

March 2025



Radiance Community Church

From Pastor Steve

It's official! On February 16, I officially announced my retirement. As of June 1, 2025, I will retire after 37 years of full-time Christian Ministry. I have been thinking and praying about this passage in my life for some time and now seems to be the right time.

Since my announcement, I've fielded a number of questions that warrant attention.

One of the reasons I've continued until now is to lend whatever assistance I could to helping our new church launch successfully. I think we have reached the point where the leadership of our congregation is more than capable of pointing Radiance Community Church in the right direction.

My plan, at present, is to continue with my regular duties until June. During that time, I will be lending whatever assistance Pastor Melissa might feel she needs. I want to do what I can to help RCC fulfill the mission of our Savior.

Beyond June 1, I plan to remain a member of RCC. I will be absent from the congregation for the first three months of my retirement. After that your pastor and I will consider what role would best serve Radiance. In the meantime and depending on my schedule, I will be available to assist Pastor Melissa with funerals if requested.

At this point, I have no plans to seek other employment. I intend to use my time to catch up on projects that have been shuffled to the "back-burner" over the past several years.

I will miss worshipping and ministering with RCC. This congregation has been one of the greatest joys of my ministry and I am thankful for each one of you. I have, however, reached the point that I need some time away from church responsibilities. I intend to spend more time with my family and to explore other interests.

So, I am not leaving. I am simply taking a break to consider how I can continue to serve our Lord. Thank you for all your prayers, encouragement, friendships, support and love over the years. I cannot possibly express the depth of gratitude I have for each of you.

For the time being, RCC still has much to do. We have dreams to dream. We have missions to pursue. We have a living Christ that the world needs now more than ever. May God bless you. May we be a blessing to God.

Blessings, Pastor Steve



Radiance Giving

Giving: Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry of our church. If you wish to give an offering, you may do so by placing it in the offering plate during the service, via mail, electronically through your bank or our website, <https://bit.ly/givingrcc>
You may also donate by scanning our QR code:



Upcoming Graduates

We would like to recognize those that are graduating from high school or college this spring. If you have a graduate, please send all pertinent information to the church office, office@cabc.us.

Lent at Radiance

Lent, the forty days of preparation leading up to Easter, begins on March 5. It is a time to consider our relationship with God, as well as to meditate on the steadfast, sacrificial love of Jesus. Traditionally, there is a focus on prayer, service, and fasting (giving up something in order to focus more fully on Christ).

Devotions: We have provided a variety of devotional booklets to help focus your scripture reading and prayer times during Lent. Choose the one that works best for you! Our Faith Lending Library in the foyer will also have books you can borrow that are specific to this Lenten season and the spiritual practices that can help you follow Jesus more closely. If you prefer an online option, we suggest www.journeytothecross.org.

Ash Wednesday Service: Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 40 days (not counting Sundays, which are always “little Easters”) before Easter Sunday. We hope you will join us in the sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, for a special time of worship and the imposition of ashes led by our staff and the staff of Colonial Presbyterian Church.

Lenten Bible Study: Rev. Steven Harris will be leading a midweek Lenten Bible study, “We Shall Be Changed,” on Wednesdays at noon, both in person in the conference room and on Zoom <https://bit.ly/rcccbiblestudy>. Each week, the study will explore a scripture passage in which God challenges us to change.

Easter Offering: This year, we are collecting an Easter Offering for Local Missions. Our goal is to collect \$500 that will be used to support local ministry partners, as well as projects of our own. We also have a special Lenten giving calendar that will help us practice mindful awareness of our material blessings and challenge us to sacrificial giving. These calendars, as well as special offering envelopes will be available on the table in the foyer.

Called Church in Conference

We will have a called Church in Conference following worship on Sunday, March 9th following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on those nominated to serve as officers and on our councils, as well as approving the purchase of a new water heater for the kitchen.

Radiance Kids

Parents, we love having our children in worship with us. Worship bags are provided in the foyer, and there are books on the faith lending library bookshelf that you are welcome to choose from as well. After the Word for All Ages, children may go to children's church if they wish.

Radiance Youth

- Missions Madness, March 21-23: We will be joining other Cooperative Baptist Fellowship youth from around Virginia for a weekend of missions, worship, and fun. If you haven't signed up, please let Pastor Melissa know as soon as possible if you plan to attend.
- Dinner and Discipleship, Sundays, 5-7 p.m. This Lent, join us for good meals, fellowship, and Bible study as we focus on the theme, "Take Up Your Cross." Through Bible study and creative responses, we will look at six crosses of Jesus that have been widely used over the course of Christian history and what they can teach us about our faith.



Dear Radiance Community Church,

Just wanted to drop you a note to tell you how much I appreciated your cards, calls, texts, meals and most of all prayers after my surgery! I am recuperating - slow but sure!

Thank you so much!

Love,
Paula Dull

Daylight Savings Time

begins on Sunday, March 9. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 8.



March

Featured Dates

Sunday, Mar 2

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
Worship and Communion	10:30 AM
Youth Potato Bar & Auction	11:30 AM
Youth Dinner & Discipleship	5:00 PM

Wednesday, Mar 5

Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
Ash Wednesday Service	6:00 PM

Thursday, Mar 6

Young Adult Bible Study	6:00 PM
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Sunday, Mar 9

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Church In Conference	11:30 AM
Young Adult Bible Study	6:00 PM

Monday, Mar 10t

Evelyn Townsend Circle	12:00 PM
Implementation Team Meeting	5:30 PM

Wednesday, Mar 12

Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
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Sunday, Mar 16

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Deacons Meeting	2:00 PM
Youth Dinner & Discipleship	5:00 PM

Wednesday, Mar 19

Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
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Sunday, Mar 23

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
Worship	10:30 AM

Wednesday, Mar 26

Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
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Sunday, Mar 30

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
Worship	10:30 AM



Mission Opportunities

- **Book and Magazine Collection:** The Evelyn Townsend Circle is collecting books (both paperback and hardback) and magazines for the Roanoke City Jail library and for TAP. Please place your donations in the appropriate box in the foyer.
- **Keystone Community Center Weekend Food Bags:** During the school year, we provide weekend food bags for 14 children at Keystone Community Center (a couple of options for breakfast, some snacks, fruit, and proteins for lunches and dinners, juice and milk boxes). We package the food in grocery bags and deliver them to Keystone by Wednesday each week. The cost for the food is usually around \$100. Sign up in the foyer to provide food bags for a week - even better, do it with a group of friends!

Dessert Auction

Join us on Sunday, March 2 following worship for a potato/salad bar lunch and dessert auction.

All proceeds from the youth dessert auction go toward helping to offset the cost to families of sending our children & youth to Passport Camp this summer. This is an important fundraiser, as the cost for camp is over \$400 per child/youth. If you aren't able to attend, but would still like to support our youth, you can do so by making a donation via mail, dropping it by the church office, or put it in the offering plate. Please mark donations "youth camp donation"

Thank you so much for supporting their faith journey!



Dessert Auction

Opportunities for Bible Study

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** is a great way to connect with God and with our church family! We have classes for all ages each week from 9:30-10:15.
- **Midweek Spiritual Formation Group**, led by Rev. Steven Harris, meets at noon on Wednesdays in person and on Zoom. <https://bit.ly/rccbiblestudy>. We are currently studying Lent.
- **First Thursdays Young Adult Dinner & Bible Study.** Young adults (18-30) are invited to join us at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month for dinner and Bible study, hosted by Pastor Melissa & Ric.

Sound/Video Volunteers

Looking for a place to serve? With the installation of our new sound and video equipment, we are in need of volunteers to help during our Sunday worship time. Volunteers will be on a rotating basis and serve as a backup to our existing team. Please let the church office know if you are willing to serve in this capacity. We will be arranging a training session in the next few weeks. Thank you!



AUDIO-VISUAL

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MEMBERSHIP

Now that we have adopted our constitution, we are receiving members! If you would like to join our church, let us know by calling 540-774-2084 or emailing karen@radianceroanoke.org

Here is some information on membership per our newly adopted Constitution:

Who can be a member?

“Church membership shall be available to persons who have professed faith in Christ, have made their commitment to Christ and His way of life, and who seek to voluntarily join together with other believers as a congregational body to serve Christ, the community, and the world.”

How to become a member...

“Members may be received at any service or scheduled conference of the church in any of the following ways:

- Upon profession of faith in Christ, requesting baptism by the church;
- Upon transfer of membership from another Christian church, and having been baptized in accordance with the doctrine of that denomination, and having made a public profession of one's faith in and commitment to Christ as Lord and Savior; or
- Upon a statement of faith by individuals that they have previously been a member of a Christian church, have been baptized in accordance with the doctrine of that denomination, and have made a public profession of one's faith in and commitment to Christ as Lord and Savior”

What does being a member require?

“Members should be active in the life of the church, regular in worship and other services, and faithful in performance of responsibilities essential to serving the church and living the life of a believer within a congregation committed to serving the Lord.”

If you aren't ready to become a member but wish to be a “friend” of the church, we are happy to keep you in the loop with our newsletters and prayer requests, if you so choose. You certainly are welcome in all aspects of the church. The one exception is that you would not be able to “vote on any matter that is conducted as part of the business of the church.”

We recognize that our shut-ins are not able to be with us in person however would still be considered members of the church.

Prayer Concerns

- Those who are homebound or in retirement/nursing homes: Jim Bryant, Jane Byrum, Virginia Draper, Mary Durrer, Sue Epperly, Buddy Hawkins, Janet King, Nadine Minnix, Shirley Moore, Cheryl Nicely, Betty Obenchain, Louise Parris, Betty Payne, Becky Peyton, Jack Pilcher, Evelyn Ragland, Alice Scogin, Anna Mae Smith, Joe St. Clair
 - Those with cancer including Linda Dwyer, Doug Hicks (Kathy Kinsey's brother), Angela Johnson (Joyce Short's niece), Barbara Kern, Penny Long (Bob Crawford's sister), Wayne Simmons (cousin of Vilas Secrist & Linda Dwyer), Lolly Quigley (friend of Amy Grant, Dabney Ward, & Louise Conner), Betsy White (Joyce Waugh's niece), Carolyn Young
 - Our congregation, our pastors, our community, and those around the world
 - Sally Crawford, at Pheasant Ridge for rehab following an accident
 - Bill Lininger's brother, Jim Lininger, who has had an extended hospitalization
 - Joe Durrer, at home, recovering from a stroke
 - Vilas Secrist, at Friendship South, recovering from a broken hip
 - Janet King, in Salem Health and Rehab
 - Amanda Benchley, a friend of the Kinsey family, who is in the hospital
 - John Pruitt's mother, Betty Sue Pruitt, in the hospital in Danville with flu and low oxygen levels
 - Mary Harris, who is recovering from surgery
 - Betty Heptinstall, who is in Friendship North, recovering from a broken hip
 - The family of Sue Epperly, who passed away this week
 - Valerie Opsitnick, Linda Murray's sister, awaiting neck surgery and having a great deal of pain
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Worship Leadership Schedule

March 2

- **Greeters:** Neal Kinsey
- **Scripture Reader:** Jenna Dillon, Caroline, Ella, & Morgan Houchins, Alyssa & Mia Viele and Serenity Werner
- **Offertory Prayer:** Chance Werner
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Donna Kester
- **Offering:** Ella Houchins, Morgan Houchins, Chance Werner, Serenity Werner
- **Deacon Counters:** Glenda Pollard, Susan Snyder
- **Communion Prep:** Kathy Kinsey
- **Communion:** Glenda Pollard, Becky Beard, Susan Snyder, Kathy Kinsey, Paul Howell

March 9

- **Greeters:** Lisa Baker, Nancy Vest
- **Scripture Reader:** Joyce Short
- **Offertory Prayer:** Ric Scott
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Glenda Pollard
- **Offering:** Jenna Dillon, Ric Scott, Brennon Viele, Alyssa Viele
- **Deacon Counters:** Ray Templin, Mary Shirley

March 16

- **Greeters:** Mary Shirley, Gordon Williams
- **Scripture Reader:** Janice Deyerle
- **Offertory Prayer:** Nancy Burgess
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Nancy Vest
- **Offering:** Mark Smith, Ric Scott, Vicki Wray, Michael Krawchison
- **Deacon Counters:** Glenda Pollard, Nancy Burgess

March 23

- **Greeters:** Bobbie Hawkins, Vicki Wray
- **Scripture Reader:** Kathy Kinsey
- **Offertory Prayer:** Bobbie Hawkins
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Mary Harris
- **Offering:** Kathy Kinsey, Alyssa Viele, Jenna Dillon, Brennon Viele
- **Deacon Counters:** Kathy Kinsey, Susan Snyder

March 30

- **Greeters:** Bobbie Hawkins, Mark Smith
- **Scripture Reader:** Vicki Wray
- **Offertory Prayer:** Ric Scott
- **Children's Worship Leader:** M. J. Fanning
- **Offering:** Ric Scott, Brennon Viele, Bob Crawford, Mark Smith
- **Deacon Counters:** Janice Deyerle, Ray Templin



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540-774-2084

Our Church Staff:

Rev. Melissa Scott
Pastor

Dr. Steven Pollard
Pastor

Rev. Steven Harris
Minister in Residence

Debbie Foutz
Church Administrator

Karen Viele
Church Administrator

Bill Lininger
Music Director



03/01 - Joe Durrer
03/02 - Ronnie Baker
03/04 - Mary Webb
03/06 - Jenna Dillon
03/08 - Jean McBride
03/09 - Vicki Wray
03/09 - Bob Crawford
03/09 - Jacob Sloan
03/14 - Barbara Kern
03/16 - John Urquhart
03/20 - Debbie Urquhart
03/22 - Buddy Hawkins
03/26 - John Pruitt
03/28 - Vilas Secrist
03/31 - Nancy Vest