



# 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



"Because He Lives" is one of my favorite hymns and the story behind its creation is a beautiful testimony to our risen savior and the power and promise of the Resurrection.

Gloria and Bill Gaither wrote this song in 1971 when they were experiencing some painful personal problems and the country was going through some very difficult growing pains.

The country was still reeling from assassinations and war and a lack of identity. The Gaither's were reeling from the fact that Gloria was expecting another baby that they had not planned. Gloria had not recovered sufficiently from her last delivery. To make matters worse, Bill was suffering from Mononucleosis and depression. The combination of events triggered a lack of hope in them for the future. They asked themselves if things are this bad now, what are they going to be like in 15 or 16 years for our new baby.

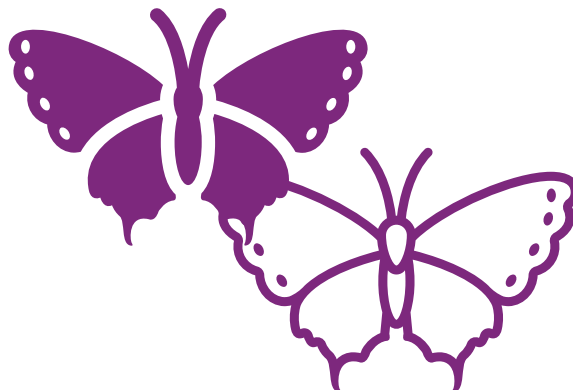
They went to the Lord in prayer and over time came to realize that their courage didn't come from a stable world, for the world has never been stable. Jesus Himself was born in the cruelest of times. No, they said, we have babies, raise families, and risk living because the Resurrection is true!

Gloria writes, "Our baby arrived safe and sound, and we named him Benjamin, which means, "most beloved son." A few weeks later "Because He Lives" was born in our hearts and poured from our souls."

Over the years, this song as reassured many that our Lord's resurrection is the central truth of life and because He lives, we can face tomorrow.

This Easter season, it is Melanie, Abby and my wish, hope, and prayer, that each and everyone of you will experience anew the truth of the Gospel message. Jesus Christ is the living, breathing, Son of God; He arose from the grave and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty ----- God loves each of us with a depth we can never fully embrace until we do come before him in paradise. This resurrection day and this Easter, no matter what each of you may be facing or enduring ---let the love and grace of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit wash over you with a peace and a joy and a serenity that knows without a shadow of a doubt that : BECAUSE HE LIVES, WE CAN FACE TOMMORROW AND BECAUSE HE LIVES ALL FEAR IS GONE, BECAUSE I KNOW HE HOLDS THE FUTURE AND LIFE IS WORTH THE LIVING JUST BECAUSE HE LIVES!

Have a blessed spring, a meaningful and full Resurrection Day, and a glorious and joyful Easter season!



Pastor Steve

# Associate Pastor Thoughts



Eastertide: The Season of Thanksgiving for Redemption. Today we use the word “redeem” in so many casual fashions; like redeeming a coupon or promo code, but in Biblical terms, it is so much deeper. We have gone through the Waiting in Advent, the blessed Christmas Nativity, and examined self in Lent, wept on Good Friday, and rejoiced on Easter Sunday. What now? Nothing exciting happens until Pentecost right? No, we now concentrate on that whole redemption part! We are so blessed to have this time to give God the GLORY and THANKSGIVING for freeing us from the bondage of sin, slavery, death all through a very, very costly act of love. To redeem means to -buy back or ransom, or to rescue, but there is a cost, a pay back period to pay back the debt owed. The Old Testament uses three key Hebrew words to describe redemption:

Pada—a legal substitution or ransom, a price paid to free someone or something  
Gaal—or Kinship redemption. A family member that buys back a relative or their land.  
Kapar—to cover or atone. A sacrifice where guilt is removed through substitution.  
The New Testament used similar words: Lytron, Lytosis, or Apolytrosis to refer to the monetary price paid to buy back, to ransom, or the process of being liberated from an oppressive situation.

Together these words form the basis of God’s redemptive work, He substitutes Himself for our penalty, reclaims us as HIS own, and covers our guilt.

This Easter, it is for us to remember that we have been redeemed! God brings us back to Him, our Kinsman redeemer, He reconciles us to Him, He brings us into a greater fellowship with Him, Its all there for us. This Beautiful Promise fulfilled. And when you know this and believe in this, it reshapes your identity, you are no longer a slave to sin, but a redeemed and restored child of God. I pray that you indulge in worship of our Great and Mighty God through this season. Commune with Him, Love on Him, shower Him with Praise, because “Great things He hath done”!

Blessings and Peace to you!

Happy Easter!

*Pastor Carrie*

# April Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sam Rhodes  
Kay Keller  
Megan Powell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jackson Jenkins
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dalton Earhart  
Silas Fout  
Ethan Britton
- 5<sup>th</sup> Allie Goode  
Paul Gerometta  
Rick Walker  
Laine Everhart
- 8<sup>th</sup> Rich Wells  
Eva Reed
- 9<sup>th</sup> Tammy Cunningham
- 10<sup>th</sup> Chris Shepley
- 12<sup>th</sup> Pastor Steve  
Teddy Rudolph  
Bonnie Rodgers
- 14<sup>th</sup> Christina Rohrbach  
Emma Skarupa
- 15<sup>th</sup> Floyd Childs  
Jay Hanke
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mark Jones  
Alex Shepley
- 19<sup>th</sup> Jason Corron
- 21<sup>st</sup> Kendra Moore
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Jody Dorsey
- 25<sup>th</sup> Kelly Zirk
- 26<sup>th</sup> Dennis Loeffler  
Wendy Fox
- 27<sup>th</sup> Janice Jordan
- 28<sup>th</sup> Layla Rodgers
- 29<sup>th</sup> Latavia Smith  
Hannah O'Brien



## Happy Anniversary

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bruce and Janie Clevenger
- 7<sup>th</sup> The Reimenschneiders
- 16<sup>th</sup> Kim and Darren Burse
- 19<sup>th</sup> Jason and Kayln Corron
- 27<sup>th</sup> Hannah and Chris O'Brien

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com) with a subject:

"Add me to the Smoke Signal Newsletter email distribution"

## CONDOLENCES

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



- Bruce Rodgers has claimed the promise of the resurrection. Please keep Bonnie and all the children and grandchildren in your hearts and prayers.
- A life-long educator, faithful Christian & wonderful enthusiastic proclaimer of the good news, is now with her savior. Please remember Patsy Gochenour as she has claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Janie Clevenger's beloved brother-in-law, Stoney Crosen claimed the promise of the resurrection
- Long time member Sue Robinson as also claimed the promise of our Lord.



“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

*John 11:25-26*

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Please join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt!!

**When:** 4/5/26

**Where:** Shelter

**Time:** 10 AM sharp!!



**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.”***

In March, we held a Red Cross Blood Drive, led by Dennis Loeffler, collecting 22 units of blood. Thanks to all who volunteered to make this possible. On the 15th, our Family Promise Ministry served 72 meals to family members staying in hotels. The recipients of these meals are very grateful!

The Handyman Team, led by Marcia Etu, has a few projects coming up for the Spring. If you would like to help, or in need of help, please contact Marcia.

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

Happy Easter!

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.

As a reminder, On Thursday, April 2, 2026, at the Maundy Thursday service (7:00 pm) we will be collecting diapers and wipes for CCAP. At this time, we really could use **size 2** diapers. We will gladly accept size 1,2,3 in diapers.

Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!  
2 Corinthians 9:15.

An enormous thank you to the Burnt Factory Congregation for the overflowing donations received in March for CCAP Easter Food Giveaway.

**The following items were collected:**

- Hams- 17**
- Boxes of Potatoes- 69**
- Canned Fruit- 70**
- Boxed Desserts- 59**
- Tubs of icing- 36**
- other food items- 77**

**Estimated value for items donated are approximately \$1,000.00**

All items were delivered to CCAP! Upon arrival items were weighed!

**Total Weight- 278 lbs. of donated food. (this does not include the weight of the hams)**

On Wednesday, March 25, 2026, a team of volunteers from CCAP went to the Sportsplex to gather clothing for infants, girls, and boys. Clothing that was left over from a recent consignment sale named Rhea Lana. Items received were in great condition! Although, not as many donations were received as in past collections. This opportunity is presented 2 times per year. Once in the fall and once in the spring.

# CCAP Corner Cont'd

## Current Clothing Donation Needs:

### - Items most requested:

- Jeans in all sizes for men and women
- Light jackets and sweatshirts for men, women and children
- All sizes of baby/child clothing; infant sizes through teen
- Tennis shoes- all sizes- Men, Women, Children
- New underwear and socks – all ages and sizes Men, Women and Children
- Belts- Men and Women, purses and backpacks
- gently used/clean linens (sheets, pillowcases, blankets and towels)

## 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 and date the items you drop off.

Fresh products, 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

Thank you again for your continuous support of our local CCAP!

Any questions, please contact Kathy Dick at [katlar9092@gmail.com](mailto:katlar9092@gmail.com) or Patty Leonard at [ricpat5@gmail.com](mailto:ricpat5@gmail.com)



## Easter: A Season of Hope, Healing and New Life

As we celebrate Easter, we are reminded of the greatest message of all: **hope lives here**. Easter is more than a holiday – it is the powerful promise that even after darkness, grief, and uncertainty, **new life is possible**.

For many, this season arrives in the middle of real-life challenges. Some are carrying physical illness, emotional fatigue, grief, loneliness, or spiritual weariness. Easter gently reminds us that God is still at work in places that feel broken, tired, or uncertain. The resurrection of Christ is a message not only for eternity, but for our **daily living, our healing, and our health**.

### Hope and Health Go Hand in Hand

Research and lived experience both show us that hope can positively affect our overall well-being. When we have hope, we often cope better with stress, stay more connected to others, and are more motivated to care for ourselves. As people of faith, we know our hope is rooted in something deeper than circumstances – **it is rooted in the risen Christ**.

This Easter season is a wonderful time to reflect on the many ways God brings renewal into our lives:

- Renewing our **spirits** through prayer and worship
- Renewing our **bodies** through rest, movement, and nourishment
- Renewing our **minds** through peace, gratitude, and trust
- Renewing our **relationships** through kindness, forgiveness, and presence

As your Faith Community Nurse, I encourage you this Easter to receive the gift of hope personally and to share it generously. In a world that often feels heavy, the message of Easter is still life-giving:

**Christ is risen. Hope is alive. And healing is still possible.**

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](mailto:tgilbert@afpdocs.com) or [theresahgilbert@gmail.com](mailto:theresahgilbert@gmail.com) or by phone at (540) 247-5612





## **April is National Cancer Control Month**

Cancer Control Month reminds us that while not all cancers can be prevented, many can be influenced by the choices we make and the screenings we complete. It is time to focus on healthy habits, early detection, and the importance of taking charge of our health.

Simple steps such as avoiding tobacco, staying active, eating nutritious foods, maintaining a healthy weight, protecting your skin from the sun, and keeping up with recommended vaccines and screenings can make a meaningful difference. Early detection through screenings for cancers such as breast, cervical, colorectal, and lung cancer can help find disease sooner, often before symptoms appear when treatment may be most effective.

This month is a good reminder to schedule overdue screenings, learn your family history, and encourage loved ones to do the same. By taking small, intentional steps today, we can work toward a healthier future for ourselves and our community.



**May 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Benefit Motorcycle/Vintage Car ride**  
**to benefit**  
**Helping Hands Cancer Outreach.**

*“Courage doesn’t always roar.  
Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, ‘I will  
try again tomorrow.’”*

*Mary Anne Radmacher*

## Opportunities to Serve

Burnt Factory Church will be sending a mission team to Ashe County, NC August 16-21, 2026. We will once again serve families devastated in September 2024 by Hurricane Helene. Team members do not need any particular skills, only a willing heart to serve those in need. Our work may include demo, carpentry, dry wall, painting, plumbing, cleaning/organizing, but the most important gift we bring is hope. If you have questions or are feeling led to be a part of this mission, please contact Marcia Etu, team leader, at 518-744-5159 or [marciametu@gmail.com](mailto:marciametu@gmail.com)



### The Old Rugged Cross George Bennard (1913)

### ***Chorus Spotlight***

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suffering and shame;  
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

# April 2026 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00 AM	Home School Coop
	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:00 PM	Good Friday Service
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 PM	Boy Scouts Eagle Ceremony
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 AM	Sunrise Service on the Hill
	8:30 AM	Worship Service
	10:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt at Shelter
	11:00 AM	Worship
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM	Home School Coop
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 AM	Funeral
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship

Date/Time		Event
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	12:00 PM	Pathfinders
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM	Home School Coop
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM	Sisters In Faith
	12:30 PM	Fellowship Hall Booked
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	5:00 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 AM	Home School Coop
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM	Home School Coop
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63

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

