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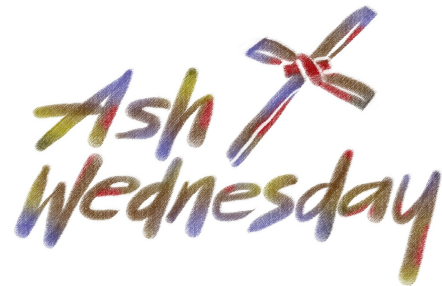


First
 Presbyterian

ACTION

February 11, 2026

Vol. 199 No. 2



Ash Wednesday Observances

Wednesday, February 18

5:30 PM - Pancake supper at New Hope Presbyterian

6:30 PM - Service at First Presbyterian

Covered Dish Lunch

Sunday, March 1 at Noon



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 15, 22

9:00 - Early Service
 10:00 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Traditional Service

March 1

10:00 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Blended Service
 12:00 - Potluck Lunch

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Breakfast
 Tuesdays at 7:15 AM
 Cagney's Kitchen
 (1244 Fairview Drive)

Midweek Bible Study with Pastor Jon
 Wednesdays at Noon
 Fellowship Hall

Prayer Shawl Ministry
 2nd and 4th Wednesdays
 1:00 PM at Nancy Gilbert's
 Contact: Emelie North

Thursday Prayer Group
 Thursdays at 10:30 AM
 Prayer Room, 2d Floor
 Contact: Emelie North

Christian Education News

Church Retreat

Save the date! Our Church Retreat will be April 17th-19th. Our Church Retreat will be at the Salvation Army Camp Walter Johnson Retreat & Conference Center in Denton, NC. Church members can attend Friday night through Sunday or join us for the day on Saturday.

SAVE THE DATE

CHURCH RETREAT

Camp Walter Johnson,
 Denton N.C.

APRIL 17-19, 2026

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
17	18	19

First Sunday Lunch

We're going old school! On March 1, our First Sunday Lunch will be an old-fashioned covered dish lunch following our single, blended worship service at 11 AM. Families consisting of at least two people are asked to



bring at least two dishes to share. Homemade or purchased-and-ready-to-eat are both welcome. Please let the church office know by February 22 if you plan to attend. A sign-up card will be in Sunday's bulletin.



You are invited to join us as we mark the beginning of Lent with these Ash Wednesday observances on February 18:

- 5:30 pm - pancake supper at New Hope Presbyterian
- 6:30 pm - service at First Presbyterian

Two Cents A Meal Offering

The Two Cents A Meal Offering is directed toward programs that address hunger in our region. Locally, Pastors' Pantry and First Hope Ministries have received Presbytery grants from this fund. Donations may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Please note "2 Cents a Meal" on the donation.



I want to begin by sharing with you how grateful I am for the town hall meeting last Sunday morning. The snow complicated our plans for February 1, but it sure sounded like an inspired idea when someone suggested that we just move everything we were planning to do on February 1, to February 8. And it went great.

The breakfast was delicious, and the conversations we had around the tables in the fellowship hall lifted up some very important ideas and feedback on the work of the church. I know the elders on the Session and others were taking notes. Thank you for everything that was shared.

At the beginning of the town hall, I shared several items that the Session has planned for 2026. Some of those items are already on the calendar and others are still being refined, but they are all about expanding the work we are doing as a church *in weathervane mode*.

Here are the items I shared about:

- ✧ The Session is praying about participating in a Habitat for Humanity build in Ashe County. There is still unaddressed damage from hurricane Helene west of us. You may remember we sent a cargo trailer full of supplies to Glendale Springs in October 2024, and last summer Acts Alive spent a week in Spruce Pine. This year, we are praying about how we continue our church's commitment to Helene relief.
- ✧ In 2026, the Worship and Music Ministry Team will be recommending to the Session the purchase of a new hymnal. Our current "blue hymnal" is thirty-five years old. The committee is looking at two possible hymnals, and they are full of old, familiar songs and many new songs. That is actually true of *every* hymnal.

- ✧ The Session is praying about strengthening the connection between the preschool program and the church program. There are already good connections at the staff level and the Preschool regularly uses spaces beyond the Preschool wing of the building. What additional connections related to the church program could be made? How are we encouraging Preschool families to join in church activities? I met with the DCE, Office Manager, and the Preschool Director last month, and the four of us began to think about these questions.
- ✧ The Worship and Music Ministry Team is planning a benefit concert on May 31 to raise money to assist Shady Side Presbyterian Church with some building repairs. Regina, our organist, has generously offered her time and talents for this concert. Our sister congregation is working on a plan for some repairs, and they were grateful for this offer.
- ✧ A handrail will be installed to assist lay readers to get up to the lectern and come down the steps from the lectern. For all of you who have asked for this, it will be installed this winter. A skilled carpenter has designed a handrail for both sides of the steps into the chancel, and they will be painted and stained to match the existing finishes in the sanctuary.
- ✧ Because Easter is on April 5, there will be a blended service at 11:00am as part of our regular first-Sunday schedule, but this year we will also have an Easter Sunrise service at 7:00am. It will be outside in the Third Ave Courtyard and columbarium, and following the service, there will be light breakfast items and coffee in the fellowship

hall.

Please know that there will be more information about all of these projects, as well as opportunities for your input and invitations to share in them. You can always give me a call or an email if you have a specific question. God is doing some good work here, and I am excited for the year ahead...and spring weather.

Peace,
Jon



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 1:00 PM at the home of Nancy Gilbert. Anyone who is interested in being part of this ministry is invited to join in. If you do not know how to knit or crochet, they will be happy to help you learn. If you have questions or know of anyone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact Emelie North.

Midweek Bible Study

Our Midweek Bible Study with Pastor Jon will continue each Wednesday at Noon in the fellowship hall. You are welcome to join in any week!

Thursday Prayer Group

Each Thursday, a group meets at the church at 10:30 AM in the Prayer Room to pray for the needs of church members, friends and loved ones of the church family, and others in our community and around the world. All are welcome to participate. Prayers may be silent or spoken.



FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS (Please bring all items to the church lobby.)

Pastors' Pantry - Mixed Veg. and Plastic Bags
Monthly Goal = 125 cans of mixed vegetables
Collected for January = 21 cans

First Hope Ministries - Jelly & Peanut Butter
Monthly Goal = 125 jars of jelly & peanut butter

Loaves & Fishes - Pop-top MRE's
Easy-to-open, ready-to-eat foods for the homeless

DAVIDSON MEDICAL MINISTRIES
Items needed for Davidson Medical Ministries are: soap, shampoo, hand towels, combs, toilet paper, paper towels, ink pens, large paper clips, and tape.

SHELTER MEALS
Every third Wednesday of the month, First Presbyterian is committed to preparing and serving a meal to the residents of the Homeless Shelter. Many thanks to all who have volunteered for this outreach ministry.

- Feb. 18 - McMurray Small Group
- Mar. 18 - Amy McNeill and friends
- Apr. 15 - Joyful Class (Jan Greer)

If you would like to volunteer to prepare and serve a meal to the homeless at the shelter, please contact Carol Beck.

Helping Our Seniors

We want to help our Seniors! If you need help with a task around the house or a ride to church or a doctor appointment, please contact Donna Via or Beverly Black.

Prayer Concerns

Bobby Ver Halen (serving in the Army)
 Dave & Anna Fulp (serving in the Navy)
 Wilson Parson (serving in the Marines)
 Tobias Ludwig - NC State Trooper
 Brandi Pope - Denton EMT
 Phillip Hegler - Davidson County Sheriff
 Jim McCutchen (brother of Ginger Briggs & Margie Clark) - Parkinson's disease
 Gloria Bulluck & family
 Phyllis Hedrick
 Alex Nicely - end stage kidney failure
 Randy Ver Halen

Richard Widener
 Jean Marsh
 The Fosters

Beckey Griffith
 The Hillers
 Brianna Ver Halen

Christa-Maria Grier
 Martha Briggs Winters

In Memoriam

The church family extends its sympathy to the family of Macie Anderson, who died January 29. Please keep Macie's family in your prayers.

The church family also extends its sympathy to Ashley Timberlake and her family due to the death of her aunt, Nancy Nance, on February 6. Please keep Ashley and her family in your prayers as well.



Michael Knight
 Margi Cole (mother of Terri Lamb)
 Travis Best (son-in-law of Tom & Ann Lackey) - diagnosed with cancer
 Ken White & Family - death of his sister
 Gordon Wright & Family - death of Nancy
 Family & Friends of Tommy Wilson
 Family & Friends of Macie Anderson
 Jamelia Burch's granddaughter, Kalie
 Lisa Dean

March Birthdays

- 1 - Donna Via
- 5 - Jon Martin, Caroline Harman
- 6 - Ken Gardner
- 7 - Al Neal, Joe Check
- 8 - Matt Welborn
- 9 - Colson Priddy, Meghan Maddox
- 12 - Kristin Briggs, William Bryan
- 13 - Chuck Henderson
- 15 - Jacob Gobble
- 18 - Jim Hill, Ashley Timberlake
- 19 - Jan Greer, Stella Gray Orman, Layla Kiefer
- 20 - Betty Knox, Jennifer Turlington
- 21 - Karen Dinges, Mia Bryan
- 23 - Susan Evans
- 25 - Ella Timberlake
- 27 - Dorianne Block, Shelley Jennings, Ann Lackey, Ellie Klass
- 28 - Becky Klass
- 30 - Ryan Gobble
- 31 - Ken Vander Schaaf

February birthdays were printed in the previous edition of the *ACTION*.

Can you help us keep this list up-to-date? If we have left someone out, please let us know.

SESSION DIGEST

The Session held its monthly stated meeting on January 11, 2026 in the Session room. Birke McNeill, Assistant Clerk, served in the absence of the Clerk. The following is a summary of the highlights of the meeting:

- Building and Grounds reported that the Dept. of Labor recently inspected the elevator and discovered violations. Steps are being taken to correct these issues.
- The Personnel Ministry Team reported that the new custodian was doing a great job and getting acclimated to our church.
- Congregational Life/Fellowship presented a schedule of the fellowship lunches through May 2026 and noted that Beth White will be leading the re-start of The Presbyterian Table.
- Time and Talent sheets have been collected and the results have been distributed.
- The Worship and Music Ministry Team recommended a 7:00am Easter Sunrise Service followed by breakfast, which Session approved. The Session also approved the search for new Christmas tree and related cost options.
- Worship and Music also distributed a design for a railing for the sanctuary leading to the lectern.

- Educational Ministries announced April 17-18 for the church retreat, and March 8 for the Youth Sunday service, with a single service at 11:00 AM that day.
- The Finance Ministry Team reviewed the 2025 financial results and presented the 2026 budget, which was approved. The 2025 results and the 2026 budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- The Endowment Ministry Team will meet in early February once the year-end investment reports are received.
- Members of the Safety Committee and others met with folks from fellow downtown churches to discuss the recent vandalism at several of these churches.
- Beth White discussed hosting a mission trip to her home in Ashe County, possibly in April/May.
- Race Unification Committee will be providing refreshments for MLK weekend, and Pastor Jon will participate in the MLK service at Friendship Baptist Church.
- Pastor Jon met with the Preschool Director, and our DCE and Office Manager to discuss the long-term vision of the Preschool.



February 8, 2026

Potluck Breakfast

Town Hall Meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting