



321 E. Church Street  
Martinsville, VA 24112  
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www.christchurchmvl.org

February 2024



*We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.*

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

This month (on Valentine’s Day, no less), we begin the season of Lent. Between Ash Wednesday and Easter, many Christians adopt Lenten disciplines to draw closer to God, either by giving up something that distracts from your relationship with God or adding some new activity of prayer or study to help you better attend to God. At Christ Church, going to the Rector’s weekly Lenten Program is an easy way to do the latter.

This year, I will be offering five weeks on Prayer, in response to my observation at November’s Annual Meeting that, if we are concerned about the present and future of Christ Church, the most important thing we can do is pray daily for the church. In addition to considering why we pray and why we should regularly pray both together and individually, we will discuss (and in some cases practice) how we pray. Not only can attending the sessions serve as a Lenten discipline, but talking about prayer will perhaps inspire you to adopt a new prayer discipline in your daily routine.

We will also be offering the Lenten Program at a different time: rather than on a weeknight, as we did the past two years, this year the Program will take place in the Undercroft on Sundays after the 10:30 service. As we did last year, a light meal of soup and bread will be provided. Our hope is that, by offering the Program at midday on Sundays, those who prefer not to drive at night will be able to join without excluding those who work on weekdays, and that we will all benefit from the additional opportunities to visit with one another over lunch.

I hope to see you there,  
Fr. John

**Men’s Club Dinner – February 7**

The Men’s Club will meet on Wednesday, February 7, with refreshments starting at 5:30 and dinner served at 6:30. Andy Quirk is the contact for this month.

*Garrett Dillard from the Iriswood district in Henry County will be the speaker.*

Please make sure to sign up on our website at <https://christchurchmvl.org/volunteering.cfm?ID=330> (Volunteer > Men’s Club Dinner) so we will know how much food to order. **The cost is \$20 per person.**

## **Liturgy at Home**

Over Zoom on February 7 at 7:00 pm, Deacon Bernie Jones will offer a discussion of the Daily Office and how we can use this tool in the Book of Common Prayer to develop worship habits at home. All are welcome - register at <https://dioswva.wufoo.com/forms/mgockqy1ci0vei/>

## **Public Theology**

Public Theology is taking February off (as Ash Wednesday falls on our regularly scheduled evening). We will resume on March 13.

## **Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday is **February 14**. We will offer services in the church at Noon and 7:00 pm, each including the Imposition of Ashes, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and music.

## **Ecumenical Lenten Lunches**

After a multi-year hiatus, several Martinsville churches (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal) are again getting together to offer a Lenten program. **Each Thursday in Lent (February 15 - March 21)**, we are invited to a different church at Noon for lunch and a Lenten devotion offered by the pastor. Christ Church is hosting on February 22 (in the Undercroft); if you are willing to help provide lunch on that day, please let Fr. John know ([john david adams 85@gmail.com](mailto:john david adams 85@gmail.com) or 571-232-1294).

## **Schedule:**

- 1) First Baptist Church of Martinsville (Libby Grammer, Devotional): February 15th
- 2) **Christ Episcopal Church (John Adams, Devotional): February 22nd**
- 3) First United Methodist Church (Faith Weedling, Devotional): February 29th
- 4) Chatham Heights Baptist Church (Mike Hatfield, Devotional): March 7th
- 5) First Presbyterian Church (Cheryl Peoples of FHPC, Devotional): March 14th
- 6) Starling Avenue Baptist Church (Angela Zimmerman, Devotional): March 21st

## **Lent Program**

This year's Lent Program is about Prayer, considering why we pray, why we should regularly pray together and individually, and discussing (and occasionally practicing) how we pray. We will meet in the Undercroft after the 10:30 service on Sundays (**February 18 and 25, March 3, 10, and 17**), with a light lunch of soup and bread preceding the program.

### **A Lenten Journey Towards Becoming Beloved Community**

**Tuesday nights 7-8 pm via Zoom (Feb 20, 27 and March 5, 12 and 19)**

**Sign up on the following link:** <https://dioswva.wufoo.com/forms/m12wf72v1p692ed/>

We hope you will join the Diocesan Becoming Beloved Community Guiding Team as we talk about the mission and ministry of Becoming Beloved Community. What does that look like for individuals, for a church and for our communities? We will learn about this important ministry through history, education and resources, action, and worship.

**Grace Network** - Our Grace Network Assignments for **February - March: Dish detergent. For February: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), and hygiene items.** As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store. You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.

## Prayer List

*Sue, Julia, Betty, Nathan, Tom, Linda, Leandra, Betsy, Tom, Steve, Ann, Ben, Mary Ruth, Morgan and Barbara, Thomas, Tammy, Dorothy, and Amelia.*

Let the Church office or Fr. John know if anyone needs to be removed from the list.

## Server Schedule for February

**Altar Guild Team #2** – Page Beeler, Frankie Smith, Janice Cain, Ruth Foley, Rita Hodges, Valerie Payne

**January 4** – Kelly Cain, reader; Rives Coleman, Hank Long, chalicers; Bruce Mazurek, Jay Dickens, Bob Weatherall, ushers; Elizabeth Maxwell, acolyte; Andy Williams, camera operator; Pat Russell, Rives Coleman, counters; Emily Williams, **1 volunteer needed, nursery.**

**January 11** – Will Zimmer, reader; Dawn Stone, Tom Webster, chalicers; Hank Long, Dan Cahill, Trippi Penn, ushers; Tyler Johnson, acolyte; Andy Williams, camera operator; Pat Russell, Rives Coleman, counters; Emily Williams, **1 volunteer needed, nursery.**

**Ash Wednesday – January 14 – Noon** - Bob Bushnell, reader and chalice

**Ash Wednesday – January 14 – 7:00 pm** – Kelly Cain, reader; John Swezey, chalice

**January 18** – Hank Long, reader; Natalie Coleman, Bob Bushnell, chalicers; Andy Quirk, Rebin Titus, Pete Scouras, ushers; Baylie Coleman, acolyte; Andy Williams, camera operator; Pat Russell, Rives Coleman, counters; Emily Williams, **1 volunteer needed, nursery.**

**January 25** – Susan Critz, reader; Rives Coleman, Beverly Lyle, chalicers; Michael Hodges, Rives Coleman, Ben Beeler, ushers; **acolyte needed**; Andy Williams, camera operator; Pat Russell, Rives Coleman, counters; Emily Williams, **1 volunteer needed, nursery.**