



February

2026

SMOKE SIGNAL

Our Mission Statement

Sharing the love of Christ with ALL people.

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Burnt Factory Church

P. O. Box 399

Stephenson, Virginia 22656

burntfactory.org

PH: (540) 667-4993



Well, baseball season will be back soon. In fact, I believe the college teams are already practicing and perhaps have even played a few games. Now that's inspiring. I can't imagine playing baseball this time of year. The professionals usually do not begin until April 1st. Until then, they head to Florida or Arizona or some other warm place for them to enter into the time-honored tradition of spring training. At our house, we enter into the time-honored tradition of spring cleaning.

The church season of Lent is like spring training and spring cleaning! It is a time to train others in the faith and to renew our commitment to Christ and His church. It is a time to clean out the old junk in our soul, dust off our bibles, repent of our sins and prepare for the great celebration of Easter! We want to come to Easter Day with a rejuvenated hope, faith, and love! The season of Lent is about cleaning our hearts and training our spirits!

I look forward to journeying with you this Lenten season as we reflect daily on what our Lord Jesus Christ did for us! Let us embrace the new season before us! Let us prepare for the season ahead, a season for personal & spiritual renewal.

*Ash Wednesday is the kick-off for the season of Lent where the church will come together for the Imposition of Ashes service held on Wednesday evening February 18th at 7:00.

*Parents, keep a look out for this years Confirmation Classes. We will be sharing those dates and starting sign-ups very soon.

Pastor Steve

LENTEN STUDIES WILL BE GETTING UNDERWAY SOON!

Sign-ups are in the Fellowship Hall.

- Pastor Steve will be leading a study intitled, "He Set His Face to Jerusalem." We will meet on Tuesday mornings from 11:00 to 12:00. We will start on Feb, 17th and close on March 31st
- Jason Corron will be leading an evening study entitled, "Embracing the Uncertain" by Magrey DeVega. This study will be offered on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30. Jason will start on Feb. 23rd and close on March 30th

Spiritual Connection-Associate Pastor Thoughts

February is a month where we celebrate a time of love, then move into the more somber time of Lent. It is also a time of year where we seem to fall into that seasonal depression mindset. Our hearts, our minds, and our spirits get a little bit overwhelmed with emotion, and our bodies are tired of the cold, sickness and darkness that seem to surround us. We long for the time of rebirth, warmth, bright colors, and sounds of awakening to bring us back to joy.

But for now, we can encourage one another in support and care.

For Now, we concentrate on our amazing God, and the celebration that is to come on Easter Sunday.

For Now, we celebrate the Love God has for us, and that we have for Him.

For Now, we spend time in Christian service, ministry, and mission

For Now, we prepare our hearts for the time of Lent that is coming.

For Now, we lay down our burdens, sins, and sorrows and allow God to fully take over our hearts and dwell there.

For Now, we confess our sins and reflect on how we can change for the better.

For Now, we hold each other in prayer, because a cord of three or more strands cannot be broken.

For Now, we blow the dust off our Bibles, and we get into the Word.

For Now, we reach out to each other in love and need.

For Now, we dip into the ashes, we lament, and we wait.....

It's Friday now. But Sunday's Coming!



Carrie Fair
Associate Pastor
Burnt Factory Church

February Birthdays

- 1st Larry Dick
- 5th Sony Sibert
- 6th Saundra Bouder
- 7th Joyce Umbenour
- 8th Kyle McClinton
- Charlie Shepley
- 10th Sue Wells
- 14th Steve Fox
- 15th James Hardesty
- 16th John Nevitte Renne
- Hayden Stinnette
- Ken Wales
- 17th Soleil Smith
- Lillian Hardesty
- 19th Ed Cooper
- 20th Evan Taylor
- Rhonda Synder
- 21st Mike Repine
- Zoe Carroll
- Jackson Carroll
- 22nd Robin Russell
- Chad Earhart
- 23rd Denise Repine
- 28th Bruce Clevenger



Happy Anniversary

- 14th Willie and Joyce Umbenour
- Terry and Kyle Bouck
- JoAnn and Ron Baker
- 18th Dave and Martia Etu
- 29th The Marchands



Joys

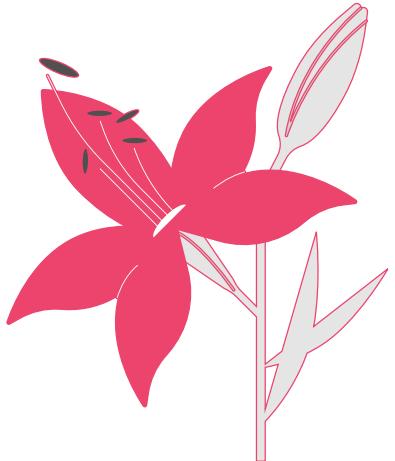
Let us celebrate together the joys in our wonderful faith community. As we are told in Philippians 4:4, Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!



Megan & Spencer Jenkins welcomed Miss Logan Lane Jenkins into the world!

CONDOLENCES

As many have experienced the loss of a loved one, please remember them in prayer:



- Dana Woodard's mother, Nella, has claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- A 20-year-old cousin of Angie Wiseman, JB Shipe, unexpectedly claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Dickie Keeler, Tommy Duvall's brother-in claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Joe Shanholtz claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Kristi Rodgers grandmother has claimed the promise if the resurrection.
- Keith Robert's sister, Jean Wahl, claimed the promise of resurrection after 91 years of serving the Lord.



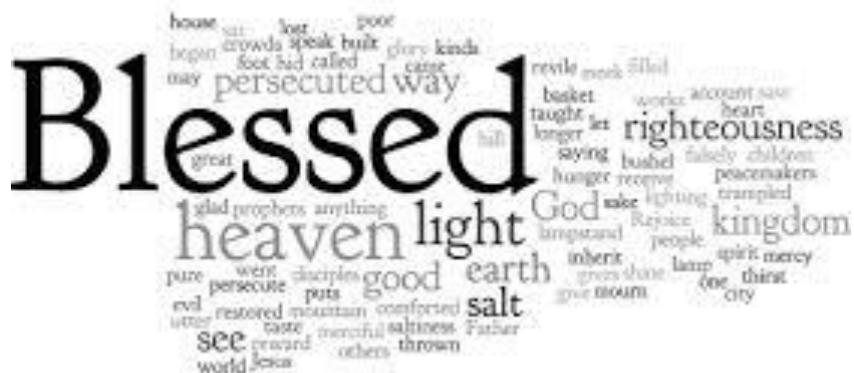
“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

CHILDREN*S MINISTRIES

Children's Church:

During the month of February we will be learning about each of the Beatitudes and how we can grow closer to God through each of these blessings!



Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday School:

We are doing music part of this time; kids are learning a mix of traditional Sunday School songs and also current Christian music. Our contemporary artist this month is Terrian and her song "Big God;" help the kids become more familiar by playing it for them during the week!

Important Dates: February 8th is Ministry Fair! Look for me at the Kids Ministry booth to see the upcoming VBS and Summer Camp dates, and to see ways you can volunteer!!

Erin Hartman - Director of Children's Ministries

Greetings from Outreach

The Outreach Mission Statement

1 Peter 4:10-11

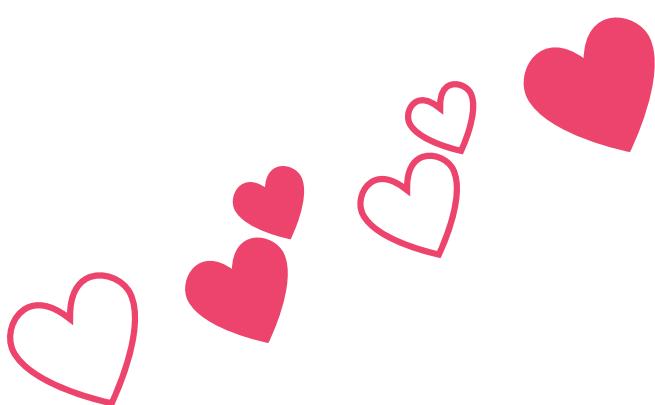
“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”

There is a great opportunity this month to come and learn all about our Outreach Programs and Ministries. The Ministry Fair will be held on February 8th in the Fellowship Hall. Our volunteer leaders will be there with displays to discuss each of their special areas of outreach & ministry. If you are led to be involved in Outreach or would just like to find out what we do, please plan to attend.

We served our first Family Promise Meal of 2026 on January 18th and fed 73 family members staying in motels throughout Winchester. Thanks to all who donated, cooked, assembled, and delivered the meals.

For anyone interested in getting involved in the ministries in our church, please join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, March 5th** at 7p.m. in the lower cottage. Hope to see you there.

Cheryl Jones
Outreach Committee Chair
cheryl_b_jones@yahoo.com



CCAP Corner



CCAP Mission: Guided by our faith in God and love of neighbor, CCAP is committed to helping our neighbors meet basic needs with food, clothing and financial resources.

Our next CCAP collection is for the Easter Food Meal Giveaway on 3/28. Sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall on 3/1 and 3/8. Items other than the hams should be delivered to the Red CCAP bins in the Narthex by Sunday, 3/22. The hams can be left in the kitchen at the church.

Current Projects at CCAP:

- The warehouse and food pantry floors will be resurfaced 2/2 – 2/9.
- The garage doors will be replaced after the floors are complete
- We will be engaging in some projects in conjunction with Emmert oil to discourage loitering on the property.

Future Projects:

- More shelving to increase storage capacity
- Replacement of the front door and Andrea's office door.
- Upgrade of security cameras
- Possibility of hiring a part-time office coordinator

Upcoming Fundraising Events for 2026

- 2/21/26 – Pickleball Tournament
- March 2026 – Donor Appreciation Open House
- May 2026 – Monte Python pub crawl – this is a joint fundraiser with several other non-profits
- 6/18/26 – A Night of Magic – joint fundraiser with New Eve Maternity Home
- 8/22/26 – Bike Event

Committee Reports from Quarterly meeting on 1/16/26

- Governance is working on updated HR policies, handbooks and overseeing projects
- Finance is meeting with investment firms for quarterly updates
- Development is working on the 2026 grant calendar, events, and donor appreciation open house

CCAP Corner Cont'd

Current Donation Needs:

- **Items most requested: Men's Jeans, men's and women's sweatpants, hooded sweatshirts, Boots, and tennis shoes**
- All sizes of baby/child winter clothing; infant sizes thru teen;
- Adult Backpacks and gently used/clean linens (sheets, pillowcases, blankets & towels);
- New underwear – all ages and sizes

Food Pantry Items needed:

- Spaghetti Sauce/Diced Tomatoes (Cans only)
- Spaghetti and other pastas and Rice
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef, ham)
- Shelf stable Juice and Milk
- Cereals, crackers, cookies
- Peanut butter, jelly and jam
- Ramen cup-a-soup, Mac and Cheese cups
- Canned Fruit
- Infant and baby foods (must have current dates)
- Toiletries/Paper Products
- Laundry detergent

We now have 4 Neighborhood FREEDGES. With so many more people in need, these Freedges are more important than ever. These are open 24 hours a day for all to enjoy. The Freedges are stocked by your neighbors and community members with fresh produce, items they don't want to go to waste, pre-cooked meals, etc!

- **329 N Cameron St** on the Our Health Campus – you can park on Cameron St and walk across to the Our Health Campus to drop off donations
- **102 Montague Avenue** at the Methodist Church
- **700 Aylor Road, Stephens City** at Abundant Life Church
- **Wayside Inn in Middletown**

I'm excited to announce that Kathy Dick has joined me as co-lead for CCAP!! She has been volunteering at CCAP and has brought many new ideas and her beautiful, positive attitude to the Clothing House. The other volunteers and the clients all love her. Our churches continued support for this important ministry is greatly appreciated!! Any questions, please contact me at 540-664-6973 or ricpat5@gmail.com or Kathy Dick at katlar9092@gmail.com.

Patty Leonard, Outreach CCAP Rep

Donations for the Laurel Center



General Needs

- Cases of Bottled Water
- Individually Wrapped Snacks
- Juice Boxes
- 13 Gallon Trash Bags
- Hair Conditioner
- 2026 Planners
- Journals
- Lanyards
- Hand Warmers
- Winter Socks
- Ladies New Coats – M, L, XL, XXL
- Travel Water Bottles
- Kids Lunch Boxes

Gift Cards

These serve as an empowerment tool for clients working toward self-sufficiency after violence. We are always in need of gift cards to:

Grocery Stores (Martin's, Walmart)

All items will be taken to the Laurel Center at the end of February. Any questions please contact Cathy Barley at barley1084@outlook.com or 540-664-6018

Faith and Health Corner



Caring for the Heart: Body, Mind, and Spirit

February is known for Valentine's cards and expressions of love, but it is also **American Heart Month**, a time to focus on caring for the heart in all the ways that truly matter. As a faith community, we are invited to reflect on how we can nurture not only our physical hearts, but also our emotional and spiritual well-being.

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States, affecting people of all ages and backgrounds. Many risk factors – such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, inactivity, stress, and poor nutrition – can be improved through small, consistent lifestyle changes. February is a wonderful time to recommit to habits that support heart health: moving our bodies regularly, choosing heart-healthy foods, managing stress, and keeping up with preventive screenings.

But heart health is more than numbers on a blood pressure cuff. Scripture often speaks of the heart as the center of who we are – our thoughts, emotions, and faith.

Proverbs 4:23 reminds us, *“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”* When we care for our spiritual and emotional hearts, we strengthen our overall health and resilience.

Valentine's Day offers a beautiful reminder that **love itself is healing**. Acts of kindness, meaningful connections, forgiveness, and compassion can reduce stress and lift our spirits – benefitting both heart and mind. Reaching out to someone who is lonely, expressing gratitude, or spending time in prayer and reflection can be powerful ways to show love to others and to ourselves.

Faith and Health Corner Cont'd

As your faith community nurse, I encourage everyone this month to take a moment to “check in” with their heart:

- **Physical heart:** Know your blood pressure and cholesterol numbers, stay active in ways you enjoy, and choose foods that nourish your body.
- **Emotional heart:** Acknowledge stress, grief, or worry, and seek support when needed. You are not meant to carry burdens alone.
- **Spiritual heart:** Make time for prayer, scripture, worship, or quiet reflection – whatever helps you feel grounded and connected to God.

This February, let love be more than a symbol. Let it be a commitment – to healthier choices, deeper connections, and compassionate care for ourselves and others. By tending to our hearts in body, mind, and spirit, we honor the gift of life God has given us.

Together, we can build a healthier, heart-strong community.

As your parish nurse, I am here to support you in this season. Whether you have health questions, need help navigating a diagnosis, or simply want someone to pray with you, please feel free to reach out.

Theresa

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at tgilbert@afpdocs.com or theresahgilbert@gmail.com or by phone at (540) 247-5612





World Cancer Day – United by Unique February 4, 2026

On World Cancer Day, we pause to honor the truth that while cancer touches many lives, **no two cancer journeys are the same**. Each diagnosis, treatment plan, response, fear, hope and victory is deeply personal.

Yet we are **united** – by compassion, by science, by advocacy, and by the shared commitment to reduce the burden of cancer for all. Being *United by Unique* reminds us that meaningful cancer care recognizes the whole person, not just the disease.

Today we stand with those living with cancer, survivors, caregivers, healthcare professionals, the researchers. By listening to individual stories and supporting equitable, person-centered care, we move closer to a future where every person receives the understanding, dignity, and treatment they deserve.

Together, we are stronger – **united by our shared humanity, strengthened by our uniqueness**.

“No one’s life path is the same, and no one’s struggle should be treated as if it were.”

Audre Lorde

Theresa Gilbert

(540) 247-5612

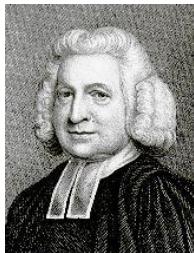
theresahgilbert@gmail.com

Opportunities to Serve

- Burnt Factory Church is looking to fill the volunteer position of Bell-Choir director. We have a beautiful set of three octave bells just waiting to be heard. We would also like to hear back from those who wish to be in the Bell Choir. Contact Diana Smith, Pastor Steve or Pastor Carrie
- Burnt Factory Church is looking to fill the position of Youth Minister. This is a paid 15 hour a week position. Contact Pastor Steve, Pastor Carrie or our staff-parish chairperson, Judy McIntire.
- Burnt Factory Church is looking to fill the leadership position of a new Men's Group that is being formed. This will be a church wide group that will meet every other month. Contact Pastor Steve to hear the vision for this group.
- We are always looking for singers and those who play an instrument. If God is leading you then why not give the choir or praise team a try!



**Love Divine, All Loves
Excelling**
Charles Wesley
(1747)



Chorus Spotlight

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

February 2026 Calendar

Date/Time		Event	Date/Time		Event
Sun 1 st	8:30 AM	Worship	Sun 15 th	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship		11:00 AM	Worship
Tues 3 rd	5:00 PM	Praise Team	Tues 17 th	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice		6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 4 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours	Wed 18 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 5 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63		12:00 PM	Pathfinders
Sun 8 th	8:30 AM	Worship	Thurs 19 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
	11:00 AM	Worship		10:00 AM	Sisters in Faith
Tues 10 th	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT	Sun 22 nd	8:30 AM	Worship
	5:00 PM	Praise Team		11:00 AM	Worship
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice	Tues 24 th	5:00 PM	Praise Team Practice
Wed 11 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours		6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Thurs 12 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63	Wed 25 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
				6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63

For more info, view the calendar on our website: [CalenderNew | Burnt Factory Church](#)

Have you given your email address to Keith Roberts, yet?

Pastor Steve has special notices he needs to send to those who attend Burnt Factory. The notices will include not only prayer concerns but also schedule changes during bad weather.

Keith keeps an email list in his computer for just such purposes. Your email address is protected, and emails are sent, recipients not disclosed, to protect your privacy.

Kindly send your email address to Keith Roberts at john.k.roberts@comcast.net with the message:

“ADD ME TO THE CHURCH EMAIL LIST”

Would you like to receive the Smoke Signal Newsletter by email?

Kindly send an email to Becca Ratliff at beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com with a subject:

“Add me to the Smoke Signal Newsletter email distribution”