

The Messenger

Spindale United Methodist Church

PO Box 241 - 185 Mill Street Spindale, NC 28160

April 2025

Eric's Ethereal Cereal

During the month of March, we moved into the season in the church year we call Lent. These are the days leading up to Easter, mirroring the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness. We begin the season by remembering that we were made from dust, and to dust, we shall return. We take time to see how life is and the world as it is – as we all journey with Jesus on a downward slope toward the cross.

These forty days, not counting Sundays, were originally a time of fasting and penance as new converts prepared for holy baptism. Eventually, this became a time for all Christians to focus on their relationship with God, grow as disciples, and extend themselves.

On Ash Wednesday, we read Psalm 51 as we reflected on this time of cleansing, baptism, and looking closely at our lives and our relationship with God:

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin...*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

These are some of my favorite words from scripture, reminding me that our Creator also restores us. Barbara Brown Taylor offers this perspective on Lent:

*“Like our urge to clean house in the spring, the church also recognized a need for a spiritual spring cleaning. It offered ‘forty days to cleanse the system and open the eyes to what remains when all comfort is gone – to live by the grace of God alone and **not by what we can supply ourselves**’” (my emphasis).*

She says offering the image of dust on Ash Wednesday is not revolutionary. We place ashes on our forehead, reminding us that we will return to dust. And then she says, *“Dust can come from lack of use, or dust can come from construction. Dust that accumulates from lack of use is a symbol of an unexamined faith life. It is faith as an obligation or as a social norm. It is remaining in that place of spiritual comfort. Construction dust is present as you consent to God’s work on you and through you. It is the consequence of a faithful struggle – of new square footage being added.”*

I pray we will accept the challenge to struggle together faithfully as God works on us, in us, and through us this Lenten season. May we find ourselves dusty daily as God’s work—and our meeting God in that work—is evident in our very lives! Amen.

Blessings & Peace,
Pastor Eric

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Eric Marshburn
Office Manager	Jennifer Ruppe
Financial Secretary	Janet Atkins
Director of Music	Jeane Watson

Church Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday, 9am - 12noon

Worship Assistants

Liturgist	Jeri Shuck
Greeter	Nancy Womack

Small Groups

Bible Study is held on Sunday mornings at 10am.

Book club - Join us on Thursdays at 7pm at Barley’s in Spindale. Please note the new location.

CHURCH NEWS

Administrative Council Meeting

Please mark your calendar for an upcoming Ad Council meeting on Sunday, April 6 following the worship service.



Frankful Fridays

The Frankful Friday Crew will be sharing a free hotdog meal on the second and fourth Fridays of each month (April 11 and 25). We will be set up at 12 noon.



United Women in Faith Prayer Breakfast

All ladies are invited to the annual prayer breakfast that will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at Skyland United Methodist Church. Please let Lynn Wall know by April 1st if you can attend. Note that there will be a remembrance moment for Doris Deck and Faye Henson.



Community Meal

Come join our volunteers as we are hosting a Drive Thru Meal on Wednesday, April 16 at 5pm. Contact Bill McDaniel if you would like to help.

Senior Yoga

Join us April 3 and 17 at 10:30am for Senior Yoga in the fellowship hall. Yoga is led by Marie who also leads classes at the Senior Center.



Saturday Night aLive

Be sure to mark your calendar to come and join us for a night of food, music and fun on Saturday, April 26 at 6:30pm. Please invite a friend! Start spreading the word!

Finance Team Meeting

There will be a Finance Team meeting on Sunday, April 27 after the worship service.



Boots and Beatitudes

We have started a new hiking ministry. Check out the e-news for the most up to date information regarding upcoming hikes. You may also contact PJ for more information.

Upper Room Devotionals

If you would like an Upper Room Devotional mailed to you, please email or call the church office.



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy week and will be observed on Sunday, April 13.

Maundy Thursday will be observed with an in-person worship service on April 17 at 6pm.

Easter Sunday Activities

Easter Sunday will be April 20 this year. Our services will be held at 11am. Please note that there will be no sunrise service or breakfast.

HOMEBOUND MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Franklin and Joan Smith
Brookdale, Room 206
493 Piney Ridge Rd
Forest City, NC 28043

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Yokefellow – Instant Oatmeal

Grace of God – individual cans of Vienna sausage, beanie weenies, potted meat, packs of peanut butter crackers, gallons of canned vegetables.

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

We will be collecting items for Grace of God Rescue Mission. *The Grace of God Rescue Mission, located in Forest City, NC is a rescue mission serving the homeless and underserved.*

- Gallon Sized Vegetables
 - Vienna sausages
 - Beanee Weenees
 - Individual packs of peanut butter crackers, cheese and crackers
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Beware of Christians
who think Genesis 1-2
provides a literal
recounting of the
earth's origins, but
that Jesus didn't really
mean it when he said
"how you treat the
hungry, thirsty,
immigrant, poor, sick,
and prisoner is how
you treat me."



Prayer Requests

Hanna Marshburn
Tony Hamrick
Mark Ralls
The Family of Mickey Bland
Christine Kemerait - Friend of Jeri Shuck
Charles Clute
Jack Bridges
Tim McBrayer
Jimmy Johnson
Kenny Cole - Brother of Stephanie Higgins
Javon Calton -Uncle of Lynn Wall
Tommie White
Lisa Moore - Sister of Jeri Shuck
Darla and Hope - Family of David Dunn
Jean Ross, Sharon Wilson and Travis Clark
David Wiseman - Cousin of Jeane
Lynne Potter
Bill Metcalf
Gina Gold - Friend of Brooke Watson
Bobby and Carolyn Stone - Family Members of
Tommie White
Thadd Hodge - Nephew of Jeanette and Lucille
Marge Hamrick
Michelle Gillis - Friend of John and Stephanie
Higgins
Gene and Mary Mitchell
Kylie - Granddaughter of friends of John and
Stephanie Higgins

Please contact the church office in order to add
or remove someone from the prayer list.



- 3 Will Hamrick
- 3 Myra Johnson
- 5 Amy Atchley
- 6 Dustin Atchley
- 13 Tyler Morgan
- 14 Ginger Meador
- 17 Kathy McDonald
- 20 Nelson Long
- 23 Oliver Lyles
- 25 Lucille Dalton
- 26 Sue Jenkins
- 28 Paige Kahill Papesh
- 29 Susan Shoenfelt Bell

Happy Anniversary

- 4 Steve and Sherry Owens
- 7 Seth and Danielle Jones
- 10 Bill and Marcie McDaniel



LAST MONTH

March 2

In Person Attendance	48
Online Attendance	54
Budget Offering	\$ 7,090.00
YTD Giving to Budget	\$ 27,991.00
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$ 39,294.00

March 9

In Person Attendance	47
Online Attendance	61
Budget Offering	\$ 1,981.80
YTD Giving to Budget	\$ 29,082.80
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$ 43,660.00

March 16

In Person Attendance	53
Online Attendance	306
Budget Offering	\$ 3,684.00
YTD Giving to Budget	\$ 32,637.80
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$ 48,026.00

March 23

In Person Attendance	52
Online Attendance	73
Budget Offering	\$ 3,083.00
YTD Giving to Budget	\$ 32,641.63
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$ 51,109.00

March 30

In Person Attendance	TBD
Online Attendance	TBD
Budget Offering	\$ TBD
YTD Giving to Budget	\$ TBD
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$ TBD

Boots and Beatitudes

"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands" (Isaiah 55:12)

The launch of "Boots & Beatitudes" was a day full of joy, prayer, reflection, adventure, conversation, & marvel of God's creation. Our reflection on the Beatitudes reminded us that we are called to be peacemakers in tumultuous times, shining Jesus' light for all to see. "Blessed are the peacemakers."

