

Ash Wednesday



We will observe Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent and the journey towards the cross, on Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Church Conference

Conference will be held on Wednesday, February 11th. at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Senior Moments Highlights

The Seniors will gather for their covered dish luncheon at 11:30 am on Thursday, the 12th, here at the church. Come enjoy a wonderful time of food, fun, and fellowship.

Prayer Concerns

Ellen Bobbitt, Roger Burnett (Lisa Young's father), Marianne Casas' father, Ellen Cook, Bobby & Irene Cheek, Jr. Clodfelter, Marty & Judy Daniels, Ann Huth, Laura Boers (friend of Kathy Mills), Ritchie & Stoney Longworth, Juan & Lidia Mendoza (neighbors of Hal & Melissa Little), Ron Mills, Ron & Doris Pinyan, Derek Reavis (friend of Mark Reavis), Dylan Ward, and unspoken prayers.

Children's Church - Ages 3 to 10

February 1 st	Cindy Clark
February 8 th	Robin French
February 15 th	Kathy Horton
February 22 nd	Lisa Young



February Birthdays

2/9	Melissa Little
2/22	Jennie Buckner
2/24	Danny Cook
2/25	Zoe Ward
2/27	Charlene Dunlap

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Mrs. Gayle Smith
Rev. Marty Daniels
Mrs. Angie Weavil
Mrs. Sara VonCannon
Mrs. Teresa Tucker

Pastor
Music Director
Minister of Education
Organist
Pianist
Office Administrator

Union Cross Baptist News

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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 represent 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 their 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.

Message from the Pastor

I recently read about a Bakersfield pediatrician who turned away a child and her mother -- refused to treat the little girl for an ear infection -- because the mother has tattoos. The doctor says that he is following his Christian beliefs, creating a Christian atmosphere for his patients. There's a sign on the wall that reads, "This is a private office. Appearance and behavior standards apply." For this doctor, that means no tattoos or body piercings. As a result of this standard, the little girl (who has no tattoos herself) had to suffer through the night with no medicine.

According to the American Medical Association, the doctor in question has the right to decide who he will see and who he won't. If he wants to create a certain atmosphere in his waiting room, and if he wants to see only a certain type of patient, that's his choice.

It bothers me, though, that his decision to see only the Beaver Cleavers of his community is being attributed to his Christian faith. When you read the gospels, you see that Jesus freely associated with the less desirable of society. He not only healed them, but he ate with them and fellowshiped with them. There was never any hint of exclusivity in his ministry.

OK, so let's not blast this doctor. Let's think of how this applies to the church.

This is what the tattooed mom said about the experience: "I felt totally discriminated against, like I wasn't good enough to talk to, like he didn't have to give me any reason for not wanting to see my daughter because I have tattoos and piercings."

A large number of people feel the same way about the church. They're afraid to come to us because they believe they will be treated as this woman was. If we are at all serious about doing the work of Jesus, we must resist every temptation to create a social club and, instead, make every effort to let those who consider themselves outsiders know that they will find acceptance with us.

This is just following the example of Jesus: "While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and 'sinners' were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him." (Mark 2:15)

Grace and Peace,
Adam

Sisters In Christ Events

**Sunday, February 1st, come help bake cookies and decorate cards for shut-ins from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm in the fellowship hall.

**Friday, February 6th, at 7:00 pm, join us at J. Peppers for our Galentine Dinner. Please bring a party favor for each person.

**March 19th – 21st, Joytime Women's Retreat in Wilmington, NC. You can buy your tickets online. Please see Jill Sutphin or Lisa Young to reserve your room. For more information on the retreat, go to www.joytime.org/events.

Financial Summary

January 4, 2026
Undesignated Gifts \$ 2715.00
Designated Gifts \$ 355.00
Total Offering \$ 3070.00

January 11, 2026
Undesignated Gifts \$ 1815.00
Designated Gifts \$ 2542.51
Total Offering \$ 4357.51

January 18, 2026
Undesignated Gifts \$ 3634.00
Designated Gifts \$ 250.00
Total Offering \$ 3884.00

General Fund

December General Fund Receipts \$ 28459.65
December General Fund Expenses -\$ 15798.03
December General Fund Net \$ 12661.62
December Fund Balance \$114052.56

Our deepest sympathies go out to Becky Lauten on the passing of Delbert Lauten, Jr. Please remember Becky and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

WOMEN ON MISSION

Women on Mission ladies had their January email meeting on January 6, 2026.

JANUARY, 2026 WOM ACTIVITIES:

Hospice Ministry Note: Although donations were down, Ann, by careful shopping, was able to send snacks to both WS & HP Hospice Homes during January.

Under the leadership of Nancy (Inward Meals Coordinator), meals from WOM were either prepared or purchased during the month.

January Mission Projects & Outreach—Members voted & approved the following:

- \$500 to Crisis Control Ministry for Share the Warmth emphasis when donations were being matched.
- \$400 to purchase items from wish list for Family Room Foster Care Resource Center (actual expense was \$390)
- Established a goal of 48 filled backpacks for Appalachian Backpack Ministry again this year. By doing so, we began purchasing monthly filler items & during January those items purchased were 48 washcloths & 48 comb/brush sets (actual expense was \$112).
- Transferred \$200 to Hospice Ministry Fund to help purchase breakfast & snack items for family members of inpatient Hospice Homes in WS & HP.

Additional WOM News:

- Members were informed of an added December 2025 project: Christmas cards were sent to our shut-ins/special needs folks; & small gifts (i.e. gown, pajamas & snack cakes) were purchased for our 3 nursing home residents - total WOM expense was \$40.
- Susan Hilton was welcomed as our 24th member.

Future Events

- March 8th is Baptist Women's Day
- May 17th is Ladies Fellowship Event

As I am typing this article, news of an ice storm is being flashed across the TV screen. While we are deeply concerned, each one of us reading this is reminded that we are very fortunate compared to many others in our community, so we should always pray not only for the well-being and safety of our own family and friends but others as well. May God continue to guide us as **UNION CROSS REACHES OUT TO SHOW HIS LOVE.**

--Jane Sutphin