



Sunday, February 8, 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Rebekah

MINUTE FOR MISSION Souper Bowl Sunday Taylor & Daniel Carmichael

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: Happy are those who fear the Lord,

Leader: who greatly delight in his commandments.

People: Their descendants will be mighty in the land;

Leader: The generation of the upright will be blessed.

People: They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;

Leader: They are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

People: Praise the Lord!

HYMN #301 "Let Us Build a House"

HYMN #443 "There is a Redeemer"

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR-----PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please take a few minutes and greet your neighbors.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Children of all ages are invited

(sung twice: once in unison, once as a canon, beginning with the pulpit side)

I. II. TALLIS' CANON

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way Through
this and ev - ery com - ing day, That in Your Spir - it
strong and true Our lives may be our gift to You.

text: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1986
music: Thomas Tallis, adapt. Parker's *Whole Psalter*, c.1561

SCRIPTURE Interspersed Throughout Sermon

SERMON

Rev. Rebekah Carpenter
Dr. Hillary Sessions

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Beatitudes”

arr. John Purifoy

PRAYER CONCERNS

OFFERTORY “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” arr. McDonald & Nelson
Vivienne Rhue, violin

CLOSING HYMN #749 “Come! Live in the Light”

CHARGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In lieu of flowers this Sunday, a donation has been made to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in loving memory of Essie Carmichael and Courtney Carmichael by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Youth will be collecting money for the Souper Bowl of Caring following worship today. Started in a Presbyterian Youth Group in South Carolina, the Souper Bowl of Caring has collected over 220 million dollars for local food banks. Today's collection will be given to Church Community Service. Thank you for your generosity.

Coming Up-

Monday February 9-

6 pm PW Circle 1 at Holly Albrecht's
5:45 pm BEG Committee Meeting
6:15 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Tuesday February 10-

12:30 pm Ladies Lunch at Mi Casita
3 pm PW Circle 2 in the Fellowship Hall
5:30 pm Staff Relations Committee Meeting

Wednesday February 11-

5:30 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday February 12-

5:30 pm Sanctuary Roof Committee

Saturday February 14-

5-7 pm Cheesy Valentine's Day Party

Monday February 16-

6:15 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday February 18-

8 am Finance Committee Meeting
10:30 am Time With Pastors at Scotia
5:30 pm Pancake Supper
6:30 Ash Wednesday Taize Service

News from the Worship Music and Arts Committee

- Communion 2026- After many thoughtful conversations and prayerful consideration, the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee has decided that communion will be served in 2026 by inviting those who are able to come forward to receive the elements. We recognize and respect that some members prefer to be served in their seats, and we will continue to serve anyone who is unable to come forward. Homebound members will also be given the option to receive communion at home on Sundays when communion is served during the morning worship service. This approach seeks to honor both the meaningful, intentional response experienced by those who come forward and the accessibility needs of those who cannot.
- The Worship, Music and Arts committee invites you to share your thoughts by completing our **Casual Sunday Service survey**. This completely anonymous survey includes just a few questions and should only take a few minutes to complete. You may fill it out online by clicking the survey link you should have received an email or clicking the link on the LPC website. You also have the option of completing a paper copy. Paper surveys will be available at the back of the church on Sundays throughout February and in the church office until the end of the month. Paper copies may be left in the sanctuary after the Sunday service or can be returned to Lisa in the office. Please be sure to complete the survey by the end of February so the Worship, Music and Arts Committee can consider your input. Thank you for taking the time to share your perspective.

God, Stewardship, and You

All we have is provided by God..... Our treasure, our time, our talent. We enter this life with nothing and we will leave this life with nothing. Stewardship is defined as using these God given gifts to do his work while we are on earth. Our mission is to be "The Word in Action" and the way we can achieve this goal is to be willing to give of our treasure, time, and talent when called to do so. Thank you for your willingness to give. May we be known for the difference made in the lives of the people in our community and beyond. By the way, fellowship committee needs some hands. Could this be your call?

Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women will continue this year's bible study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. Hope to see you at one of the following circles:

- Circle 1 –Susan Hartwell: Monday, February 9, 6:00 pm, home of Holly Albrecht
- Circle 2 – Anne Sprouse: Tuesday, February 10, 3:00 pm - LPC fellowship hall
- Circle 3 – Carolina Caddell: Wednesday, February 18, 3:00 at Scotia - 2nd floor

The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, February 23, at 5:30 in the session room.

Mark your calendars for this year's Presbyterian Women's retreat!!

Saturday, March 14 (social on Friday, March 13 at Scotia Village from 6-8 pm)

Our leader this year is Leigh Anne Ring, a Minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Her ministry has centered on nurturing faith through teaching, worship, and pastoral care.

Scholarship Opportunities: The following scholarships are open and the deadlines vary so please look at those carefully. The Katie Groves McNeill, Presbyterian Women, and the Lorena Clark Piner application forms can be found on our LPC website. The Jane Graham McKay and Katherine Hill McKay endowment scholarship can be found on the Foundations of the Carolinas website. If you have any questions please email Dawn Sellers at dmsellers67@gmail.com or text her at 910-277-6331.

*Katie Groves McNeill-March 31

*Presbyterian Women-March 31

*Lorena Clark Piner-February 15

*Jane Graham McKay and Katherine Hill McKay Endowment Scholarship-February 27

The FUN Adults Sunday School Class meets Sundays at 9:45 am. For those who can not make it in person, the Zoom Meeting ID is 864 8139 8937 and the passcode is 945025.

The Ladies Who Lunch are resuming their monthly get-togethers in February starting this Tuesday, February 10 at 12:30 at Mi Casita Mexican Restaurant. All are invited! We hope you'll join us for this cherished time of food and fellowship. Let Barbara Bateman or Virginia McCormick know that you will attend so they can make an appropriate reservation.

SPY (Scotland Presbyterian Youth) will meet this evening from 5:30-7 pm at Faith Presbyterian Church.

The Cheesy Valentine's Day Party is this coming Saturday, February 14th. Celebrate Valentine's Day with your church family. Join us for dinner, a Cake Walk, Minute to Win It Games, Speed Dating, Truth or Dare, Valentine Making, and so much more! 5:00-7:00 pm. Please call or email the church office to let us know you're coming. A Valentine's Day party for all ages! If you're interested in providing a cake for the cake walk please contact Holly Albrecht at halb7777@gmail.com

Scout Sunday is rescheduled for February 15. We hope you will join us in support of Scouts from Troop 420 as they lead 11 am worship.

Missing Parament- Once again, we are missing one of our red paraments. If you have borrowed it, please return it as soon as possible. Anyone interested in borrowing any of our worship service paraments or other items, please check with Beverly Bowling or Carol Coughenour before using them. We hope the missing parament returns soon.

Ash Wednesday February 18-

- 5:30 pm-Fellowship Supper- Pancake Supper; bring breakfast foods to share such as bacon, sausage, fruit, breakfast casseroles. RSVP by Monday, Feb 16.
- 6:30 pm Taize Service- Started by an ecumenical monastic order, the Taizé community in central France is devoted to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Tens of thousands of young Christians travel to Taizé each year to experience the simple life of joy and reconciliation through prayer, silence, and music. A Taizé candlelight service includes contemplative music with repeated phrases designed to encourage meditation and prayer. (adapted from BBC Religions-Christianity: Taizé) As we prepare for Lent, open your heart and mind for a Taizé experience during our Ash Wednesday service, Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 pm.

The Fellowship Committee is looking for a few new hands and hearts to join us! We help create welcoming moments of connection by providing or arranging food for special gatherings like our monthly 3rd Wednesday evening fellowship meals, the Advent Workshop, and other events as needed. These meals and treats are a simple but powerful way we care for one another and build community. If you enjoy hospitality, working behind the scenes, or simply helping people feel at home, this might be a great fit for you. Whether you like to cook, organize, shop, or just lend a hand now and then, your gifts are welcome. Please consider joining the Fellowship Committee and helping nourish both body and spirit.

Kirkin' o' the Tartan Service

We remember our foreparents who left the barren highlands or the overcrowded cities of Scotland to carve out a better life in a new land. We honor them for their courage, determination and the gift of faith that has become our inheritance. Please join with the LPC congregation to remember those important in the formation of our denomination, family and faith by participating in the annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan Service on March 22. If you would like to carry a banner, sign up will be taking place at the cross hall outside of the sanctuary. You may also contact or text Philip Eshleman at 309-797-3891 to request a specific family banner. Bring forth your tartans!

Annual Meeting-

The Annual Meeting of the Laurinburg Presbyterian Church will be held February 22 following the 11 am worship service. Hope you can be there!

Prayer List (Names of those on the prayer list will remain for one month, unless a family member calls Lisa with an update, or the Pastor has visited the person. Thank you for the way you care for the Laurinburg Presbyterian Church family.

- Mary Sutton, dealing with health concerns.
- Pat Hix, at Grand Strand Medical Center being treated for a broken arm.
- The Family of David Breeden.
- Sibyle Dulin, recovering from a fall.
- Meredith Bounds, being treated with chemotherapy.
- Barbara Salzlein, continuing health concerns.
- Gail and Goode Mobley, ongoing health concerns.
- Carol Edwards, recovering from back surgery.
- Randy Miller, dealing with health concerns.

Friends of Congregation

- John McLean, LPC Custodian, cancer treatment.
- Dan Woerner, former member and administrator of the McKay Sisters Foundation, recovering from spine surgery.
- Jerrod Lowry, General Presbyter, (Colon Cancer, Stage 3, Chemotherapy)
- Janet McQueen, Mother of Alex Bryant, cancer treatment
- Sara Tezzi, granddaughter of Sammy and Linda Simmons
- Fletcher Kendall, Atlanta. grandson of Paul & Judy Rush, Leukemia
- Sammy Townsend, Liberty Commons Nursing, Sanford.

Scotia Village Skilled Nursing

Anne Ramsay Melton, Elizabeth McIntosh, Goode Mobley (Memory), Bob Gordon

Scotia Village Assisted Living (Heather Glen)

Daphne Gaw, John and Henrietta Carmichael, Jean Clansky, Sibyle Dulin

VOLUNTEERS

Deacon Greeters/Visitors

Philip Eshleman Feb 1-7
Chris Carmichael Feb 8- 14
Fred Albrecht Feb 15- 21
Rachel Nalewaja Feb 22-28

Bus Drivers:

February 1 Boyd McLaurin
February 8 Eddie Carmichael
February 15 Bradley Williams
February 22 Andy Womble

Usher Team:

*Bradley Williams	Fred Albrecht
Barbara Bateman	John Campbell
Mike Coughenour	Will Clark
Tom Draper	Sam Fulton
David Herr	Wayne Hobbs
Paul Rush	Jamie Sutherland
Michael Sellers	Drew Williamson

Sanctuary Committee:

*Martha Floyd	Susan Hartwell
Betty Jackson	Bette Sellers

Moving from Toxic Charity to Long-Term, Relational Mission

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church has a long history of giving back to the community. To celebrate this reality and to move towards an even deeper level of living out our mission “To Be The Word in Action,” Rev. Rebekah, Rod Frohman and Henrietta Carmichael will be leading a class that will provide our church with a Lenten journey entitled: “Moving from Toxic Charity to Long-Term, Relational Mission.” This class will run from February 22nd through March 22nd on Sunday afternoons from 4 to 6 PM and will take place in our church fellowship hall.

The objective of this class will be to study the book “Toxic Charity” (How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help [And How to Reverse It]) by Bob Lupton and equip church members to:

- 1) Understand how most charity work unintentionally disempowers the underserved and becomes toxic
- 2) Gain a better understanding of our own propensity towards “Toxic Charity”
- 3) Brainstorm how Laurinburg Presbyterian Church can move forward into a healthy and deeply empowering model of mission and outreach

To sign up, please call Lisa in the church office. Before the class begins, you will be able to pick up the book Toxic Charity in the church office and start the first reading assignment before the class begins on February 22nd.

2026 Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

Clerk: Bill Purcell, II

Moderator: Rev. Rebekah Carpenter

ELDERS

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Bob Dyer	Pam Hill	Hew Fulton
Mike Edwards	Susan Hartwell	Jane McLaurin
Bill Purcell II	Kirsten Dean	Jim McQueen
Emily Womble	Bradley Williams	Leslie Sellers

DEACONS

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Katherine Campbell	Debra Sutherland	Chris Carmichael
Carol Edwards	Miriam Bounds	Carol Coughenour
Phil Eshleman	Fred Albrecht	Tom Draper
Chip Wells	Hillary Sessions	Rachel Nalaweja

Presbyterian Women

Moderator: Angela Purcell

Vice-Moderator: Denise Herr

Secretary: Chris Carmichael

Treasurer: Delia Muse

Historian: Dawn Sellers

Moderator of Search Committee: Leslie Sellers

A Prayer in the Beatitudes

Dear God,

When we are poor in spirit,
faith thin as air and hope barely breathing,
remind us—a mustard seed is enough.
The kingdom of heaven is promised.

When grief settles heavy on our chests
and sorrow refuses to lift,
whisper again that those who mourn
will be comforted.

When we are meek,
afraid of what enters our homes
and what rages beyond our doors,
teach us to carry fear with trust,
for the gentle will inherit the earth.

Stir in us an ache that will not be ignored—
a hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for justice that reaches every neighbor,
even the difficult ones we are called to love.
Fill us, Lord, as You have promised.

Bend our hearts toward mercy.
Teach us to offer grace where it is
undeserved,
to forgive when it costs us something,
so we might receive Your mercy in return.

Make our hearts clean.
Clear space within us—
pull our eyes from what is temporary
so we can see You without obstruction.

When peace feels absent
and brokenness clangs loudly—
in our homes, our work, our churches,
our communities, and across the world—
remind us we are called to be peacemakers,
to love our neighbors,
to live as children of God.

When our backs press against the wall
and faithfulness feels lonely,
give us courage to stand firm for what is
right,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs
to those who endure.

And when we are met with cruelty
for carrying Your name, Jesus,
steady our hearts with this truth:

“Take heart; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

Amen.

Written by Dr. Hillary Sessions