SWIFT CREEK CHRONICLER

Even now—
this is the Lord's declaration—
turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning.
Tear your hearts, not just your clothes, and return to the Lord your God. For he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger,
abounding in faithful love, and he relents from sending disaster.
Joel 2:12–13 (CSB)

Dear Swift Creek Family,

As we approach the sacred season of Lent, my heart is full of gratitude for the way God continues to shape us as a church. Lent is not merely a date on the calendar; it is an invitation - a holy summons - to slow down, look inward, and draw nearer to the heart of Christ.

Over the next several weeks (starting Feb 18th Ash Wednesday), I want to encourage each of us to prepare our hearts intentionally and with openness to the Holy Spirit's work.

Lent begins with the reminder that repentance is not about shame, it is about renewal. Scripture teaches that when we turn from sin and turn toward God, He restores, refreshes, and revives us. Repentance clears the clutter of the soul so that the grace of Christ can fill every corner of our lives. My prayer is that we would embrace repentance as a gift, trusting that God meets us not with condemnation but with mercy.

Lent also calls us to remember the cost of our salvation. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was not symbolic - it was real, painful, and purposeful. As we reflect on His love, we are reminded that following Him involves surrender. Sacrifice is not about losing something; it is about making room for something greater. May we learn to lay down what hinders us so that we may take up what leads us closer to Him.

Fasting has long been a practice that helps God's people refocus their hearts. Whether it is fasting from food, media, habits, or distractions, the purpose is the same: to create space for God. When we fast, we train our hearts to hunger for what truly satisfies. I encourage you to prayerfully consider how God might be inviting you to fast this Lent - not out of obligation, but out of desire to know Him more deeply.

Ultimately, Lent leads us to the cross. Every reflection, every prayer, every act of repentance and sacrifice points us to Christ - the One who bore our sin, carried our sorrow, and conquered death. As a church, let us journey together with our **eyes fixed on Christ**. May His love shape our worship, His humility shape our service, and His victory shape our hope.

Swift Creek, I believe God has something meaningful for us this Lent. Let's walk this path together with expectant hearts, trusting that the Lord will meet us, transform us, and prepare us for the joy of Resurrection Sunday.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Jason

Deacon Update

Deacon Update

The Deacons met on January 7, 2026. Peter Walker opened the meeting with a devotion focusing on change and priorities. We need to remember that each day is a gift and offers an opportunity for a new beginning. God is our hope, authority, joy, love and resurrection.

The old business began with a brief announcement that the Music Search Committee interviewed a new candidate on December 19, 2025. Several committee members were unable to attend, but the recorded Zoom will be shared with all members. The Grounds/ Cemetery Committee will be contacted and encouraged to continue their search for medallion grave markers for military personnel.

The new business began with a discussion about Swift Creek Kids during the worship service. Jason will meet with the Children and Youth Committee and the Director to discuss future plans. The second item discussed was the Homeschool's use of our facility. Many concerns have been raised with them, and no corrections have been made. The deacons recommend that the contract be allowed to expire without renewal.

Pastor Jason provided further updates to the calendar:
February 3 - preaching at WCA
February 11 - Church Conference
February 18 - Ash Wednesday
February 24 - Pastor away at a conference
March 29 - Communion
There is a conversation about the April 5 SonRise Service – updates to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennie Jones

Women On Mission

W.O.M. met on January 15th to plan for upcoming events and mission projects for this year. We were pleased to have two new ladies join our meeting. We would love to have other ladies in the church join us at our monthly meeting on the third Thursday of the month. We also serve at With Love From Jesus on the fourth Thursday of each month. We meet in the church parking lot to carpool over to WLFJ at 9:00 am. We would love for you to join us any time you can.

W.O.M. continues to pray for and support PreBorn with our personal donations. PreBorn's mission is to save babies from abortion by simply providing an ultrasound for the mothers in hopes that when they hear the heartbeat and see their baby they will choose life for their baby. PreBorn also shares the gospel of Jesus Christ with these mothers and they offer assistance for the first two years of life. Please pray for the PreBorn Ministry and consider making a donation. If you have any questions or if you want to know more about PreBorn, please contact Robin Atkins or Agnes Lasher.

In His Service,
Robin Atkins and the Ladies of W.O.M.

February Fellowship Meal

2nd Wednesday / Quarterly Conference Fellowship Meal will be on February 11th at 5:00 pm.

This meal is by donation with the proceeds going toward designated church projects.

Please don't forget to sign up at the information center if you plan to attend. Signing up helps determine how much to purchase and prepare.

Menu: Baked Spaghetti, Salad, Bread and Dessert.



Valentine's Brunch
You are Invited
Friday, February 13
at 10:00 am

Everyone is invited. We do ask that you sign up at the information center if you plan to attend.

~FEBRUARY~



February 9 Lorraine Norton
February 9 Susan Moore
February 10 Teresa Atkins
February 11 Eloise Walker
February 13 Trudy Byron
February 14 JoAnna Dawson
February 19 Lindy Dunham
February 27 David Holmes
February 27 Lynn Pierce

Nursery/ Pre School

February	Sharon Lawrence
March	Sarah Jones
April	Dianne Davis

Monthly Schedule Swift Creek Kids

1st Sunday	Pat Mills
2nd Sunday	LaRue Holmes
3rd Sunday	Sue Mulvihill
4th Sunday	Children in Service

Thank you!

February at a Glance

1	Brotherhood Breakfast	8:45 am
3	Deacons Meeting	6:30 pm
4	Bible Study	6:00 pm
8	Finance Meeting following service	
11	Fellowship Meal	5:00 pm
	Quarterly Conference	6:00 pm
13	Valentine's Brunch	10:00 am
18	Ash Wednesday Service	6:00 pm
19	WOM	10:30 am
25	CARE	9:30 am
25	Bible Study	6:00 pm

Happy Anniversary

February 11
Jack & Susan Rollins



Brotherhood Breakfast
February 1, 2026
8:45 am

Children & Youth

Hopefully you are all staying warm this February! As I am writing this we are expecting a TON of snow this weekend! When I see the bright, white snow covering everything, I think of Psalm 51. In this Psalm, David is asking God to "create a new heart in him", and in verse 7 he asks God to "wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." As we go about our days (and hopefully get to enjoy some snow!) let's be grateful for Jesus' sacrifice that enables us to be cleansed of our sin and make us whiter than snow!

In February, the children and youth will have a couple of events including a dinner for the youth and a Valentine's celebration for the children. More details of these events will come later and will be in the bulletins as well as the Church's social media.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns. I'm also here for you as a source of support and encouragement. If you have any prayer needs or just need someone to listen, I'm here for you!

My email is youth@swiftcreekchurch.com, my phone number is 984-329-6594, and my office hours are Thursdays from 9am-12pm if you'd like to meet up in person.

Philip

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