



CHURCH CHAT

Butner Presbyterian Church

Pastors: Brian Stratton, Dewey Cassell

March 2025



A Message From Dewey

Ash Wednesday is March 5 this year. And if you are thinking, "That seems late," you are right. At least, later than it often is.

Wonder why? Well, here is everything you could possibly want to know about the timing of Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday, the Lenten season, and Easter, but were afraid to ask.

According to Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days, or 40 days excluding Sundays, before Easter Sunday. Easter is a moveable holiday, meaning Ash Wednesday moves with it.

The Old Farmer's Almanac explains that Easter Sunday changes dates each year because it depends on the lunar cycles of the Jewish calendar. While Easter Sunday can happen anywhere between March 22 and April 25, the holiday always falls on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, meaning a full moon that happens on or after the spring equinox.

This year, the spring equinox is March 20, and the first full moon following it is on April 12, making Easter April 20. 46 days before April 20 is March 5, making that date Ash Wednesday for 2025.

Ash Wednesday is a holy day of prayer and fasting in many Western Christian denominations, including Presbyterian. Christians attend special Ash Wednesday church services at which churchgoers receive ash on their foreheads. The wearing of

ashes was a sign of repentance in biblical times. Ash Wednesday is preceded by Shrove Tuesday, and marks the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter.

Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians, who "make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they especially need to ask God's help in dealing with." This moveable feast is determined by the date of Easter. You probably know Shrove Tuesday by its secular name, Mardi Gras.

The term Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Many Christian congregations observe the day through eating pancakes, as well as the ringing of church bells to remind people to repent of their sins before the start of Lent. On Shrove Tuesday, churches also burn the palms distributed during the previous year's Palm Sunday liturgies to make the ashes used during the services held on the very next day, Ash Wednesday.

Now, I don't want to mislead you. We're not going to burn any palms out by the playground. The ashes we use are store-bought, as my grandmother used to say, but they are made the same way.

I hope you will mark the beginning of Lent by joining us for the Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at 7 p.m. And may you have a blessed and meaningful Lenten season.

[With all due credit and thanks to Yahoo and Google]

MARCH Calendar

Sun, 3/2 11 am Communion Worship Service
Brian Stratton, Michael McFadden

Wed, 3/5 7pm Ash Wednesday Service
Dewey Cassell

Sun, 3/9



11:00 am Worship & Installation Service
Dewey Cassell, Michelle Osborne

2:00 pm Butner Church Council Meeting

Sat, 3/15 @ Community Methodist Church

Sun, 3/16

**CHURCH
Clean-up
DAY**



11:00 am Worship Service
Brian Stratton, Erma Hudgins

Sun, 3/17 **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**



Sun, 3/23 11:00 am Worship Service:
Brian Stratton, Cecil Hudgins

St. Patrick's Fellowship at Trali's Irish Pub
After worship service

Sun, 3/30 11 am Worship Service
Brian Stratton, Michael McFadden

FOR BETTER OR VERSE

A calendar of Bible verses, one for each day.
Compiled by Paul Lintern, Joyful Noiseletter

- 1 I John 3:1
- 2 Matthew 3:2
- 3 John 3:3
- 4 Genesis 3:4
- 5 Titus 3:5
- 6 Hebrews 3:6
- 7 Philippians 3:7
- 8 2 Peter 3:8
- 9 I Corinthians 3:9
- 10 2 Peter 3:10
- 11 I John 3:11
- 12 Exodus 3:12
- 13 2 Thess.3:13
- 14 2 Timothy 3:14
- 15 Colossians 3:15
- 16 John 3:16
- 17 Matthew 3:17
- 18 2 Peter 3:18
- 19 Romans 3:19
- 20 Genesis 3:20
- 21 John 3:21
- 22 Luke 3:22
- 23 Romans 3:23
- 24 Proverbs 3:24
- 25 Acts 3:25
- 26 Daniel 3:26
- 27 Galatians 3:27
- 28 Romans 3:28
- 29 John 3:29
- 30 Daniel 3:30
- 31 Romans 3:31



Romping with the Pre-K

The preschool is gearing up for Spring! We have Read Across America week the first week of March. Each day, students get to dress up in some way to celebrate. So, if you see us on the playground and things look a little off, Tuesday is crazy hair day, and Wednesday is Wacky Wednesday, sooooo....

We will have class and individual spring pictures on March 11 and 12 in the fellowship hall. Our classes will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on the 13th and 17th. We will set up a scavenger hunt of clues for the students to find the pot of gold, or in our case, candy!

We will have our spring break to coincide with Granville County, so there are no classes from March 31-April 4. We will be back in session on April 7th.

The board met and decided to only increase tuition for the 5-day class. Currently those families received a slight discount overpaying both the

amounts for 2-day and 3-day. Beginning in the 25/26 class, annual tuition for the 2-day class will be \$190 a month, 3-day will be \$235 a month, and the 5-day will increase from \$400 to \$425 a month. My 2-day students have until March 6th to turn in their registration for the 3-day class next year then those spots will be open to the public.

We will be winding down the alphabet in March. We start the month with letter T, and finish with letter W. We will learn all about spring, St. Patrick's Day, transportation, and weather.

Thank you again for all the support the church gives us. This is the time of the school year where I really begin to notice changes in the students. They are starting to remember letters and numbers, and some of the students are already showing they are definitely ready to start reading. I am so blessed to be a part of this preschool, and I cherish every moment.

Our bible verse for March is "Sing for Joy to the Lord, all the earth" Psalm 98:4. I sing praises of joy to the Lord for all the blessings this school brings me and the community.

Blessings,
Susan Zink

DID YOU KNOW???

The Jewish holiday of Purim is celebrated for 2 days in March each year. It commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from annihilation at the hands of an official under King Xerxes named Haman. This story is found in the book of Esther. It was decreed at that time that Purim is to be celebrated by Jews every year.

So, how is it celebrated today? The Jews will read the Book of Esther, dress up in costumes, eat a festive meal, and give each other gifts.

It's like our Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas
all together in one big two-day celebration!



Church News

Ash Wednesday Service

Dewey Cassell will be leading the Ash Wednesday worship service on March 5th at 7pm. Please put this special service on your calendars as we all prepare for the season of Lent.

Installation Service

As part of worship on Sunday, March 9th, the congregation will be re-installing Michael McFadden and Michelle Osborne to the session.

Church Cleaning

The session has decided to end our contract with our housecleaning services and keep that money in our budget for other needed items. So now, it is more important than ever for the congregation to take part in keeping our church clean.

Our next scheduled church clean-up day is Saturday, March 15. Please consider helping! If you can help but not at that time, please see Erma.

St. Patrick's Day Fellowship

After worship on March 23rd, the congregation will meet at Trali's Irish Pub & Restaurant at Brier Creek for lunch. If you are interested in going, please let

Michelle know as she will be making the reservations.

Fellowships

Our last fellowship was on February 9th and since it was Super Bowl Sunday, we had a "Souper" Bowl Sunday Fellowship where we all brought a favorite soup to share. This is one of our annual events and as always, we had lots of great conversations and soup to share.

We have some other fun fellowships planned, both in-house and elsewhere, for the year so stay tuned!

Building & Grounds

Pre-K Door - has been fixed by Kyle Glenn.

Door facing D St - Kyle Glenn has presented a quote for a fiberglass door and some new woodwork. The session has approved and work will begin soon.

Lights for the Cross - we are once again waiting for a quote from another electric company to change those bulbs. Pray that we can finally find a company willing to do it.

Saint Patrick's Day Fellowship

Right after church on Sunday, March 23

We will go to **Trali Irish Pub & Restaurant**
at Brier Creek
10370 Moncreiffe Rd #109
Raleigh, NC



From the Editor

40 Days of Lent



Many Christians observe Lent by either adding or subtracting something from their lives for this period of time. All is supposedly done in an effort to be closer to God. At least that is usually the initial intention. But unfortunately, giving up chocolate rarely has any impact on our walk with Christ. I did a little web searching for what to give up for Lent and collected some ideas here and there. So maybe we can give up some elements of our attitudes, and not just during Lent, but from now on. In honor of the 40 days of Lent, here are 40 attitudes to let go of.

1. Fear of failure – You can't move forward without experiencing failure. Just know it, don't be afraid of it and keep moving forward.

2. Staying in your comfort zone – Moving outside of your comfort zone is where new and wonderful discoveries and experiences can be made.

3. Feelings of Unworthiness – This is an attitude from the evil one and it holds you back and keeps you from doing wonderful works. Remember that *you are fearfully and wonderfully made*.

4. Impatience – This causes too much stress. Just relax and know that God's timing is perfect timing.

5. Retirement – You can retire from your professional career and rest from your labors. But in life, you never retire. As long as you are still breathing, you are here for a reason. You have a purpose and a calling from God.

6. People Pleasing – you can't please everyone. Some people can never be pleased. Strive only to please God.

7. Comparison – never compare yourself to anyone else. You are unique; embrace your unique-ness.

8. Blame – Don't pass blame on to others. Take responsibility for your actions.

9. Guilt – We all suffer from this at times, and it keeps us from looking forward. Ask the Lord for forgiveness of whatever is causing the guilt, know that you are forgiven, and move forward. Let go of what is behind you and press forward.

10. Overcommitment – Stop overcommitting! Do less and do it well.

11. Lack of Counsel – You can't live in a vacuum. You gain wisdom by talking to others about decisions you face.

12. Impurity – Strive to take impurities out of your life. What we say, do, and think.

13. Entitlement – No one owes you anything. God doesn't owe you anything. Live in humility and thankfulness.

14. Apathy – Come on! Life is too short not to care!

15. Hatred – *Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.* (Romans 12:21) Besides, hatred hurts you more than it hurts the other person.

16. Negativity – Don't be a "Debbie Downer". Work to have an upbeat, encouraging attitude. Think constructively, say positive things to other people, and minimize contact with people who are negative and toxic.

17. Wanting more – You have enough. God has provided you with enough. Don't continue yearning for more.

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18. Just going through the motions – Always be intentional in all that you do.

19. Complaining – There are always problems. Don't complain. Instead, strive to find solutions.

20. Pursuit of Happiness – Don't look for what makes you happy. God wants something greater for us, anyway. It's called joy.

21. Bitterness – It's like drinking poison on purpose.

22. Distraction – Focus and keep your eye on what's important.

23. Giving up – Never give up because God never gives up on us. Don't be discouraged by failure. Get back up and try, try again.

24. Mediocrity – Always give it all you've got.

25. Destructive Speech – *Encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching.* (Hebrews 10:25)

26. Busyness – Focus on what's important and let the other stuff fall away.

27. Loneliness – Figure out how to be in the presence of people often. Go to church, join a volunteer group, visit the sick, take a class, etc. and remember, with Jesus, you are never alone.

28. Judgement – Never judge others. That's God's job. Always be kind, patient, and understanding.

29. Quick Fixes – True transformation rarely happens overnight. Be patient and stay the course.

30. Worry – Instead, pray. God is in control and worrying does not help. Worrying hurts your mental health and eventually, your physical health.

31. Idolizing – Don't place anyone or anything on a pedestal. Worship only God.

32. Resisting change – Change is certain (except from a vending machine). Don't resist but embrace it. You may eventually find it refreshing and see that the change was for the best.

33. Pride – Instead, be humble. Remember that all good things come from God.

34. Small view of God – Have faith that God can do ALL things. His power is limitless. You will never have a problem bigger than God.

35. Envy – Never be envious of another person. You have no idea what they are going through. We should be thankful for what God has given us.

36. Ungratefulness – Take time to be thankful. You have much to be thankful for. Your blessings are greater than you realize.

37. Selfish Ambition – Live for God; not self. And you may find your way to happiness.

38. Self-Sufficiency – Jesus is your strength and the giver of all good things. You didn't get where you are all by yourself.

39. Sorrow – It's ok to grieve for a time. But then get up and move on. *Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning.* (Ps 30:5b)

40. Loving your life – *Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.* (John 12:25)

Even if we are successful at improving one of these attitudes, it will be a worth-while Lenten season.

~Erma

KIDS SAY AND DO THE FUNNIEST THINGS

A six-year-old boy came home from school and asked his mother if it was all right to ask God to help him.

"Of course," she replied. "Is there something worrying you?"

"No," he said, "but at school today my teacher said that if I interrupted her one more time, 'May God help you.'"



As they were on their way to the church service, a Sunday school teacher asked her little children, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."



"Do you think there is a devil?" the Sunday school teacher asked her class.

A little boy replied, "No, I think it's like Santa Claus. It's probably my dad."



A small boy told his Sunday school teacher: "When you die, God takes care of you like your parents did when you are alive – only God doesn't yell at you all the time."

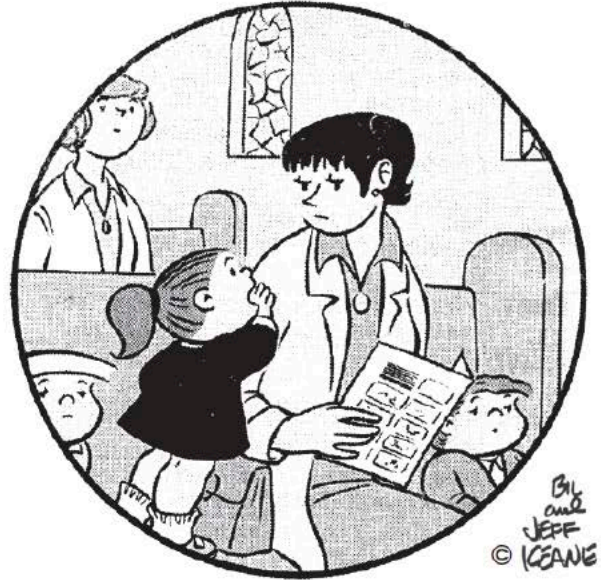


A Sunday school teacher was discussing with her class of youngsters the difference between right and wrong. "As an example," she said, "if I reach into a man's pocket and take money from his wallet, would I be?"

A little boy raised his hand and answered: "You'd be his wife!"

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"How much longer until we goeth home?"

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A mother was preparing pancakes for her two sons, who were fighting over who would get the first one.

The mother said, "Hey if Jesus were sitting here, he would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

One brother turned to the other and said, "You be Jesus."

