

FEBRUARY 2026 WORSHIP GUIDE

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of February 2026.

If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family.

Dear Cherryvale Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

February often arrives quietly, tucked between the brightness of Christmas and the long stretch of spring that still feels far away. The days are short, the air is cold, and yet beneath the surface something is stirring. Seeds are waiting. Light is slowly returning. And the Church, too, is preparing for a holy turning of the heart.

This month we stand at the threshold of Lent, with Ash Wednesday falling on February 18. Lent is not a season of gloom, as it is sometimes misunderstood, but a season of grace. It is an invitation; an invitation to slow down, to listen more carefully for God's voice, to let go of what weighs us down, and to take up again the practices that shape us into Christ's likeness. It is a journey inward that leads us outward, toward deeper love of God and neighbor.

In a world that moves fast and measures worth by productivity, Lent gently insists on a different rhythm. It reminds us that we are dust, yes, but beloved dust. It calls us to repentance, not as shame, but as homecoming. It invites us to prayer, fasting, generosity, and self-examination, not as burdens, but as pathways into freedom and joy.

February also brings us Valentine's Day, a reminder that love is at the heart of everything we do as Christians. Not the thin, sentimental love the world often celebrates, but the deep, steadfast, self-giving love we see in Jesus Christ. As we move toward Lent, may we ask not only, "What should I give up?" but also, "How can I love more fully? How can I forgive more freely? How can I serve more faithfully?"

I encourage you to join us for our Ash Wednesday service as we begin this sacred season together. There is something powerful about marking our foreheads with ashes and hearing the words, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return," not as a word of fear, but as a word of truth that opens us to grace. It is a reminder that our lives are fragile, precious, and held by God.

As your pastor, I am deeply grateful for the faithfulness, kindness, and quiet strength of this congregation. In every prayer offered, every meal shared, every act of service given, you bear witness to the love of Christ in Cherryvale. My prayer for us this month is that we would enter Lent not out of obligation, but out of longing, longing to know Christ more deeply, to walk more closely with Him, and to be renewed by His Spirit.

May the peace of Christ guard your hearts and minds, and may the Holy Spirit lead us together into a season of holy transformation.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Jonathan

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

February 8

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Isa 58:1-12; Ps 112:1-9; 1 Cor 2:1-16; Matt 5:13-20

Call To Worship

Blessed be the Lord, the Light of the world. And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world." We come to taste and share God's goodness, to shine with His truth, and to live as His faithful disciples. Christ calls us not only to follow Him but to reflect His glory in every corner of life. He fulfills the law, teaches the way of righteousness, and invites us into the kingdom of God. With hearts open to His Word, and lives ready to reflect His light, we gather to worship God, whose Word was made flesh.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, You have called us to be salt and light for Your world, yet we fail to live up to Your call. When doubts, fears, and discouragement invade our hearts, we lose our saltiness and hide our light. We see the great need and darkness around us, and we doubt that anything we offer could make a difference. We turn away from the privilege of service, the joy of following Christ, and the wonder of seeing what You can do through us. Forgive us. Restore our courage, renew our hearts, and help us shine with the light of Your love.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of mercy, You have fed us with Your life through Word and Sacrament, forgiven us our sins, and called us to be salt and light in the world. Bless our offerings and our very lives to be reflections of Your love, that through us, the world may taste Your goodness and behold Your truth. Empowered by Your Holy Spirit, we go forth to serve and to love, bearing witness to Your kingdom here on earth.

~~~~~

## **February 15**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Exod 24:12-18; Ps 2 or Ps 99; 2 Pet 1:16-21; Matt 17:1-9

### **Call To Worship**

On His holy mountain, Christ is revealed in glory. The light of His love is shining! We come, eager to see the light of God shining upon us. The disciples saw Jesus transformed, his face shining like the sun, His clothes dazzling white. The light of His love is shining! We come to behold His glory and to be changed by his presence. God speaks from heaven: "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" The light of His love is shining! We come to hear Christ's voice, to follow Him faithfully, and to reflect His light in the world. Jesus, shine on us as we worship this day!

### **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, too often we fail to see your glory in our lives. We sing our alleluia on the mountain tops, yet fail to bring your light into the valleys of darkness. We praise you with our lips, yet do not always live as you have taught us. Forgive us, Lord. As your Son was transfigured on the mountain, transfigure our hearts and lives. Shape us into the image of Christ, that our alleluias may flow from the heights into the valleys of despair and brokenness.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving - Burying the Alleluia**

When Jesus came down from the mount of Transfiguration, he began to tell his disciples that he would be betrayed and crucified. **SOMETIMES WE LOSE OUR ALLELUIA.** Jesus did not enter into glory before he stretched out his arms on the hardwood of the cross. **SOMETIMES WE LOSE OUR ALLELUIA.** Jesus told his disciples, "If you want to become my followers, deny yourselves and take up your cross and follow me." **SOMETIMES WE MUST LET GO OF OUR ALLELUIA.** At Easter we will again celebrate the Resurrection and sing "Christ is risen." **IN GOD'S TIME, WE WILL FIND OUR ALLELUIA!** For the days of Lent, we discontinue singing and saying, "Alleluia." **SOMETIMES WE LET GO OF OUR ALLELUIA.**

# JANUARY WORSHIP

## **February 18 - Ash Wednesday**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Ps 51:1-17; 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10; Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

### **Opening Prayer**

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have stumbled and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is nothing good in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared unto all people in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His name. Amen

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

O God our deliverer, we thank you that you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever.

~~~~~

February 22

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Ps 32; Rom 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11

Call To Worship

God placed us in the garden to tend and to delight in creation. Yet we are tempted and often fall short of God's will. We come seeking God's mercy, ready to be restored. Jesus was led into the wilderness and tested, yet resisted temptation through the Word of God. We come to worship the God who sustains us and strengthens us to walk in faithfulness.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, whose Son was tempted yet without sin, we confess that we have not always obeyed Your Word. We have sought what does not satisfy, compromised with evil, and doubted Your power to protect us. When doubts and fear invade our hearts, we lose our saltiness and hide our light. Forgive our lack of faith. Restore in us love and trust, that we may walk in Your ways and delight in doing Your will.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from Your mouth. We thank You for the ways You nourish, sustain, and strengthen us through Your Word. Take the gifts we offer today, and use them to bless the world with Your love and salvation. Send us now, in the strength of Your Spirit, into the wilderness of life—to walk faithfully, resist temptation, and love and serve others

Ash Wednesday Word Search - Find the **45 bold** words or phrases relating to Ash Wednesday. Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

V	C	Y	X	A	E	L	K	E	C	N	A	T	N	E	P	E	R	T	E
S	P	L	M	R	A	H	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S	E	C
U	H	O	O	W	O	S	E	D	N	C	O	V	E	N	A	N	T	M	A
F	G	H	E	P	C	A	E	I	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	P	R
F	A	N	E	K	S	V	V	H	D	D	C	W	A	N	V	Y	H	T	G
E	E	I	I	T	O	I	S	W	S	E	S	R	Y	S	P	T	C	A	Y
R	Y	L	E	T	G	U	E	P	E	A	S	R	O	U	A	I	E	T	C
I	C	R	I	S	S	D	S	U	I	C	J	E	P	S	S	C	D	I	D
N	D	O	M	E	N	A	W	I	K	H	N	Y	R	R	S	I	I	O	N
G	N	L	J	E	J	I	F	I	U	X	S	A	X	T	I	L	S	N	O
B	A	W	S	T	X	F	U	M	L	N	G	R	N	F	O	P	C	S	I
C	R	D	Q	F	D	D	I	J	M	D	O	P	O	E	N	M	I	O	T
E	A	X	S	C	E	L	T	P	D	Z	E	I	L	W	P	I	P	L	A
Y	H	Y	N	O	I	T	C	E	L	F	E	R	S	R	J	S	L	I	V
Y	A	B	S	T	I	N	E	N	C	E	A	Y	N	S	R	G	I	T	L
X	J	C	Y	J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	C	I	F	E	E	C	N	U	A
N	O	I	T	P	M	E	D	E	R	R	B	G	T	V	S	F	E	D	S
E	R	U	T	P	I	R	C	S	E	F	Y	T	G	H	B	S	N	E	F
Z	Y	T	I	R	A	H	C	M	O	B	E	D	I	E	N	C	E	O	O
H	T	W	O	R	G	L	A	U	T	I	R	I	P	S	A	Y	F	T	C

penance
simplicity
renewal
abstinence
cross
suffering
redemption
salvation
Jesus
journey
desert
solitude
scripture
worship
holy
obedience
passion
resurrection
hope
charity
ashes
covenant
faith
reconciliation
discipleship
forty days
preparation
Easter

Wednesday
repentance
fasting
prayer
almsgiving
sacrifice
wilderness
temptation
humility
reflection
confession
grace
mercy
forgiveness
discipline
devotion
spiritual growth