

The Beacon

Sunrise Presbyterian Church

March 2023 Newsletter



FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE HAVE
gathered together
IN MY NAME, I AM THERE IN THEIR MIDST.
MATTHEW 18:20



Amazing Grace

This year is the 250th Anniversary of the writing of the hymn *Amazing Grace*. If you are not familiar with the story behind the author of this beloved hymn, it is quite a remarkable witness to God's amazing grace in our lives. The Lenten devotionals we are using this year are based on the hymn. They have inspired the sermon series that Reece and I are preaching during Lent.

John Newton is the author of the words of *Amazing Grace*. He wrote the hymn for a sermon preached on New Year's Day 1773. The powerful imagery of God's amazing grace is drawn from his own life experience. John Newton grew up at sea, serving on ships from the young age of seven. His early life was very rough, and he grew into an extremely irreverent man. When he weathered the storm that began his conversion to faith, he was serving on a slave ship. By some accounts, he was the captain. Eventually, he studied to become an Anglican priest. The epitaph he wrote for his gravestone is an honest appraisal of his life:

John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy.

The theme of *grace* is a guiding principle of Presbyterianism. It defines our relationship with God. It is by God's grace that we have received the gift of faith.

The opening verse of the hymn captures the essence of God's love and care for us:

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind but now I see.*

John Newton experienced the patient, ever-present love of God that is continually waiting for us. We are the ones that keep holding back. Closing our hearts to God's constant reaching out to us.

The journey through Lent is a spiritual pilgrimage. It is a time that we remind ourselves to be intentional about making room for God. I frequently find myself describing this journey as an emptying of our selves in order to make room for God. The process involves honesty and humility. We need to be honest about the ways we turn away from God or hold God at a distance. This honesty requires humility.

In the Affirmation of Faith drawn from Philippians that we are reciting during Lent, we are affirming the humility that Jesus, himself, adopted:

Christ Jesus though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death—even death on a Cross.

Jesus bears witness to what a deep, trusting relationship with God looks like. As we make the journey once again to Jerusalem and Holy Week, I pray that each of us experiences the love that claims, redeems us, and brings us into the loving embrace of God.

In God's grace,



THANK YOU!

Sunrise Presbyterian Church's 2023 Collection


raised:

150 food items

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



February 13, 2023


Alison Reese
Executive Director
Tackle Hunger: Home of the
Souper Bowl of Caring

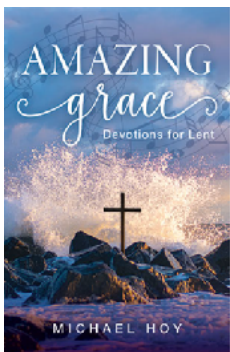


Easter Lily order forms are available in the Narthex. Please consider ordering them *in memory of* or *in honor of* loved ones. Forms may be placed in the offering plate or turned into the church office. The flowers are a beautiful way to help decorate our sanctuary for the *Celebration of the Resurrection* on Easter Sunday.



Grocery bags with shopping lists attached will be available in the Narthex beginning on March 19th. All filled grocery bags need to be returned to the Narthex or in the bin outside the Fellowship Hall doors by Sunday, March 26th. Each month, ECCO relies on donations from community members, civic organizations, businesses, churches, and neighborhoods. Some suggested donations are listed below. Thank you in advance for your generous donations!

- pancake mix
- diced tomatoes
- peanut butter
- canned squash
- baked beans
- elbows
- snack bars
- body wash
- laundry detergent



Lent Devotions are available in the Narthex

Lenten devotions by theologian Michael Hoy tie the words of the beloved song (and the history surrounding it) to our lives today and to the lives of those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God revealed most profoundly in the salvation of Jesus.

Family Service fun & crafts



Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 12th.

Don't forget to set your clocks **AHEAD** 1 Hour on the 11th!

Prayer

Recent Prayer Concerns (Names are listed for a month): Carla Tyner & donor recipient, Cyndi Stein, Shirley Joyner, Richard Dorn Jr., Betty Crestnut Hughes.

Continuing Prayer Concerns (Names are listed for 3 months): Robert Brown, Caroline Bunch (niece of Betty Milner), Alice Petzold, Mary Nell Boyt, Scott Hood (friend of Cal McRae), Dean Schmelter, Harper Uyttenhove (niece of Pam & Tim Kane), Bill Schupp, John Nelson, Kimberly (daughter of Marty & Don Belk), Tracy Lambros (friend of Mary Ann and Jack Heidenreich), Gerry Hiers (Jimmy Hiers' mother), Lou Mintz, Leesa Phipps, Patrick McDougal, John Myatt, Frank Godfrey, Peggy Wolford, Nancy Butler, Lou Bovie.

If you'd like to add someone to either prayer list, please let the church know at sunrisepresbyterian3222@gmail.com or [843.883.3888](tel:843.883.3888). 1) indicate if the person should be placed on the Recent OR Continuing prayer list and 2) the individual's mailing address so that they may receive postcards with expressions of care and concern from the congregation.

March at Sunrise



Start off your Tuesdays with the Jerry Dillon Men's Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Start the day off right with great food, fellowship, and a devotion.

Growing FAITH

Our next *Growing Faith* meeting will be March 19th at 9 am in the upstairs classroom. We'll be discussing the movie *Ratatouille* and three themes from it: believing in yourself (authenticity), being passionate about something (purpose), & being supportive of others (love). Please feel free to share this message with anyone you know who might be interested in joining. I look forward to taking faith to the next level with your children! ~ Reece

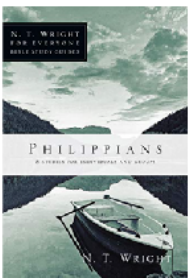
The Miriam-Naomi Circle

The Miriam-Naomi Circle will meet in the Library March 14th at 10am as we continue our study of the Gospel of Mark using *Mark's Story of Jesus* by Werner H. Kelber as our study guide. We welcome new participants in the Circle. After we meet, those of us who are able to do so usually regroup for lunch at a nearby restaurant. If you have any questions or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call Patsy Hindman (843) 906-8653.

Cents-Ability is collected the 2nd Sunday of each month. Thanks to you, donations have been made to TriCounty Family Ministries, East Cooper Meals on Wheels, and East Cooper Community Outreach. Please continue to give at least two cents per person per meal in the bowl in the Narthex. This simple act is an expression of thanksgiving for what we have received.

Women's Evening Bible Study

The Women's Evening Bible Study will meet March 21st at 5:30 pm using the new Bible study book *PHILIPPIANS* by N. T. Wright. Last month we started the study off with a refresher of the New Testament and where Philippians fits in to it. We'll continue to meet at the church and via Zoom. -Reece





1 Roberta Blanchard

2 Bill Dawson

2 Linda Nettles

4 Mikayla Locke

5. Amanda Holliday

6 Devin McDavid Jones

8 Robin Feerst

8 Mary Anne Lake

10 Lou Bovie

10 Barbara Dingle

11 Carly McDavid

14 Chuck Lockhart

14 Brianna Hill

15 Elinor Varndell

15 Sarah Hooper

17 Chip Blackwelder

17 Mark George

19 Sue Wertz

20 Hieu Storey

20 Cathy Blackwelder

22 Joe Hager

23 Dan Hancock

24 Gayle Nixon

25 Charlie Evans

27 Walker Chalmers

28 Hope Murph

29 Tom Taylor

31 Pat Latham

31 Bob Waller

31 Emily Fairchild

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9am - Devotional Service - 9:30am - Fellowship (Fellowship) 10am - Choir Practice 10am - Family Service/Adult 11am - Worship Service 4:30pm - Boy Scouts - Fellowship 5:30pm - Youth Group -	27 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5pm - Seaside Singer Rehearsals 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate	28 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 4:15pm - Deakins Lessons - 7:30pm - Presbytery Meeting	1 First Day of Women's History 10am - AA Meeting	2 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Choir Practice	3 12:30pm - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	4 4pm - Parking Lot Usage
5 Communion 9am - Devotional Service - 9:30am - Fellowship (Fellowship) 10am - Choir Practice 10am - Family Service/Adult 11am - Worship Service 4:30pm - Boy Scouts - Fellowship	6 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singer	7 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 4:15pm - Deakins Lessons -	8 10am - AA Meeting	9 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Choir Practice	10 12:30pm - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	11 10:30am - Funeral Service
12 Cents-Ability Daylight Saving Time starts 9am - Devotional Service - 9:30am - Fellowship (Fellowship) 10am - Choir Practice 10am - Family Service/Adult 11am - Worship Service	13 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singer	14 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Miriam-Naomi Circle 4:15pm - Deakins Lessons -	15 10am - AA Meeting 6pm - Pack Meeting - Fellowship	16 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Choir Practice	17 St. Patrick's Day 12:30pm - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	18 12pm - Boy Scout Pinewood
19 9am - Devotional Service - 9am - Growing Faith - Family 9:30am - Fellowship (Fellowship) 10am - Choir Practice 10am - Family Service/Adult 11am - Worship Service 4:30pm - Boy Scouts - Fellowship 5:30pm - Youth Group -	20 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singer	21 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 4:15pm - Deakins Lessons - 5:30pm - Women's Evening Bible	22 10am - AA Meeting	23 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Battery Gadsden 6pm - Choir Practice	24 12:30pm - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	25 7am - Palmetto Relay - Parking
26 9am - Devotional Service - 9:30am - Fellowship (Fellowship) 10am - Choir Practice 10am - Family Service/Adult 11am - Worship Service 4:30pm - Boy Scouts - Fellowship 5:30pm - Youth Group -	27 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6:45pm - Seaside Singer	28 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 4:15pm - Deakins Lessons -	29 10am - AA Meeting	30 5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 6pm - Choir Practice	31 12:30pm - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	1 8am - Bayly Class - Fellowship

Church Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Phone: (843) 883-3888
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