

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—March 2025



Finding Hope in the Wilderness

We take the first steps in our Lenten journey this week on Ash Wednesday – March 5. Life seems pretty challenging right now – our family, friends, and even ourselves are struggling in the wilderness of illness or injury, political and economic uncertainty, division and conflicts, to name a few. It may feel as if we are being tested and challenged, stretched to the limits of our endurance. During the season of Lent, we remember the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted and the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness before arriving at the Promised Land. The wilderness is a symbolic place of challenge, struggle, difficulty, and testing. But it is also a place of where providence finds us, growth happens, and grace abounds.



So, our theme for this Lenten season is “Finding Hope in the Wilderness.” As we explore the scriptures during worship, we will look for the challenges of the text and the glimmers of hope contained therein. During our weekly Bible Study, we will look at *God’s Abundant Table*, a devotional book by Cynthia M. Campbell* that explores the depth of meaning in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and how it is food for our journey, nourishment to see us through the wilderness.

I hope you will join us on this journey to find hope in the wilderness!

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

*Cynthia M. Campbell. *God’s Abundant Table*. Louisville: Witherspoon Press, 2011.

Pastor’s Office Hours

Sunday
Monday–Wednesday mornings
Saturday (various times)

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O God, as we journey through this season of Lent, help us to recognize and name the wilderness we face. Open our eyes and hearts to discover hope. By your grace and steadfast love, guide us on this journey that it may be a time of repentance, renewal, healing, and hope. May we look to you and your Word for the Bread of Heaven to sustain us and the Living Water to quench our thirst.

Amen

Finding Hope

A Lenten Journey

in the Wilderness

March–April 2025

Lenten Devotional Readings

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------|
| March 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Ash Wednesday | 6 Psalm 34:1, 4, 8 | 7 Exodus 16:1-5, 13-21, 31 | 8 Isaiah 25:6- 10a |
| 9 John 2:1-11 | 10 Luke 5:27-32 | 11 Luke 15:21-28 | 12 Luke 24:13-35 | 13 Genesis 18:1- 15 | 14 Luke 10:38-42 | 15 Psalm 36:5-9 |
| 16 Mark 7:24-30 | 17 Luke 14:12-14 | 18 Matthew 25:31-46 | 19 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27- 34 | 20 Deuteronomy 24:19-22 | 21 1 Kings 17:8- 16 | 22 Matthew 14:13-21 |
| 23 Mark 8:1-10 | 24 Luke 19:1-10 | 25 Acts 2:43-45 | 26 Acts 6:1-6 | 27 John 6:30-35, 48-50 | 28 John 6:51-60 | 29 John 15:1-11 |
| 30 Luke 22:14-23 (Mtw 26:20-30; Mk 14:17-26) | 31 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 | April 1 John 21:1-14 | 2 John 21:15-19 | 3 Psalm 103:1- 14 | 4 Luke 4:1-4* | 5 Luke 11:1-13* |
| 6 Acts 10:9-16* | 7 Psalm 145 | 8 Deuteronomy 26:1-11 | 9 Luke 12:13-21 | 10 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 | 11 Luke 9:16-17, 22:19, 24:30- 31 | 12 Psalm 103:15- 22 |
| 13 Palm Sunday John 12:23-26, 13:5-8 | 14 Mark 6:30-44 | 15 Isaiah 58:6-10 | 16 Acts 2:42-47a | 17 Maundy Thurs. John 13:1-17, 31b-35* | 18 Good Friday Luke 22:31- 23:56* | 19 Psalm 23* |
| 20 Easter Sunday Luke 24:1-12* | | | | | | |

Readings based on *God's Abundant Table* by Cynthia M. Campbell, 2011. * Indicates modifications/additions.

Upcoming Services & Sermons

| | | | |
|---------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3/2/25 | "From Glory into Glory" | 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 | <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> |
| 3/5/25 | Lee County Community service at Pocket Presbyterian at 7 p.m. | | <i>Ash Wednesday</i> |
| 3/9/25 | "Into the Wilderness" | Luke 4:1-13; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 | |
| 3/16/25 | "□ Journey to Jerusalem" | Luke 13:31-35; Psalm 27 | |
| 3/23/25 | "Perish Not" | Luke 13:1-9; Psalm 64:1-8 | |
| 3/30/25 | <i>Glory to God Sunday</i> | | |
| 4/6/25 | "Just Desserts" | Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; Psalm 32 | <i>Communion Sunday</i> |
| 4/13/25 | "From Shouts of Joy to Cries of Anguish" – Palm Sunday through Good Friday in the Gospel of Luke | | <i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i> |
| 4/17/25 | Communion Service, details to be determined | | <i>Maundy Thursday</i> |
| 4/18/25 | Sanctuary Open for Prayer from 9 am – 2 pm | | <i>Good Friday</i> |
| 4/20/25 | "An Idle Tale" | Luke 23:50-24:12; Isaiah 65:17-25 | <i>Easter Sunday</i> |

Lee County Community
Ash Wednesday
Service



Wednesday, March 5, 7p.m.
Pocket Presbyterian Church

All are Welcome!

A combined choir will
meet at 6:15p.m. to
rehearse before the
service

God's Abundant Table

*Just bring your Bible,
yourself, and a friend!*

March 11 - April 15, 2025
Tuesdays at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Using *God's Abundant Table* by Cynthia M. Campbell,
we will explore the depth of meaning in the Sacrament
of the Lord's Supper and how it is food for our journey
through the wilderness of Lent.

March 11 *Bread Everywhere*

Isaiah 25:6-10a

March 18 *Hospitality*

Luke 14:12-14

March 25 *Just Eating*

Matthew 14:13-21

April 1 *Food for the Spirit*

John 21:15-19

April 8 *Giving Thanks*

Psalm 103:1-14

April 15 *A Drama in 5 Acts*

Acts 2:42-47a



Scheduled Special Offerings

3/2/25 – 2 ¢ a Meal

4/6/25 – Marshall Presbyterian Church

4/20/25 – PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY TOTALS

Receipts \$ 6,720

Expenses \$ 10,392

Special Offerings:

Marshall Presbyterian Church \$ 150

Head Usher for March
Debra Wall

Christian Education Committee

An Easter Party is planned for April 19, 2025 from 2 pm until 4 pm. Rev. Sara Martin will send post cards inviting children and setting up a preregister site. Stephanie will have a craft for the children while the eggs are hidden. This year the eggs will not be stuffed with candy. Goody bags will be given out to each child after refreshments have been served.

The committee will meet in the library Sunday morning April 13 between Sunday School and preaching to finalize plans.

A committee was formed by Rev. Martin to plan Bible School which will be held June 25, 26 and 27 from 6 pm until 8 pm. The title of the Bible School will be "True North". Stephanie Sellars, Nancy Mead and Kim Dakdouk will be co-directors. The directors along with Rev. Martin and Debra Wall will have meetings to plan for this event.

The next Christian Education Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14 at 6 pm in the fellowship hall.

Jean McSwain—Chair

March Prayer Family of the Week

- 2 Jim & Rose Owle
- 9 Liesl Owle & Kaitlyn
- 16 Barbara Rosser
- 23 Johnny & Trisha Sellars
- 30 Stephanie Sellars

March Birthdays

Happy Birthday
to everyone who
celebrating birthdays
this month!



Communications Committee

We maintained the church website, recorded, edited, posted the worship services on Facebook. We posted 13 sheets of pictures on bulletin boards in the church in February.

Connie Wynn - Chair

CUOC Food Donations

We are asking you to **donate a specific food item** for CUOC again this month. **For the month of March**, we ask you to donate cans of spaghetti & meatballs, beefaroni, and mini spaghetti & meatballs—pop top cans preferred.



Easter Baskets and Candy For CUOC

CUOC is planning to provide 300 Easter Baskets to children of its food insecure neighbors.

In order to do that, they need baskets, new or gently used stuffed animals and individually wrapped soft candy (no hard candy or lollipops).

Plenty of plastic eggs and grass are already in hand.

If you (or your friends) can help with these items, they can be delivered to CUOCLC at 2885 Lee Ave. or brought to church by March 22.



Deliveries to CUOC

A huge ***“THANK YOU!”*** from CUOC for your generosity! A total of **257 individual containers** of cereal were delivered to the Backpack pals program in February. Also, a total of **67 pounds of food** and **40 more winter hats** were delivered for distribution to our Lee County people in need. *Edgewood is making a difference!*





***Presbytery Women Meeting
February 10, 2025
Moderator: Teresa Mangum***

***Debra Wall
presented the program -
"Air Quality"
Lesson 5 in the 2024-2025
PW/Horizon Bible Study.***



***Trish Sellars
delivered the
devotion.***



Presbyterian Women

***Next Meeting:
2:00PM, Monday,
March 10, 2025***

***The March lesson will be
"Climate Change",
Lesson 6 in the
PW/Horizon Bible Study***

Food was provided by Barbara Rosser and Teresa Mangum





After the PW meeting on February 10, the women stuffed, stitched, and tagged animals that will become "friends" with kids who are patients in hospitals.



The ladies also tagged 40 handmade hats to donate to CUOC.



The hats were delivered to CUOC Feb. 12.



Fellowship Committee

Our February 16 “Soup & Sandwich” luncheon was a great success. There were nine soups and stews, many sandwiches and desserts, and 30 attendees.

We are very blessed to have good cooks who are willing to prepare food and bring it to these events. We shared some of the extra food with some of our shut-ins. And “Thank You” to our decorating committee for making the Fellowship Hall beautiful.



Upcoming Fellowship Luncheon

On **Sunday, March 30, 2025**, we will have a fellowship luncheon immediately after worship service. The church will provide baked chicken and ham. We will ask people to sign-up to bring their favorite dish, vegetables, rolls, or desserts. Also, we will be playing regular Bingo!

Please join us for fellowship and fun!