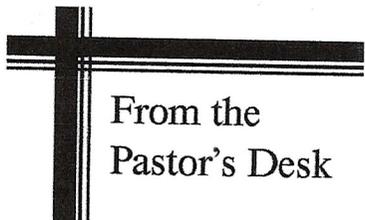


Alexandria First Christian Church

First Quarter Newsletter 2026

February and March



Dear Friends,

February 18th begins our season of Lent, a period of penitential preparation for Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday (February 18th) providing a 40-day period of prayer, reflection and abstinence (Sundays are excluded). 40 days are what Jesus spent in fasting and prayer in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. To help in our spiritual preparation, let me share a poem from *Advent Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light*.

"We All Have Our Courtyards" by Ann Weems.

We all have our courtyards,
those times and places we face like Peter,
When we must decide to stand up and say
whether we know him or not.
Those crossroads in our lives,
when we go along with things as they are,
Or we say, as Luther did,
Here I stand, I can do no other.
Lent is the time to prepare for our courtyards,
The time to listen to who *he* says he is.
As he did, you know, He did tell us who he is.
He is the one who brings good news to the poor,
Freedom to the oppressed, sight to the blind...
That Holy One who said,
Follow me.
Feed my sheep.

With all the unrest around us, may we take this time to pause and turn our hearts and minds to the sacrifice that Jesus made for each of us. May we walk our courtyards with our eyes upon Jesus.

Shalom, Pastor Julia

Baptism Classes – Pastor Julia will be holding classes in preparation for Baptism on Easter Sunday for any youth interested. There is no age requirement; only a belief in Jesus Christ as Savior and a want to be part of the family of God. Classes will be held every Saturday at 10:00am, beginning February 21 – March 28. If you unable to make that class time, please talk with Pastor Julia so other arrangements can be made. Please RSVP to Pastor Julia by February 10th so curriculum can be purchased. *Any adults wishing to be baptized on Easter Sunday, please contact the pastor to make arrangements.*

Ash Wednesday – Worship will begin at 6:30pm. We will gather around the Fireplace for Imposition of Ashes and Communion. If you are unable to make that time, Pastor Julia will be at the church Noon – 6pm for prayer and Imposition of Ashes.

*“Lent is not something
You do for God...
Lent is something
You do with God.”*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 5 Gary Burchette
9 Jameson Prince
17 Anita Dinehart
20 Don Swegman
21 Anne Nelson
21 Andrew Weaver

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 12 Doris & Don Swegman
19 Leon & Janice Armstrong



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 5 Linda Heiden
6 Monica Richardson
7 Masan Kojima
7 Deanna Glenn
11 Aaron Richardson
11 Cayse Weaver Barroquilla
13 Justine Jennings
16 Jade Schieldmeier
17 Chris Collins
17 Doug Rutledge
19 Tricia Dickson
20 Henley Humphrey
20 Weston Willman
20 Stacy Austin
23 April Richardson Olsen
23 Tom Wegner
27 Layne Snyder
30 Dustin Musick
30 Doris Swegman
31 Erin Wegner-Vincent

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 1 Susan (Davis) & Kris Walker
24 Lois & Doug Rutledge

Worship Leadership

February Elder – Barb Austin
Deacons – Troy Greer &
Doris Swegman
Communion Deacon –
Debbie Burchette

February Lord's Lectors

February 1 Stacy Austin
February 8 Kim Sayre
February 15 Jenny Bryan
February 22 Chere Saunders

March Elder – Jeff Bryan

Deacons – Julie Barton &
Gary Burchette
Communion Deacon – Stacy Austin

March Lord's Lectors

March 1 Stacy Austin
March 8 Barb Austin
March 15 Kim Sayre
March 22 Don Swegman
March 29 Chere Saunders

CMF Pancake and Sausage Breakfast –

Join us for the best pancakes in town on Saturday, April 11th, 8:30am – 10am. Tickets are \$6 and \$3 (under 12) and can be purchased at the door or from a CMF member.

Join the Choir – Do you enjoy singing? We are gathering a choir for the Lent and Easter season. If you are interested in joining the choir, please talk with Doris Swegman. Rehearsals will begin Wednesday, February 11th at 5:00pm.

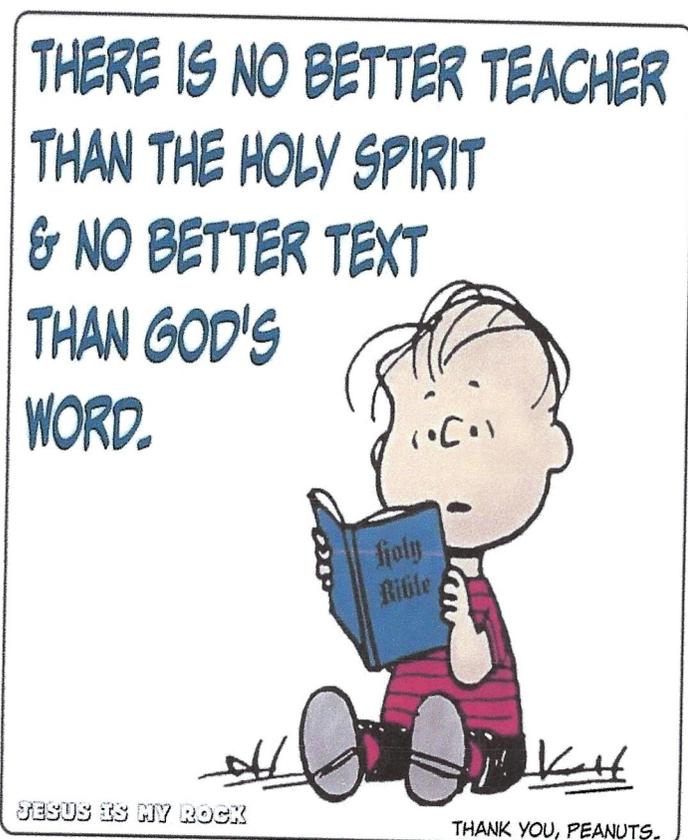
30 Pieces of Silver – Remembering how Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, you are invited to collect 30 coins throughout the season of Lent. A basket will be out to receive your coins. Proceeds will be donated to Beauty for Ashes.

Afternoon at the Movies – We are postponing our gathering until Saturday, February 21st at 2:00pm in Robinson Hall. Bring a snack to share. Lemonade and iced tea will be provided.

First Sunday Lunches – Plan to stay after worship on Sunday, March 1 for lunch and a time of fellowship. A freewill offering will be taken with the proceeds going to the General Fund. If you would like to help, please contact Karen Sayre.

Exercise Class - Every Tuesday and Thursday, you are invited to join in a walking and exercise class in Robinson Hall starting at 10:00am.

Address Book, Birthdays and Anniversaries
If you know of mistakes in the booklet, please let Pastor Julia know in writing so corrections can be made.



Schedule

Palm Sunday - March 29th

That's the day we will move back into the Sanctuary. You'll be invited to gather in the Chapel outside the Sanctuary and we will process with palms into the sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday – April 2nd

Agape Feast and Last Supper will begin at 6pm. You are invited to bring sandwiches or appetizers to share. Drinks will be provided.

Good Friday – April 3rd

Tenebrae Worship will take place at the Robinson Hall Fireplace at 6:00pm.

Easter Sunday – April 5th

Easter Breakfast - 8:30am – 10:00am
Resurrection Worship – 10:30am

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Holy Humor Sunday – April 12th

We continue our Resurrection Celebration with a joyful Holy Humor Worship service as we continue to celebrate our Risen Lord with laughter.