

MARCH 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 March 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 Church Family,

As we enter the month of March, we find ourselves walking together through the season of Lent, a season that invites us to slow down, to reflect, and to return our hearts more fully to God.

Lent is not merely about giving something up; it is about making room. We set aside distractions so we can hear more clearly. We release what weighs us down so we can receive what gives life. We step into the wilderness with Jesus, trusting that God meets us there—not to condemn us, but to renew us.

This season reminds us that God often does His deepest work in quiet places. Just as seeds grow beneath the soil long before they are seen, God is at work within us, even when nothing seems to be changing on the surface. Through prayer, worship, Scripture, and repentance, God softens what has grown hard, heals what has been wounded, and restores what has been weary.

In our worship together, in our Lenten Bible studies, and in our daily lives, we are learning again to turn toward Christ. We are remembering that faith is not something we accomplish, but something we receive. It is in surrender, not striving, that we discover the grace that has been holding us all along.

As we continue this journey, I encourage you to remain present. Be present in worship. Be present in prayer. Be present to the quiet voice of God speaking within you. And be present to one another, offering encouragement, kindness, and love.

We do not walk this road alone. We walk it together, as the body of Christ, and we walk it with the promise that the cross is not the end of the story. Resurrection is coming.

May this Lenten season draw you closer to Christ and fill you with His peace.

**Grace and peace,
Pastor Jonathan Greer**

TIDAL WAVE CAR WASH TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW.

**\$10 TICKETS GETS \$30 CARWASH. VALID THRU 11/30/26.
GOOD AT ANY TIDAL WAVE LOCATION.**

**SEE LAURA TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS.
ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS RISE AGAINST HUNGER**

MARCH WORSHIP

March 1

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Gen 12:1-4a; Ps 121; Rom 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Call To Worship

Beloved, we gather in this holy season of Lent; a season of returning, of remembering, of trusting again. When the road feels steep and the burdens feel heavy, where does our help come from? Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. When fear tells us we must carry life alone, who watches over our going out and our coming in? The Lord, who neither slumbers nor sleeps. When we struggle to be born into new life, when faith feels confusing or uncertain, what is our hope? God so loved the world that He gave His Son, that we might have eternal life. Come, let us lift on high the Lord God who calls us, saves us, and renews us.

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 We confess that we have tried to live by our own strength, instead of trusting that our help comes from You. We have carried burdens alone, believing we could save ourselves. Like Nicodemus, we have stood close to Jesus and still struggled to understand Your grace. We have feared being made new more than we have feared remaining the same. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us to be born again into hope. Lift our eyes from our own efforts to the life You freely give in Jesus, Your Son.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and loving God, We give you thanks for this Holy Mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You are the giver of every good gift. In Your great love, You held nothing back, not even Your Son, so that we might have life. Receive the gifts we offer today. Use them to bring light in darkness, hope in despair, and grace in broken places. Free us from fear and teach us to trust You fully, Living as people of love and holy abundance. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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## March 8

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Exod 17:1-7; Ps 95; Rom 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

### **Call To Worship**

Come, all who are thirsty. Come to the living water. We come with empty hearts, longing to be filled. Jesus meets us at the well of our lives and knows us completely. Yet He does not turn away; He offers mercy and truth. The Savior says, "The water I give will become a spring of eternal life." Lord, give us this living water, that we may worship You in spirit and in truth. From wells of mercy joy begins to rise; our hearts awaken to adore the Lord of life.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Gracious Lord, like the woman at the well, we come carrying thirsts we cannot satisfy. We have searched for meaning in places that leave us empty. We have hidden from Your truth and avoided Your gaze. We confess our broken choices, our divided hearts, and the walls we build between ourselves and others. Meet us, O Christ, beside the deep wells of our lives. Speak Your truth in love, and draw from us honest repentance, that we may receive the living water You alone can give.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of the living well, You have met us in Word and worship and offered water that renews the soul. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude. Use them to satisfy the thirsty, welcome the stranger, and proclaim that Jesus is truly the Savior of the world. As You have filled us with mercy, so fill us again with living grace, till our hearts overflow with praise, and every longing finds its rest in You. Through Jesus our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

# MARCH WORSHIP

## March 15

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** 1 Sam 16:1-13; Ps 23; Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

### **Opening Prayer**

We gather as people who have walked in many kinds of darkness. Yet Christ comes to open our eyes. The Light of the world stands among us. He meets us in our blindness and calls us to see. Come, let us worship the One who gives sight to the blind. Let us praise the Lord, whose amazing grace, leads us from shadows into true life!

### **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we do not always see as You see. We judge by appearances, we assume we already know the truth, and we walk past those who sit in the dust of this world. Like the Pharisees, we can cling to our certainties instead of clinging to Your mercy. Like the disciples, we look for someone to blame rather than someone to love. Heal the blindness of our hearts. Touch the places where fear has closed our eyes. Lead us from darkness into Your marvelous light.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of restoring light, You have opened our eyes to Your mercy and placed Your love within our hands. Receive these gifts as signs of gratitude for all You have done. Use them to bring sight to the blind, hope to those in darkness, and the good news of Jesus to every corner of life. And lead us to walk as children of Your light, so that our hearts may shine Your light to others. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

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March 22

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Ezek 37:1-14; Ps 130; Rom 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Call To Worship

Out of the depths we cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear our voice! Let Your ears be attentive to our cry for mercy. The hand of the Lord brings life where there is dryness, and hope where there is despair. Come, Holy Spirit, breathe upon us again. If the Lord kept a record of sins, who could stand? But with the Lord there is forgiveness and steadfast love. Come, let us worship the God who raises the dead and restores weary souls. We wait for the Lord, and in His Word we hope. For our life is only in the Lord.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful and healing God, we confess that we are not whole. Our bodies ache. Our minds grow weary. Our spirits become dry and brittle. We confess that in suffering we sometimes lose hope. We confess that in waiting we grow impatient. We confess that in fear we forget Your promises. Out of the depths we cry to You. If You kept a record of sins, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness and steadfast love. Forgive us. Restore us. Breathe upon us again by Your Spirit, and bring us into the fullness of life in Christ. .

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Healing God, You meet us in the valley and do not abandon us in the depths. You hear our cry. You redeem our lives. You breathe Your Spirit into what feels lifeless. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude. Use them to bring comfort to the suffering, strength to the weak, and hope to those who wait for healing. Make us vessels of Your restoring love, that through us others may know that dry bones can live and that hope does not disappoint. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

March 29 - Palm Sunday

Will be included in the April guide.

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

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

Meadow
Garden
Petals
Pollen
Sprout
Seedling
Nest
Birdsong
Butterfly
Thaw
Revive
Flourish
Vernal
Horizon
Dew
Morning
Fragrance
Fields
Tulip
Daffodil
Lilac
Hyacinth
Crocus
Robin
Chirp
Nestling
Sapling
Verdant

Spring
Bloom
Blossom
Bud
Growth
Renewal
Rebirth
Awakening

Freshness
Greenery
Sunlight
Rain
Showers
Breeze
Warmth
Equinox