



GRACE CONNECTION

March Issue 2019

Dear Church Family,



As the month of March begins so does the season of Lent. “Lent” comes from the old English word for springtime, perhaps connected with the lengthening of days in this time of year in the Northern Hemisphere. The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith – through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lent is a period of forty days – like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call of repentance to Nineveh, and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. The Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days, as every Lord’s Day is a celebration of Christ’s resurrection.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, with the imposition of ashes. The Ash Wednesday worship service is a time where we recognize our mortality and repent of our sins. We recognize life as a precious gift from God and re-turn our lives towards Jesus Christ. Ash Wednesday is about who God is and who we are. It is a day set apart for corporate repentance; on this day the church goes to her knees first as representative of all mankind. We raise our hands and say, “look here first Lord, if anyone is guilty it is us.” We know better. We just can’t seem to do better. That is why everyone lines up, and one, after another, after another, receives ashes on their forehead. Ashes symbolizing our grief that we have sinned and caused division from one another. Guilty. It’s me Lord. It is us Lord. ***Our Worship Service of Prayer and the Imposition of Ashes is March 6th at 7:00 pm***

Following Ash Wednesday are the six Sundays in Lent. We are offering a preaching series called ***God on the Move***. Jesus didn’t stay in one place very long. His earthly ministry was one of moving from one place and encounter to the next. This series will help us reclaim the movement of Jesus ministry from temptation to condemnation, through his teaching and miracles and finally through the story of his death and resurrection. As we encounter the life and ministry of Jesus, we cannot stay the same. We ourselves are moved to grow and change as followers and imitators of the gospel.

You are invited into these wilderness days, these “come away and be with the Lord” days, these thought-full days for inner healing, these stretched out days giving you time to develop helpful attitudes, these intentional days for good deeds done with joyful self-sacrifice, these longer days for pondering the beauty of life for the renewal of self. Come, you are invited, spend some time with God and spend some time in the company of your Grace Covenant Family.

Let us worship God in all that we do, and love one another!

Blessings of peace,

~Pastor Trish

Worship

Calling All Ordained Elders: The Worship Committee is looking for assistance in serving communion on the first Sunday of each month. If you are able to serve, please email Melissa Forrester at forrester.melissa1@gmail.com. The goal is to prepare the schedule for six months in advance.

“God’s on the Move” Lenten Schedule

- March 06** 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes.
NOTE: For those who prefer an earlier service, First Presbyterian Simpsonville will hold a service at 12:00 noon.
- March 10** 10:30 am First Sunday of Lent Worship Service “God’s on the Move” series begins.
- March 17** 10:30 am Second Sunday of Lent with continuation of series.
- March 24** 10:30 am Third Sunday of Lent with continuation of series.
CROP WALK (see announcements for details)
- March 31** 9:00-10:00 am: Intergenerational Sunday School led by Pastor Trish—*Faith and Family on the Fifth: Thinking about Baptism*.
10:30 am Fourth Sunday of Lent with continuation of series.
- April 07** 10:30 am Fifth Sunday of Lent with continuation of series.

Holy Week Schedule:

- April 14 Palm Sunday**
10:15 am Children are invited to meet in the Greeting Room to line up for the waving of the Palms.
10:30 am Worship Service
11:45 am Lunch and egg hunt following worship.
- April 18 Maundy Thursday**
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service and Holy Communion.
- April 19 Good Friday**
7:00 pm Good Friday Service with special music.
- April 21 Resurrection Sunday!**
9:30 am Bring your fresh flowers or greenery and place them on the flower cross in the Greeting Room prior to worship.
10:30 am Worship Service, Holy Communion, and One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.



YOUTH



9:30 am—10:15 am

Adult Forum Class:

Let's Study Luke

By Douglas J.W. Milne

meets in the Overflow Room.

Seekers Class:

Six Themes in the Bible Everyone Should Know

By Barry Ensign-George

meets in the Parlor.

Youth Sunday School:

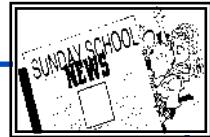
Still More High School Talk Sheets

meets in the Youth Director's office.

Children's Sunday School:

Growing in Gratitude-Education Wing

March is shaping up to be a busy month for the Youth at Grace Covenant! We will begin the month with planning and sign-ups for Montreat. We are headed to Montreat July 28th - August 3rd. We'll also be working on what we are Fasting from this upcoming Lent season. Be on the lookout for your Lenten fasting cube for ideas for you and your family. Next up we have a Faith & Film series with a wonderful 80's classic that the youth group is sure to love. We have the Crop Walk on March 24th which we're very excited to participate in with the whole congregation. And we'll close out March with a powerful lesson on putting on the Armor of God. Thank you to Jean Floyd, Judy Harris, Bennie Pettit, and the Congregational Life Team for feeding YG in February! We appreciate you all so very much!



Faith & Family on the 5th: Beginning on March 31 Pastor Trish will lead a Bible Study open to all ages that will be on each fifth Sunday during the year. It will be from 9-10 am. Our first lesson will be about baptism along with an art project. Please join us as we come together as a church family for an intergenerational Sunday School class! A nursery will be provided for children second grade and under.

ASK ASHLEY...

Hey Ashley... what's on deck for March? Y'all get ready because we have a lot coming up! First of all, you're stuck with me for a bit longer because I passed my 90 Day Review ;) Woohoo! Second, preliminary planning for VBS is under way. Dates are currently being secured (late June) and our theme is taking shape. Be on the lookout for more info soon. Please mark March 24th on your calendars - Grace Covenant is participating in the Crop Hunger Walk at Greenville Tech. Sign-in is at 1:30 pm. We hope you'll come out and walk with us. You can also support this worthy cause by making a donation by check, payable to Grace Covenant Presbyterian, designated for Crop Hunger Walk.



Last but not least, we have a unique event coming up on March 31st, called Faith & Family on the 5th. We will meet as a church body at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall for a light breakfast and a lesson on Baptism taught by Pastor Trish. A nursery will be provided for families with young children. Please email your RSVP to Lela at office@gcpc.net or on a yellow pew card by March 24. Thanks y'all! Blessings to everyone!

~Ashley

Administrative Team



News from the Session

At the February called and stated meetings, your Session:

- ◆ Joyfully authorized the infant baptism of Lily Grace Cerny.
- ◆ Appointed Beverly Calhoun to serve as elder representative at the stated meeting of Foothills Presbytery on February 19th.
- ◆ Finalized plans for the Session's annual retreat on February 23rd and the Every Member Canvass Campaign scheduled for February 25th – March 17th.
- ◆ Received a report from the Property Committee on the Greeting Room entrance project. In preparation for the project, the shrubs have been removed from the Greeting Room entrance and revised plans and estimates are being reviewed.
- ◆ Approved a motion to invite the Reverend Cassie Wolfe, stated supply pastor at First Presbyterian Simpsonville, to share the pulpit with Reverend Gwynn and administer the communion sacraments at our Maundy Thursday service on April 18th.

Lisa Johnson, Clerk of Session

SAFE PLACE POLICY! It's that time again. According to our Policy & Procedure Plan, Children and Youth volunteers are to re-take the online Safe Place training annually. Therefore, when your one-year anniversary comes up, Lela will be sending you the link to that course. Please review it and take the test. Scores are automatically sent to the office so no need to copy your certificate. You will also receive a written copy of our policy via email to review. Please sign the signature page acknowledging your commitment to comply and return it to Lela's desk or box for filing purposes. If you prefer, Lela will have copies of the signature page in her box that you can sign. Thanks to all of our staff and volunteers who so willingly assist in the many facets of Grace Covenant Presbyterian, especially the safety of our children and youth programming.



**March 9, 2019
Set your clocks ahead
before bed!**

MISSIONS & OUTREACH CORNER



Soup Kitchen: Team B served 65 guests and approximately 30 second helpings on Saturday, February 9. Thank you to all our cooks, servers and dessert providers. Your participation is very much appreciated.

One Great Hour of Sharing: Open Doors, Open Hearts! On Sunday, April 21 we will be collecting this special offering. One Great Hour of Sharing lets us come together to open our doors—as well as our hearts—to share the love of Christ through our ministries of justice, compassion, and joy. Donations go towards:

- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, working alongside communities as they recover from natural or human-caused disasters.
- **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, taking action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.
- **Self-Development of People**, investing in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

Please take time to prayerfully consider what you might want to donate on Easter Sunday to alleviate pain and suffering in our world.

Communion Food Offering: On Communion Sunday, March 3, we will have our Communion Food Offering. Please remember to bring in boxed cereals, grits or oatmeal and place it in the basket in the Greeting Room. In February the Center for Community Services was grateful to receive our offering of 100 items! Thank you for your ongoing support of outreach to our neighbors.

InDwellings Update: For many years, Grace Covenant supported the InDwellings project. InDwellings, Inc. is an upstate non-profit dedicated to building homes for adults with developmental disabilities. After their original plans to build homes on land donated by Presbyterian Communities fell through due to site issues, the group purchased an existing home in Del Norte and began renovations. A group from our church went out in the early stages and helped with those renovations. After all these years of many roadblocks and detours, the home is ready to welcome its first residents! I attended an open house in February and was happy to see the four lovely bedrooms, bright open living/dining areas and a spacious deck overlooking the back yard. But there is another challenge facing InDwellings. The state will allow only those who are currently living in state-operated Community Training Homes to move there. There are two women ready to move, but they are seeking two other women. If you know of a woman whose caregivers would like to help her make a change of housing, please contact them. You can visit InDwellings.org for more information and to see pictures of their “Home of Love.”

~Rebecca Huskey

We just want to say...



Together we gave to many great causes in 2018. Thanks to your generosity, our collections amounted to the following:

- Souper Bowl: \$ 398.74
- Upstate Crop Hunger Walk: \$ 1,336.00
- One Great Hour of Sharing: \$ 1,133.50
- Mother's Day Offering: \$ 1,013.00
- Habitat for Humanity: \$ 1,246.00
- Peace and Global Witness Offering \$1,100.00
- Thornwell Offering: \$ 828.50
- Pendleton Place: \$ 484.60
- HEAT United Ministries: \$ 1,131.25

Continued....

Missions & Outreach continued....



MORE THAN HOUSES



Habitat for Humanity. Thanks for your support for this Mission. Through your generous support of almost \$3000 in donations and budgeted mission funds, and along with over 100 volunteer hours, we helped the Jacob Beard families dream of having their own home. Danelle Beard gave an update for this year's kick-off. The family is doing great, and she expressed her thanks and wished to let you know that it's more than a house, it's an anchor of security for her family.

We will be participating again this year in the Golden Strip Church Coalition Faith build. Our Volunteer work day will be Saturday June 1. The primary activity will be finishing the exterior.

We will need 10 people to work each shift (8-11:30 am, 12:00 – 3:30 pm) and will also need help in providing lunch that day. The build will take place from April 24 through July 20. We will be having a fund-raiser the first two weeks in April to help with build costs. Please consider making a donation and be sure to sign the 2x 4s that will be in the Greeting Room. They will become part of the house. The wall raising is Friday, April 26.

We will be building a home for Tyschekia Davis (goes by Ty) and her daughter Natyia who is almost 2! Build location will be 421 E Fairview Ave, Greer, SC. Contact Norm St John normengn@bellsouth.net / 864-982-0537 if you have questions or wish to volunteer. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be in the Greeting Room starting in April.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019 Join the Grace Walkers



Location: Greenville Technical College (Barton Campus)

506 S. Pleasantburg Drive
Greenville, SC 29607

Sign In Time: 1:30 pm **Walk Time:** 2:30 pm

You can support this worthy cause by making a donation by check payable to Grace Covenant, designate for Crop Hunger Walk (envelopes will be available in the pews), or you can sign up to be a member of the Grace Walkers Team or donate at the following web site: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/greenvillesc/Team/View/96060/Grace-Walkers> then click the orange "Join Our Team" button in the right column.



Acoustic Jam: The Grace Covenant Acoustic Jam will meet on Friday, March 29 in the Greeting Room. The music starts at 6:30 pm, so bring your instrument to sit in the circle and play or bring a listening ear and a tapping foot to sit in the audience. Don't forget to bring a snack to share during our fellowship time. For more information, call Steven or Rebecca Huskey at 864-244-8349.



~Your Missions Committee - Norm St. John, Kim Calhoun, Elisabeth Egli, Judy Harris, Rebecca Huskey, Tina Sabia, Jackie Fitch, Billy Forrester and Linda Elmore

Prayer Concerns:

Kelly Amen-cancer (Jessica Cerny's cousin)
 Lib Caldwell-pneumonia (in ICU)
 Catherine Looper
 Sherry Pitts-chemo (Dianne Strandemo's sister-in-law)
 Ron Sepic (knee problems)
 Allyson Sherer-brain cancer diagnosis & recent surgery (Friend of Judy Harris' family)
 Herb & Lorie Sisk
 Kate Spigener-breast cancer diagnosis/chemo (Friend of Judy Harris' family)
 Mary Vause (Deb Sofield's mom)
 Lori Williamson-cancer reoccurrence- (Amy Murdock's friend)
 Our Military Men & Women

**In Thanksgiving:**

Jimmy Baker (Jim Morris' grandson)- back in the U.S. from military deployment
 Mary Ann Jenkins-home from rehabilitation
 Great Session Retreat!

To place a concern or thanksgiving on the prayer list, please call the church office at 288-3951 or email office@gcpc.net.

CHECK IT OUT!

Have you checked out our sleek new web site yet? If not, take a minute to do so. A lot of time, love, and group effort took place to make this happen and your Social Media Committee wants to share!

Simply type in the address below in your web browser:

Gracecovenantmauldin.com

**Upcoming Events**

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| March 03 | Sunday School, Worship, Holy Communion, Children's Church, Youth Group |
| March 05 | Staff Meeting, Revive After Five Circle, Toastmasters |
| March 06 | Ash Wednesday Prayer Services |
| March 09 | Soup Kitchen |
| March 10 | Sunday School, Worship, Children's Church, Youth Group |
| March 12 | Sharing Faith Circle, Staff Meeting, Congregational Life & CE Meetings |
| March 13 | Missions and Finance Meetings, Choir Rehearsal |
| March 14 | Presbytery Meeting, Vision and Planning Meeting |
| March 17 | Sunday School, Worship, Children's Church, Youth Group |
| March 18 | Session Meeting |
| March 19 | Staff Meeting, Admin. Meeting, Toastmasters |
| March 20 | Choir Rehearsal |
| March 24 | Sunday School, Worship, Children's Church, Crop Walk for all! |
| March 26 | Staff Meeting |
| March 27 | Choir Rehearsal |
| March 29 | Acoustic Jam |
| March 31 | Intergenerational Sunday School (Family & Faith on the 5th), Worship, Children's Church, Youth Group, Soulos Lunch |

FINANCE

Grace Covenant Financial Report

January 2019

Operating Fund	Month	YTD
Contrib./Revenue	\$42,637	\$42,637
Expenses	<u>\$25,957</u>	<u>\$25,957</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$16,680	\$16,680
Capital Fund		\$ 57,343
Operating Fund Surplus/(Deficit)		\$105,171
Capital Fund		
Contributions	\$23,069	\$23,069
Remain. Loan Bal.		\$ 272,916

**Please note that the January Revenue includes \$22,462 from SolVerus Academy, of which 50% was allocated to our Operating Fund and 50% was allocated to our Capital Fund.

Directory Updates/Corrections

Email:

Lloyd & Jeanne Schumann
lloydschum2@gmail.com

Address:

Gloria Rogers
2332 North Broad Street
Galesburg, Illinois 61401
Cell: 864-419-9646

ARE YOU 65 OR OLDER?

If so, did you know that you can file for Homestead Tax? Doing this will considerably lower your homeowner taxes so don't delay, look into it.

General Information

739 N. Main Street
Mauldin, SC 29662
(864-288-3951)
Fax: (864-288-5817)
www.gcpc.net

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs.: 9:00 am- 3:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Sundays

Adult Sunday School, 9:30 am
Children's Sunday School
Worship: 10:30 am

Staff

Pastor	Rev. Patricia Crout Gwinn
Cong. Life Coordinator:	Lela Graden
Financial/Admin Secretary	Lisa D'Hoore
Music Dir./Accompanist	Brooke G. Clay
Youth Director:	Ashley Mimbela
Nursery Workers	Jennifer Dye
	Amanda Reichelt
	Jessica Stevens
	Sera White

Emeriti

Pastor Emeritus Canney DuBose

Volunteer Treasurer Bill Starnes

Session

Class of 2019

Congregational Life	Linda Cossaboon
Missions & Outreach	Norm St. John
Property	David Tinga

Class of 2020

Finance	James Jennings
Clerk of Session	Lisa Johnson
Administration	Janice Tucker

Class of 2021

Christian Education	Beverly Calhoun
Worship	Melissa Forrester
Planning & Vision	Kristie Tennent

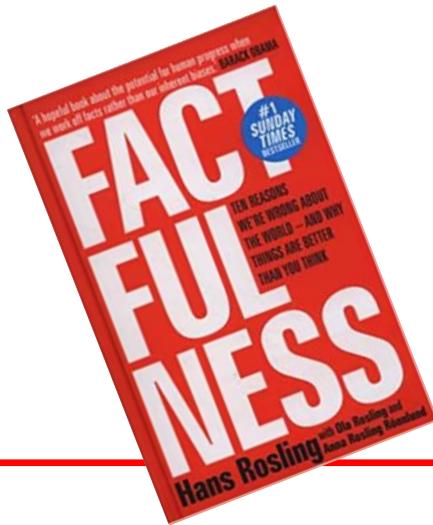
Trustees

Class of 2019	Mary Williams
Class of 2020	Kim Russell
Class of 2021	Janie Bridges



Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and care packages you all sent for my grandson Jimmy during his deployment. He is back in the states again with his new wife.

~Jim Morris



Grace Readers will meet on Monday, March 25 at 10:15 am in the parlor to discuss *Factfullness* by Hans Gosling. Inspiring and revelatory, filled with lively anecdotes and moving stories, this book is an urgent and essential book that will change the way you see the world and empower you to respond to the crises and opportunities of the future.

Join us for a lively discussion.

I cannot live without ---Thomas Jefferson to John Adams

Newsletter
DEADLINE

Newsletter deadline for the April edition is Thursday, March 22. Please email all articles to Lela at: office@gcpc.net no later than 3:00 pm. Thank you!

PW Happenings—March 2019

- ♦ Thank you to everyone who contributed cookies and snack items for our Valentine's Project. Because of your generous donations, we were able to provide packages for 10 college students and 7 members who are homebound or recovering from illness or surgery. We also provided cookies and snack items for the youth group, Sara cottage for teen moms at Thornwell Home in Clinton, and Mauldin Fire and Police Departments. Thank you for helping us share God's love!
- ♦ Meals of Grace were delivered to two church members during the month of February.
- ♦ Save the Date for the PW Spring Event! Saturday, May 4th at 11:30 am at The Runway Café Greenville. The guest speaker will be our own Pastor Trish Gwinn. Mark your calendars now for this annual gathering of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Women and watch future newsletters for more details.



Revive After Five Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 pm in the Cottage. We will enjoy fellowship, dinner, and a discussion of Lesson 5. We welcome visitors! For information, contact Sarah Lasitter at (864) 414-2838.

Sharing Faith Circle On March 12 you are invited to join the Sharing Faith Circle for a discussion about God's Promises. We will meet in the church's overflow area at 10:30 am.



Sorry, ladies only! We will serve light snack.

~Barb St. John

MARCH

March Birthdays

March 07	Jackie Fitch
March 09	Trudie Bazemore Lloyd Schumann
March 10	Billy Forrester Charles Tennent
March 11	Greg Campbell Noah Alomar
March 14	Lisa Johnson
March 15	Lily Jennings
March 20	Jeff Cossaboon
March 22	Melvin Bazemore
March 25	Tere Cossaboon Mary Starnes
March 26	Jean Floyd Mark Lasitter
March 28	Bob Schroeder
March 29	Timothy Trowbridge

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & FELLOWSHIP

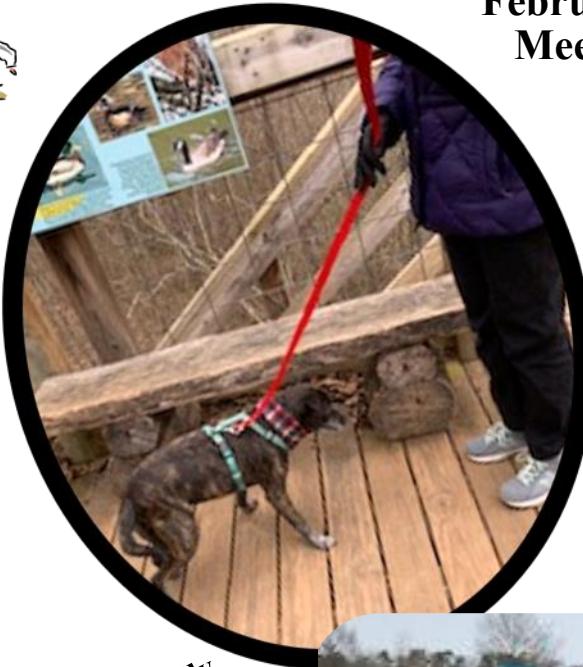
"Soulos": Are you single and think you might enjoy meeting with other singles of all ages for lunch? If so, plan to join the "Soulos" for lunch following worship on Sunday, March 31. For anyone that would like to meet and drive to the restaurant together, Bob Schroeder will stand in the Greeting Room and wait for those interested in going.

SAVE THE DATE

Your Congregational Life and Fellowship Team will be hosting a catered luncheon following the Palm Sunday Worship Service on Sunday April 14th. The luncheon will be catered by Peppers Catering of Simpsonville. What a wonderful way to start Holy Week by sharing a meal with your church family. Along with the luncheon there will be an egg hunt for the children. Mark your calendar now, you will not want to miss it! Please use the yellow cards in the pews or contact church office by phone or email to make your reservation. It is important that we have an accurate head count since it is being catered. Looking forward to sharing a meal together.



**February 10, 2019
Meet-up Hike!**



Duchess Schroeder really enjoyed our "brisk" walk, too.





Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
739 North Main Street
Mauldin, SC 29662
Website: www.GCPC.net