

MARCH 16, 2025

WELCOME

*We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church!
If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME.*

If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK.

Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon, Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome ...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin.
Please note that all the congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.*

We prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

Awesome God

Mullins/CCLI #41099

THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font.

Blessed be the holy Trinity,

† one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

We turn to face the cross at the entrance of the sanctuary. As broken children, we begin worship by acknowledging our sin and asking for God's forgiveness.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us return to God, confessing our sin the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

***you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.***

***We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.***

***We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
You grant to all people.***

***We oppress others,
even though you have set us free and again.***

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

***Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.***

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide
To welcome the wanders ones home.

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

As fully forgiven children of God, turn and face the altar as the cross passes you.

HYMN

Sanctuary

Thompson, Scruggs/CCLI #24140

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary.
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living Sanctuary for You.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We sit.

THE WORD

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from Genesis.

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir

of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.⁷ Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”⁸ But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Word of God, teaching us the way.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

*² When evildoers close in against me
to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies,
will stumble and fall.*

³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me,
my trust will not be shaken.

*⁴ One thing I ask of the LORD;
one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to seek God in the temple.*

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary,
and raise me high upon a rock.

*⁶ Even now my head is lifted up
above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary,
sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.*

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ My heart speaks your message "Seek my face."

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me,
turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

***¹⁰ Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me in.***

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

***¹² Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me,
false witnesses breathing violence.***

¹³ This I believe that I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

***¹⁴ Wait for the LORD and be strong.
Take heart and wait for the LORD!***

Philippians 3:14-4:1

A reading from Philippians.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power

that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, teaching us the way.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

MUSIC

Jesus Take Me as I Am

Bryant/CCLI #37814

Take me Jesus as I am
I can come no other way
Draw me closer unto You
Teacher me how to walk Your ways

Make me like a precious stone
Crystal clear and finely honed
The light of Jesus shining through
Bringing glory back to You

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.’ ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way,

because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Please pray with me the prayer of preparation.

Holy God, you have a word for me today. Make my heart soft and plant your word in me in order that it may bear fruit in your kingdom. Amen.

SERMON *What do you do when your ship is sinking?*

We stand.

HYMN

Light the Fire

Maxwell/CCLI #332454

I stand in your presence but I fall on my knees
My spirit is willing, but my flesh is so weak

So light the fire in my soul
Fan the flames, make me whole
Lord you know where I’ve been

So light the fire in my heart again.

I feel your arms around me when the healing begins
Your spirit surrounds me like a rushing wind
So light the fire in my soul
Fan the flames, make me whole
Lord you know where I've been
So light the fire in my heart again.

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. ***Amen.***

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

We sit.

OFFERING

*We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may contribute any time by visiting www.WeAreMtHermon.org and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship. **Friendship pads** have returned to the pews. Please take a moment to sign the forms so that we may get to know our neighbors and we will also have a record of your communing.*

ANTHEM

I'll Do My Best

Dalton/CCLI #59335

We stand.

OFFERTORY

Bread of Life

Hamilton, Meisenheimer/CCLI #7252237

Verses



1. If you're hun-gry, come, tired_ and un - done, there's a
2. Bring your wear - y mind, ev - ery tear you've cried, there is



place for you, a place for you at the ta - ble.___
peace for you,___ peace for you at the ta - ble.___



If you're lone - ly, come, fill your emp - ty cup, there's a
Lay your bur - dens down, hope is all a - round, you are



drink for you, a drink for you at the ta - ble.___
wel - come here,___ wel - come here at the ta - ble.___

Refrain



Bread of life, Je - sus with us,___ heal - ing our hearts with love.



Bread of life, bro - ken for you,___ share with a - noth - er too.

There is e - nough. Oh there will al-ways be, so
take this bread with me._____

OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

Gracious Provider,

***you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.***

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,

***Deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with
others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.***

THE MEAL

Christ is truly present in the most ordinary and unexpected of places.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed...

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. ***Come, Holy Spirit.***

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. ***Come, Holy Spirit.***

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. ***Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

*Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is here.

We sit.

COMMUNION

Please come forward using the side aisles to receive communion. You will receive the bread and then you may dip in the first chalice of wine, or in the second chalice of grape juice. You may then return to your pews using the center aisle. Please return to your pews for a time of quiet prayer and meditation. If this is the first Sunday of the month, we also offer communion at the rail. On this Sunday, you may continue through the side doors and an usher will guide you to the altar to receive communion.

MUSIC

Come to the Table

Nystrom/OneLicense #900

We stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in His grace. *Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray together.

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace

in our communities,

that your liberating love might nourish

the world into freedom,

in the name of the crucified one,

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

† bless you now and forever. ***Amen.***

HYMN

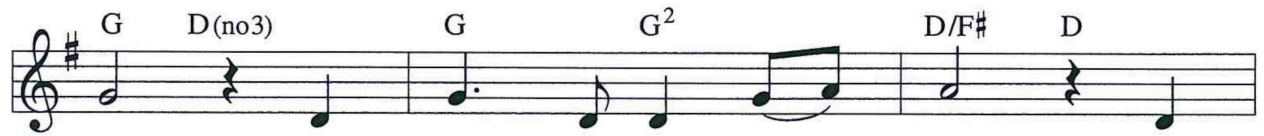
Step by Step

Sing twice

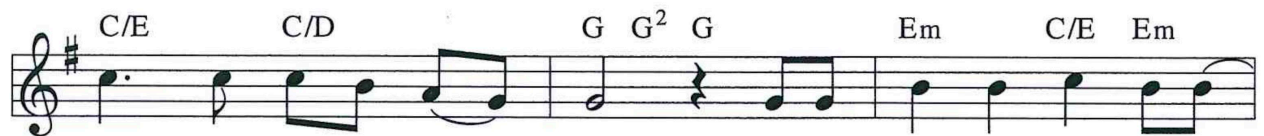
David Strasser/CCLI #696994



O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise



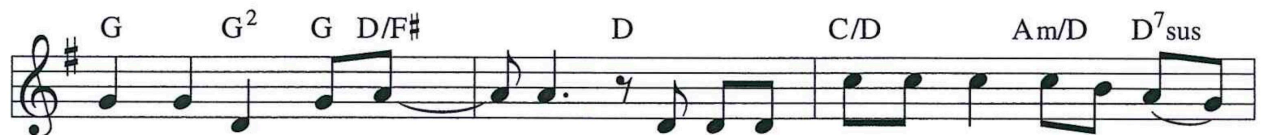
you. O God, you are my God, and



I will ev - er praise you. I will seek you in the morn.



- ing, and I will learn to walk in your ways, and



step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol - low you all of my



days. O days, and I will fol - low you all of my



days, and I will fol - low you all of my days, and



step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol - low you all of my days.

As the cross passes your pew, turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary.

SENDING

The Blessing

Brown, Carnes, Jobe, Furtick/CCLI #7147007

The Lord bless you — and keep you,
make his face shine — up - on — you and be gra - cious — to you.
The Lord turn his — face toward you and give you peace.
— A - men, a -
-men, a - men. A - men, a -
-men, a - men. D.C. || D.S. |
-men, a - men. - men.

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We follow the light of Christ into the world.

We are God's people on a mission.

We have gathered. We have been fed.

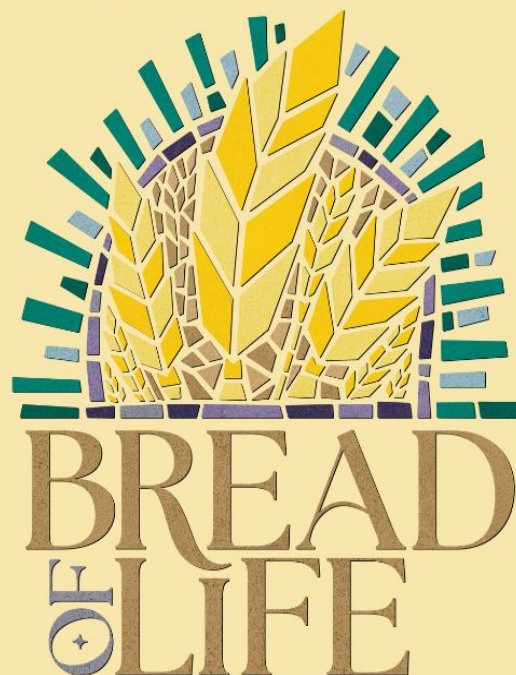
Now, we go out to make a difference in the world. Amen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Scarlett's birthday with love and joy from her family.



Lenten Worship
Every Wednesday ~ March 12 - April 9
6:30 pm in the Sanctuary



A background of various spring flowers in shades of pink, purple, and blue, with green foliage. The text is overlaid in a purple cursive font.

*Spring flowers will decorate the sanctuary
and the outside cross on Easter Morning.*

*If you would like to make a financial
contribution to purchase flowers and have
someone's name(s) listed in the
memorial/honorarium bulletin, please make a
donation by April 13th*

*Please call the church office
if you have any questions 803.794.6430*

A green background with a picnic basket and a striped blanket. The basket is brown and orange with a handle. The blanket is pink, yellow, and white striped. The text is in a serif font.

SAVE THE DATE

**MT. HERMON
PICNIC**

MAY 4, 2025

More details to come!

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

03/09/2025

In person attendance 93 +live stream 123 = 216

Current & Benevolent	Received	\$2,062.55
Building Fund	Received	\$947.00
Building Improvement	Received	\$25.00

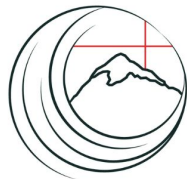
HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

In memory of Stephen Michael Price by Sonya Miller.

We livestream each week to Facebook. Did you also know that we also livestream to YouTube? Like us on Facebook and subscribe on YouTube



@mthermonlutheran3011



WeAreMtHermon



Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church,
West Columbia, SC

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Today	Next Sunday
Ushers:	Chanler Coppens	Joel Price, Jr
	Cameron Bucknam Brayden Rutherford	Teddy Koon
Crucifer:	Spencer Price	Walker Kinard
Acolyte:	Bryson Johnson	Adelaide Bryant
Lector:	Sam Koon Zachary Head Brayden Morris	Ronnie Fulmer
Communion Assts:	Mackenzie Burns	Joel Price, Jr
	Dylan Whitaker	Ronnie Fulmer
	Jaquelynn Hawlik	Spencer Price
	Connor Eargle	Sherwood Garrett
	Sam Koon Aaron Head	Walker Kinard
Audio:	Blake Allen	Brandon Donaldson
Video:	Breanna Metze	Marie Gardner
Nursery:	Cassie Swygert	Kay Bryant
	Laura Carroll	Larry Amick
Flowers:	Sherwood Garrett	Sherwood Garrett

SERVING IN MARCH

COUNCIL REP: Mary Koon

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Frances Sease, Diane Boulware

TABULATORS: Ann Addy, Mary Frances Sease

USHERS: Marion Leaphart, Dennis Thurman, Susan Busby

MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, *Asbury Arms*
Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place*
Bobby & Doris Carver, *Presby Home*
Georgianna Gray, *home*
James Hallman, *Lakeside Place*
Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care*

Gloria Mathias, *home*
Jane Sexton, *Phoenix Asst Living*
Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place*
*Cyndi Thurman, *Encompass*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

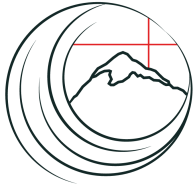
Karly Addy	Bonnie Bouknight	Chris Carroll
Randy Clark	Debbie Duval	Debbie Fulmer
Michelle Gantt	Joye Haygood	Frankie Jackson
Dennis Thurman	Mary Frances Sease	Jim Whitaker

*Wynne Price

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayers

Billy Huckabee, *friend of Danny Scott*
Stetson Cooper, *grandson of Dan Cooper*
Paula Miller, *friend of Brittany Allen*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*
John Catoe, *family of the Ellisors*
Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn),
friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
Mrs. Cruz, *teacher of Abbey Carroll*
Phil Dennis, *brother of Lavonne Roof*
Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,
friends of Debra & Dave Butts
Sandra Watson, *aunt of Courtney Bucknam*
Sarah Harmon, *friend of Courtney Bucknam*
Jaimie Womack, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Cynthia Rabon, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Blase Rhine,
grandson of Frank & Bonnie Bouknight
Cynthia Mallard,
friend of Sheila Starkey & Beth Jordan
Jeslyn, *friend of Scarlett Bryant*
Tom Shaul, *friend of the Kinard Family*

Debbe Dearman, *neighbor of Kathy Cooper*
Max Schronce,
friend of the David & Scottie Marsh
Faye McCartha, *mother of Debra Butts*
Hayes Wingard,
grandson of Sam and Kathy Cooper
Robbie Rector, *friend Jennifer Miller*
Bill Geddings, *father of Allison Swygert*
Jane Baxley, *cousin of Michelle Gantt*
Mark King, *coworker of Michelle Gantt*
Joyce Davis, *grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik*
Will & Summer Satcher,
friend of Courtney Bucknam
Dorothy Collins, *friend of Ryan Price*
Lauren Addy, *friend of Kathy Cooper and Metztes*
Jodi Harper, *friend of Erin Rose*
Sam Lockridge, *friend of Scottie Marsh*
Mary Duffie, *mother of Alyson Price*
Thelma Moyer, *mother of Diane Boulware*
Michael Tucker, *friend of Michelle Gantt*
Kaiden Howell, *friend of Jacquelynn Hawlik*
Randy Stonehill, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer*
Linda Bennett, *mother of Beth Jordan*



WeAreMtHermon

www.WeAreMtHermon.com

3011 Leaphart Road

West Columbia, SC 29169

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

803.794.6430 / 803.240.3143 cell/text

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor*

803.951.3784

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com

Svetlana Royal, *Director of Music*

Music@WeAreMtHermon.com

Roberta Smith, *Administrative Asst*

803.240.3143 cell

Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Terry Swygert, *President*

Ronnie Fulmer, Vice President

Sheila Eargle, *Secretary*

Frank Bouknight, Treasurer

Annette Price/Karen Nicholson, *Financial Secretary*

Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, Sextons

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, March 16th Youth Sunday

9:00 am Worship

10:30 am Sunday School

11:30 am CR: Teach Team

3:00 pm Confirmation Class

Tuesday, March 18th

6:00 pm CR: Finance Team

6:00 pm GR: Grief Support

Wednesday, March 19th

9:00 am Food Pantry

(Mary Price, Mary Frances Sease, Parker Boulware)

10:00 am GR: Staff Meeting

6:30 pm Lenten Worship

7:00 pm Lenten Meals: Teach Team

7:05 pm Handbell Practice

7:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 20th

6:00 pm CR: Outreach Team

Saturday, March 22nd

9:00 am Food Pantry (Wayne & Charlene Corley)