



grapevine



Sedgefield Presbyterian Church

4216 Wayne Road Greensboro, NC 27407 336-299-4061

Email: office@sedgefieldpresbyterian.org Website: www.sedgefieldpresbyterian.org

Greetings SPC family and friends,

This past Sunday I preached from Jeremiah 1:4-10, a passage that reminds us of the prophet's role in speaking truth, disrupting injustice, and calling God's people to transformation.

For hundreds of years—through Israel's kingdom, exile, and conquest—prophets like Samuel, Jonah, Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel were God's radical change agents. They were messengers of divine revelation, deconstructors of unjust systems, and teachers of a moral alternative. Jeremiah embodied the cost of this calling—crying out for repentance, announcing judgment, lamenting, and, in time, proclaiming stunning hope.

But make no mistake: it cost him everything. No polite Sunday morning faith could have sustained him. The God he served was not safe, but neither was God absent. Jeremiah protested his calling, "Truly, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But God did not accept his fear as an excuse. Instead, God declared, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. So do not be afraid, for I am with you."

This divine promise demands audacity—the courage to believe that the Sender knows exactly who is being sent. God's message does not depend on the strength of the messenger. And God's presence gives us a perspective beyond our conflicts and insecurities.

Like Jeremiah, the church is called to serve through its life and mission. Our identity is not self-made; it is given by God. The church's mission is the same as the prophet's: "To pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Jeremiah's work is considered "theo-political"—bringing God's word to bear on real-world injustices. And yet, how often do we hear that the church should not talk about politics? But if we leave politics outside the church doors, how do we speak about justice and mercy?

Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the PC(USA) Advocacy Office, points to a troubling disconnect: the gap between Jesus' core teachings—on human dignity, immigration, care for the poor, and justice—and the political views held by many Christians. He warns that "people are more informed by society than they are by their faith."

We hear much about executive orders. But here, Jesus proclaims divine orders—commands that call us to love and serve. And I don't know about you, but divine orders always trump executive orders, no matter who issues them. If we follow Christ, we must filter everything through his teachings.

And in Matthew 25, Jesus makes those teachings clear:

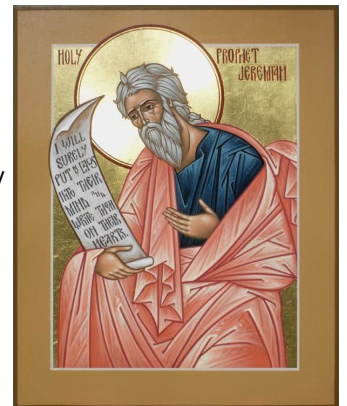
*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me."*

Somewhere along the way, we've confused what is best for our country with what is best for our faith. We have lost our divine orders. The only question is: Will we answer the call? Will we be bearers of love and mercy for those who are afraid?

"We've got to speak out—publicly and consistently," Hawkins urges. "We need to reject, without compromise, policies that stand in direct opposition to who we are called to be and what we are called to do."

Prophets do not volunteer for the job. They are called. And so are we.

"Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you," says the Lord.



Peace, Pastor Kim

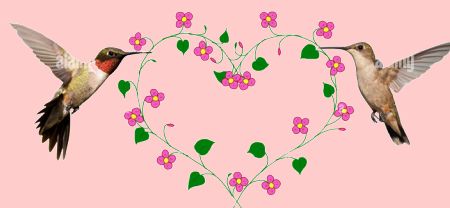
PS- In the coming weeks, there will be opportunities for us to learn how to help those in our community that are scared.

February



- 3 Meghan Hadley
- 14 Henry Morton
- 17 Chip Burch
- 27 Walter Bilbro
- 28 Bruce Bingham
- 29 Bob Stout

Happy Anniversary



February 27

Elaine & Willie Mitchell

Worship Assistants



February	Lay Reader	Usher(s)
2	Zoe	Linda
9	Katie	Reece
16	David	Reece
23	Linda	Karen

Let us welcome
 FEBRUARY &
 take EVERY chance
 to show love
 to all WE meet.

This Month's Highlights

- Every First Sunday, Pennies for Hunger, Communion
- Every 4th Sunday, Benevolence Basket passed,
- Every Tuesday evening, Boy Scout Troop 8 meets

- Sunday, 2/2 4th Sunday after Epiphany; Sunday Serve
- Sunday, 2/9 5th Sunday after Epiphany;
 Session meeting, noon; "Souper Bowl" Sunday
- Friday, 2/14 St. Valentine's Day
- Sunday, 2/16 6th Sunday after Epiphany; Refreshments after
 Worship; Sunday Serve
- Monday, 2/17 Presidents' Day
- Sunday, 2/23 7th Sunday after Epiphany; Inspiro Youth Choir
- Tuesday, 2/25 Women's Fellowship Dinner



Sunday, February 9th

Donations will be collected following worship

All donations will go to the
 Spartan Open Pantry,
 which provides food for
 UNCG and Greensboro
 College students.





Prayer LIST

God calls us to be a praying people. Being in a faith community together, we join our hearts and voices to offer our prayers for one another. Continue to keep these people in your prayers.

Lia Ines Huddleston (Leisa Huddleston's granddaughter)
 The Gehlings' granddaughter, Wren, has RSV
 Donna Bennett (had open heart surgery 1/9/25)
 Linda Otis, Jef Morgan's sister, in hospice care
 Liz & Mickey Humble
 Joan Ryan (sister of Barbara Haynes)
 Yvonne Juszczak (Ana Gray's mother)
 Valsa Lawrence
 Nick Doss
 Jean Stewart
 Phil Martin
 Billy O'Brien (Britt Styers' husband)
 Pete McMillian
 Kasey Redfern
 Ned McMillian
 Shirley Bell (Sheryl Bell's mother)
 Daniel Wilkerson (Tim's nephew)
 Lee Oliver
 Classie Meredith
 Joann Smith
 Helen Boyer (Karen Johnson's mother)
 Judy Spillers (sister of Teresa Caine)
 Glenda Neal (friend of Teresa Caine)

Note: Prayer requests should be sent to the church office at office@sedgefieldpresbyterian.org.

Elders

Session Class of 2025:

Meghan Hadley
 Zoe Dillard

Session Class of 2026:

Drake Mitchell
 Ellen Morton

Session Class of 2027:

Reece Craven
 Nancy Halpin

Session Snippets

- **Tim Saunders** rotated off of Session and we are thankful for his 3 years as Elder.
- **Karen Johnson** will stay on as Clerk of Session
- **Nancy Halpin & Reece Craven** attended their first meeting
- **We will need to replace Kim's laptop soon**
- **Inspiro** will sing at worship on February 23rd and we will take up a Love Offering
- **Millis Road Elementary** has asked us to help with a Teacher Appreciation breakfast
- **May 3** will be our Annual Plant Sale

**SEDGEFIELD
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESCHOOL**

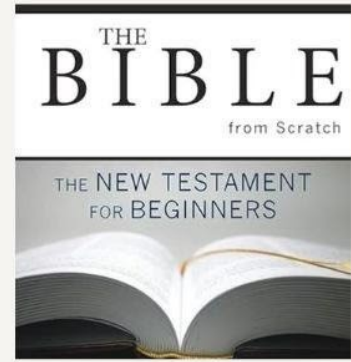
Support our Preschool!

Consider linking your VIC card to code 3278. This way, each time you shop at Harris Teeter and purchase **Harris Teeter brand products**, a percentage of your purchase will go to the Sedgefield Presbyterian Church Preschool.



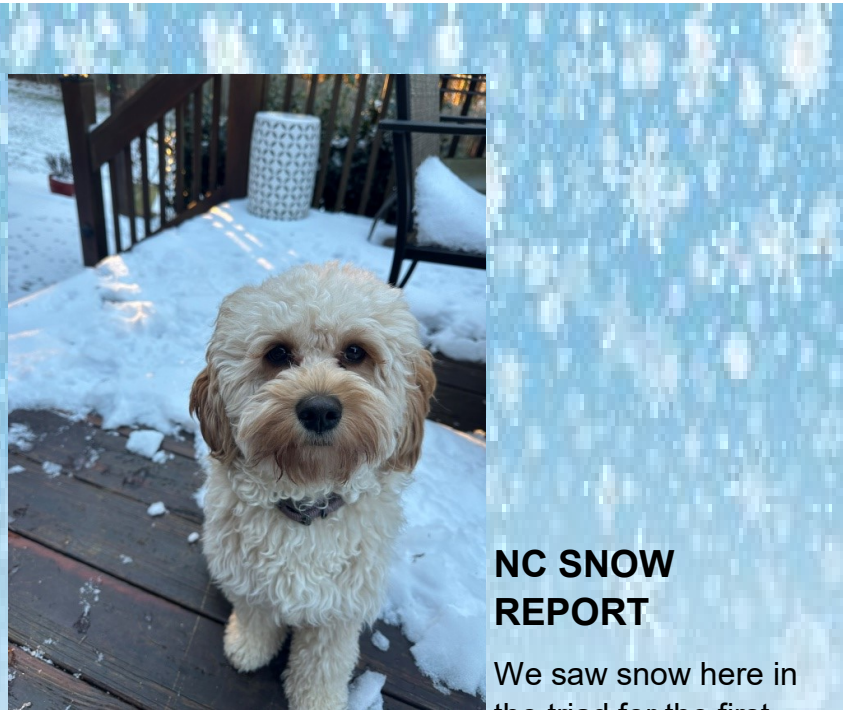
2024 Financial Statements are completed and ready for you to pick up.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



Starting Sunday, Jan 12 at 10am

WE'LL BEGIN OUR JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE FROM SCRATCH: THE NEW TESTAMENT FOR BEGINNERS BY DONALD GRIGGS. WHETHER YOU'RE A SEASONED SCHOLAR OR NEW TO THE BIBLE, THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU HERE. JOIN US SUNDAYS IN THE LIBRARY!

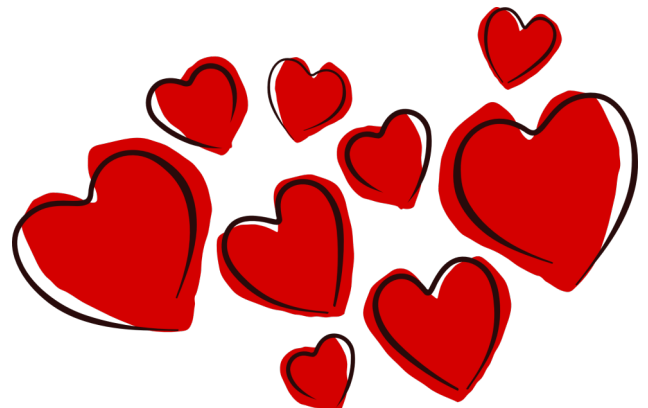


NC SNOW REPORT

We saw snow here in the triad for the first time since January 2022!
It was the first snowfall Chloe had experienced.
(Born: January 6, 2023)
She loved it!

**VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL**

July 14-17, 2025 | Sedgefield Presbyterian
5:30pm - 7:30 pm | 4216 Wayne Road





Congregational Care



CHURCH CONNECTION

We have a great group of church members that work to keep our youth that are away from home connected to Sedgefield Presbyterian Church. Each group takes a month or two and reminds these youth that we are thinking of them. One month may be a card; another may be a gift card or goodie box. Are you interested in this mission? Let Linda Price know. lindaprice452@gmail.com



All women are invited to join us for our monthly Fellowship Dinner. February's dinner will be **Tuesday, February 25 at 6 pm.**

Location to be announced later.



Sedgefield Pres WOMENS RETREAT August 8-10

Join us for meaningful fellowship, inspiring study, and moments of relaxation and joy. Come and rejuvenate your spirit while making lasting connections and unforgettable memories!



Women's Connection 2025 at Montreat

Rabbi Amy-Jill Levine, a trailblazing scholar and acclaimed author, bridges the worlds of New Testament and Jewish Studies, fostering interfaith understanding through her teaching, extensive publications, and dedication to countering exclusionary biblical interpretations.

Details:

- Amy-Jill Levine's keynote Friday evening
- We'll stay in a local rental
- We'll enjoy meals together
- Pricing will be determined based on interest

RSVP with serious interest prior to Friday, Feb 7. We will book a home based on this number.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE



<https://triadyouthchoir.org/>

Sedgefield is excited to host
INSPIRO: THE TRIAD YOUTH CHOIR
in preparation for their DC Summer Choir Tour

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD IN WORSHIP

A love offering will be collected



Benevolence Ministry

Did you know?



- As of 2024, the federal poverty threshold is an annual income of **\$31,200 for a family of 4.**
- Almost **two thirds** of the students in Guilford County Schools are in poverty
- **49.2% of renters in North Carolina are considered cost-burdened** (they spend more than 30% of their income on rent and other housing needs)
- **71% of the nation's poorest families** (seniors, people with disabilities, and low-wage workers) spend more than half their incomes on rent and utilities, leaving them unable to afford food, transportation, medical and other necessities

From the United Way of Greater Greensboro Poverty Quick Facts 2024 . A comprehensive report on poverty in Guilford County in 2024 is found on the United Way website, <https://www.unitedwaygso.org/>

For many years our church has provided emergency assistance for many families in our community. Funds for this assistance are received on the 4th Sunday of each month (Benevolence Basket) and from additional gifts to the Benevolence Fund. Requests for assistance come from Greensboro Urban Ministry, Mustard Seed Community Health, Greensboro Police Dept. Community Assistance, and occasionally from Colt's Run Apartments, Redhill Pointe Apartments, and Sedgefield Elementary School.

This past year we provided assistance to 33 families:

\$8,357.22 - rent

\$4,981.97 - utilities

In addition to rent/utility assistance, we provided:

\$389.85 – Bus ticket, requested by Greensboro Police Department

\$950.00 - Food Lion gift cards

\$600.00 - WalMart gift cards for Sedgefield Elementary families at Christmas

\$500.00 - assistance to two churches in the NC mountains affected by Hurricane Helene

\$250.00 - Mustard Seed Community Health

\$16,029.04 - Total amount spent from Benevolence Fund in 2024

\$3900 – approximate balance (Feb 4,2025)

Please continue to give to the Benevolence Fund so that we can respond to the many requests for assistance. With rent, utilities, and homelessness increasing the requests will be more frequent. Thank you for supporting this very important ministry!

The highest benevolence acts without purpose.

Mark 12:30-31

³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Our planet is precious and only we can save it



This is our new monthly series, “50 Ways to Help Save the Earth, How You and Your Church Can Make a Difference”. These ideas are from the book of the same name, by Rebecca J. Barnes. We hope these ideas will be helpful to you as you do your part to help clean up our little part of the world. *We are not the owners of creation; rather, “the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1).*

These ideas, of course, are only smattering of ideas we can use to help our environment. If you’d like more information, consider purchasing this (or another) book, available wherever you buy books. It is also available at the PCUSA Store, <https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/0664262554/50-ways-to-help-save-the-earth-revised-edition.aspx>

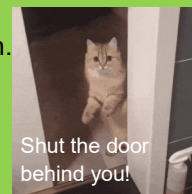
Consider using one or more of these ideas as a family discussion and project!

ENERGY CONSERVATION

- Use the source of always available renewable energy—the sun! Hang clothes to dry; open or close blinds to add or reduce heat; plant deciduous trees to shade exterior walls in the summer.

This can reduce your air conditioning bill by 10-15%. (globalwarming-facts.info)

- Purchase part of your energy from a green source if your local gas and electric companies offer the option.
- Buy solar panels. They have drastically lowered in price and increased in availability.
- Buy a solar cooker for yourself or someone else.
- Advocate for federal legislation that will support research and development for renewable energy.
- Study renewable energy sources that are useful in low-tech places around the world and see how your church might offer support in these areas.
- Read various opinions about what constitutes truly sustainable energy sources. While some sources advocate for nuclear or coal as part of the sustainable energy solution, there is cause to be concerned about these options. Preference should be given to true renewable energy sources.



And from the Earth Care Committee:

- Remember we are a collection site for used batteries! Consider keeping a small box in your home to drop in your used batteries and bring them to the church to recycle.
- For this month begin to try to say “No” to plastic straws. Then, continue the next month and the next! Read more here: <https://www.aza.org/connect-stories/stories/how-do-straws-hurt-the-environment>
- An interesting book to read is The Dream of the Earth by Thomas Berry. “*The Dream of the Earth provides the insights, inspiration, and ethical guidance we need to move beyond exploitation or disengagement toward a transcendent vision of a restorative, creative relationship with the natural world.*”

The sounds of green: a stream, a tree, a rock, flowers and grasses, birds and bees reach out to us today much as they have for millennia.

We hear and feel and smell their presence, comforted by the remarkable beauty and songs they sing.

The season's change but their circadian rhythm repeats as surely as earth rotates on its axis orbiting the sun.

The sounds of green return continuous from their repose. Then all too often the beat is altered and the sounds of green become red and orange, grey and brown.

With greening in the balance, being better stewards of our Earth is the greater goal, and the sounds of green return.

**Poem written by Jef Morgan
Chair —Earth Care Team**



Sunday, February 9th

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“Souper Bowl of Caring” Offering to Benefit Spartan Open Pantry

“I work, but my parents have not had a job for a while. I have to help support my brother and sister and it’s hard to get by. I would sometime not eat so they could have a meal. I am happy the pantry is here.” (from a UNCG student who gets food from their pantry)

In 2024, **66,068 lbs of food were provided for students at UNCG who needed food.** Since 2010 our church has supported this campus ministry on “Souper Bowl Sunday”.

At the end of worship on Sunday, some of our youth will be at the back of church with “soup pots” and you will have an opportunity to put your money in the pot of your favorite team while supporting a much-needed ministry. Also, please bring nonperishable food to go to a local food pantry.

Since 1990 when the Souper Bowl of Caring began in a Presbyterian church in Columbia, SC, more than \$200 million has been raised for soup kitchens, food pantries, meal programs and other hunger related charities in local communities. Our church has participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring for almost 30 years. To learn more about this important ministry, go to the Souper Bowl of Caring website, <https://tacklehunger.org/SBoC>

There continue to be neighbors downtown that are in danger of hunger and are unhoused; the **SUNDAY SERVE** group feeds them every other Sunday. In February the dates are the 2nd & 16th. On the 1st & the 15th there will be meal prep and all hands are welcome to help in SPC Kitchen. You can follow the **SUNDAY SERVE** page on Facebook for a list of needs and other information.



Thanks,



Use this QR Code to sign up with SPC for text messages!



Important

We will now be using our Youtube Channel :

<https://www.youtube.com/@sedgefieldpresbyterianchur7026>

to stream our service.

Peace, Kim



SEDGEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4216 Wayne Road Greensboro, NC 27407

Kim Priddy, Pastor 336-299-4061/cell 336-587-5978 Pastorkimspc@gmail.com
Korina McGill, Preschool Director 336-299-5353/cell 336-210-2132 spreschool@hotmail.com
Baker Lawrimore, Director of Music lawrimore.baker@gmail.com
Rev. Frank Dew, Peace and Justice Advocate
Church Email: office@sedgefieldpresbyterian.org **Church Website:** www.sedgefieldpresbyterian.org

