

MARCH 2023

The Flame

FAIRVIEW CHURCH



FROM PASTOR STAN WRIGHT

We are now in the season of Lent. It has always been a time of reflection and soul searching as we anticipate once again, the celebration of Easter. It is a time when we think of how, through Jesus, we get to return to our loving God and Father. Jesus' path of grace over sin and death for us begins at the cross and goes clean through to the empty tomb. During Lent, we are invited to repent of all the wrongs we have committed, or even the times that we have neglected caring for others, and return to the source of our being, a Fount of God's grace and mercy.

One of my favorite hymns is "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing", written by Robert Robinson. The very first verse provides an insight into this source. "Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the Mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love." Two words that come out of that first verse that should cause us to pause..."grace and mercy". As we contemplate these days of Lent, we should be reminded of the gift of "grace" that has been given to us. It is indeed a gift, which can never be earned or merited by us. By grace we have been saved. Our writer of this old hymn, must have felt that grace, when later in the song he says, "Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God, he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood." As we once again, approach Good Friday, when we remember the horror of the Crucifixion, may we remember that it is through the blood of Jesus that we are redeemed.

In the last verse of the song, Mr. Robinson reminds us of "how great a debtor" we are to the grace of God in Christ Jesus. He seems to plead to the Lord, that the goodness of Christ, we like a great weight fastened to us...to keep our hearts from wandering away from Jesus. He senses his own weakness in this area, when he seems to pray... "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above."

This Lent, may we be reminded that we have been invited to observe a Holy Lent; a time to remember God's great mercy and grace.

May the Lord strengthen you in this time.

In Christ, Pastor Stan



KATHERINE LEWIS
DIRECTOR OF
CHRISTIAN
MINISTRIES

I pray that this March edition of the newsletter finds you all doing well! As per my usual, I am writing this right on top of the newsletter deadline, and trying to make sure that everything I need is included. By the time you read this, Ash Wednesday will be past and we will be into our Lenten Season. I want to share with you though, something that hit me like a ton of bricks during a Sunday School lesson the week before Ash Wednesday. It actually first hit me when I walked into the Children's Sunday School room to pick Nate up. Their lesson was on the prodigal Son and forgiveness. The lesson used the word SON to remind the children how to show they are sorry and ask for forgiveness. It taught them to:

S= Say you are SORRY

O=be OPEN to Change

N=NOT repeat the action again

While this seems so simple it really made an impression on me and on Nate. Because not only was this type of forgiveness shown to the prodigal son, it is how we truly receive eternal life. In John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way

and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Our only way to Heaven is through Jesus and through Jesus, the son, we can receive true forgiveness.

As we are in this Lenten Journey toward the cross, sometimes it feels sad, but we have to travel this road to prepare our hearts and minds for the Glory of the Resurrection.

There is a lot going on here at Fairview. If you are new around here, please see me and let me know if I can help you get plugged into a group or mission project.

This is what is coming up:

For our Kids:

Sunday School continues each week at 9:45.

JUMP will meet each Sunday afternoon from 4-5 except for Sunday March 5th. This will be a family Sunday. We will be headed to Camp Selah where they are hosting a wonderful day of fun with Animals and Nature. See me for more information.

Mark your calendars, we will be hosting our Easter Egg hunt here at the church for our kids and our community on April 8th. Time to be determined. Watch bulletin for more details.

For our Youth

Sunday School continues in the youth room each week at 9:45

Youth group will meet each Sunday evening from 5:15-7:15.

I have some adventures up my sleeve for March. Details are beginning to come together. I will publish them as I have them firmed up.

Our deposit for our Mission trip this summer will be due on Friday March 24th. This summer we will be traveling to Altoona PA. There is a \$100 deposit due for each Student attending the trip. We are in need of some Chaperones. Especially a Male Chaperone. Please pray about serving in this capacity.

For our Adults.

Sunday School meets each week from 9:45-10:45. If you are new here let me know how I can get you plugged in.

Project: Church Directory is under way. Thanks to all of you who have sent me your picture. I am excited to get this project completed soon. I still need pictures of some of our members. Please send them to me at 434.251.6107 or director.fumc@comcast.net.

LADIES there is a slight change this month to our Dinner. This month we will meet at 6 on TUESDAY March 7th for Dinner and Wednesday March 8th at noon for Lunch. Our Restaurant this month will be San Marcos Don't forget our monthly mission. We will be collecting new and gently used tote bags, backpacks, duffel bags and suitcases for Social Services.

I look forward to serving beside you in the upcoming months!

Blessings,
Kate

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 9-13, 2023

Plans are underway for Fairview's 2023 Vacation Bible School, STELLAR. This is going to be an OUT OF THIS WORLD experience for all who help and attend.

For our goal and focus to be realized, we need many hands to transform and prepare our sanctuary and other spaces into the space-themed STELLAR, an experience which will allow God's love and purpose for each person to come to life like never before...touching lives and drawing in kids and adults closer to God who created them.

Our desire is to have work groups to come together to build and create the different spaces. People would form their own groups, providing a great time of fellowship and fun. Once our work schedule has been established beginning in May, your group may select from the days and times. More than one group will be able to work at the same time. Now, don't worry, it's mainly cardboard boxes that may need a little paint or some simple framing to ensure they are sturdy. There will, also be an opportunity for some sewing (simple bags). There will be other opportunities as our planning progresses. Let me know how you would like to serve and of the groups that will be forming.

This, my friends, is just the preparation for what I know will be an awesome week. Our VBS would not be possible without all the many hands that make it pull together. We will be needing people for Crafts, Snacks, Bible Story, music and games. Not to mention registration, security, set up, clean up and crew leaders. Please be in prayer about where you can serve. Let me know where God is leading you into being a part of STELLAR!

Excited to serve beside you!

Kate



SPRING FORWARD

Sunday, March 12

Set clocks ahead one hour



LENT RESOURCES

Lent resources (devotions, activities) will be available each week through Easter. Check out our table in the narthex to see what's new!

MISSION MOMENT

Thanks so much to all of you who helped us by donating canned Goods in February to go to God's Storehouse. I am sure they were grateful to receive such an awesome donation.

I want you to take just a minute and think about this month's mission project. Can you imagine being taken from your home with nothing but the clothes on your back? OR if you were able to take a few items they were just tossed into grocery bags or whatever was available? In talking with our local social services to let them know about our Closet of Blessings they mentioned that a need they often have is for new or gently used tote bags, suitcases, duffel bags or backpacks. These kids are always excited to have a real bag to put their "stuff" in. Something that they can call their own. Please consider donating to this awesome cause.

Please help us by donating your new or gently used totes, backpacks, duffels or suitcases this month! Thanks for supporting our local mission drive each month!

DISAFFILIATION UPDATE

On Saturday, February 18, the Called Annual Conference was held in order to ratify the disaffiliation agreements of 33 churches. Fairview was among those churches seeking to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. All 33 churches were approved and so begins our journey of taking our Fairview Properties into our own ownership. In order to do that, we established a corporation for the deed of the church to be transferred. This corporation needs by-laws. Administrative Council has reviewed and approved a set of by-laws in order to bring them to the congregation to approve. There will be hard copies available on the table at the back of the sanctuary for you to look over and suggest any changes or additions. Please feel free to take a copy to read through. We will have a special e-mail address for you to submit your suggestions and/or questions. This e-mail address will be communicated at a later date when it is set up. You will have approximately until March 15 to submit those e-mails. If you need additional information, please contact Miranda Harden at harden801@gmail.com.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Our March Ladies Fellowship will be held at San Marcos Restaurant. The dinner fellowship will be Tuesday, March 7 at 6:00pm. The lunch fellowship will be Wednesday, March 8 at noon. We hope the ladies of the church will be able to join us for one of these occasions. Sign-up sheets will be passed around and also located on the bulletin board outside the Welcome Center.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

There's still time to join the Women's Bible Study that will meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm. The study is on *Live Beautifully: A Study in the Books of Ruth and Esther* by Lenya Heitzig and Penny Rose. Please see LaVonne Walden or Wendy Brooks for details.



**BKK LUNCHEON IN
HONOR OF SUSAN
RATLIFF**



We love you, Susan and we'll be praying for your recovery from surgery and upcoming treatments. Please keep Susan and her family, as well as BKK staff and children in your prayers. Her absence will be felt deeply but we look forward to her return! Praying for you, Susan and you've got this!

WHAT IS LENT AND WHY DOES IT LAST FORTY DAYS?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.



1st Sundays: Worship at 8:30 and 11:00

Monthly on each first Sunday
8:30 worship features contemporary
music with Josh Marlowe



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming David and Nancy Clark who joined by transfer of membership from Trinity United Methodist Church on February 26. We are so glad to have you become members of our Fairview Church Family!

PROJECT: CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please send Kate individual pictures of you and your family to be used to create an up-to-date Church Directory. You can email them to her at director.fumc@comcast.net or text them to 434-251-6107. You can also contact her to have a picture taken. See Kate for more details.

THE LAST 10 YEARS...

If anyone has pictures that they have taken of church events in the last 10 years, please consider sharing them with Brenda Brooks who is working on finishing up the history book for the last 10 years. We will make copies and give them back to you if required. As we begin a new chapter in Fairview Church history, we want to make sure we have the last decade recorded in words and pictures. For more information or to submit your photos, please contact Brenda Brooks at brbrooks68@gmail.com or leave them at the church office in an envelope with her name on it.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person Worship</u>	<u>Online Worship* (Vimeo)</u>	<u>Offering</u>
February 5	101	68	\$10,809.00
February 12	81	50	\$9,728.00
February 19	103	TBD	\$10,935.56
February 26	TBD	TBD	TBD

*Denotes views of online worship videos for the first week available for viewing. Vimeo views are multiplied by 1.5 to account for families watching together. Videos are no longer posted separately to Facebook.

Average Weekly Giving in February 2023:
\$10,490.85

2023 Budget approved by Admin Board :
\$481,096.00

Average Weekly Giving Year to Date 2023:
\$7,236.89

2023 Weekly Contributions Needed to Meet Budget:
\$9,077.29

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

04 Lucille Roberts	18 Parker Holt	28 Kenny Sage
06 Denise Hinton	Madeline Morris	Evelyn Moore
08 Sue Chattin	19 Kinsey Harris	29 Brandon Merricks
09 Brandon Ferrell	21 Samuel Burton	Beverly White
12 Taylor Broyles	22 Laurie Ann Searce	
13 Mike Lewis	23 Carter Dillion	
15 Jarrod Grogan	Carol Hobbs	
16 Rafe Thomas	Cathleen McGarvey	
Carolyn Whitlock	26 Jennifer Thomas	

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

06 Kenny & Margaret Sage	14 John & Jody Broyles
11 Andy & Bobbie Nordon	29 Gary & Debra Tucker

Upcoming in April

Palm Sunday - April 2 @ 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Holy Thursday/Good Friday - April 6 @ 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday - April 9 @ 11:00 am

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1013 Westover Drive
Danville, Virginia 24541

Return Service Requested

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DANVILLE, VIRGINIA



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DEBBIE DEANE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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SUSAN RATLIFF, DIRECTOR, BECKY'S KIDDIE KOLLEGE

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*Fairview is a Christ-centered
welcoming church that loves the community
in undeniable ways.*