



MIDWAY MESSENGER

3238 Midway Road, Anderson, SC 29621



Friends in Christ,

It has been a joy to begin the year as pulpit supply and worshipping with the congregation of Midway Presbyterian Church and I am now looking forward to serving as your Stated Supply pastor. I appreciate the warm welcome you have already given me. Over the last several weeks I have had an opportunity to meet and have conversation with some of you. I am eager for those opportunities for conversations to continue as I learn more about you and the Midway Church.

February 14th is Valentine's Day but this year it is also Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of the season of Lent. There will be a Worship service at noon that day and I hope many of you can be there (and consider inviting a friend). As a spiritual practice, many people will 'give up' something during this season. It can also be especially meaningful to 'take up' something new as a practice during Lent. This could be a time to try a new spiritual discipline such as journaling, reading a Lenten devotional, trying a prayer practice such as centering prayer.

This year the lectionary takes us into the gospel of Mark. The 40 days of Lent could be an opportunity to read this short gospel and then consider it through the lens of Lectio Divina (divine reading). Briefly, in this practice, the text is read through slowly several times; then time is spent thinking about the text; that leads to a time of prayer followed by a time of simply resting in God's presence.

Regardless of how you mark this season, we will worship together during the six Sundays as well as Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. Hope to see you there.

Grace and Peace,
Peggy



Prayer and Sympathy

Our Christian love and sympathy are expressed to the families of:

Frances Hanks Wentzky at her death on January 2.
Jacky Ray Stamps at his death on January 9.

2-Cents-a-Meal

On Fifth Sundays, as well as at our Congregational Dinners, we are receiving the "2-Cents-a-Meal" Offering. This offering originated in 1976 as a project of Presbyterian women in seeking to improve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger.

The schedule for this year is:

March 31—Blue Dragonfly
1st Quarter— Good Neighbor Cupboard
June 30—Blue Dragonfly
2nd Quarter—Meals on Wheels
September 29—Blue Dragonfly
3rd Quarter—Fishes and Loaves
December 29—Blue Dragonfly
4th Quarter—Presbytery Cents Ability

With our 2-Cents-a Meal Offering members and friends are encouraged to set aside 2-cents (or whatever seems appropriate) for every meal we enjoy. This act represents an expression of gratitude for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others who are less fortunate—to be like the good Samaritan of Luke 10, and not pass by on the other side.

Presbytery Meeting

Marilyn Mamrick has been elected Principal Commissioner, and Bob Bone as Alternate Commissioner, to the Stated Meeting of Foothills Presbytery, February 20, 2024. The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. at Fountain Inn Presbyterian Church.



Congregational Dinner Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 11, Midway will participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Wear your favorite team colors to a lunch featuring soup and sandwiches in the Fellowship Hall following Worship.

This year canned goods and packaged items will go to Good Neighborhood Cupboard.

Ash Wednesday

Mark your calendars for a special Ash Wednesday Service to be held in the sanctuary at noon on February 14 (the first day of Lent). Everyone will be invited to receive the Imposition of Ashes.



We Welcome Rev. Peggy Swann as our Stated Supply Pastor. Peggy is a lifelong Presbyterian and second career pastor. She was ordained as a deacon and elder before going to seminary and earning a MACE and MDiv. She served at First Presbyterian Church in Sumter and retired from Townville Presbyterian Church. Originally from Asheville, she and her husband, Jerry, have two adult children.

February Jar Offering

Our Jar Offering for February will go to Clean Start. This organization is staffed completely by volunteers. They provide a facility where the homeless can shower, launder their clothes, and receive much-needed clothing and hygiene items. Their continuation is highly dependent on the support of area churches. You can also help by bringing men's and women's razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste, small deodorants, soap, face clothes, and gently used clothing. Boxes are available in the vestibule for donations throughout the month. Thank you for helping our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in need of our care.

Financial Report as of January 25, 2024

Budget Needs to Date	\$ 9,045.00
Budget Receipts to Date	\$ 8,569.39
Spent to Date	\$ 9,775.95
Special Offerings	\$ 282.32
Heat & A/C Offerings	\$ 15,479.00

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
~2 Corinthians 9:7

Great thanks to Ginny and Ray for their loving care of Brenda & Jacky and Bob & Elnor during these past three months. They've quietly attended to so many needs, and their care and attention is noticed and appreciated by their Midway family as well as by the Harrell and Stamps families. We are blessed with people in our congregation who attend to needs without any fanfare, but it's good to occasionally send kudos and gratitude.

Notes we received from:

Bobbi Wicker (Niece of Frances Wentzky)

Thank you for the delicious lunch you prepared for our family! Frances loved her church!

Bill Wires Board Member, The Champions Center

Our Board of Directors would like to pause and simply say "Thank you" for supporting our mission to serve children with special needs. Know that you have played a part this year in making a positive difference in their lives...and we are grateful. Thank you for being a CHAMPION!

Laura Lindsley, Executive Director, Calvary Home for Children

Thank you for changing little lives in BIG ways in 2023! Because of your generosity, we cared for 35 children. Many of these children have benefited from the stability of being on campus for over a year. We are reminded daily that is is not only about caring for children, but this is kingdom work for Christ. Thanks you for investing in Calvary Home and our children.

Hannah Wimpey, Board member with Family Promise of Anderson

I wanted to thank you and your church for your quarterly giving! I've seen many families come through our program and succeed. We hope to add another house to our program so we can help more families at one time, so we are so appreciative of any gift!

Anna Hull, Clinton Presbyterian Communities of SC

Thank you for your gifts at Christmas, the items were greatly appreciated. May God bless you as you serve others.

Catherine Reed, Chief Executive Officer (MDA)

On behalf of Magen David Adom (MDA) and the countless people who will benefit from your gift, please accept our deepest appreciation. Your generosity is supporting MDA's mission as Israel's emergency response, blood services, and disaster relief organization.

SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Pulpit

- Feb. 4 Dee Ashworth
- 11 Bob Bone
- 18 Kent Saunders
- 25 Tom Waddell

Head Usher

- Feb. 4 Tom Waddell
- 11 Keith Wentzky
- 18 Elaine Gilmore
- 25 Marilyn Martin

Sunday School Secretaries

- Feb. 4 Sammy Stevenson
- 11 Bob Bone
- 18 Amy Morris
- 25 Sammy Stevenson



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Feb. 2 Wayne Croft
- 9 Judy Peters
- 17 Hazel McCallum
- 23 Bill Rexroad
- 24 Brenda Stamps



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Feb. 16 Jim & Linda Mylod 23rd
- 22 Ray & Ginny Keiper 55th



Our Fulbright scholar (Larisa Mistrean) and her 16-year-old daughter (Bianca) have arrived safely and are getting acclimated to their temporary home in the manse. A special thanks for the household items, organizing, and cleaning to everyone who came out in December to prepare the manse.

Larisa is working with the College of Business at Anderson University during the week. Bianca is taking classes at T.L. Hanna. You can contact Larisa via email (mistrean_larisa@ase.md) to set up a time to visit and/or take her and Bianca out for a meal or sightseeing. Thanks, Kent.

Bob Bone and Elaine Gilmore were installed to the Office of Elder in the Class of 2026 on December 31, 2023. And Kent Saunders was ordained and installed to the Office of Elder in the Class of 2026.



On Sunday, December 31, 2023 we said good-bye to John & Hazel McCallum who faithfully served Midway for 12 years.



Cleaning Crew getting manse ready for our guests (Linda Mylod was taking the picture)

Haven of Rest Benefit Concert featuring Greater Vision

The Annual Benefit Concert for Haven of Rest featuring Greater Vision will be held Friday, March 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Temple Baptist Church, 2905 Standridge Rd. Anderson, SC. Admission is \$15.00. Tickets are for sale at The Haven of Rest office, 219 W. Whitner St., Anderson and are available for sale at the concert.