

VALENTINE'S SOCIAL

Sisters in Christ are sponsoring a Sunday morning Valentine's Social on February 11th at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. There will be coffee, doughnuts, and cupcakes provided. Please bring a wedding photo or anniversary picture (the older the better) of you and your spouse—put year and names on the back to use for a fun "Who's Who" game. Place your photos in the manilla envelope located in the sanctuary foyer on the Sisters in Christ bulletin board by February 4th.

Senior Moments Highlights

The Seniors will be having their luncheon at 11:00 am on Thursday, 22nd here at the church. Join us for good food, fun, and fellowship.

Our **Crisis Control Food Drive** this month will be here at the church. We will collect food items and monetary donations all month long. The food items of the month: Soul Food (Canned greens, Black-eyed peas, Cornbread mix.) Hospice Ministry Emphasis will be Sunday the 11th.

Children's Church - Ages 3 to 10

February 4 th	Julie Striplin
February 11 th	Susan Hilton
February 18 th	Kathy Horton
February 25 th	Robin French



February Birthdays

2/7	Delbert Lauten, Jr.
2/9	Melissa Little
2/19	Melissa Fulp
2/22	Jennie Buckner
2/24	Danny Cook
2/25	Zoe Ward
2/27	Charlene Dunlap

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit 5043

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Return Service Requested

Dr. Adam Woods
Ms. 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 represents 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 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

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14th at 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. Sometimes a small card or piece of paper is distributed on which each person writes a sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. The cards are then brought to the altar to be burned with the palm branches. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

Before our service at 6:00 pm we will have a special dinner. Everyone is asked to bring a crock pot dish or sandwiches and dessert.

Self-Defense Class

A ladies self-defense class will be held at the church on Saturday, February 24th from 10:00 am-11:30 am and is sponsored by the Triad Woman's Club. No registration required. This is a **FREE** event with a donation of 2 non-perishable items or monetary donation for Crisis Control of Kernersville. Instructor: Beth Clodfelter. Come join us and learn some basic self-defense tips and tricks! Contact Jill Sutphin for questions.



PRAYER CONCERNS: Margaret Baker, Carole Blakley, Brent Butler (Sarah Horton's friend), Bobby & Irene Cheek, Marty & Judy Daniels, Larry Davis (Susan Hilton's nephew), Melvin Duncan, Denny Hester, Ron Mills, Jan & Gary (friends of Kathy Mills), Ron Pinyan, Larry & Carol Reavis (Cousins of Mark Reavis), Darlene Smith (Cindy Clark's mother), Bettie Spencer, and Debbie Wyatt (Sara VonCannon's cousin).

Church Conference will be held on Wednesday, February 21st at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Financial Summary

	January 7, 2024	
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 3412.00
Designated Gifts		\$ 630.00
Total Offering		\$ 4042.00
	January 14, 2024	
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 2605.00
Designated Gifts		\$ 1861.74
Total Offering		\$ 4466.74
	January 21, 2024	
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 1335.00
Designated Gifts		\$ 185.00
Total Offering		\$ 1520.00
	January 28, 2024	
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 2570.00
Designated Gifts		\$ 302.00
Total Offering		\$ 2872.00

General Fund

December General Fund Receipts	\$ 33824.00
December General Fund Expenses	-\$ 22335.15
December General Fund Net	\$ 11488.85
December Fund Balance	\$100213.43

WOMEN ON MISSION

Women on Mission ladies had their January email meeting on January 3rd.

JANUARY WOM ACTIVITIES:

- Hospice Ministry Note: This ministry was continued in January. Thank you Ann for coordinating this project each month and to those who support it.
- Several Inward meals were prepared and delivered to some of our members during January. Thank you Nancy for being our WOM coordinator for the meals.
- A suggestion was made to use \$450 of WOM funds to assist Mark Reavis with rebuilding expenses following the loss of the home he was building to a fire recently. Approval was given to this suggestion and a check, along with our prayers, was given to him.
- WOM also sponsored an International Supper on January 7th with 27 people attending. Our church received very good coverage of this event from the Kernersville News as I was contacted to write an article about our supper and it appeared in the paper on January 6th. A photographer from the paper came to our supper and the following Tuesday, there were 15 pictures in the paper! During this event not only did we enjoy food dishes from various countries but we paid tribute to those serving on the mission field and to those from our own church who assist in mission work/projects through the WOM, Baptist Men, and other organizations like Disaster Relief, Appalachian Christmas Outreach Ministry, Samaritan's Purse--- just to name a few.
- WOM members also began donating washcloths and combs for fall Appalachian Christmas project. Thank you to those members who purchased these items.

We all experience fatigue and sometimes even feel "*brow beaten*" periodically but we must always pick ourselves up from that slump by remembering everything Christ does for us each and every day. With that remembrance foremost in our thoughts we continue to assist others and honor Him as **UNION CROSS REACHES OUT TO SHOW HIS LOVE.**

--Jane Sutphin