



March

2026

SMOKE SIGNAL

Our Mission Statement

Sharing the love of Christ with ALL people.

Burnt Factory Church
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"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



John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, died on March 2, 1791. I believe it is appropriate to remind us all of his deep and abiding faith. He was a brilliant theologian, scholar, educator, teacher and preacher. He was filled with compassion and love.

He, along with his younger brother, Charles, George Whitfield and several others were responsible for one of the greatest revivals in history. He was a man of great wisdom, spirit, energy and resolve.

He loved God with all his heart, mind and soul. He loved his neighbor as himself and he changed the world for the glory and truth of Jesus Christ and the Gospel. I wanted to share some of his timeless quotes that speak to every generation.

"The church changes the world not by making converts but by making disciples."

"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth."

“In all cases, the Church is to be judged by the Scripture, not the Scripture by the Church.”

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

“Let me do all the good I can, to all the people I can, as often as I can, for I shall not pass this way again.”

“Condemn no man for not thinking as you think. Let everyone enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for himself. Let every man use his own judgment, since every man must give an account of himself to God. Abhor every approach, in any kind or degree, to the spirit of persecution, if you cannot reason nor persuade a man into the truth, never attempt to force a man into it. If love will not compel him to come, leave him to God, the judge of all.”

“I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out.”

“What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace.”

“People who wish to be offended will always find some occasion for taking offense.”

“Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but, how much of God’s money will I keep for myself?”

God bless you all and God bless our founder, John Wesley!

Pastor Steve

Associate Pastor Thoughts



John Wesley proposed a question sheet for self-examination during the time period of Lent. I encourage you all to go over the questions and be in reflection, repentance, and reconciliation during Lent.

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Does the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give it time to speak to me every day?
9. Am I enjoying prayer?
10. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
15. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touch, or distrustful?
17. How do I spend my spare time?
18. Am I proud?
19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially the Pharisees who despised the publican?
20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward, or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
21. Do I grumble, or complain constantly?
22. Is Christ real to Me?

This can be very convicting. Take time and pray about these questions and I pray that God speaks to each of us through some of this Methodist history!

Blessings,

Pastor Carrie

What's Happening Down the Worship Road

- March 8th Pastor Carrie will be preaching on John 4: 5-30
- March 15th The sermon will be based on John 9: 1-25
- March 22nd The sermon is entitled, "*How Small We Are & How Great God Is!*"
- March 29th For Palm/Passion Sunday, we will be presenting a play based upon Leonardo DaVinci's Masterpiece, *The Last Supper*.

Looking ahead to Holy Week

- April 2nd Maundy Thursday Service 7:00
- April 3rd Good Friday Service 7:00
- April 5th **EASTER DAY**
- Sunrise Service Communion 6:30
- Early Service 8:30
- Late Service 11:00
- Sermon for Easter is intitled, "*No Stone is Too Big for God to Move!*"
- April 12th "*No Proof is Needed*" on John 20: 24-31

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"

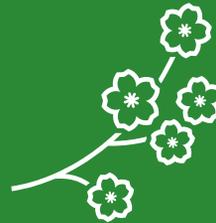
March Birthdays

- 1st Donna Bonjo
3rd Melanie Melester
4th Rick McClinton
7th Charlene Winter
Gary Dixon
9th Addison Russell
Johnny Morrison
10th Joy Melvin
12th Tara Flinchum
13th Janet Phillips
14th Gavin Tran
15th Ben Perrault
16th Jack Mowery
17th Matt Neff
20th Millie Hood
Rennie Earhart
Tyler Beaver
21st David Marchand
23rd Cheryl Jones
24th Casey Caudill
27th Carter Gerometta
28th Joe Hulver
Ronnie Snapp
29th Jim Borrer
Charlie Woods
30th Vicki Newlin
Ada Seabright



Happy Anniversary

8th Junior and Sadie Blanchfield



**“See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has
come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land.”**

Song of Solomon 2:11-12 NIV

CONDOLENCES

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



- Please keep the Journell family in your prayers. Steve and Tammy Cunningham's high school classmate Shannon claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Please keep the family of Bonnie Henry in your prayers. Bonnie's cousin claimed the promise of the resurrection.



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

- John 14:27



Children's Church:

During the month of March, we will continue 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:

Music and games are our focus during this hour! Kids will be learning the New Testament books through song along with practicing our favorites from last month.

Save the Dates!

VBS June 22-26 **TIME: 9:30-12**

Summer Camp July 8-10th **TIME 1-4pm**

Volunteers needed for both these events, please see me if interested!!

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.”

February was a great month for outreach at BFC! Our Family Promise ministry served 72 meals to families staying in motels throughout Winchester. The bins were overflowing for the Laurel Center collection; we received 969 items and four \$25 Walmart gift cards. The Financial Assistance Team has been busy working in the mission field of Financial Aid. At February’s Sisters in Faith meeting, we enjoyed an informative presentation, by Marcia Etu, about the Refugee families we are supporting.



There are several ways you can serve this month. Dennis Loeffler is organizing a Red Cross blood drive in the Fellowship Hall on the 5th. Patty Leonard is collecting items for the CCAP Easter food boxes in the Narthex, Family Promise will need your help on the 15th, and Marcia Etu is getting a mission team together to go to North Carolina to help with hurricane victims who are still very much in need. If you would like to learn more about our ministries, please contact me or anyone on the Outreach Committee.

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.

CCAP is a homeless-prevention 501c3 helping neighbors through crisis with food, clothing, & small grants for essential bills.

Our next CCAP collection is for the Easter Food Giveaway. Sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall on 3/1 and 3/8. **All donations are due by Sunday, 3/22.** We will be collecting **Hams, Canned Fruit, Boxed Desserts (Jello, brownies, puddings, cake mixes, icing), and Boxes of Potatoes (Mashed potatoes, scalloped, or au gratin).** Hams can be left in the Church refrigerator or Patty or Kathy can plan to pickup the ham. All other items can be put in the Red bins in the Narthex.

Annual Report – 2025:

- Food Pantry served 2,896 households and were able to provide more than 40#s of groceries per visit
- Clothing House distributed 61,000 diapers and 155,000 clothing items
- Over \$210,000 in financial assistance was given to a total of 2986 people in crisis.
- 11,000+ individuals were served across all programs.

From Andrea Cosans, executive director at CCAP: “We are profoundly thankful for every volunteer, donor, partner, business and faith community that contributed to the success of 2025”.

Special Thank You to Maureen and Mike Dick: We received several pieces of brand-new clothing at the Clothing House that needed security tags removed. Maureen and Mike stepped in and made that happen!!! We were able to put the new-clothing on our shelves instead of in the trash!!!

CCAP Corner Cont'd

Current Clothing 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

Donate to one of the 4 FREEDGES in our area that are open 24 hours a day. Label & date the items you drop off. Fresh product, hard-boiled eggs, yogurt, sandwiches, and soups are just some of the items needed.

- **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**

Any questions, please contact Kathy Dick at katlar9092@gmail.com or Patty Leonard at ricpat5@gmail.com

Opportunity to Serve

Blood Drive will be conducted on March 5th 2026 12 noon to 5:15 pm. There are 7 slots still available: 3-Reg Blood donation slots and 4- Power Red. Twenty-Eight units of blood collected will be the goal. A couple of volunteers are still needed to assist donors at the refreshment table. If able to help contact Dennis Loeffler.



PEANUTS
X
American Red Cross

Get ready to donate!



PEANUTS
X
American Red Cross

Sleep
Get a good night's sleep



PEANUTS
X
American Red Cross

Eat
Eat a healthy meal with iron-rich foods like eggs, meat and spinach



PEANUTS
X
American Red Cross

Hydrate
Drink an extra 16 oz. of water



Lenten Wellness: Caring for the Whole Self

March invites us into a season of renewal – both spiritually and physically. As we move through Lent and welcome the early signs of spring, this is a meaningful time to pause, reflect, and care for your whole person: body, mind and spirit.

Lent is often associated with fasting or giving something up, but it can also be a season of **intentional self-care**. Consider adding something life-giving to your daily routine:

- A short daily walk or gentle stretching
- Five minutes of quiet prayer, Scripture reading, or journaling
- Reaching out to someone who may feel isolated

Small, consistent habits can bring peace, clarity, and renewed energy during this reflective season.

Spring Health Focus

As the days grow longer, many people feel motivated to refresh their routines. A few gentle reminders:

- **Hydration:** Warmer days increase fluid needs
- **Movement:** Light outdoor activity improves mood and circulation
- **Sleep:** Aim for consistent rest as daylight changes
- **Nutrition:** Incorporate fresh fruits and vegetables as available

If you have chronic conditions, remember that seasonal changes can affect symptoms – listen to your body and communicate concerns with your healthcare provider.

Faith and Health Corner Cont'd

Mental & Emotional Well-Being

Lent is also a time to acknowledge emotional burdens. Stress, grief, and anxiety are common – especially after long winter months. Please remember:

- It's okay to ask for help
- Prayer and counseling can work together
- You are not alone in what you carry

If you need support or a listening ear, I am available and happy to connect.

Scripture reminds us that caring for one another is holy work. Simple acts like checking on a neighbor, offering a ride, or sharing encouragement all reflect God's love in action.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28

If you have questions about health concerns, medications, upcoming procedures, or need help navigating healthcare resources, please reach out. Conversations are confidential, supportive, and grounded in faith.

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

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



The Believers



March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness, encourage prevention, and support those affected by colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer is one of the most common cancers, but it is also one of the most preventable and treatable when detected early.

Screening saves lives. Regular screening can find colorectal cancer early, when treatment works best, and can even prevent cancer by identifying and removing precancerous polyps. Current guidelines recommend that most adults begin screening at age 45, or earlier for those with a family history or increased risk.

For individuals living with colorectal cancer, this month is also about **visibility and support**. Behind every diagnosis is a person navigating treatment, side effects, emotional challenges, and daily life with courage and resilience. For caregivers and loved ones, it is a reminder that your role matters deeply, and that support is available for you, too.

Ways to take action:

- Talk with your healthcare provider about colorectal cancer screening
- Encourage friends and family members to get screened
- Learn the signs and symptoms, such as changes in bowel habits, unexplained weight loss, or persistent abdominal discomfort
- Wear blue or share awareness messages to help break the stigma around colorectal health
- Support and uplift those affected by colorectal screening, we can reduce risk, improve outcomes, and save lives.

Please add May 16th to your calendars. It is the date we have planned for our 3rd Annual Benefit Motorcycle/Vintage Car ride to benefit Helping Hands Cancer Outreach. I will share more information with you in the coming month.

“It is often in the darkest skies that we see the brightest stars.”

Theresa Gilbert
(540) 247-5612
theresahgilbert@gmail.com

Burnt Factory Sisters In Faith

Burnt Factory Sisters in Faith met Feb. 21. There were 17 people in attendance. Our goal is 20+ so this is an invitation to all ladies to come join us and see the amazing missions we are accomplishing!!!

Marcia Etu presented an update on the refugee families Burnt Factory Church supports - five Afghan and one Syrian family. It was a very informative and heart- touching talk with lots of pictures. Burnt Factory Sisters in Faith will be supporting one of the families with some financial assistance.

A Welcome Home Basket was delivered to The Laurel Center. This included numerous kitchen and bathroom items to help a client when they are ready to leave the center.

We are having a retreat May 16, 2026 held in fellowship hall from 7:30am - 4:30pm. The cost is \$25 per person which includes a continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, fun and refreshing activities. Scholarships are available if needed. Registration forms are on the table in fellowship hall. We hope you'll join us at Sweet Life Cafe. Together we'll experience meaningful Bible studies, flavor-filled activities and scrumptiously delicious fun!

Burnt Factory Sisters in Faith will meet April 18 at 10:00am in fellowship hall. Hope to see you!

Karen Willis



Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

Anna Bartlett Warner
(1859)

Chorus Spotlight

Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

March 2026 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Sun 1 st	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Mon 2 nd	6:30 PM	Lenten Bible Study
Tues 3 rd	11:00 AM	Lenten Bible Study
	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 4 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 5 th	8:00 AM	Home School Coop
Sun 8 th	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Mon 9 th	6:30 PM	Lenten Bible Study
Tues 10 th	11:00 AM	Lenten Bible Study
	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 11 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 12 th	8:00 AM	Home School Coop
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 15 th	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Mon 16 th	6:30 PM	Lenten Bible Study

Date/Time		Event
Tues 17 th	11:00 AM	Lenten Bible Study
	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 18 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	12:00 PM	Pathfinders
Thurs 19 th	8:00 AM	Home School Coop
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 22 nd	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Mon 23 rd	6:30 PM	Lenten Bible Study
Tues 24 th	11:00 AM	Lenten Bible Study
	5:00 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 25 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 26 th	8:00 AM	Home School Coop
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 29 th	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Mon 30 th	6:30 PM	Lenten Bible Study
Tues 31 st	11:00	Lenten Bible Study
	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice

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

