



March Newsletter 2025

Greetings Members and Friends,

As we enter into the month of March, you may know that March is known for many things. For example, it is known as the windy month, it is known for the beginning of the season of Spring (theoretically), and it is also known for the beginning of the season of Lent. In fact, "Lent" means Spring and just as the season of Spring creates renewal and rebirth, Lent represents spiritual renewal and rebirth in us. Therefore, as we enjoy the season of Spring with warmer weather and renewal of botanical life, let us draw closer to God and enjoy a season of spiritual renewal as well.

In fact, we read from Jeremiah 17:7-8 "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit".

This reminds us how blessed we are now and how blessed we can always be, as we trust in God and walk with God, all throughout our lives.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

The Presby

March 2025

**Wytheville Presbyterian
Church**

285 Church Street

Wytheville, VA 24382

Phone: (276)228-4715

Email:

wpchurch@embarqmail.com

wythevillepresbyterianchurch.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Rev. Dr. John Langham, Pastor

April DiYorio, Clerk of Session

Becky Absher, Music Director

Tammy Jackson, Office Mgr.

Wendy Morrison, Bookkeeper

Session Digest:

The Session met for its Stated March meeting on February 23, 2025 in the Session Room.

Pastoral Concerns: Grayson Abate, Ron Blevins, Joanne Cannoy, Tony Cannoy, Vaughn Cassell, Shirley Cavender, Sousin Cottrell, Sid Crockett, Terry Dean, Colleen Dunford, Chimer Durham, Wysor Gearhart, Marion Griffin, The Family of Mary Kegley, Pastor John Langham, Ron Phelps, Bill and Susan Pollard, Dorothy Repass, Ron Smiley, The Family of Reverend Bob Tolar

Motions approved by the Session:

- To allow the use of Hatcher Hall for the Annual Grubb Family Reunion on October 4&5, 2025
- To accept the Annual Trustee’s Report to Session.
- To accept the written Treasurer’s Report for January.

Review of Calendar of Events:

- March 5, 2025 - Ash Wednesday Service at 7PM
- March 7, 2025 - World Day of Prayer
- March 9, 2025 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 11, 2025 - Soup and the Word at St. Paul United Methodist Church
- March 18, 2025 - Soup and the Word at Wytheville Baptist Church
- March 25, 2025 - Soup and the Word at West End United Methodist Church
- March 17, 2025 - St. Patrick’s Day
- March 30, 2025 - Stated Session Meeting

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Ash Wednesday:

Ash Wednesday will be commemorated with a special Service on Wednesday evening, March 5th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this special evening of worship and repentance as the season of Lent draws near.

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2025 Soup and the Word Schedule:

- Tuesday, March 11 – St. Paul United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, March 18 – Wytheville Baptist Church
- Tuesday, March 25 – West End United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, April 1 – St. John’s Episcopal Church
- Tuesday, April 8 – Wytheville Presbyterian Church**
- Tuesday, April 15 – Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church

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Bible Study:

Come join us! **Thursday Evenings at 6:00 p.m.** (Hatcher Hall) Pastor John will be leading a **Six Week Bible Study**. The Topic will be on **Outreach**. This exploration into the scripture will continue throughout the month of March and conclude on April 3rd. **Dessert will follow! YUM!**

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Sunday School News:

The Don Wysor Sunday School Class is presently studying Romans Part #2. If you haven't attended Sunday School in a while, give this class a try. We meet each Sunday at 9:45 a.m., in the *primary* Sunday School Room (across from the Choir Room). It is most fulfilling.

Jim Gearhart

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Fellowship Committee News:

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Stewardship Message:

"The righteous care for the needs of their animals..." (Proverbs 12:10)

Wikipedia defines Christian stewardship as the responsibility Christians have in maintaining and using wisely the gifts that God has bestowed. God expects us as Christians to help maintain and protect his Creation and share the resources of our treasures, time and talents. Time seems to be a rare commodity these days. We fall short of sharing our time with others. We are hesitant to share our time and talents within the church. Paul urged the Corinthians to make generous offerings to the church and community. As Spring approaches, let's look at our own stewardship with a fresh, renewed spirit and give generously.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10)

Your Stewardship Committee

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5 Cents a Meal:



Please remember the **5 cents a meal offering on Sunday, March 16th**. You may bring it to the church or mail it in with your pledge. A basket will be placed in the narthex for your convenience. Please make a separate check. Many thanks for your giving.

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Cove Service:

The Cove Service will resume as usual on the 3rd Sunday in April. So, stay tuned!

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Newsletter & Office Information:

Please submit information for the **April Newsletter** to the church office by **Tuesday, March 18th**. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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Hope Packs:



Wytheville Presbyterian Church has set aside the **4th Wednesday of each month**, to assist with the HOPE PACKS preparation. Please consider joining us at **Open Door Community, located at 680 W Main Street, Wytheville, on Wednesday, March 26th, at 5:00 p.m.** It will only require about one hour of your time to make a difference in the life of a hungry child.

HOPE PACKS is a weekend program that provides food for children in Wythe and Bland Counties who are dealing with food insecurity. The Packs are prepared on Wednesdays and delivered to 15 area schools in Wythe and Bland Counties, who then distribute the packs to children in need of food. Wytheville Presbyterian Church joins other area churches and organizations to prepare about 850 Packs each week. Such a small sacrifice, to make sure none of our precious children are forced to struggle through a weekend with little, or no food.

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Monthly Meetings:

- Monday, March 3rd: Circle 1, 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall
- Monday, March 3rd: Circle 3, 7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, March 18th: Worship Committee, 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, March 18th: Church Growth Committee, 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, March 18th: Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 30th : Session Meeting, following morning Worship Service

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Circle 1 and Circle 3:

The **Circle 1** Presbyterian Women are scheduled to meet on Monday, March 3rd at 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Circle 3** Presbyterian Women are scheduled to meet on Monday, March 3rd, at 7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

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Mission Committee News:

Our Church responded quickly and generously to the call from Abingdon Presbytery to assist our neighbors in need because of Hurricane Helene. We provided 10 Utility Buckets filled with necessary items to tackle cleaning up following flooding, and we provided numerous Hygiene kits, cases of water, and financial assistance. Abingdon Presbytery continues to receive all donations as this will be an on-going need in our surrounding communities for a long time. As a reminder, you can make a financial donation to Abingdon Presbytery by putting cash in an envelope marked “Helene Disaster Relief” or by writing a check to Wytheville Presbyterian Church and writing “Helene Disaster Relief” on the memo line. Donations can be put in the collection plate on Sundays or delivered to the Church Office. Please continue to pray.

Most recently, wildfires spread by tornado force winds, have swept through a large portion of California. Thousands have lost everything: family members, homes, businesses, places of worship, vehicles, clothing, pets, and precious unreplaceable mementos, among so many other things. If you wish to join the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance response efforts, you can write a check to Wytheville Presbyterian Church with “California Disaster Assistance” notated on the memo line or provide cash in an envelope with the same notation on the envelope. We will then pass the funds on to the Presbytery Office to be sent directly from there. Please keep all the victims of these catastrophes throughout our nation in your prayers.

News From Madagascar:

Dan and Elizabeth Turk

wpchurch@embarqmail.com

1/8/2025 9:08 AM

From Dan and Elizabeth Turk 

daniellturk@hotmail.com

To wpchurch@embarqmail.com

Dear Friends at Wytheville Presbyterian Church,

We hope that you all have had a joyful Christmas and are off to a good start in the new year.

Thank you very much for your support for us and our ministries with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM). Your prayers and support have made a big difference in the life of the FJKM and the lives of many people here in Madagascar.

We want to share about anticipated change in PC(USA) World Mission that may affect us.

As many of you know, the PC(USA) decided to unify the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) with the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) which includes Presbyterian World Mission. These entities were officially united in October 2024; the new entity is being called the Interim Unified Agency. Rev. Jihyun Oh, PC(USA)'s Stated Clerk, was named Executive Director of the new agency. On November 5, 2024, in reference to World Mission, Rev. Oh announced that "we anticipate significant changes in how we engage our partners in the future" and "(w)e anticipate that there will also be reductions in 2025". This announcement was made in the PNS article titled "[Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) - New Interim Unified Agency of the PC\(USA\) takes next step in reimagining work going forward](#)".

We do not know what exactly the anticipated changes will be and whether or not we will be part of the "reductions." We want you to know that we continue to feel called to serve with the FJKM. Whatever happens to us and within World Mission, we encourage you to continue supporting the FJKM and its ministries. The Madagascar Mission Network is a Presbyterian network of churches and others who support the ministries of the FJKM. Being a part of the Madagascar Mission Network is a wonderful way to support the FJKM and keep up to date on its ministries.

The past few months have been busy as we continue our exciting and challenging work with the FJKM. Both of us have been teaching at FJKM's seminaries since the new school year started in October. Elizabeth and her colleagues in the FJKM HIV/AIDS and Epidemics Committee (KPMSV) have been addressing the rapidly rising rate of HIV and low childhood vaccination rates. Unfortunately, polio, measles, and neonatal tetanus outbreaks are increasing. KPMSV has been doing a lot of free health screenings and education sessions. The HIV/AIDS and Epidemics Committee will hold its annual strategic meeting January 21st -23rd. Elizabeth has also been working with the FJKM in its special teacher training program to get trained teachers for remote regions of Madagascar as well as helping FJKM schools get access to water in the far south.

Dan and his colleagues in the Fruits, Vegetables, and Environmental Education Program (FVEE) have been doing trainings on growing fruits and vegetables and getting ready for the tree planting season when the rains come. (The rainy season should have started in December but has yet to begin). In coming months, Dan is looking forward to teaching a course in Arboriculture at the FJKM university at Moramanga; getting lots of native trees and fruit trees planted at churches, schools, and communities; and continuing FJKM's collaboration with Missouri Botanical Garden to help protect some of Madagascar's amazing biodiversity by assisting people to grow fruits and vegetables in the vicinity of protected areas.

Please pray for Presbyterian World Mission, us, and the ministries of the FJKM.

Thank you very much for your commitment to partnership with the FJKM. We and the FJKM greatly appreciate your support. Please let us know if you have any questions or need clarification. We look forward to hearing from you in coming days and months.

Grace and Peace,

Dan & Elizabeth Turk

PC(USA) Mission Co-workers serving in Madagascar

Mission Co-Worker Support:

SHARON KANDEL - ETHIOPIA, SUDAN, SOUTH SUDAN

REV. CHERYL BARNES - MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

REV. ELMARIE PARKER AND REV. SCOTT PARKER – IRAQ, SYRIA, LEBANON

MARCH

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship <i>Forgiveness Sunday</i>	3 Circle 1 Meets 11:00 a.m. Circle 3 Meets 7:00 p.m.	4	5 ASH WEDNESDAY Service at 7:00 p.m. Happy Birthday! Beth Pulliam	6 Bible Study 6pm	7 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	8
9 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Happy Birthday! Katherine Minton, Kathy McAllister, & Carroll Gordon <i>Daylight saving time begins</i>	10	11	12	13 Bible Study 6pm	14	15
16 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 5-Cents-A-Meal offering Happy Birthday! Jacob McCoy	17	18 Worship Comm 10am Church Growth 4pm Fellowship Hall Finance Comm Meeting 4 p.m.	19	20 Bible Study 6pm <i>Spring Begins!</i>	21 Happy Birthday! Megan Lacy	22
23 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship	24	25	26 HOPE PACKS 5:00 p.m. Happy Birthday! Soloman Moore	27 Bible Study 6pm Happy Birthday! Robert Kendrick	28	29
30 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Happy Birthday! Jeannie Moore Session Meets						