

Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

The View

MARCH 2026



And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

----- *2 Corinthians 3:18* -----



Purpose: To inform, encourage, and promote engagement in Mt. Pisgah's mission in the community, and opportunities for spiritual transformation. To invite reflection on the process of personal spiritual growth. To emphasize the bond that holds us together, and avoid magnifying the differences that separate us.

Worship Service 9:45 am (see back cover for location)



**Mt. Pisgah
VIEW
March 2026**

¹ *Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest*
² *and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. Acts 9:1–2 (NIV)*

The passage above is our introduction to the man who would become the Apostle Paul. Before he is the Apostle Paul, he is the Pharisee Saul who is like a dragon breathing fire in the direction of followers of the Way, a sect of his fellow Jews. Saul believes, with a violent sincerity, these followers of Jesus Messiah are an existential threat to the Jewish nation because of their crazy beliefs about this Jesus of Nazareth. There are many interesting things to note about Luke's depiction of Saul at this point in Acts. It is worth noting that Luke portrays Saul/Paul in the most unfavorable light. Luke does so as a close companion of Paul the Apostle. Luke does not try to blunt the edges of

Saul's early life. Why doesn't he feel compelled to soften the dark side of Paul, pre-conversion?

I invite you to consider two possible reasons, which are related. First, in the book of Acts, Luke is telling a story that is not about any one individual. The individuals who show up along the way play supporting roles to the real star of the book of Acts. The star of Acts is the Spirit of the Living God. The Holy Spirit makes the presence and power of the resurrected Jesus a reality in the lives of God's people. The Holy Spirit is front and center.

Second, Luke implicitly depicts the core message of the Gospel by painting the real-life portrait of Saul in all his brokenness and evil intent. Saul becoming Paul is one more telling piece of evidence that the Lord's grace and mercy are more powerful than the worst the enemy, sin, and death can muster.

This past Monday, the Session began its study of *Paul: A Man of Grit and Grace*, by Charles R. Swindoll. We have taken on this book study as part of our year-long exploration of Paul – his life, his teaching, and his example. In the "Introduction," Swindoll writes this about the Apostle Paul, "This one, who himself claimed to be the least of all saints and the chief of all sinners, understood and explained grace better than any of his contemporaries. It isn't difficult to understand why. He never got over his

own gratitude as a recipient of it. God's unmerited favor, His super-abounding grace, reached down to him in all his self-righteous zeal, crushed his pride, drove him to his knees, softened his heart, and transformed this once-violent aggressor into a powerful spokesman for Christ." It may be no exaggeration to suggest that you and I owe our Christian faith to the ministry of Paul. Knowing him and his writings better will make us better followers.

We will begin our exploration of Paul on March 8th in worship. I commend Swindoll's book to you, if you are interested in a helpful reading companion to the year's study of Paul's life and writings. I will also have a handout available on March 8th that will provide some guidance for engaging Paul's letters, including a preaching schedule for the year.

We have repeatedly emphasized Matthew's focus on discipleship this past year. I think you will find that Paul's interest does not deviate from Matthew's goal of shaping disciples for a life-long journey of faithful obedience to Jesus Christ. I also trust that the Holy Spirit will be at work through it all. And, at the end of the day, I hope you will know the fullness of joy as we give glory to the Lord of our salvation.

Peace,
Tom

He Has Risen!



PeterDeHaan.com

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

**Come celebrate our risen Lord and
Savior Jesus with us!**

**Easter morning breakfast and fellowship:
8:30 a.m.**

Worship service: 9:45 a.m.

**EASTER
MORNING
BREAKFAST**

8:30AM



Session News . . .

The Session began their study of **Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit** at their February Session meeting. You are all invited to attend the study meetings and participate in the discussions. Meetings begin at 4 pm and for the remainder of the year will be held:

April 20	Chapters 4 and 7
June 15	Chapters 8, 10, and 11
August 17	Chapters 15 and 16
October 19	Chapter 20
December 21	Chapters 21 and 22



Our annual **Lenten Offering** has begun and will conclude on Easter Sunday, April 5th. The recipient of the offering will be Genesis House, a full service local mission agency supporting young mothers.

Envelopes, for the offering taken during worship, will be at the offering plates or a check can be mailed to the church. Please indicate “Lenten Offering” on your check.



The Session thanks everyone who supported the Crafton Food Bank through the **Souper Bowl offering**. \$225.00 was collected. Additionally, donations of food will be collected for the **Food Bank** the 1st Sunday of March, June, September, and December.

Per Capita payments for 2026 are now being accepted. The amount is \$40.00 per adult member. Per Capita is used to fund the administrative work, ecumenical partnerships, and shared mission efforts of the Pittsburgh Presbytery (local) with a portion going to the Synod (Regional) and General Assembly (National). The distribution is as follows:

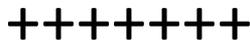
\$ 11.86 General Assembly

\$ 2.40 Synod

\$ 25.74 Presbytery

\$ 40.00

Anyone who wants their per capita withheld for matters of conscience should make the request in writing if you haven't already done so.



For the Session who are in His Service,
Marta Pletz, Clerk

Members of Session for 2026:

Tom Ribar, Moderator, Jill Folkmire,
Cindy Grindel, Luann Jones, Gary Lisivick,
Bob Stroup, and Luann Walton

Prayer Corner



Don't worry! . . .

Be Holy.



Dr. Charles Mayo of the Mayo Clinic said, “You can worry yourself to death, but not to life.” In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus makes it clear that worrying is ineffective. So how can we eliminate worrying? I offer three suggestions.

1. **Set proper priorities.** When our priority is earthly possessions, or the lack thereof, worry will set it.
2. **See provision.** Jesus makes it clear that worrying is incapable of producing any useful result and is pointless.
3. **Seek Jesus, the Prince of Peace.** The prescription for eliminating worry? “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33).

²⁵ *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what*

you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ” (Matthew 6:25-27)

~Luann Walton on behalf of the Prayer Corner Team

P.S. “To believe in God starts with a conclusion about Him, develops into confidence with Him, and then matures into a conversation with Him.” (Stuart Briscoe)

March Breath Prayer

Breathe In: Take my worries, Father God.

Breathe Out: Replace them with Your peace that passes understanding.



Philippians 4:7

RhymeTime

Each clue can be answered with two rhyming words. All refer to a Bible figure and the spaces show how many letters are in the answer.

Example: Adam's son's great canines = CAIN'S DANES

1. First woman's wheat bundles

___ ___ ___ ' ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

2. Gospel writer's English nobleman

___ ___ ___ ___ ' ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

3. Ark builders feathery scarves

___ ___ ___ ___ ' ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

4. Naomi's faithful daughter in law's small enclosures

___ ___ ___ ___ ' ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

5. Moses' brother's long legged wading birds

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ' ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

6. Gospel writer's green spaces

___ ___ ___ ___ ' ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

7. Epistle writer's fairground shelters

___ ___ ___ ___ ' ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

8. The baptizer's young deer

___ ___ ___ ___ ' ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Answers can be found on page 19



Dear family and friends of Mt. Pisgah . . .

In addition to your own prayers of thanksgiving and petitions to our most capable Father in Heaven, creator and master of all things seen and unseen, all praise and glory be to Him who reigns victorious now and throughout eternity – “O, what a Savior!”

Prayer Focus for March:

Gracious Lord, humble us during this season of Lent, and prepare us for new life

Hope to see you in worship Sunday morning, 9:45 am.
Submitted by the Worship, Learning and Prayer Team.



Simple Living

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself ..." Genesis 1:26



For this month's Simple Living, enjoy this poem by William Wordsworth as we anticipate Spring and the arrival of daffodils.

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:

Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.



Maundy Thursday

The Thursday prior to Easter, **April 2**, (known as **Maundy Thursday**) the Worship Team invites you to come and join us for a covered-dish dinner. We will gather around tables at 5:30 p.m. in the worship space and reflect upon the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. If you're not able to join us for dinner, please know you are more than welcome to join us for communion, which will be served at 6:15 p.m.

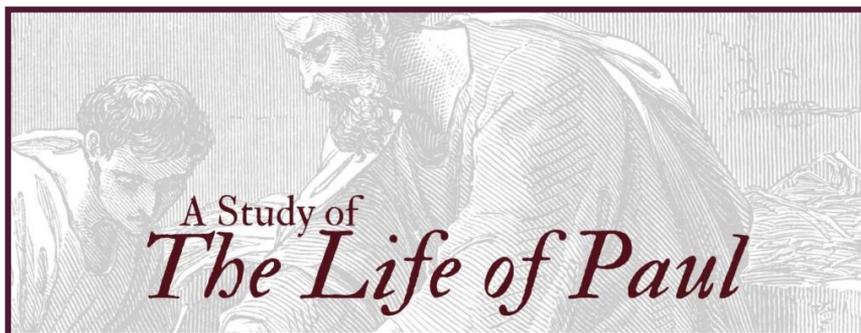


It was on the Thursday of Christ's final week before being crucified and resurrected that He said this commandment to His disciples --

A new commandment I give to you,
that you *love* one another;
just as I have *loved* you,
you also are to *love* one another.

John 13:34

From the Worship, Learning and Prayer Team:



Please join us after worship on the first and third Sundays of March (beginning March 15) as we begin our year-long exploration of Paul – his life, his teaching, and his example.

It would be our blessing to fellowship around tables with you for this most wonderful study of the Apostle Paul!

March worship services will be
based on the following:

March 15	Acts 7:54 - 8:3	Saul of Tarsus
March 22	Galatians 1:1-17	Saul the Jew
March 29	Acts 21:38 - 22:35, Acts 22:22-29	Saul the Roman Citizen



Memory Verse Challenge, 2026



By the time you read this issue of the VIEW, you will have been offered a Memory Verse Book. These books will be used to hold a memory verse card distributed at the beginning of each month. The card will contain the verse for the month and a little bit about the verse you just completed. At the end of 2026 the book will be full and ready for you to share with someone. Perhaps it will be someone new to the faith. Another suggestion is to give it to someone who is currently raising children to use as a special family project. It will be a gift to use as a new year begins!

I hope you have mastered February's verse:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

Key phrases: In Christ: New Creation; Old Gone (passed away); New Has Come. How would you

paraphrase it that would be easier to remember, but still ensure the meaning?

Now, on to March!

Your next challenge continues in 2 Corinthians (and it may be familiar if you worship regularly at Mt. Pisgah).

18 “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed Into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

Put some good music on and enjoy your time “sinking into” these messages of hope and promise.

Marta Pletz, for the Worship,
Learning and Prayer Team





Tuesday, March 31, 2026

TED Talk Presentation

Everyone is invited to experience the TED Talks: "The Formula for Successful Aging" by Gary Small and "Why Curiosity gets You Farther than Ambition" by Drew Lynch. Get some insight into what you do and can do for a more fulfilling pursuit of happiness.

Please let Linda know by March 24, using the **contact information** below or for any questions you may have.

Please note that we are in Winter Weather Advisory Conditions for February. If conditions are too treacherous, we will cancel the meeting on the Monday before and you should check your email for this cancellation information.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

April 28, 2026 COOKING - RECIPIES FOR SPRING

Day Timers will be participating in the **Crafton Food Pantry**. They would like us to gather items that the Pittsburgh Food Bank Does Not Supply. Please note that the Food Bank is asking for **Macaroni and Cheese** along with the usual **Saltine Crackers** (those in a box of **4 sleeves**) and **Ramen Noodle Soup** packages.

DayTimers will continue our assistance in supporting Westwood Elementary's autistic class teachers with Marta Pletz as our liaison.

If you have any comments or questions, call Linda Polaski, 412-921-8605, to leave a message, or email rlpolaski@AOL.com. The church phone number is: 412-921-8444 to speak with Marta. Please check your email for any changes or updates.

Blessings,
Linda and Rich, Kim, Marta, Bob and Mary



RhymeTime

Answers

1. Eve's sheaves
2. Luke's dukes
3. Noah's boas
4. Ruth's booths
5. Aaron's herons
6. John's lawns
7. Paul's stalls
8. John's fawns

 **A PRAYER FOR EVERY NEED** 

God's Love
Almighty God,

You are our Provider, our Healer, and our Strength.
There is no need too great and no concern too small for You.

Today, we come before You in humility,
laying down every burden, every worry, and every request.

You see what we lack, You know what we need,
even before we speak a word.

Lord, supply our needs according to Your riches in glory.
Heal the sick, comfort the brokenhearted,
guide the confused, and strengthen the weary.

Above all, teach us to trust You completely—
not only for what we ask, but for what You know is best.

May our lives bring You honor,
and may Your will be done in all things.

We give You all the glory and praise,
in the mighty name of Jesus,

Amen. 

*This prayer will appear at the end of the BUZZ each week.
~Submitted by Marilyn Costantino for the Prayer Team*



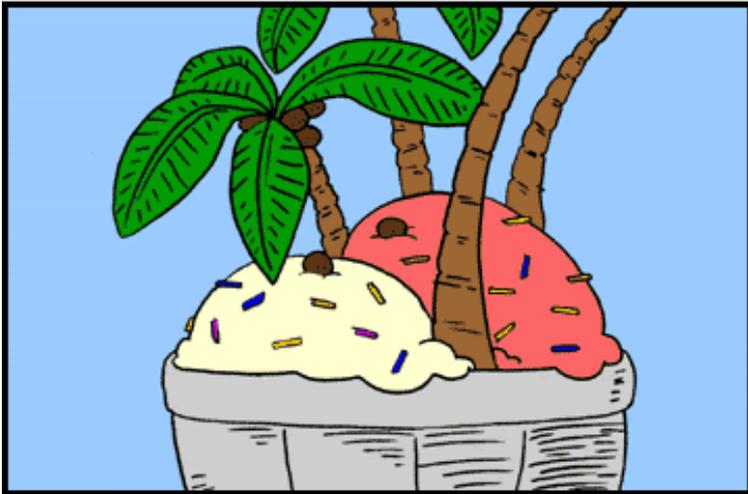
**Please submit April VIEW
articles *by March 19* via email
to 37.s.devey@gmail.com.
Thank you!**

On the Lighter Side . . .

Submitted by
Sharon Devey



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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld

04-14-2000

PALM SUNDAE

OUR CONGREGATION CONNECTS . . .

1 Thessalonians 5:16 “Rejoice Always!”

Who will receive a **March**
birthday wish from **you**?



1st ... Tom Ribar

5th ... Karen Stevans

6th ... Kim Sherman

8th ... Steve Wicht

10th ... Corey Walton Graeb

12th ... Bob McWilliams

14th ... Barb Kitner

25th ... Joe Sherman

29th ... Mike Carlini

Bless this your child, Lord, in the year to come. May they know the comfort of your presence, the certainty of your purpose, and the consolation of your love at work in their life.

**“Let each of us please his neighbor for his good,
to build him or her up.” Romans 15:2**

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Mark your calendar . . .

- 1st No Adult Class following worship
SCRIP order placed
- 8th Daylight Saving Time begins
- 15th Adult Class following worship
- 16th Session Meeting 6:45 pm
- 19th April VIEW articles due (*see also page 16*)
- 29th Palm Sunday
- 29th Worship, Learning & Prayer Team Meeting
following worship
- 31st DayTimers Meeting, 11:00 am (*see page 18*)

Weekly

Sunday through April 5, **Lenten Offering** to Genesis House

Wednesday, Prayer Group online 5:30 pm

Wednesday & Friday, After School Program, 4:10 - 6:00 pm

Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

Noble Manor Shopping Plaza

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Pittsburgh, PA 15205

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