

# THE OUTLOOK

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF WAXAHACHIE

402 N College Street



February 2023

Greetings Friends,

As I watched wave after wave of purple clouds move across the weather map this week, I was reminded that the season of Lent is moving towards us. In *Imaging the Word*, Vol. 1, we read, *The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Vestiges of the early church's experience of public penance still exist in the ceremony of ashes on the foreheads of the penitents with the re-monstrance: "Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return." The weeks that followed were a time of intense reflection, self-scrutiny, and preparation for reincorporation into the community and individual preparation for following Jesus on the most difficult of paths, the path of self-sacrificing love.* I imagine wave after wave of penitence and reflection moving over us during the Season of Lent.

Lent is a 40-day period of spiritual release, in preparation for restoration and re-creation. Traditionally, this release involves the discipline of giving something up. In worship, we give up praise: no Gloria Patri, Doxology, or Alleluias. In our lives, we give up busy-ness, we become introspective.

During Lent, we take a good long look at ourselves. We repent and are sorrowful for our sin, and then, **we let it go.** Repentance is difficult precisely because it requires us to release. We dare to repent because we know ours is a loving God. We dare to repent and release, because we need personal spiritual peace. Repentance is painful, yet is possible because there is great love in our midst. We want to make room for that love.

Cleaning out and making room is a tradition during Lent. Our service project this year is to clean out the library and the edit the furniture in the parlor (perhaps pull up carpet in the chapel if there are enough volunteers). The date for this project is Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>. Please reserve the date.

We have opportunities to help you deepen your Spiritual Journey this year. We will gather on Ash Wednesday at 7pm for worship. We will meet every Wednesday at noon for contemplative prayer.

We will gather for Bible study Sunday mornings at 9:30am to study Ecclesiastes. We will gather in the parlor on Sunday mornings at 10:30am for coffee and to extend the hand of welcome. We will worship at 11:00am in mode of reflection and introspection. We will share a Table Fellowship Meal on the last Sundays of each month. We will pray without ceasing, *"Gracious God, forgive us our sins, help us to receive the great gift of new life in Christ, to let go of all that has happened in the past, to speak of it no more, and move forward in peace. Amen."*

May you find grace in the journey,

Betsy



## Schedule for Lent 2023

Silent Retreat – February 19<sup>th</sup>, through Ash Wednesday morning,  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>

\$275 per participant (call Rev Lockhart for more information)

Lenten Bible Study on Ecclesiastes led by Dr. Katherine and  
Dr. Garrett Woods, in the cottage Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> through  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:30am to 10:30am

Coffee Fellowship in the Parlor from 10:30am to 11:00am

Ash Wednesday Worship Service, February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Wednesday 7:00pm

Contemplative Prayer Practices led by Rev Lockhart  
12noon on Wednesdays - March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5,  
in the Cottage

## Lenten Bible Study on Ecclesiastes

Seeking solidarity with Christ's own 40-days of fasting in the wilderness, during the season of Lent, we often give something up in order to reflect on our own limitations and mortality. In so doing, we seek to increase our own faith and dependence upon God. Although written long before the time of Christ's ministry on Earth, the book of Ecclesiastes takes us on a similar journey. Starting Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup>, come join us as we reflect on this often-misunderstood book of the Bible to hear what words of wisdom it has for us this Lenten season.

## February Birthdays

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Susan Cravens  | 8  |
| Carl Holleyman | 20 |
| Claire Crabb   | 23 |
| Patti Collier  | 25 |
| Bonney Ramsey  | 25 |

### LOVE

bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, and endures all things.

First Corinthians 13:7

Please make sure the church office has your birthday. We would like to wish you a Happy Birthday.



## FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 2022

|                                 |                 |                  |                  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Unrestricted donations          | \$ 24,737       | YTD Unrestricted | \$183,004        |
| Other Income                    | 920             | Other            | 4,173            |
| <b>Total Income</b>             | <b>\$25,657</b> |                  | <b>\$187,177</b> |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b> | <b>\$20,736</b> | <b>YTD</b>       | <b>\$195,577</b> |
| <b>Net</b>                      | <b>\$ 4,921</b> |                  | <b>\$ 7,650</b>  |

## Dotty's Gilmont Story



This is the time of year when we send out giving statements to our donors along with notes about how their partnership with Gilmont is transforming lives.

Philip and Dotty Smith show up as volunteers, retreaters, and most recently one of our Battle of the Bags SWISH Underwriters! Gilmont has been special to Dotty since she was a young child. Her story as a lifelong camper and donor inspired us and we hope it will inspire you too!

Dotty writes:

After more than sixty years of the Camp Gilmont experience, it's hard to sum up in a few words what Gilmont means to me. Mostly what comes to mind is the feeling of "Family" in the Piney Woods of East Texas. At an early preschool age, our Dallas church Family made the trip one weekend out of the year to worship, fellowship, and relax among the tall pines, with the fresh outdoor smells and sounds, and the starry nights. The closest to Heaven I felt we could live on Earth! As a summer camper at Camp Gilmont from elementary through high school age, the focus was on our Family groups, making new friends and sharing in outdoor cooking, hiking, and Bible Study, all highlights of my week at camp. Always surrounded by Gilmont's beauty.

Keeping it in the Family, my father's love of Camp Gilmont influenced my decision to volunteer as a camp counselor during my college summers. For many, many years, my father took several weeks of his vacation time to be a volunteer counselor and camp director. In those days, both the adult counselors and weekly camp director were strictly volunteer from churches all over the Northeast Texas Presbytery. He LOVED Camp Gilmont! So, I got to still get to go to camp, and share my love of Camp Gilmont with a new generation of campers, still in a Family Camp setting.

And today, as an older adult, it still feels like I am coming home to "Family" when I return each year for the annual Women's Conference. Just getting to renew my experiences, surrounded by the same tall pines, sights, smells, and sounds, along with the fellowship and the spiritual inspiration during this special weekend, I know will keep Gilmont close in my heart and memory for many years to come. Nothing could be more special than Camp Gilmont.

Do you have a Gilmont story to share? We would love to hear it! Email [jennifer@gilmont.org](mailto:jennifer@gilmont.org) to share your story.



Dottie and Philip are always ready to say "yes" to support the ministry at Gilmont. This day, they brought warm clothes from a thrift store in Longview for our evacuees from Evergreen Life Services, following Hurricane Laura.

Dotty's creativity came to life as she participated in the "Spiritual Renewal Through Art" workshop at Camp Gilmont.





## ***Reaching Out....***

At the November PW Bible Study meeting members wanted to deliver small Christmas Trees and treats to CPC members who have difficulty getting to worship service. This has been a PW practice for many years, until the pandemic. At our December meeting, small trees were bought and decorated and handmade Christmas cards were finished after our usual Bible study. We had planned to deliver the treats after the meeting. In the end, only Benita and Dian were able to make the home visits that day. We made appointments with the 13 on our list and we had wonderful visits at each home.

**Shirley Williams** welcomed us in and we learned that she is sometimes able to get out with help of family and friends. She enjoyed attending the Waxahachie Symphony Christmas concert with Presbyterian friends, Winnie O'Donnell and Marilyn Manley. We hope to see Shirley in worship from time to time.

**Jean Silvera** will be 90 soon and we learned that she was expecting a visit from her daughter. She welcomed us into her beautiful home and said that she is just grateful to be able to exercise and drive to appointments. She hopes to get back to church in the new year.

**Kay Brower** seemed thankful to see CPC members in her lovely home in Indian Hills. Kay is a faithful member of the Andrews class. She uses oxygen at home but drives herself to Sunday School and is comfortable being around small groups of friends.

**Ronnie Tapp** has not been completely well and has been staying in for sometime during the pandemic. He attends worship on Facebook and still feels a strong connection to CPC.

**Pat Gorman** is still his same wonderful personality and thanked us for the visit. He sees his beautiful granddaughters who are all grown up and lovely young women since we saw them as little girls in our sanctuary. He has good care in his room at Buffalo Creek. He was thankful to have a visit from CPC friends. I spoke to Mark recently who appreciated a visit to his father.

**Sydney Barr** was not able to see us but the staff took the tree and treats and promised to let Sydney know who brought them. I did see Sydney on WOW Sunday and she was so lovely and enjoyed my visit and the worship provided that day led by Dickey Todd. Sydney needs to be reminded but still remembers her connection to CPC and the choir where she enjoyed singing for many years.

**Diann and Rusty Marchman** invited us into their lovely family home where we sat and enjoyed old times at CPC. They travel often and spend time in their home in Austin with their family. Diann enjoys CPC worship service on Facebook.

**Billie McCullough** enjoys living in a lovely apartment at Brookdale. She has given up her car and when we offered to bring her to worship she declined. She sometimes attends CPC worship on Facebook. She would still appreciate a visit. Billie is such a warm and sweet Presbyterian. She misses her work at Scott and White but keeps busy helping others at Brookdale.

**Pat Whatley** was glad to have a visit in her warm apartment near the park where she enjoys trekking around the track. She attends worship and PW but has given up her car and is thankful for the friends at CPC who help her with transportation.

**Dee Dreckshage** was recovering from her shoulder surgery and we enjoyed her showing us her redecorated home near Lake Waxahachie. She was looking forward to a visit on the Gulf Coast with family at Christmas. Now, thanks be to God, Dee is back with us in worship and will be serving on Session.

**Billy Price** was eager to tell us about the deer that we saw near their place between Forreton and Milford. **Kay** was out but Billy was thankful for the Christmas tree and treats from CPC. They depend on family for transportation.

Our CPC is greater than those who are always able to attend worship. They are eager to see us and enjoy fellowship. Please call the church office for addresses and phone numbers if you are ready to reach out to these members.

### **GREETERS IN FEBRUARY**

The worship team is looking for individuals who would like to serve as greeters on Sunday morning at the 11 o'clock service. If you are interested in participating, please call Cheryl Arey or Cheryl Loper to volunteer.

This is a great way to meet other

## Waxahachie Caregiver Support Group

Every second Tuesday of the month, from 6:30 –7:30 pm, there will be a Waxahachie Caregiver Support Group Meeting at Central Presbyterian Church. The group is led by Marie Gardner, and it focuses on those who are caregivers or ones affected by Alzheimer's or dementia. Together you will:

- ◆ Exchange practical information on caregiving challenges & solutions
- ◆ Talk through issues and ways of coping
- ◆ Share feelings, needs and concerns
- ◆ Learn about community resources

This group will meet once a month, on the 2nd Tuesday. For more information, contact Marie Gardner at 214-450-3849.



### *Lay reader or liturgist?*

Two terms that mean assisting in worship, reading the scripture, and leading other parts of the worship service on Sunday morning.

We have a new year of worship opportunities with an opportunity for new leaders. Please contact Alex Galeti at 516-473-4748 (call or text) or e-mail [AlexGaleti@RaymondJames.com](mailto:AlexGaleti@RaymondJames.com) to learn more.

Sign up for CPC updates and reminders by e-mail by contacting: [cpcwaxnews@gmail.com](mailto:cpcwaxnews@gmail.com)



### *FLOWER CALENDAR*

Please consider honoring or remembering a loved one or event, by providing flowers for the sanctuary.

There is a new flower calendar on the wall for 2023. It is by the north, ramp side entrance. Johnna will add the information to the bulletin and the entire congregation can enjoy the flowers on Sunday.

## Making Contacts and a new Shepherding Program

The Congregational Care Ministry team is looking for volunteers who would be interested in making contact with our homebound members. Contact could be a card, a phone call, or an email, etc. We strive to include all of our congregation as important members of our church.

The Team also voted to form a "Shepherding Program" for the new members of our church. The purpose would be to pair new members with a "shepherd" who can help them feel welcomed, to introduce them to our church family, and to determine their interests in being a part of the work and ministry of our church.

Anyone wishing to volunteer with contacting homebound members or Shepherding new members should contact Dee Drecksage at 972-533-9564, or any member of that Team.

### Please Prayerfully Consider...

Since Susie will be moving at the end of this month, a replacement is needed to be our church PCHAS Ambassador. If interested, please let Susie know. It is a very rewarding experience!



### NOTICE FILMING IN PROGRESS

To include those who are not able to worship in person, worship services may be filmed.

We have reserved the back third of the sanctuary as a no-film zone.

Please sit where you feel most comfortable.

### Reminder

Please have your Newsletter contributions/submissions to both Nancy Post at [ntpostx@gmail.com](mailto:ntpostx@gmail.com) and Johnna Breedon at [cpcwax@gmail.com](mailto:cpcwax@gmail.com) by the 20th of each month. No computer? No problem.

Please just submit to the office.

Thank you!



402 N. College Street  
 P O Box 38  
 Waxahachie, TX 75168

Sunday School 9:45 am  
 Worship Service 11:00 am

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm  
 Friday 9am-Noon

Phone: 972-937-2924

E-mail: Office: [cpcwax@gmail.com](mailto:cpcwax@gmail.com)

Pastor: [cpcpastorwax@gmail.com](mailto:cpcpastorwax@gmail.com)

Web: [www.waxcpc.org](http://www.waxcpc.org)

Follow CPCWAX on social media:



# February 2023



| Sun  | Mon                            | Tue  | Wed                     | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
|  |                                |  | 1                       | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5<br>9:45 Andrews Class<br>11:00 am Worship in<br>Sanctuary<br>DAR Meeting   | 6                              | 7  | 8<br>7:00 pm CPC Choir  | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12<br>9:45 Andrews Class<br>9:30 Lenten Bible<br>Study-Drs. Woods<br>11:00 am Worship in<br>Sanctuary  | 13<br>6:30<br>Jubilate Ringers | 14<br>10:00 am PW<br>Women's Circle<br>6:30 Caregiver's<br>Support                         | 15<br>7:00 pm CPC Choir | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19<br>9:30 Lenten Bible<br>Study-Drs. Woods<br>9:45 Andrews Class<br>11:00 am Worship in<br>Sanctuary  | 21<br>6:30<br>Jubilate Ringers | 22<br>Ash Wednesday<br>6:00 Simple Bean<br>Supper and<br>Worship 7:00 pm,<br>In undercroft | 23<br>7:00 CPC Choir    | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 26<br>9:30 Lenten Bible<br>Study-Drs. Woods<br>9:45 Andrews Class<br>11:00 am Worship in<br>Sanctuary<br>Bring a dish after<br>Worship, in<br>Undercroft | 27<br>6:30<br>Jubilate Ringers | 28   |                         |     |     |     |
|  |                                |  |                         |     |     |     |