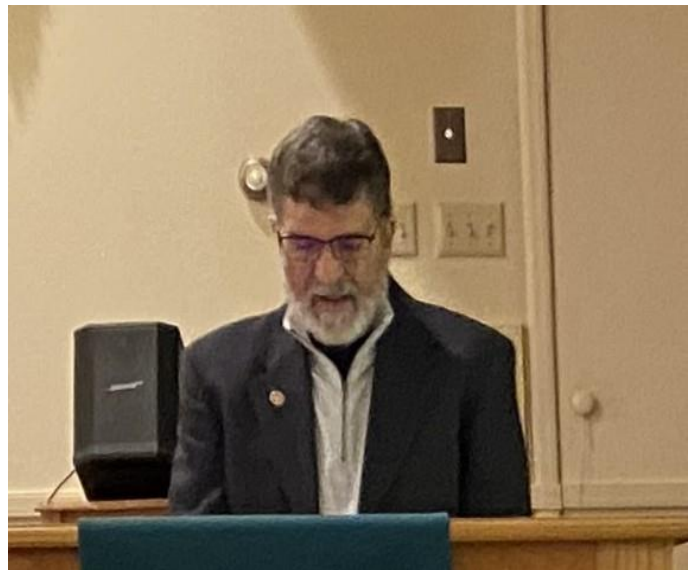
Calendar of Events

- Friday, December 22 - Youth caroling and fruit basket delivery
- Sunday, December 24 – Christmas play during service and also the Christmas Eve service at 9pm.
- Sunday, December 31st – Pastor Jim Compton will preach

GB Washburn said a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Wanda Damon, Secretary

Baptism



Baptism of Adam Elder

New Members

Alley Deshazo joined the church and will be Baptized February 11. She is pictured with her friend, Brandon Perdue, son of Doug and Janet Perdue. Brandon is a member of the Church and reaffirmed his faith.



Lukas Perdue joined the Church and will be Baptized on February 11. He is the son of Brandon and the grandson of Doug and Janet Perdue.

Upcoming Events

February 4 Men's Prayer Breakfast at the Church at 7:30 a.m.

February 2 Baptism class 2-4:00

February 4 – 9:30 Adult Sunday School

February 5 - 7:00 PM Vacation Bible School Meeting at The Church

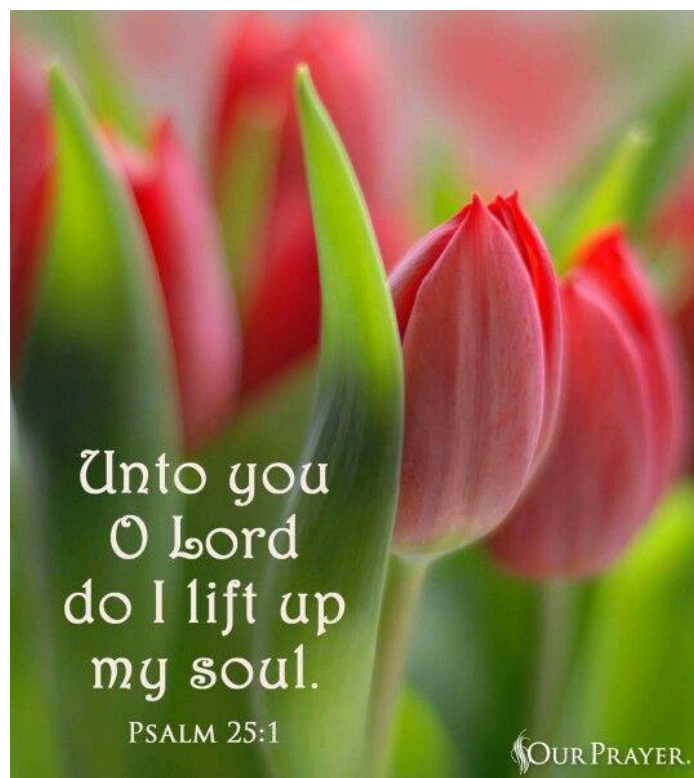
This summer our Church will host a community Vacation Bible school at the Snow Creek Church with other Churches in the community. More details will be available later.

February 11 Baptism of Ally Deshazo and Lukas Perdue

March 24 Palm Sunday

March 31 Easter Sunday

March 31 Baptism of Leslie Amos, Kellyn Eanes, and Max Mitchell



Happy 90th Birthday Curtis



Curtis Washburn is a longtime member of the Church. He recently had his 90th Birthday!! Curtis has done many things for the Church. Thank you so much for all you have done. Have a Happy Birthday !!!!!

Family News



Welcome to Liam Beall. He was born on January 13

He is the son of Kenny and Amber

And the grandson of Ken and Michele

And the Great Grandchild of Del and Barbara Smith



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

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

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.