

Ministry ideas created by those that attended the Asset Mapping Visioning Session.



## THE INTERIM

Volume 83 Issue 5

March 8, 2026

### From the Pastor...

Thank you to all who stayed last Sunday for our Asset Mapping Exercise. This was the third congregational meeting in our Visioning Process. If you were unable to attend, you missed a lot of fun. However, it's not too late.

I invite everyone to look at the assets and potential ministries that are still up on the Fellowship Hall wall. We named over 297 assets (things useful to ministry) and came up with 41 potential ministries.

You are welcome to add to the assets by putting up more post-it notes. You are also welcome to add ideas for creative ministries by putting up new ideas that would use our assets well.

It is amazing to look at these assets and recognize how blessed we are as a congregation. We have great facilities, talented people, strong ministry partners and lot of other resources.

I am excited to continue this visioning process and know it will help strengthen our church. I hope you will attend our fourth and final congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, April 19, 2026. We will be writing our congregation's future story and you are a vital part!

**Visioning Session: Future Stories**  
**Sunday, April 19 - 11:00 a.m.**

## Schedule

### Sunday, March 8

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

### Monday, March 9

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, March 11

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 12

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

### Sunday, March 15

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

### Monday, March 16

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, March 18

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 19

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon  
 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  
 Tel: 704-873-7231

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*"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come".*

*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

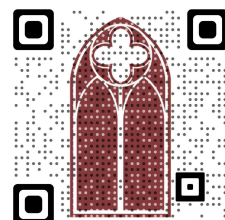
## Spiritual Statistics

	2/22	3/1
In-Person .....	176	169
Online .....	19	21
Sunday School .....	97	94

## Financial Statistics

	March	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	83,308.00	565,455.00
Budget Receipts	20,937.00	413,814.00
Goals Not Met	(62,371.00)	(151,641.00)
Eddie Steele Fund	3,001.00	13,937.00
Designated	302.00	91,538.00

Scan the QR code to give online.





## Announcements

### Fitness for the Soul Lenten Sermon Series

**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



### Senior Adult Luncheon

**Thursday, March 19, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.**

Clay Lunsford and Friends will entertain. The menu includes braised pork chops, rice, roasted mixed vegetables, and desert. Cost is \$6.00. Please make your reservations by Monday, March 16.

### Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 4, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.**

All children are invited for a fun morning of hunting eggs on our front lawn. We need your help stuffing eggs. Please take home a bag of plastic eggs, stuff with individually wrapped treats or other treats, and return to the rack outside of the sanctuary.

### Upcoming Events

Palm Sunday  
March 29

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.

Easter Sunday  
April 5  
Breakfast: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Visioning Session  
Sunday, April 19

Graduation Sunday  
May 17

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# Emmanuel McCall Lenten Devotional: Confronted and Led toward New Creation

By Paul Baxley, Executive Coordinator of CBF, Decatur, GA; [www.cbf.net/blog](http://www.cbf.net/blog)

“But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel.’”

– Acts 9:15, NRSV

The Apostle Paul was a compelling preacher, a natural entrepreneur who though not a theologian by profession, used entrepreneurial methods to carry out his missionary work of starting congregations and mentoring church leaders. He was a visionary who imagined that the Christian community would be daringly and equitably inclusive of people who spoke many languages, came from different religious backgrounds, and had very different racial and ethnic identities. He was bold enough to stand up to political authorities and theological adversaries.

But none of that was true or evident when the Risen Jesus first overtook Paul on the Damascus Road. In that confrontation, Paul (then known as Saul) was overwhelmed, blinded and weakened. That moment was much more a divine confrontation than it was a disclosure of Call. Before Acts 9 is over, we know that Paul will be an “instrument to bring Christ’s name before Gentiles, kings and the people of Israel.” But we only know that because Jesus told Ananias, not because Saul heard anything. All Saul knows in those initial moments is that he must get to Damascus and then he’ll be told what to do next.

The beginning of Saul’s journey with Christ is not confidence and assurance. It is confrontation and vulnerability. Jesus confronts Saul with his history of persecution and that history must be dealt with honestly. Saul is blinded and weakened, and he cannot get anywhere on his own, but instead must humbly receive the guidance of others.

The first steps in any of our journeys toward participating in Christ’s vision of just and beautiful Christian community never promised certainty. For those of us who are white and have a history of benefiting from supremacy and privilege, there is first a dizzying confrontation with things to which we have far too long been blind. Then there is a need to follow the leadership of others as we take our steps toward the new world God is making. Christ will send others to take us by hand, to show us what we’ve not known before, and give us opportunities to grow. Then, by God’s grace, we find ways to be agents through whom God’s new creation comes to life.

Reflection: Who are the people Christ has sent to lead you toward his vision of a just and beautiful Christian community?

Prayer: Lord, open our eyes this Lent to the ways you are calling us to join you in making a world where there are no longer strangers and sojourners, where there is no longer domination and fear based on difference, but instead where all of us flourish together in your peace and justice.

*This passage is originally found in the 2026 Emmanuel McCall Lenten Devotional series, prepared by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship family and friends.*

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