



Snow Creek Christian Church

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February 2021

Reflections

This month marks the beginning of the church season of Lent. For those of you unfamiliar with Lent, it is the forty day (Sundays don't count) period leading up to Easter which commemorates Christ's similar period of fasting in the wilderness. This year that season begins on February 17, Ash Wednesday. I will send out an online service on this date but we will not plan on meeting in person that day due to the ongoing pandemic. Though we will not come together that day, I hope that this does not take the focus off of the intent of the season. For this year, I think the observation of Lent can be more meaningful than ever.

At the heart of Lent is the concept of sacrifice. We worship a God who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf in the form of Jesus Christ. To truly follow Jesus means, in part, to follow his example of sacrifice on behalf of our neighbors, and even our enemies. The prevalence of the coronavirus over the past year has put into stark contrast the limits of sacrifice. Feel free to disagree with me, but I do not believe that 30 people in our county, 400,000 people in our country, or 2 million people worldwide all had to die as a result of this terrible disease. With that said, nearly everyone has made sacrifices in their daily lives that they would not have even considered a year ago at this time. I think that Lent can serve this year to help us reflect on this concept of sacrifice and consider the continued sacrifices that this pandemic demands. To help with this, the church will provide three special online services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and

Good Friday. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are but dust and without the sacrifice of Christ it is to dust that we are destined to return. Maundy Thursday emphasizes the sacrifice of service as Christ washed the feet of his disciples as an example to them before partaking with them in the Last Supper. Good Friday commemorates the greatest sacrifice of all, that of the Crucifixion. Additionally, I will be sending out a daily devotion focused on several other Lenten themes. Finally, I would encourage everyone to adopt a Lenten discipline. This can be denying yourself a particular luxury or adding a spiritual habit to your daily routine throughout the season.

Some have criticized Lenten sacrifices of trivial vices like alcohol or junk food or Facebook as vain and self-centered. I would argue though that trying to discipline ourselves from our own temptations serves as a constant reminder of the infinitely greater sacrifices that God has made on our behalf. It also helps us to drop bad habits, replace them with better ones, and begin to live more spiritually disciplined lives in the way that Christ has taught. Sometimes it is hard to be good. If it were easy we would not have needed Christ to show us how. As we prepare for the blessing of new life and the Easter resurrection, let us first prepare ourselves by focusing on the sacrifices that made that possible through the prayerful and disciplined observation of the Lenten season.

God be with you,

Scott

Psalm 1:6

For the LORD knoweth
the way of the righteous:

but the way of the ungodly
shall perish.

February Lectionary Readings

Sermon topic in *italics*

February 7 (5th Sunday after the Epiphany)

- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- *Mark 1:29-39*

February 21 (1st Sunday in Lent)

- Genesis 9:8-17
- Psalm 25:1-10
- *1 Peter 3:18-22*
- Mark 1:9-15

February 14 (Transfiguration Sunday)

- *2 Kings 2:1-12*
- Psalm 50:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Mark 9:2-9

February 28 (2nd Sunday in Lent)

- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
- Psalm 22:23-31
- Romans 4:13-25
- *Mark 8:31-38 OR Mark 9:2-9*



Week of Compassion

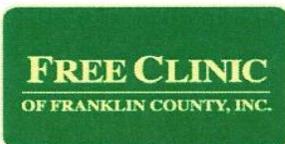
The last two Sundays of [February \(2/21 & 2/28\)](#) the church will take up its annual offering for Week of Compassion. Week of Compassion is the disaster relief, refugee, and development fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In just the past year, money from the fund has been used to help fight wildfires in Australia, to rebuild from cyclones in Africa, to help churches right here in Virginia combat Covid-19, and in countless other endeavors throughout the globe and in 30 different US states. In fact, when the Covid-19 outbreak first began in China, money from Week of Compassion was used to help try to contain and understand the new disease.

Last year our congregation generously raised over \$900 to contribute to these efforts. This year, despite the struggles we have faced, I am challenging us to contribute over \$1000 as a congregation. We average about 20 cars at a typical drive-in service. That comes out to just \$50 per car. I think we can meet this goal easily and, more importantly, by doing so we can continue Christ's legacy of turning suffering into hope. Please remember to write on any checks Week of Compassion and if you would like to mail a check, please send it to Snow Creek Christian Church, 4970 Snow Creek Rd., Martinsville, VA 24112. Thank you all so much for your generous support to a worthy cause.



**THE CHURCH
WILL PROVIDE A
SPECIAL ONLINE
SERVICE FOR ASH
WEDNESDAY ON
FEBRUARY 17**

OUTREACH



Free Clinic of Franklin County &
Bernard Healthcare Center
1171 Franklin Street
PO Box 764
Rocky Mount, VA 24151
Phone: 540-489-7500
Fax: 540-489-7502
www.bernardhealthcare.com

January 4, 2021

Dear Snow Creek Christian Congregation:

Thank you for making a gift to the Free Clinic of Franklin County at Bernard Healthcare Center during these uncertain times! Your support helps us buy needed supplies to treat and defend against coronavirus spread, and will help cover the cost of care for our at-risk chronically-ill patients.

As I write this letter, our area has 2,426 confirmed cases of coronavirus, triple the number since Labor Day. Many of the early cases were never tested due to a shortage of test kits. This is true again now as our community experiences an overload in cases and struggles with demand. Today:

- Our clinic is open regular hours with extra precautions. Temperatures are taken at the door. Masks are required, of course.
- We are handling some appointments using telemedicine and phone calls. The sick are being evaluated in our parking lot to reduce exposing staff and other patients.
- Pharmacy pick-up is curbside and mail-order.
- We have stocked up on gloves, shields, masks, and gowns. We spent more on PPE in 2020 than in the past ten years combined.
- We have added UV filtration to our air conditioning systems and added air purifiers to each exam room.
- We finally received COVID test kits for the uninsured in June. We started testing on June 8 and had our first Positive case that same day. Our first shipment of rapid tests arrived in early December, and we have already had several Positive tests.

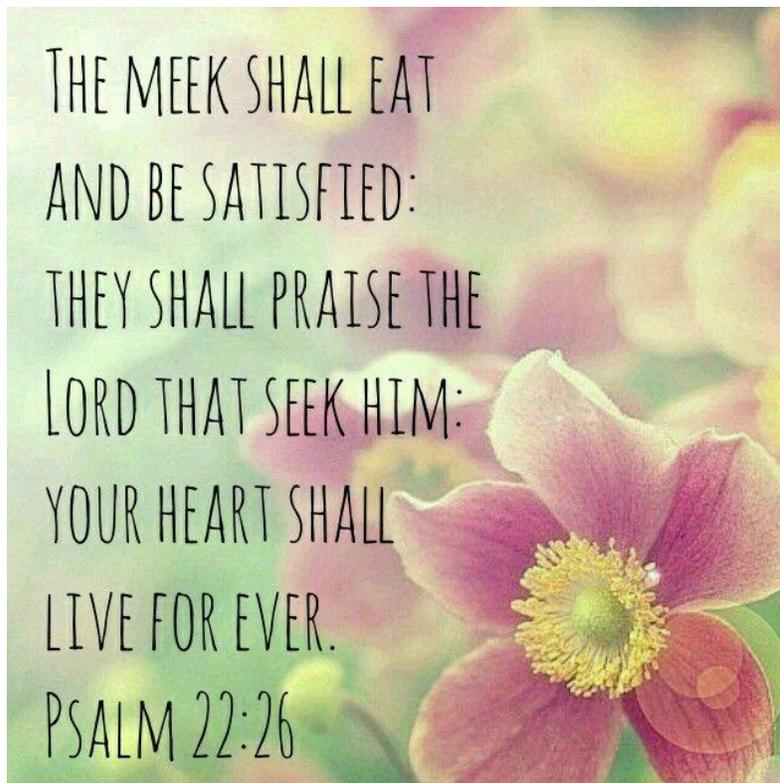
No one knows what the future has in store. Please pray for us as we serve often-forgotten low-income people during troubling times.

Stay safe,

Ellen D. Holland
Executive Director

The Church Outreach Committee made a generous donation to the Free Clinic of Franklin County. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, a large portion of the funds were donated by Ruby Mae from monies from face mask sales.

Ruby Mae would like to extend her thanks to Phillip Haynes for selling the majority of the masks in his store. Also, she would like to thank all of the individuals that assisted in her efforts by providing fabric and materials needed for making the face masks.



'MEMORIES FROM FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER







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, Tony Plybon
- 16 Silas Amos
- 22 Heather Via, Susan Gardner
- 23 Del Smith
- 25 Ruby Mae Oakes, Phillip Haynes

Anniversary

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

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

