



# Weekly News at Paw Creek

February 11, 2021

## Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor...

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*Paw Creek Presbyterian*

*Church is on:*

*Facebook and YouTube*

### Sunday Worship via Livestream only in February

Dear Paw Creek,

I guess it's fitting that the season of Lent (at least here in the Northern Hemisphere) begins in the midst of winter. The days are still short, the sun hangs low in the sky, and temperatures remain on the chilly side. Our whole experience works to instill the longing for something different, something yet to come that will feel like a new beginning. When Lent begins next Wednesday, and we symbolically mark our foreheads with the dust and ashes of death, we will do so out of longing for life. We do this in solidarity with all people and with the groaning creation itself. But we also do it specifically as followers of Christ, who already know that new life is precisely what waits for us in so many ways - at the end of Lent, but also in God's blessings at the end every season of struggle, and supremely in the coming kingdom of heaven. This year of all years, we enter into Lent with the urgent desire for a new dawning. Let us go boldly with hope as well, hope born of the gospel truth that resurrection awaits.

February 17 - Wednesday of next week - will be Ash Wednesday. On that day we will usher in Lent in two ways:

**Ash Wednesday worship** will take place as a Zoom meeting only (no live stream on Facebook or YouTube). The service begins at 6:30 - we will start the Zoom meeting at 6:15 so that everyone can get logged in. The order of worship is included with this week's letter, and can be downloaded on our church website. Since we will each be in our own homes, we will be free of masks and distancing guidelines, and that will allow us to pray, read, shout and sing together on Zoom.

The ID for the Ash Wednesday Zoom service is 811 2469 1045.

If you are not familiar with Zoom, there are two ways to join.

- (1) Go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) on the internet ahead of time and download the Zoom app; on Wednesday, open the app and enter the ID 811 2469 1045. You can use a computer, tablet or smartphone.
- (2) To connect by telephone only (you can hear and speak, but will not be able to see the others), dial 646-558-8656, and when prompted enter the ID 811 2469 1045. You can use any phone (cell or land-line), but be sure you have unlimited callings since this is a long-distance number.

**Lenten Devotions** will begin. In the next few days, every household in the church will receive a mailing with a booklet of daily devotions for Lent. The booklet has been provided by our denominational magazine *Presbyterians Today* and focuses on the journey to peace and wholeness during Lent. I hope you and your family will consider using these devotions on a daily basis during the season, and also take time to share thoughts and reactions with the rest of the church family, so that we can learn from each other. To make that interaction possible during this time of social distancing, we have a new blog that we can access to leave comments and read what others have written each day. It is called "Reflections from Paw Creek" and is found at [pawcreekreflections.blogspot.com](http://pawcreekreflections.blogspot.com). Please have a look at the letter that you will find in your mailing for more details about how it will work.

In the words of the ancient liturgy of Ash Wednesday, "we are invited, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent". May that be possible for all of us, as we set our sights on the resurrection freedom that lies ahead.

In prayers this week, please remember especially the family of Don Joy. As you know by now, Don was found on Sunday evening after being lost for several days. It's been a hard road for his family, and for our community. May God give them comfort in these days. Don's funeral will be a graveside service on Monday, 2:00 pm at Forest Lawn - friends are invited to attend, due to health restrictions there will be no formal visitation scheduled.

And also, we pray for:

Barbara and Willie O'Connor, cousins of Eddie and Dickie Chapman; Willie is very ill with a brain tumor.

Jimmy Puckett and his family, a member of the community who suffered a serious stroke last week.

Skip Todd, who is scheduled for gall bladder surgery on Friday.

Mr. Paul McCarthy, Patrick's father, who is hospitalized in Maine.

Doris Edwards, Kim Whittington's Aunt who had a massive stroke yesterday.

Blessings,

Elliott



If you have keys to the Church and are not currently on the Session or a Committee, we ask that you please turn the keys back in to the Church Office.

Thank you! ~ Property Committee

**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • February 14, 2021**  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Via Live Stream - Facebook and YouTube links at [pawcreekpc.org](http://pawcreekpc.org)

**Welcome**

*Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

**Prelude**

*Chorale Prelude*

Dietrich Buxtehude

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise the LORD in the heights.  
Praise the LORD, all you holy angels;  
praise the LORD, all heavenly host.  
Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for the name of the LORD only is exalted,  
and the splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.

**Hymn 385**

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

*All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell. Come ye before him and rejoice.*

*Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk; he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.*

*O enter then his gates with praise; approach will joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.*

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and ever-living God, your Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and restored them to wholeness of life. Look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your power make whole all peoples and nations. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Scripture Reading**

Mark 2: 1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy!

Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – he said to the paralytic – "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

**Hymn 343**

*"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"*

*Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan,  
above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.*

*O Master, from the mountainside, make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
among these restless throngs abide; O tread the city's streets again.*

**Sermon**

*Jesus saw their faith*

**Offertory**

Offerings for God's work through Paw Creek Church are gratefully received in the baskets by the entrance and exits to the sanctuary, or by mail to the church office.

**Prayers of God's People**

Beginning with announcements and prayer concerns; and concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*

**Hymn 475**

*"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace,  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.*

*Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!*

*Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.*

*Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;*

*here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Crown Him Lord of All*

Diadem; arr. Martin

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*Elliott Hipp, Pastor • Mark Burlison, Pianist • Patrick McCarthy, Director of Music/Soloist  
Clint Shaw, Video and Streaming • Worship Committee, Arrangements*

*Guest Organist, Suzanne Lowery*

# Ash Wednesday

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church  
February 17, 2021 at 6:30 pm • Zoom meeting ID 811 2469 1045

**You may wish to have some dirt from the garden or a potted plant to use during this service.**

Greeting (from Psalm 46 - responsive)

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**God's love endures forever.**

\* Hymn 829

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

Prayer (unison)

**Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy. In Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Scripture

Psalm 103

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all the benefits of the LORD, who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities; who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness; who satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's. The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed. To Moses were made known God's ways and to the children of Israel the works of the LORD. The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD will not always accuse us nor remain angry forever. The LORD has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is the LORD's mercy great upon the God-fearing. As far as the east is from the west, so far has the LORD removed our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children, so does the LORD care for the God-fearing. For the LORD knows whereof we are made and remembers that we are but dust. Our days are like the grass; we flourish like a flower of the field; when the wind goes over it, it is gone, and its place shall know it no more. But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures forever on the God-fearing, and the righteousness of the LORD on children's children; on those who keep the holy covenant and remember the commandments and do them. The LORD has set up a throne in heaven, and the sovereignty of the LORD has dominion over all. Bless the LORD, you holy angels, you mighty ones who do God's bidding, and hearken to the voice of God's word. Bless the LORD, all you holy hosts, you holy ministers who do God's will. Bless the LORD, all you works of God, in all places of God's dominion; bless the LORD, O my soul.

Scripture (Continued)

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near – a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of the community of Christ's disciples.

We are invited, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

Let us bow before God, our Creator and Redeemer, and confess our sin, with the words of the Psalmist:

Psalm 51 (responsive)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,**

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

### Imposition of Dust and Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

### Prayer (unison)

**God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\* Hymn 835

*Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

### Blessing and Charge (responsive)

May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being – spirit, soul, and body – free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymns are on the following pages**

# My Faith Looks Up to Thee 829



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day; wipe sor - row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way; nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!





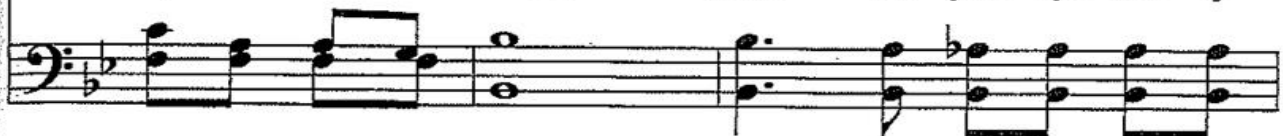
# Just a Closer Walk with Thee 835



Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,  
 1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,  
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I  
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for



Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to  
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as  
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den  
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly



thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.  
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Ref.  
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Ref.  
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. Ref.



## Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

P.O. BOX 64  
Paw Creek, NC 28130-0064

**Seek**..... Matthew 6:33  
**Serve** ..... 1 Samuel 12:24  
**Praise**..... Psalm 111:1  
**Love Christ!**.....1 John 4:12

*Lord, we thank you for...*

**Have a Prayer Request?** To put someone on our prayer chain, obtain permission from the person or family involved, then contact either Joy Tyler (phone captain - (704) 399-8040) -or- Ann Cashion (email captain - acatlake@gmail.com)

**Know someone Who Needs a Visit?** Please contact the Church Office or Rev. Elliott Hipp (704) 392-0329

### Online Giving

Paw Creek has now implemented Online Giving for the convenience of church members and our friends who worship with us. Please go to our website at [www.pawcreekpc.org](http://www.pawcreekpc.org) and follow the link on the home page.



Once you click on this link, you will be directed to set up an account. You may make this gift as a one time transaction, or you can set up recurring payments. You may use your bank account information to create this payment, or you may use your debit or credit card. (If you use your debit or credit card, you will also be given the option to add the transaction fee to your payment if you choose to do so)



For those who like to use mobile apps, you can download the app: Give+ and search for Paw Creek Presbyterian Church. Once you have created an account, it will save Paw Creek as your default Church.

### Upcoming Sermon Titles

#### Sunday, February 14

Mark 2: 1-12  
“Jesus Saw Their Faith”

#### Wednesday, February 17

*Ash Wednesday; 6:30pm Via Zoom ONLY*  
(No live-stream or in-person worship)  
Zoom ID 811 2469 1045  
Phone only, dial 301-715-8592 & enter ID

#### Sunday, February 21

*1st Sunday in Lent*  
Genesis 9: 8-17  
“The Bow in the Clouds”

#### Sunday, February 28

*2nd Sunday in Lent*  
Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16  
“What’s in a Name?”