



# Hebron Community Church

## March 2025 Newsletter

### March 2025—Lent: Where Grace and Holiness Meet

**Colossians 1:19-20:** “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.”

This month we begin anew the season of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter, as we remember the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I know there are many who have heard the term 'Lent' but don't really know what it means or why we celebrate it. There are even churches that have left this tradition behind because it sounds too much like 'high church' or traditionalism, but it's an important time of self-reflection, repentance and humbleness before God that prepares us for the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. There are too many people who like the celebration but don't understand that we can only really appreciate the light when we've walked through the darkness and that's what Lent helps us do.

We are called to be holy, to be set apart for God and we fail miserably every day because we are human, but that doesn't give us an excuse. In Leviticus 19:2, God says: “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.'” In 1 Peter 1:15-16, we read: “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'” Even Jesus said in Matthew 5:48, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” We are called to be set apart from this world, to be different, but too often we look and act like this world. Even in the church, so often we operate the way the world does, looking more like a social club than a community of disciples.

We fail God miserably all the time. We fail to trust Him; we are less than truthful; we let our anger get the best of us; we put ourselves or other things in the place of God; we covet what's not ours, etc. The list could go on and on. These sins separate us from God and we have no hope without Christ. Only through His death and resurrection can we be made whole and be reconciled to Him. Only through Jesus' blood are we forgiven; only through the breaking of His body are we made whole. There was no other way. The penalty for sin has always been death and forgiveness could only come through the shedding of blood. That's how serious sin is, even though we often try to trivialize it. In the Old Testament, it was only through the shedding of the blood of sacrifices that offered a covering for sin, but now through Jesus' sacrifice, we have the full pardon and are able to be made right with God.

In Lent, Grace and Holiness meet. In Lent, we have a chance to come before God in repentance and humbleness, seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. When we come to God, confessing our sins, "... he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9 NRSV). God offers us grace to forgive us, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, cleanses us, and strengthens us to live the holy lives that we have been called to. God, through Jesus, has done everything that we might be saved and be able to spend eternity with Him. I pray that we take the time this Lent to truly reflect on the condition of our hearts and the sin in our lives, and then come before Him humbly seeking His forgiveness, recognizing the cost of our sin. Once we have walked through the darkness of Lent, the light of Easter will shine all the brighter.

As a part of our Lenten journey together this year, we have the opportunity to worship together with our brothers and sisters in our Southern Circle. We will be having Lenten Lunches with worship to follow. We will meet in the Hut each Wednesday at 12 and rotate preachers among the churches of the Circle. We will start with a light lunch and then worship together starting at 12:30. I hope that you will plan on joining us for this time of worship and fellowship, as we explore together the theme "Where Grace and Holiness Meet".

Above all, I hope that you will seek to observe a Holy Lent, seeking after Jesus in humbleness and repentance, confessing your sins before God. I can guarantee the more you seek Him, the more you will be drawn closer to Him and there is no greater blessing than to know our Lord more fully, just as we are fully known. May God bless you richly this Lent and always.

Your servant brother in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dustin D. James". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Pastor Dustin D. James

# SOUTHERN CIRCLE LENTEN LUNCHEES



## “Where Grace and Holiness Meet”

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.” - Colossians 1:19-20

**Wednesdays at 12:00 PM  
at Hebron Community Church**

2325 Mebane Oaks Rd., Mebane, NC 27302

### **Worship Schedule**

- March 5:** Dustin James, Hebron C.C.
- March 12:** Cory Oliver, Orange Chapel
- March 19:** Aaron Powers, Breakthrough C.C.
- March 26:** Denny Freeland, Salem C.C.
- April 2:** Mark Stephens, Phillips Chapel
- April 9:** Don Logner, New Beginnings C.C.
- April 16:** Tom Newman, Concord Church

March Birthdays

2nd Justin Williams  
 4th Mary C. Burgess  
 5th Susan Dixon  
 Agatha Johnson  
 7th E.C. Sykes, III  
 8th Margaret Cheek  
 15th Shirley Burgess  
 Mary L. Burgess  
 16th Teresa Dallas  
 20th Deanne Greeson  
 Aiden Efland  
 23rd Ellen Williams  
 Helen Williams  
 24th Charles Glosson  
 28th Sue Anderson

Up Coming Events in April

2<sup>nd</sup> Lenten Service w/Lunch at 12:00 pm  
 5<sup>th</sup> Pancake Supper  
 7<sup>th</sup> SPRC at 6:00 pm  
 9<sup>th</sup> Lenten Service w/Lunch at 12:00 pm  
 12<sup>th</sup> Easter Egg Hunt/Family Fun/Kites  
 13<sup>th</sup> Church Council at 3:00 pm  
 16<sup>th</sup> Lenten Service w/Lunch at 12:00 pm 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Friendship Circle at 7:00 pm  
 17<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm  
 18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Service at 7:00 pm  
 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunrise Service  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter Deadline  
 24<sup>th</sup> Methodist Men at 6:00 pm.

Methodist Women  
 Friendship Circle

The last stew and bake sale until October will be held March 8. We welcome your support by donating baked goods to sell and by purchasing some of those baked goods to eat!

Our Spring Luncheon, which is typically women only, is open to all in the congregation this year. It will be Saturday, March 22. Guests may arrive at 11:00 and lunch will be served at 11:30. The special program will be a video presentation by Evelyn and Dustin showing the results of our Circle's latest gift to Guatemala. This gift helped provide a real Christmas party for some of the children in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. These children help support their families by scavenging through the local dump and have not previously experienced anything like the party they enjoyed this past December. Members of the Circle who were able to view the video from our first donation were very impressed by the results and encourage anyone who has an interest in this work to come join us. We will share a meal together and see the results of the latest gift.

Thank You! Thank you! We sincerely thank everyone who made our spaghetti lunch, which benefits the Methodist Home for Children, such a success. Thank you to everyone who came and shared a meal with us. Thank you Circle ladies for all your work preparing food, serving food, setting up and cleaning up. And thanks to ladies who aren't Circle members but helped anyway. And thank you men who helped set up and clean up and always are so willing to support us. We wouldn't be able to accomplish half of what we do without your help.

You will all be interested in learning you donated \$1,080.00! God bless you all.

HEBRON COMMUNITY CHURCH  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
Sunday, February 9, 2025

Present:

Dustin James	Jay Wilson	Ben Boney	Betty Boney
Sandy Dixon	Buster Albright	Sammy Lankford	Pat Snipes
Bob Swanson	Martha Graham		

Pastor Dustin began the meeting with prayer and a devotion from a devotional book titled, "My Utmost for His Highest". The devotion was based on Colossians 8:36 and to the effect that, "if I can't surrender, I can't be free".

There were no corrections to the January minutes, and they were approved. It was decided that when the minutes are sent to the council members, if there are no corrections, they may be considered approved and ready to share with the congregation. After reading the minutes, council members will indicate whether they approve or not.

FINANCE

The financial report for January was shared. We were reminded that even with the cancellation of a service in January due to snow, we are ahead of our giving for the same period last year.

TRUSTEES

A light in the parking lot has been repaired and a light added at the side of the Hut, over the gas tanks.

There is a sewer issue in the educational building. It will be looked into this week.

Steve McCauley is checking on insulation for the educational building. Increased insulation will help decrease the cost of heating and cooling. This is a project for the future and will not be done immediately.

SPRC

The first meeting of this new year is scheduled for Monday, February 10. Job descriptions for Dustin and Cathy will be discussed. Sandy will speak with Cathy regarding her job description to make certain it covers all her responsibilities.

The committee will discuss the possibility of using a church survey to get ideas for programs, etc., that members of the congregation might be interested in.

NOMMINATIONS

Dustin was pleased with the Day Apart and all the discussions that took place.

WORSHIP

The first meeting of the worship committee for 2025 will be Sunday, February 23, following the worship service.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

In addition to the programs already in place, there were new projects discussed which are being acted on. One project is to establish a food pantry at Hebron in connection with S.A.F.E. Initial conversations have begun on the feasibility of this happening. A pancake supper is scheduled for Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30. Donations will be accepted to begin purchasing supplies for the food pantry.

There is interest in participating in the ministry of “building wells” in Africa. Opportunities are being investigated to help determine how to best accomplish this. A hot dog lunch on Sunday, June 8, directly following the worship service, has been scheduled to begin this project.

Other mission ideas discussed are sending a work team to the western North Carolina mountains to help with hurricane recovery; participating in the Dogwood Festival on Saturday, April 26 (that entry fee has been paid); participating in the Mebane Christmas Parade on Friday, December 5.

Committee meetings will be scheduled for later in February and in March. There is a lot to do.

#### METHODIST MEN

Equipment has been adjusted, and DVD’s, Christian movies and documentaries may now be viewed. The group is discussing matching the women’s donation to the Methodist Home for Children this year.

#### METHODIST WOMEN

The women are preparing for the annual spaghetti lunch which will be Sunday, February 16, following the worship service. Our Spring Luncheon will be on Saturday, March 22. The lunch this year will be for anyone who would like to attend. The program that will be provided is a video on our latest donation to Guatemala. The video and information on our first donation to Guatemala was very interesting.

#### PASTOR

Dustin is encouraged by the interest that is beginning to be expressed in forming new small groups.

We were reminded that he and Evelyn will be attending a retreat. They will leave on February 23, following worship and return Wednesday, February 26. The Prayer Group which meets on Tuesdays will be covered and he expects to be back for the Bible Study on Wednesday.

There will be community Lenten services, to be held at noon each Wednesday, in the Hut. Pastors in our southern group will provide the devotion. Each pastor’s congregation will provide the food when their pastor has the devotion. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Samaritan’s Purse work in western North Carolina. The theme of the services is Where Grace and Holiness Meet.

The Board of Ministry will be meeting at Hebron again. They greatly appreciate being able to meet in such a central location and have offered to do something for the church since they are using the facilities. Their offer was declined.

Dustin mentioned the trip to Greece this fall which a pastor friend of his will lead. This would be a spiritual journey visiting many of the places Paul visited during his ministry. The dates are October 18 to October 25. The cost for an individual would be approximately \$3500. He wants to ask if anyone in the congregation would like to take the trip. The drawback is that this is during our Fall Festival.

Our next meeting is March 9, 2025, at 3:00.

There being no further business, we adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Graham

## Missions and Outreach Committee – March 2025 Newsletter

The Missions and Outreach Committee members met during the Day Apart in January. As members of Hebron Community Church, we are charged by the Global Methodist Church to be effective in guiding our congregation to spread the gospel message of God's love through witness and service in our community and around the world. Our committee will strive to ensure that you, as our beloved congregation, have every opportunity to share in financial giving for mission as well as participating in purchasing items for various missions and outreach. As chair of this committee, I continue to be humbled and proud of the level of participation and partnership everyone exhibits when projects arise.

With that in mind, and much prayer and planning, we would like to partner with Samaritan's Purse International Relief Clean Water Project. An estimated 842,000 people die each year from diseases caused by unclean water and inadequate sanitation. The majority are children. We would also like to partner with S.A.F.E. in providing food and necessities for the needy and hungry in Alamance County. Plans for a Pancake Supper in April and Hot Dog lunch in June are in the works to "jump start" these programs. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Other Missions and Outreach include

- Mebane's Dogwood Festival in April with a booth providing bottled water and information about our church
- Organizing a group to travel to the mountains of North Carolina to aid in Disaster Relief programs
- Participating in the Mebane Christmas Parade with a float promoting Hebron

In addition to new missions and outreach, we will continue the following:

Helping Hands and Sunshine Basket Ministry

Methodist Home for Children Spaghetti Luncheon (sponsored by the Friendship Circle)

Vacation Bible School

Summer Reading Program (on hold this year)

School Backpack Giveaway

Fall Festival

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Christmas Angel Tree family

Please pray for the Missions and Outreach committee.

Blessings,

Pat

## March 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Chili Cookoff Hee Haw in the Hut
2 Sunday School Worship / Communion	3 9-4 ALM 6 SPRC Board of Ministry	4 9-4 ALM 1 Pastors' Mtg. 6 Prayer Mtg. Board of Ministry	5 9-4 ALM 12 Lenten Service w/Lunch 6 Bible Study	6 9-4 ALM	7 Stew Prep	8 Stew / Bake Sale
9 Sunday School Worship 3 Church Council	10 9-4 ALM 6 Finance	11 9-4 ALM 6 Prayer Mtg.	12 9-4 ALM 12 Lenten Service w/Lunch 6 Bible Study	13 9-4 ALM	14	15 Quarter Auction 5:30 Supper
16 Sunday School Worship	17 9-4 ALM 7 Friendship Circle	18 9-4 ALM 1 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg.. Newsletter Deadline	19 9-4 ALM 12 Lenten Service w/Lunch 6 Bible Study	20 9-4 ALM	21	22 Ladies Spring Luncheon 11:00
23 Sunday School Worship	24 9-4 ALM	25 9-4 ALM 6 Prayer Mtg.	26 9-4 ALM 12 Lenten Service w/Lunch 6 Bible Study	27 9-4 ALM 6 Methodist Men	28	29
30 Sunday School Worship	31 9-4 ALM	1	2	3	4	5

### Nursery Schedule

March 2nd	Jenny Allred & Jay Wilson
March 9th	Becca Bartlett & Markie Roberts
March 16th	Robin Sykes & Betty Albright
March 23rd	Joannie Wilson & Pat Snipes
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Brenda & Maddie Moss

### Greeters

Marti Graham
Jay & Joannie Wilson
Margaret Lankford
Bob Swanson

### Acolytes

Marleigh Lankford
Carlos Montejo
Peyton McBride
Annabelle Allred
Maddie or Arron Moss