

### *The Season of Lent...*

While some of us may still have some Christmas decorations hanging around, the calendar continues to move, and this month, we begin our journey toward the cross and the Resurrection. We call this 40 day (plus Sundays) season Lent, and this year, it begins on February 14 – Valentine's Day. While the convergence of a day that has become a celebration of romantic love and a day that encourages us to repent of our sins and consider our morality may seem strange, these two days are similar in that they both focus on love. Our worship theme is "Depths of Love," as we pray with Ephesians 3:18 that we can "have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep God's love is."

How can we even begin to understand the depths of God's love? What does it mean to anchor yourself in love and in God this Lent? As we think of Lenten discipline we might naturally associate it with shadows, emptiness, and suffering. Yes, these are elements of the Lenten journey, to be sure, but so is love. How will you take on a Lenten practice that is rooted in love this year? Author Traci Smith suggests three possibilities:

- **Lovingkindness Meditation:** You can find a guided loving kindness meditation at: <https://bit.ly/lkmeditate>. The basic idea is to think warmly first toward yourself, then toward someone you love, and finally toward an enemy. A few minutes per day makes a significant difference.
- **Practicing Self-Compassion:** Every morning say to yourself "I am God's beloved child. God loves me unconditionally." This may sound simple, but how often do we neglect to extend love and hospitality to ourselves?
- **Scripture Memorization:** Many of us know the beautiful and familiar words of 1 Corinthians 13 that begins "Love is patient. Love is kind." This love is not referring, specifically, to romantic love, but rather God's perfect love, the love that we are called to share. Perhaps you can commit to memorizing the whole chapter this Lent – and to finding ways to practice all those aspects of love.

Whatever Lenten practice you might take on, our prayer for you this Lenten season is "May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." (Ephesians 3:19)

Your Pastors,  
Melissa and Steve



## February Birthdays

|                |        |                   |         |                   |         |
|----------------|--------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Don Richardson | Feb. 1 | Kathy Kinsey      | Feb. 6  | Kaitlyn Jenkins   | Feb. 15 |
| Sue Epperly    | Feb. 2 | Raymond Eades     | Feb. 7  | Evelyn Hutcherson | Feb. 17 |
| Nicholas Mort  | Feb. 2 | Betty Heptinstall | Feb. 7  | Linda Reynolds    | Feb. 17 |
| Rich Moore     | Feb. 2 | Evelyn Lewis      | Feb. 9  | Jim Rhodes        | Feb. 22 |
| Debbie Foutz   | Feb. 3 | Ric Scott         | Feb. 11 | Eddie Eades       | Feb. 25 |
| Susan Snyder   | Feb. 3 | Anna Mae Smith    | Feb. 12 | Patrick de Simone | Feb. 27 |
| Carrol Hall    | Feb. 4 | Evelyn Ragland    | Feb. 15 | Janice Deyerle    | Feb. 29 |

## Prayer Concerns

- Those who are homebound or in retirement/nursing homes: Madaline Brown, Jim Bryant, Lois Burge, Jane Byrum, Virginia Draper, Mary Durrer, Sue Epperly, Buddy Hawkins, Evelyn Hutcherson, Nadine Minnix, Shirley Moore, Betty Obenchain, Louise Parris, Betty Payne, Becky Peyton, Jack Pilcher, Evelyn Ragland, Linda Reynolds, Alice Scogin, Sylvia Short, Anna Mae Smith, Joe St. Clair, Frances Williams, Katie Wood
- Those with cancer including Jack Cooper, Linda Dwyer, John Glasgow (Betty Payne's son), Doug Hicks (Kathy Kinsey's Brother), Angela Johnson (Joyce Short's niece), Barbara Kern, Penny Long (Bob Crawford's sister), Carolyn Straughen (A.G. Melson's sister), Posey Weddle (Michael Krawchison's uncle), Declan (four year old friend of the Morris family), Carolyn Young
- Our congregations, our pastors, our community, and those around the world
- Peace in the Middle East
- Peace in the Middle East
- Steven Harris, with a fractured wrist
- John Beard (Becky Beard's brother), recovering from a stroke
- Becky Beard's nieces, whose mother passed away
- Evelyn Lewis, recovering from back surgery
- Evelyn Ragland, in Lewis Gale Hospital
- Briana Oakes, recovering from open heart surgery

## 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 designated plate in the foyer, via mail, electronically through your bank or our websites at: <https://cabcbchurchtrac.com/give> or <https://bit.ly/givecalvary>. You may also donate by scanning our QR codes:



## Giving Statements

• 2023 Giving Statements have been mailed. If you don't receive yours or have questions, please contact the church office. Thank you for your ongoing support.

## Bible Study Opportunities

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** is a great way to connect with God and with our church family! We have classes for all ages and stages of life at 9:30 am.
- **Midweek Bible Study** meets at noon, Wednesdays in the conference room & on Zoom ([www.bit.ly/cabcbiblestudy](http://www.bit.ly/cabcbiblestudy)). Rev. Steven Harris will lead us through a study of call stories in the Bible.

## Thank You from Jim & Rita Bryant...

"Dear Church Family: The poinsettia delivered to us was beautiful and such a meaningful blessing. It brightened our spirits. We very much appreciate the thoughtfulness and prayers from everyone. With Gratitude. Sincerely, Jim and Rita Bryant"

## *Youth*

- Youth Dinner and Discipleship: This winter, our Bible study time is focused on "Following Jesus." We meet on **Sunday evenings** from 5-7 p.m. Join us for hangout time and games at 5, dinner at 5:30, and Bible study at 6. Please note that because of other scheduled events, we will not meet on February 4 or 11.
- If you can provide a Sunday evening meal for our youth this winter or spring, please sign up at: <https://bit.ly/pbjyouthsuppers> or let Pastor Melissa know!
- Our next Parenting Teens and Tweens Small Group will be on **Sunday, Feb. 11 following worship.**
- Youth, let's escape reality for awhile since you're out of school on **Monday, Feb. 12!** We're headed to the Virtual Reality Center in Salem to play virtual reality and other video games. Your cost is \$10, which includes all the games, pizza, and a bottle of water. We will meet at the VR Center (2012 Apperson Dr., Salem), which is next to Schewel's Furniture at 4:00 pm.

## *Women's Missions: Evelyn Townsend Circle*

The **Evelyn Townsend Mission Circle** will meet at noon on **Monday, Feb. 12**, at the home of Ellen Scott. All women of the church are invited to be a part of this group that focuses on missions and offers wonderful times of fellowship and encouragement.

## *Inclement Weather Policy*

- When Roanoke County Public Schools are closed, the church office is closed as well.
- When there is bad weather on Sundays: the Staff, Properties Committee Chair, & Chair of Deacons work together to decide upon the appropriate actions. When a decision is reached, we will notify WSL (Channel 10), and WDBJ7. Closings will also be posted on our Facebook pages and on the church website. Please remember that the church's financial needs do not decrease when we are unable to gather together. Submitting your tithes and offering as quickly as possible after we miss a Sunday helps us to continue to work toward our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## *Ongoing Book Collection*

- The Evelyn Townsend Circle is collecting reading materials for the Roanoke City Jail library and for TAP. Paperback books and magazines will go to Roanoke City Jail and hardback books will go to TAP. Please place your donations in the appropriate box in the foyer.

## *Global Missions 2023*

- We are proud to announce that we raised \$740 for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Offering for Global Missions!

## *Check it out...*

- We have placed a bookcase in the foyer with resources selected by our Church leaders, such as books pertaining to the season and additional reading resources. Please feel free to borrow books and return them when you are done so that others can enjoy them as well!

## *Lent*

- **Ash Wednesday Service:** Join us in the sanctuary of Colonial Presbyterian Church at 6:00 pm on **Wednesday, Feb. 14**, for the imposition of ashes as a reminder of our mortality and need for repentance, as well as a time of reflecting on God's love for us as we ask God to turn our wandering hearts toward Jesus.
- **Lenten Devotionals:** One way to keep our hearts focused on Jesus during Lent is through daily scripture reading and prayer. During Lent, please feel free to take home a "Lifted by Love" devotional book from the table in the foyer to help guide your prayers. During Lent, these will take the place of the daily scripture readings listed in our bulletins.

## *Mark Your Calendar...*

- **Sunday, Jan. 28, 3:00 pm:** Church Council Meeting
- **Sunday, Feb. 4, 11:30 am:** Dawnings Church-wide lunch & visioning session
- **Sunday, Feb. 11, 11:45 pm:** Parents of Tweens & Teens Small Group
- **Monday, Feb. 12, 12 pm:** Evelyn Townsend Circle Missions Meeting
- **Monday, Feb. 12, 5:30 pm:** Dawnings Leadership Team Meeting
- **Wednesday, Feb. 14, 6:00 pm:** Ash Wednesday Service at CPC
- **Sunday, Feb. 18, 2:00 pm:** Deacons Meeting

4165 Colonial Ave.  
Roanoke, VA 24018-4097  
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

## ***A Dawnings Update***

### **Thoughts from Your Pastors...**

Dawn - it's the time of day when things, whose forms had been obscured by shadow, begin to get clearer. Detail is dark and shapes indistinguishable; then, light begins to reveal that which was once hidden. We begin to see that to which we were once blind.

But dawn is not yet daylight. All darkness has not been complete clarity. It is only the beginning of a revealing. It's the time when our eyes still strain to see something that we were not seeing so clearly before, yet there is still more clarity to come.

We, as a new body of believers, have been trying to see something that we have, perhaps, not seen before (at least not as clearly as we might). Dawnings is the right word. We are trying to be enlightened: enlightened about who we are as individuals, enlightened about our identity as a congregation, enlightened about our identity in community with those nearby who need the Savior that we know.

We could spend a great deal of time trying to recall what we once perceived as God's way; however, it is God's new dream for which we are straining our spiritual eyes to see through the dim lights of dawn. We are not trying to "merge" two congregations, hoping that by doing that which we have done before we might bring our collective pasts back to life. We are, by praying and listening, trying to put ourselves in a spiritual state of heart and mind so that God's plan for our future might begin to come to light in us.

Our next session, which you can read more about below, is on Sunday, February 4 following worship. We urge you to make every effort to join the rest of our church family in preparing for God's Light to Dawn on us. Please be there if at all possible; your presence is absolutely critical. See you as the sun (or Son) continues to rise and dawn approaches!

### **Where We Are and Where We Are Going...**

**Where We Have Been:** In our first two sessions, we have discussed our own personal stories (because, after all, our new church is made up of each of us as individuals) and our church's story - both our individual congregations and our new church. The "circles" we have drawn help us see the giftedness and characteristics of our new church.

**Our Next Session:** In our next Dawnings session, which will be immediately after worship on February 4, we will once again, listen for God's answer to the questions: "Who do you want us to be now?" and "What do you want us to do now?". In this session, we will be thinking about our community's story. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer, and knowing how many are coming helps us to be sure there will be plenty of smoked pulled pork for all. We would love for you to bring a side dish or dessert to share, as well.

To prepare for this session, we ask that you consider the following:

- What are three positive things about Roanoke? What are three challenges Roanoke faces?
- What are three positive things about our church's neighborhood? What are three challenges our neighborhood faces? (We are defining a loose rectangle as our neighborhood, with the boundaries being 419/Electric Road, Green Valley neighborhood, Brambleton Avenue, and Virginia Western Community College.)

**What's Next?** After the February 4 Dawnings session, the Dawnings leadership team will be compiling all the information we have received during the sessions. We will spend some time listening to what our "My Story," "My Church's Story," and "My Community's Story" circles, and especially the ways in which they overlap, tell us about our church's purpose and vision. We will then present what we have heard to the church for consideration no later than March 17.

**What About a Name?** We know many of us are eager to have a name for our new church. We believe that knowing who God is calling us to be will also help us determine a name for our church. As we have throughout this process, we ask that you continue to pray for guidance and for indifference to everything except God's will. Won't it be so exciting when we can finally celebrate with a name and a purpose and vision for our new church? We continue the journey together!