

VAN WYCK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP Christ, We Do All Adore Thee

PASTORAL WELCOME Rev. Carson Montgomery
ANNOUNCEMENTS Laine Ardrey

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Yesterday we thought death had won. Yesterday we thought all was lost. Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

All: But not today. Today we know that love has won. Today we know that hope is real. Today we know that Christ is here.

Leader: We have a reason to hope.

All: We have a reason to sing!

Leader: Alleluia! He Is Risen!

All: He Is Risen, indeed!

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen today. Let us praise our risen Savior in singing and flowering the cross.

*HYMN NO. 232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

CALL TO CONFESSION Laine Ardrey

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: The stone is rolled away! We assume it is a mistake. The angels say, "He is not here!" We assume their news is fake. The women tell the story, but we do not want to hear it. Peter runs to the tomb, but we do not understand.

All: Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb is nothing more than a prank. Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death. Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world. Teach us to see what you see. Unravel the threads of our unbelief. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The angels tell the women, "Remember what Jesus told you." So, church, remember this: You are seen. You are forgiven. You are held in God's grace. All of this is true. Grace and mercy abound for you. Remember this.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen. Amen. Amen.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS Children's Handbell Choir

*Come thou fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing; call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet; sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Rev. Carson Montgomery

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Carson Montgomery

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 24: 1-12

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON **Wandering Heart: And I Hope** Rev. Carson Montgomery

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (written by Rev. Sarah Are Speed)

All: We may weep through the longest nights. We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers. We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more. But today, we are a people of hope. We believe in new beginnings. We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death. We believe that Jesus abides among us, healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world. We believe that a tomb could not hold him. We believe that the sun does rise. We believe that Peter was there with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed. We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us. Today we are a people of hope.

PRaises AND PRAYER CONCERNS Rev. Carson Montgomery
PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

...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 debts as we forgive our debtors; lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE CALL FOR THE OFFERING**
OFFERTORY A Crown of Thorns

*THE DOXOLOGY
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
All: Lord God, by your great mercy we have been raised up into a new living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. May our tithes, pledges, and offerings empower our community and your wider world to live into your promises of hope and new life. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 238 Thine Is the Glory
*BENEDICTION Rev. Carson Montgomery
*Stand as you are able

All liturgy and prayers written by Rev. Sarah Are Speed. Lenten Series Theme, "Wandering Heart" from Sanctified Art, LLC.

**The ministry of the church continues. Please mail your tithes, pledges, and offerings to the church, Attention: Treasurer, P.O. Box 68, Van Wyck, SC 29744. You may also give online through the "Giving" tab on the church website www.vwpc.org

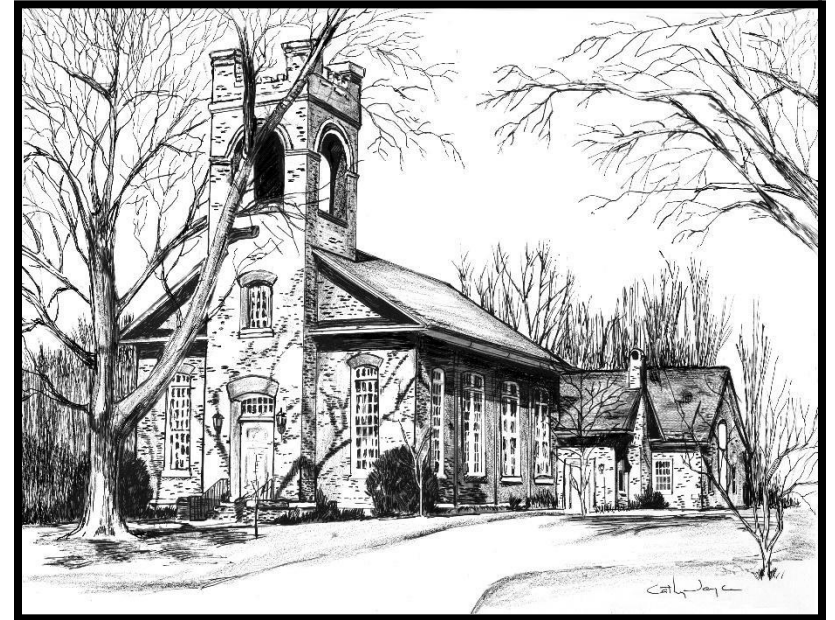
Elder of the Day

This Week: Linda Pelletier

Next Week: Laura Clark

Van Wyck Presbyterian Church

Established 1884



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Director of Music – Janesta Williams (alwilliams@comporium.net)

Secretary – Donna Fox (vwpcsecretary@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Stuart Graham (stugraham84@gmail.com)

Announcements

Sunday March 31	9:45am Easter Breakfast 11:00am Worship Easter Sunday and Flowering the Cross
Tuesday April 2	10:00am Sisters of the Heart 7:00pm Integrity Group Meeting
Wed April 3	6:30pm Choir
Thursday April 4	7:00pm Integrity Group Meeting
Saturday April 6	10:00am Integrity Group Meeting
Sunday April 7	10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship & Communion

One Great Hour of Sharing

This Easter, VWPC will join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. The collection will be taken during the Offering, and all loose money and change will go to OGHS.

Sunday April 7 the Session and Rev. Carson will **welcome new disciples who desire to join Van Wyck Presbyterian Church by the Sacrament of Baptism, letter transfer and reaffirmation of faith. A light reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall after worship to welcome them to the family of faith. Come and celebrate this special day with us!

Memorials Received This Week By:

Jane and Jim Massey- In Memory of Eloise Williams
Camille and Sam Dunlap- In Memory of Eloise Williams
Billy and Louvenia Holmes- In Memory of Eloise Williams
Toug Brunson- In Memory of Eloise Williams
Linda and Dickie Vaughan - In Memory of Eloise Williams

March Prayer Requests

Disciples: Trudy Walker, Paul Kourkoubes, Linda Vaughan, the family of Eloise Williams, Dianne Moore, Donald and Mary Baker, Rebecca Bowyer, Toug Brunson, Williams Sims, Carol Johns

Friends: Luke Rushing, the family of Mary Crenshaw, Lynn Denton, Lewis Buchanan, Mother of Roy Sansbury, David Adams, Bernard Bagley and Niles, Patti Harris, Kip Hurley, Margaret Jacques, Marion Mackey, Leah Opyrchal and Fern, Paul Walters, Rick Young, Rev. Dr. Dick and Lila Ray, Ronnie McClure, Stephanie Rape (Ryan Rape's grandmother) Pam and Dave Wiltsie, Gail Stogner

Community: Van Wyck and Lancaster communities, our teachers and students

Providence Presbytery: Blackstock Presbyterian Church (Chester, SC)
Carrot Williams

Wider World: Israel and Gaza, Libya, Maui, Turkey & Syria, Ukraine, Russia, our country and elected leaders

Youth: Cody Campbell, Harrison Cargill, Rachel Graham, Stuart Graham, Charlie Haynes, Alena Massey, Kate McCalmont

Vocational and College Students: Genevieve Cook, Carson Helms, Christian Moss, Ashley Overstreet, Devon Overstreet, Fritz Walker

Homebound Disciples: Vicky Lott

Session: Class of 2024: Linda Pelletier (Clerk), Laura Clark; Class of 2025: Holly Massey, Craig Denton; Class of 2026: Janet Campbell, Julie Graham

Staff: Donna Fox, Stuart Graham, Barbara McAfee, Janesta Williams, Rev. Carson Montgomery

Happy MARCH Birthday to YOU!

9 – Clayton Massey	17 – Olivia Tuttle
12 – Andrea Helms	21 – Paul Korkoubus
13 – Rose Mary Bean	22 – Annette Flanagan
16 – Jake Clark	23 – Jon McCalmont
17 – Mark Tuttle	31 – Rachel Graham