



Representative from groups and organizations in our community answer questions about what our community needs and how our church can help meet those needs.

Volume 83 Issue 4

February 22, 2026

From the Pastor...

This past Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, which began the season of Lent. Lent means to lengthen, as in the days are getting longer. It also implies a time of our stretching ourselves spiritually. Traditionally, people have “given up” something for Lent. Sacrificing some indulgence is meant to refocus us on Christ’s sufferings as he moved toward the cross.

Last Sunday, I suggested that, along with giving up something for Lent, that we add on something for Lent. In looking at the Transfiguration, I noted that the disciples prayed, listened to Jesus, worshiped God and fellowshiped with one another.

Perhaps this Lenten season you might commit to prayer. I often use the acronym P.R.A.Y. to guide me – Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield. Start your prayers thanking God for the blessings in your life. Repent of shortcomings and commit to change. Ask in God’s will for what you need. Yield to God’s purposes for your life. Doing this daily will produce positive changes in your life.

When Jesus was transfigured, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved, listen to him.” How do we listen to Jesus today? Prayer is a good starting place, but we can also add in Bible Study. This Lent you could commit to being in Sunday School each week or participating in Wednesday Evening Bible Study. Or, perhaps read through one of the gospels.

When Jesus glory shone in the transfiguration, the disciples immediately worshiped him. Worship is another activity you could practice in Lent. Of course this means joining us for worship each Sunday. It might also mean personal worship. Maybe switch the times you listen to music to hymns or praise music. Then enthusiastically sing along. It truly will make your day better.

Lastly, the disciples committed to fellowship. In other words, they shared their lives together – the good and the bad. Maybe this Lent commit to being with your church family. Share what is going on in your life. Listen to the needs of others. When you see an opportunity, help someone. Draw closer to those you love and also open yourself to befriending someone new.

Imagine what would happen if we each committed to adding one or all these spiritual practices to our daily lives during Lent. Each of us would grow spiritually and our church would become stronger. I’d love to know what you decide to do for Lent. I’ll be praying for each of you, and I’d love to know how to pray more specifically.

Schedule

Sunday, February 22

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream
 11:15 a.m. After Worship Sunday School

Monday, February 23

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, February 25

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
 2:00 p.m. Wond. Wed. After School Program
 5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Music & Missions & Youth on Mission
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, February 26

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Friday, February 27

6:00 p.m. Parents Night Out

Sunday, March 1

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, March 2

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, March 4

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
 2:00 p.m. Wond. Wed. After School Program
 5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Music & Missions & Youth on Mission
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, March 5

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
 Mrs. Kristina Kyles.....Children's Ministry Associate / Preschool Director
 Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
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Happy Birthday

March 1

Mike White

March 3

Judy Jackson

March 5

Connie Minnix

March 6

Anne-Ellery Hill

Jacob Palmer

March 7

Ruby Kate Lowrance

March 8

Luke Williams

March 9

Bob Dellinger

March 11

Margaret Barnard

March 12

Dianne Lindeman

Nathan Rash

March 13

Johnie McLeod

March 14

Donnie Bowers

Kelby Houston

Kevin Houston

March 16

Barbara Price

Ian Rushton

Tim Tobey

Stan Williams

March 17

Joel Wilson

March 19

Tracey Gibson

Andrew White

March 20

Hailey Wiseman

March 23

Tammy Tillery

April Waugh

March 24

Kristina Kyles

March 25

Hersey Miller

March 27

Lori Fincannon

Steve Koontz

Jud Van Zee

March 28

Bill Stiles

March 31

Don Daniel

Luke Wimpy

Spiritual Statistics

	2/8	2/15
In-Person	174	167
Online	23	27
Sunday School	96	89

Financial Statistics

	February	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	55,326.00	482,146.00
Budget Receipts	78,101.00	377,192.00
Goals Not Met	(22,775.00)	(104,954.00)
Alms	460.00	10,936.00
Designated	3,878.00	90,777.00



Announcements

Fitness for the Soul Lenten Sermon Series

February 22, 2026
Deciding to Change
Psalm 32:1-11

March 1, 2026
Time for a Reset
John 3:1-17

March 8, 2026
Don't Forget to Hydrate
John 4:5-30, 39-42

March 15, 2026
When You Lose Focus, Refocus
John 9:1-41 (1-7, 13-17)

March 22, 2026
Finding Our Second Wind
Ezekiel 37:1-14

March 29, 2026
Celebrate and Continue
Matthew 21: 1-11



Welcome to our Church Family!

Sandy Brown joined our congregation at the worship service on February 15, 2026. Welcome to our church family!

Thank You Note from Melissa Wilson

Thank you to everyone who supported the Soup Lunch Fundraiser. This was most successful soup lunch fundraiser yet! Because of you, our children and youth will have a wonderful time at camp this summer!

Parents Night Out Friday, February 27, 2026 6:00-9:00 p.m.



Children (birth-grade 5) are invited for a fun evening with Melissa and Kristina. Children will make a craft, play in the gym, eat pizza, and watch a movie. Cost is \$5 per child. Please use the QR code to register.

Upcoming Events

Visioning Session: Asset Mapping
Sunday, March 1

Maundy Thursday Service
April 2 - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Community Service
St John Lutheran Church
April 3 - 12:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 4 - 10:00 a.m.

Eddie Steele Fund March Alms Offering Sunday, March 1, 2026

Our March Alms offering will be put toward the Eddie Steele Fund at Fifth Street Ministries in memory of our dear friend Eddie Steele. Eddie was a brother in Christ, a friend, a co-worker, a volunteer, and a caretaker of our campus. Eddie passed away in June of 2016. Each March (Eddie's birthday month), we remember him with a contribution to the fund set up in his name that helps other homeless individuals get back on their feet.

Dust That Moves

By Ossie McKinney, Director of Research and Administration for Outreach and Growth, CBF Decatur, GA; www.cbf.net/blog

“Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, ‘Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf ... After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.’”

– Esther 4:13–16, NRSV

On Ash Wednesday, we hear the ancient words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” It is a humbling truth. We are fragile. Finite. Made of the earth and destined to return to it. But there is another truth just as holy: dust can move.

Esther was dust. A young woman swept up in an empire that had no room for her voice, no regard for her people. When her cousin Mordecai sent word that the lives of the Jews were at stake, Esther did not rush into heroism. She paused. She fasted. She trembled. She resisted, at first, the terrifying call to confront power.

She knew what it meant to move before a king who could kill with a glance. She knew what it meant to speak when silence was safer. But Esther chose to move anyway.

Ash Wednesday does not call us to strength. It calls us to honest courage—the kind that knows its limits, feels its fear, and still shows up. Racial justice work requires that same courage. It asks us to speak hard truths, to risk reputation or comfort, to break generational silences, to confront systemic sin. It’s easier to stay still. It’s easier to say, “That’s not my fight,” or “Someone else will speak.” But God is always calling someone—maybe you—to move.

On this day of ashes, we remember: We are dust. But in God’s hands, dust has agency. Dust can fast. Dust can speak. Dust can rise.

Prayer: God who shaped us from the dust, Today we remember our mortality—but also your mercy. You moved through Esther’s trembling voice. You stirred your people to rise and speak across generations. Move through us. When the work of justice feels too heavy, When our voices shake, Remind us that we are dust— but dust that moves with you. Amen.

