



Riverlawn Presbyterian Church
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www.riverlawnchurch.org



2025

To my family in the faith, may joy and peace be yours in our Savior Jesus, and may His grace abound to you, and through you, so that all may know the powerful love of our great God!

We are about to enter a very significant season - Lent. During this time, the Church, in joy and sorrow, proclaims, remembers, and responds to the atoning death of Christ. It is a time of meditation and preparation - recognizing our need for repentance as well as our need for mercy and forgiveness, which is offered to us in Christ through His sacrifice on the Cross.

As we marvel at the Cross of Christ, I encourage you to meditate on Mark 8.27-38: Jesus asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Why were people wondering if Jesus might be John the Baptist, or Elijah, or one of the prophets? What was so significant about these individuals? What characteristics set them apart? What did they see in the person and works of Jesus that resembled these others? ZEAL! Zeal for the Lord.

In *Walk As Jesus Walked*, Ray Vander Laan states, "God loves His people with great passion and devotion and has always called those who say they love Him to live for Him with zeal - a consuming passion to do His will and vigorously maintain His honor in all circumstances ... godly people are consumed by an ardent zeal to be faithful to God's Word and to exalt him in everything they do, say, and think. Their intensity is obvious to everyone they meet."

This zeal was obvious in the lives of John the Baptist, and Elijah before him. And most of all, this zeal for the Father was displayed in the life of the Son. Jesus was so committed to being faithful to the Father and set on exalting Him above all else that he set his eyes on the cross before him, willingly laying down his life for our salvation, and for the glory of God!

Mark continues: He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

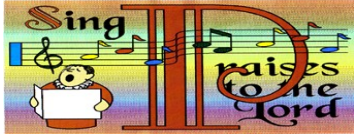
Peter had just confessed that his Master was the Christ, the Messiah, the Chosen One to deliver them. Peter believed it. He was zealous about it. But he was misdirected. He did not understand yet that the deliverance that his Master and Messiah would bring, would come at the price of his life - and the One whom he had followed and grown to love would not only have to die - he would have to suffer the excruciating, humiliating, cursed death of the cross. This is where Jesus' zeal was directed. And this is where Peter's zeal would be directed. And this is where the zeal of every other follower of Jesus, the Christ, must be directed.

Mark continues: He called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Are you modeling self-denial in your pursuit of Jesus? Have you counted the cost of carrying the cross in your own life? Have you considered what it means to lose your life for Jesus and the gospel? How well are you following after Him? May this be our focus - our pursuit - through the season of Lent and throughout our lives.

May we live every day with a zeal for the Lord,

Pastor Chris



MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS March 2025

There will be several special music presentations during the month of March. On March 2nd (Sunday afternoon at 2:00) choir members will be going to English Meadows in Teays Valley to sing for their residents. Riverlawn member, Janet Young, resides there and asked if we could come and share some songs. We plan to sing several anthems and also have a sing-a-long of some familiar and favorite hymns.

During morning worship on March 9th Molly Page, violinist, will be playing. Her solo selections include *His Eye is on the Sparrow* and *The Old Rugged Cross*. On the 16th Dean Pauley will be sharing cello solos. He will be playing *Be Thou My Vision* which is based on the Irish folk tune SLANE. Slane is a village on a steep hillside on the River Boyne in County Meath in Ireland. Dean will also be playing a hymn arrangement on *Jesus Paid It All*. Both Molly and Dean will be accompanying the choir on their anthems. I am looking forward to having them join us.

Besides celebrating St. Patrick's Day this month we will usher in the season of spring on the 20th. I think we're all ready to say good-bye to the crazy weather of January and February. From Song of Songs 2:11-12.....*The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.*

Looking forward to the beauty of spring and a season of new growth.

Pam



On Wednesday, March 19, Pam Johnson with flautist Aaron Sowards, will present a recital for the Lenten Organ Recital Series at First Presbyterian Church in Charleston. The 30 minute recital will begin at 12:15 and feature hymn arrangements, some congregational singing and chorale tunes. Open to the public and no admission charge.



Join in us on Wednesday nights for Family Night, a time to enjoy friendships and our church family, with dinner at 5:30. Activities for the children and youth begin at 6:15.

WEDNESDAY KITCHEN CREW

March	5	Pam Johnson & Frances Miller
	12	Mimi Albert & Sherry Claar
	19	Pam Johnson
	26	NO Family Night—KCS Spring Break

Available to substitute – Susan Bryan (304) 389-6063



4th	Dawnetta Cook
6th	Gavin Albert
9th	Tom Cottrill
11th	Brynne Shamblin
17th	Finnian Connolly
21st	Greg Cook
23rd	Sarah Wandling
24th	Todd Barrie
25th	Susan Bryan
29th	Parry Johnson Linda Spradling,
30th	Elizabeth Dennis



Saturday, March 29 at 8:30 at Dwight's in St. Albans. A time for fellowship, devotion and prayer.



BITTY BASKETBALL

We have had another great Bitty Basketball season. The last day for games is Saturday, March 8. Besides basketball exercises, they have been learning about the Six Pillars of Character. Awards will be given after the games. Join us on Sunday, March 9 in the sanctuary for the Character Counts Parade of Champions!!



Junior Church is offered for PreK through 5th grade on Sunday mornings after the Children's Message, until 11:30 or when the church service ends.



Choir will meet each Thursday in March at 7:00 p.m.



*Bible Study "How to Hear God" led by Brenda Petry meets on Sundays from 4:00–to 5:00 in the Cottage.

*Ladies Bible Study ("Luke in the Land") will have their final meeting on Monday, March 3 beginning with lunch at 12:15 and lesson at 1:00pm in the adult Sunday School Room.

*Bible study of Romans, Volume 2 with J.D. Greear, lead by Pastor Chris meets Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. in the Cottage. (No meeting Wednesday, March 5 so we can attend the Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30).



PRAYER CONCERNS

Betty Steen (Doris Kellam); Melissa Caldwell (Pastor Chris); Willow Morris (Wanda Smith); Carroll Miller; Jason Haught (Sharon Farley); Kay Craigo (Susan Bryan); Joanna Keller; Mark Brogan (Wanda Smith); Tom Eckenrode (Wanda Smith); Christine Bearia; Dale Dodrill (Randy Dodrill); Darrell Williams (Mary Kathren Watson); Vicky Williams/Herk & Dot McGraw (Wanda Smith); Joe Lothes; David Poe (Wanda Smith); Robin Burnam; Eddie Mcfall (Linda Ross' son); Mike VonDuben (Gayle Michael); Greg Cook (Dawnetta Cook); Collin Recknagel (Adam & Sandra Recknagel); Lois Jackson (Todd Barrie); Emma Rose Cavender; Kathy Barnes; Elbert Taylor; Caroline Dodrill; Jane Lothes; Arlis Miller (Joe Lothes); Sarah Wandling; Gretna Michels (Susan Bryan); Angel Grover (Brenda Petry); Linda Monday; Ernie Powell; Travis Keller (Ray Keller); Pam Mullins; Lori Goodwin (Brenda Petry); Betty McAdam; Sherry Ellis; Elizabeth Thompson (Bill Bryan); Missy Sneed; Abby Goff/Anthony Smith/Renee Bird (Wanda Smith); Jenna Meadows; Dave Ryan; JB Recknagel; Janet Young; Mick Hughes (Caroline Dodrill); and for the Global Church that we may embody the gospel to all.



Visitation Teams/Schedule

Week of:	
March 2	Mary Reppert/Sharon Herndon
March 9	Mimi Albert/Jamie Albert
March 16	Linda Wilson/Steve Wilson
March 23	Linda Monday/Parry Johnson
March 30	Robin Burnam/Joe Lothes



BUILDING SECURITY

*After church lock-up for March is Linda Monday.
*After hours security check for March:

Week of:		
2	Joe Lothes	23 Randy Dodrill
9	Dennis Emmett	30 Brenda Petry/ Rosie Rhodes
16	Larry Hyatt	

If you are unable to cover the security check on your scheduled week, please let Pat Croghan know (304)989-1894.

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2025 Riverlawn Elders and Board of Deacons

Elders

Jamie Albert, Clerk of Session, Community & Family Ministries, Evangelism
681-340-1128; James.macd.albert@gmail.com

Dennis Emmett, Finance & Stewardship
304-610-7535; emmett@suddenlink.net

Sharon Herndon, Christian Nurture
304-444-2071; Polecat818@hotmail.com

Parry Johnson, Buildings & Grounds
304-926-4745; Parryjohnson1@gmail.com

Joe Lothes, Missions
304-767-8313; fishlothes@hotmail.com

Steve Wilson, Worship & Fellowship
304-741-7890; stevewillie@suddenlink.net

03/16 Session via Zoom, 2:00pm

Deacons

Mimi Albert—304-546-6547
Mimialbert72@yahoo.com

Robin Burnam – 304-722-5665
robinsnestsawv@hotmail.com

Linda Monday – 304-541-4927
lindadmonday@gmail.com

Mary Reppert—304-419-2755
Reppert.mary@gmail.com

Linda Wilson – 304-741-3113
Linda.wilson867@gmail.com

03/09 Deacon's Meeting following worship.

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Friday, March 21

## Nurturing Faith Ideas

**March 2: Transfiguration of the Lord—Read Luke 9:28-36** Peter, James, and John had a “mountaintop experience” as they witnessed Jesus’ transfiguration, or transformation, and heard a voice from a cloud, God, say, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” How do we listen to Jesus today? What might Jesus be saying to you?

**March 9: First Sunday in Lent—Read Luke 4:1-12** The Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Lent always tells the story of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. We, too, are tempted like Jesus was, and we have to choose what we are going to do, whether we are going to follow God or follow another. With others around your table or email, share a decision you have made that you think pleased God.

**March 16: Second Sunday in Lent—Read Psalm 27** Life isn’t always easy. People can be mean. Circumstances can be challenging. We struggle with work or school. We feel like we don’t belong, or we aren’t important, or we’re insignificant. But God is there for us. The psalmist reminds us that God is our light when life seems dark, and God provides us protection, so we don’t need to be afraid.

**March 23: Third Sunday in Lent—Read Isaiah 55:6-9** The season of Lent is a time to reflect on our lives as we prepare for Jesus’ death and resurrection. This is a good time to consider where we have failed to be faithful and obedient to God’s ways. When we confess our sins, admit our wrongs, we do so without fear for God is gracious and quick to forgive. Is there anything you need to ask forgiveness for? God is ready to hear your prayer.

**March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent—Read Luke 15:11b-32** Lost and found. A story of two sons and their father. A story about God who celebrates with joy when the lost are found and seeks out those who’ve never left to join in the celebration. Who are you most like in the story? Give thanks to God for welcoming all because I suspect we’re like both sons at different times.

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Riverlawn Strives To

Purge ourselves of pride by focusing on glorifying God
Teach the truth through fellowship & discipleship
Demonstrate a life of love through service to others
Share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those in need

4 **Purge Pride, Teach Truth, Live Love**

Join us for the **2025 St. Albans Lenten Series – “Loving God by Serving Others”**

Services begin Wednesdays at Noon, followed by lunch and fellowship!

Mar. 12	St. Mark’s Episcopal	Speaker: Rev. Jacob Henley (St. Peter & Humphreys Mem.)
Mar. 19	St. Paul Missionary Baptist	Speaker: Rev. Sheila Radocio (Robinson UMC)
Mar. 26	Riverlawn Presbyterian	Speaker: Rev. Darick Biondi (St. Andrew UMC)
April 2	St. Andrew United Methodist	Speaker: Rev. Chris Kilbert (Riverlawn Presbyterian)
April 9	Gateway	Speaker: Pastor James Mullins (Goodwyn’s Chapel)

Sponsored by the St. Albans Ministry Alliance

Our local benevolences:

Christ’s Kitchen, Community Bridge, Gabriel Project, Hezekiah House, Jericho House, Jubilee Emergency Assistance, St. Albans Food Pantry, St. Paul Community Economic Development Corporation

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**Dates to Remember**

- 03/03 Women’s Bible Study—Last meeting Monday
- 03/05 Ash Wednesday Service – 6:30pm following Family Night dinner
- 03/05 Romans Small Group— Wednesdays 6:15pm (**No meeting Wednesday, March 5 so we can attend the Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30**).
- 03/08 Final Day of Bitty Basketball – Awards Ceremony will be included after each game
- 03/09 Character Counts Sunday - Slideshow of the 2025 Bitty Basketball Season will be shown
- 03/09 Deacons Meeting - following worship
- 03/09 Bible Study—”How to Hear God—4pm
- 03/12 Lenten Service & Lunch – St. Mark’s Episcopal – Noon
- 03/16 Session Meeting - 2:00pm - via Zoom
- 03/19 Lenten Service & Lunch – St. Paul Missionary Baptist – Noon
- 03/22 Festival of Faith – First Presbyterian Charleston – 9:00am-3:45pm
- 03/26 Lenten Service & Lunch – **at Riverlawn** – Noon
- 03/29 Men’s Prayer Breakfast – Dwight’s – 8:30am
- 04/02 Lenten Service & Lunch – St. Andrew United Methodist – Noon – Pastor Chris preaching
- 04/09 Lenten Service & Lunch – Gateway Church – Noon
- 04/13 Palm Sunday – Easter Music Program – 10:30am
- 04/18 Good Friday Tenebrae – **at Riverlawn** – 7:00pm – a joint service with 1st Presby St. Albans, Highlawn Presby, and 1st Presby Nitro
- 04/20 Easter Sunrise Service – 7:00am – Cunningham Memorial – Upper Mausoleum
- 04/25-04/27 Guys Weekend – Bluestone Camp & Retreat
- 05/02-05/03 Colombia Mission Two-Day Yard Sale