

February 13, 2026

The Weekender

A God Thing?
Rev. Charles Robinson

I believe that it was 12:01 A.M. on December 26, 2025, when the elves entered most retail establishments and transformed every display from Christmas to Valentine's Day. Snowflakes gave way to heart-shaped things of all sorts, and LOVE was up and running. For many folks, February 14th defines the entire month, and romance is in the frosty air. As wonderful as romantic love can be, for those who follow Jesus the Christ, love is even bigger than that. LOVE is a God Thing!

I can't remember when that expression became so frequently employed..."It's a God Thing." Most folks use the phrase when something goes their way...

*An adult child finds meaningful work.

*A medical report comes back All Clear!

*A meeting is postponed and we can make a grandchild's ballgame.

*The car runs out of gas as we coast into the pumps.

It seems to me that the common denominator is often when we catch a break or when one of our desires is realized. But are those "things" the only times when we should declare "It's a God Thing"? What about the times when "things" don't go our way, when the road is rough, when we're told, "no, or not now"? What if we've given our very best efforts and the results are not lining up with our hopes and dreams?

For Christians this year, February means the beginning of the holy season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, the 18th. Lent is a season of 40 days, not including Sundays, leading to Easter Day. It is a season marked by prayer, self-examination, and repentance. It is the season when we consider the last days of Jesus, prior to His death on Good Friday.

Jesus, "born of the Virgin Mary – suffered under Pontius Pilate." What about *the dash*, the time in between birth and suffering...and death? Do you remember the little song some of us learned as children? "Jesus went about doing good...He helped the sick and He healed the blind, to little children He was kind. Jesus went about doing good, the Bible tells me so." Yes, but what about the opposition He met along the way? Folks tried to stone Him when He preached at His hometown synagogue at Nazareth. Was it something He said? Jesus understands, doesn't He, when things are difficult and not going our way. Could these things be "God Things"?

They beat Him within an inch of His life, paraded Him out of town, stripped Him and nailed Him to a tree. Some of them ignored Him and passed by on the other side of the road. Some of them figured He was getting what He deserved. Some of them wept.

I wonder if any of them thought "this must be a God Thing"? LOVE is a God Thing, isn't it?



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

8:45 AM 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Matthew 17: 1 - 9
"The Mountaintop"
Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS

Leadership Consecration Service on February 15th

We had to delay our leadership consecration service this year due to the weather on January 25. However, we will be acknowledging our 2026 lay leadership on Sunday, February 15, and sharing a list of leaders for you to be in prayer for this year.



Office Closed – Presidents Day

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, February 16, in observance of Presidents Day. We will reopen during normal office hours on Tuesday, February 17.

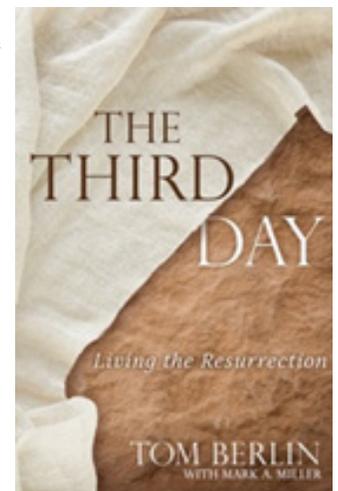
LENTEN LUNCHESES BEGIN ON ASH WEDNESDAY

During the season of Lent, the United Women in Faith will host Lenten Lunches from 12:00–1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Each week, a different speaker will share a chapter from the Lenten book study

The Third Day by Tom Berlin. The first Lenten Lunch will be held on Ash Wednesday, February 18, with Rev. Kaylen Short as the speaker.

Lunches in the following weeks will take place on Thursdays. Cost: \$5 per lunch

- February 26 - Hosts: United Methodist Men | Speaker: Rev. Charles Robinson
- March 5 - Hosts: Marie Lamb Circle | Speaker: Florence Prine
- March 12 - Hosts: Ethel Taylor Circle | Speaker: Danny Beck
- March 19 - Hosts: Friendship Circle | Speaker: Dave Lee
- March 26 - Hosts: Mary Martha Hope Circle | Speaker: Barb Combs
- April 2 - Hosts: To Be Announced | Speaker: Nick Bowden



Questions about the Lenten Lunches, please contact Faye Livingston at 770-401-9761 or fayecl@mindspring.com.

Ash Wednesday Service

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 18, at 6:00 PM. This meaningful service marks the beginning of the Lenten season, offering a time for reflection, prayer, and the imposition of ashes. All are welcome as we begin this sacred journey together.



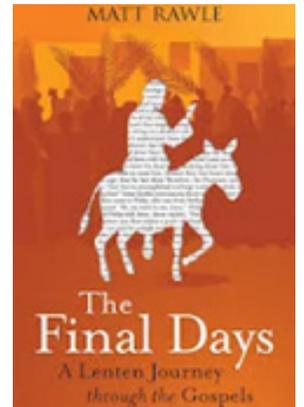
GriefShare Begins February 23

GriefShare will begin on Monday, February 23, from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM in Room B350. This caring and supportive group offers help and encouragement for those grieving the loss of a loved one. If you would like to register or have questions, please contact Carol or Bill Webb at 404-234-1056.

Lenten Bible Study: The Final Days

Join us beginning Tuesday, February 24, - March 31, at 3:00 PM in Room C240.

We will be studying *The Final Days: A Lenten Journey Through the Gospel* by Matt Rawle, walking together through Scripture as we reflect on Christ's final days. Please bring your own book and Bible. The study will be led by Florence Prine. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Florence.



Messy Church - Musical Messy

Join us for Messy Church on Friday, February 28, for a special Musical Messy experience! This interactive, family-friendly evening will include music, creativity, fun activities, and fellowship as we explore faith together in a relaxed and joyful setting. All ages are welcome — come ready to sing, create, and have fun!



Titus II Luncheon – March 3 Titus II will meet at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 3, in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch: \$8 per person (meal provided by a local restaurant) Please reserve your meal with the church office or with Martha Turner by noon on February 24.



Great Day of Service – Mark your Calendars

Mark your calendars for our Great Day of Service on April 18, from 9:00 AM–12:30 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community together through a variety of projects. More details coming soon – we hope you'll plan to join us!



Winter Break is Coming: No Wednesday Night Programs

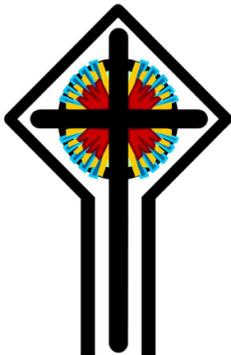
These Wednesday Night Programs will not meet during Winter Break on February 18:

- Wednesday Night Supper
- Children's Choir Programs
- Youth Ministry
- Adult Parenting Group

Our Summer Lunch family is in need of the following items:

- Bedroom dresser ▪ Sofa ▪ Living room chair ▪ Stove

If you are able to donate or help in any way, please contact Cindy Hall at harvecin@charter.net. Thank you!



February 9, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$163,778.81
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$149,357.78
Difference	\$14,421.03

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$459.00

22 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$5,852.83

You can continue your financial support in many ways:

[Online giving: Click here.](#)

Mail check to church or place it in the drop box at the church office.

Use electronic funds transfer with your bank.

Regular Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM (closed 12-1 PM lunch)

Closed Fridays

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays, Wednesdays,
Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM; Thursdays 7:30 AM

NA Meetings: Thursdays 7:30 PM

inspired...

Souper Bowl V - Touchdown!



And here we go! It's been a CAN collecting frenzy all day! Team Kaylen has the ball at the 20... they're breaking tackles... fielding every can that comes their way – 50... 40... 30... **THEY'RE OFF TO THE END ZONE! TOUCHDOWN, TEAM KAYLEN!** They pulled ahead and scored the final touchdown to win Souper Bowl V by 69 cans! What a finish!

Final Count:

1st Place Team Kaylen: 1,178 cans

Team Drew: 1,109 cans

Total: 2,287 cans collected – over 9,600 cans since the first Souper Bowl!

Donations go to Fayette Samaritans, i58 Mission, Promise Place, benevolence families, and families in the Griffin area – your generosity is unstoppable!

