

# Green Acres Presbyterian Church

greenacrespc.org

February 2020

*In the name of Jesus Christ, Green Acres Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone for worship that inspires hope, imaginative education that brings growth, mission that reaches beyond our walls all reflecting the love and presence of God in the world.*

## *Letter from the Pastor*

“Lent and Les Misérables”

Even though it feels like we just finished with Christmas, Lent is fast approaching. February 26 is Ash Wednesday where we will receive the imposition of ashes. It marks the start of the Lenten season, when we reflect on Christ’s journey to the cross.

Lent reminds us that there is still time to be the persons we want to become. Christ’s death on the cross is only in vain if we give up and fail to start making the changes in ourselves. Sometimes the first step is forgiving ourselves for not already being the person we think we should be, but then we must begin. We begin with small, regular steps. There is a poster that reads: “Excellence is not an accomplishment but a habit.” So too, any attempts at change must be not so much great accomplishments but the habit of change, the habit of being faithful or kind or forgiving or whatever is our personal challenge. The word Lent comes from the old English word for “spring.” As I once heard it put, Lent is like “spring training” as we learn more about repentance, faith, and holy living.

As I was looking for a Wednesday night Lenten Bible Study, I came across a series using the themes found in Victor Hugo’s Les Misérables. So, as part of our “spring training”, we will dive into this six-week study by Matt Rawle. I am very excited about this study because I am a fan of all kinds of theater...movies, plays, and musicals. And one of my all-time favorite musicals is Les Misérables. I have seen it several times, watched the movie version, and listened to the soundtrack endlessly.

Starting on Wednesday March 4, we will be looking at six themes found in the story of Les Misérables—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo’s story. We will hear parallels drawn between this iconic story and musical and our Christian calling. So, I invite you to walk this Lenten journey through the lens of this wonderful story and join us on Wednesday evenings for dinner and Bible Study.

May this Lenten season give each of us the opportunity to seek to be the person God has called us to be.

Blessings,

*Beth*

# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Boy Scout Sunday/ Souper Bowl of Caring Morning Prayer & Communion 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship & Communion 10:30am Worship Committee 11:45am L	3 Preschool 9-Noon (In-House Registration Opens) ADK 7pm FH	4 Preschool 9-Noon Lunch Bunch 12-1pm FH	5 Preschool 9-Noon Chapel 10am Staff Mtg 10:30am Bells 5pm MR Planning Committee 5pm L Dinner 6pm FH Choir 7:30pm	6 Preschool 9-Noon Food Pantry 12-3pm	7 Youth Ski Trip	8 Men's Breakfast 8am FH Yadkin Rails 7-11pm FH  Youth Ski Trip
9 Morning Prayer 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Service Committee 11:45am L  Youth Return	10 Preschool 9-Noon Witness Committee 10am MR Cypress Cove 6:30pm FH	11 Preschool 9-Noon Lunch Bunch 12-1pm FH	12 Preschool 9-Noon Chapel 10am PW Circle 10am MR Staff Mtg 10:30am Bells 5pm MR Dinner 6pm FH Choir 7:30pm	13 Preschool 9-Noon Stay Awhile 9-10am FH Food Pantry 12-3pm	14 Newsletter Deadline	15 Session Retreat 9am
16 Morning Prayer 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am CE Committee 11:45am MR Lion's Club Competition 1pm Youth Group 6-8pm	17 Presidents' Day  Office Closed	18 Preschool 9-Noon (Registration Opens to Public) Lunch Bunch 12-1pm FH	19 Preschool 9-Noon Chapel 10am Retreat 10:30am Bells 5pm MR Dinner 6pm FH Choir 7:30pm	20 Preschool 9-Noon L.I.F.T. 11:30am Food Pantry 12-3pm	21	22
23 Morning Prayer 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am KOGA Klub 11:45am Youth Group 6-8pm	24 Preschool 9-Noon	25 Preschool 9-Noon Lunch Bunch 12-1pm FH Mardi Gras 6pm FH	26 Ash Wednesday Preschool 9-Noon Chapel 10am Staff Mtg 10:30am Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	27 Preschool 9-Noon Food Pantry 12-3pm	28	29

# February Events

## Heartgrams - February 2 & 9

The Youth Group will be selling "Heartgrams" again this year for \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00! On Sundays February 2nd and February 9th, the youth will be in the hallway before and after worship so that you can purchase your Heart Gram and tell your loved ones and your church family just how much they mean to you! They will be displayed in the hallway through Valentine's Day, and then we will mail them to the recipients. Heartgrams are a great way to lift up your brothers and sisters in Christ, while supporting our youth in their effort to raise money for their Summer trips. Visit our table in the Narthex and send a little love today!

## Boy Scout Sunday - February 2



GAPC would like to designate February 2nd as Boy Scout Sunday. We will use this opportunity to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to scouting. If you are affiliated with The Boy Scouts of America in any way, we ask that on Sunday, February 2 you wear your uniform to church. We will recognize your accomplishments and service, as well as say a blessing upon each of you. If you have any questions or would like to take part in this event, please contact Jaime Ambrose.

## Souper Bowl Sunday - Febraury 2

The Souper Bowl of Caring is an organization that was started 25 years ago by one single youth group, with one simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat". On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Super Bowl Sunday, our youth join tens of thousands of youth across the country, to help "tackle hunger" in our community. They will be in the narthex after church with soup pots collecting money for OASIS Social Ministry, as well as canned food for our own GAPC Food Pantry. Please bring your spare change, or a dollar or two, as well as a canned food item, and join them in helping the hunger population right here in Portsmouth.

## Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner - February 25

Mark your calendars! On February 25th at 6:00 p.m. the youth will host our annual Mardi Gras Party and Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Shrove Tuesday, celebrated on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, originated during the Middle Ages. Food items like meats, fats, eggs, milk and fish were regarded as restricted during Lent. To keep such food from being wasted, many families would have big feasts on Shrove Tuesday in order to consume those items that would inevitably become spoiled during the next forty days. The English tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday came about as a way to use as much milk, fats, and eggs as possible before Ash Wednesday began. In France, the consumption of all fats and fatty foods on this day coined the name "Fat Tuesday" or Mardi Gras. Join us for an exciting evening that will include Pancake stations with all the toppings, live festive music, a photo booth, Mardi Gras masks...and so much more. All donations will go to support youth Summer trips! Come on out dressed in your best Mardi Gras garb, and help us celebrate while supporting a great cause!



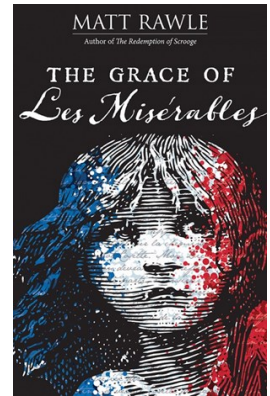
## February Events cont.

### Ash Wednesday Service - February 26

Join us as we begin our Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 26 at 7 p.m. This will be a time of prayer, reflection and the imposition of ashes. Come worship with us and ready yourself spiritually for the journey through the season of Lent.

### Wednesday Night Lenten Study

Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a truly epic story. Whether you've read the novel, seen the Broadway musical, heard its soundtrack, or seen the several screen adaptations, you already know the power in the story. In the six-week Lenten study *The Grace of Les Misérables*, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo's story. In keeping with his previous works, Rawle brings us to the intersection of Church and Pop Culture by drawing parallels between the iconic story and musical and our Christian calling, inspiring us to both understand our faith and live it out in the world.



## Save the Date

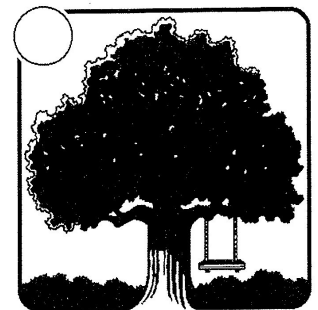
Family Bowling Night	March 20
Progressive Dinner	April 25
Middle School Summer Trip	June 21-26
Montreat	July 11-18
Vacation Bible School	July 19-23
High School Mission Trip	August 1-8
Rummage Sale	August 21-22

## Preschool

### Preschool Registration

GAPC Preschool registration for the 2020-2021 School Year is now open to church members! If you have a preschooler or know someone who would be interested - Children must be 3 or 4 by September 30, 2020 to enroll. The registration fee is \$150. Please contact the church office (484-5125) or visit our website, [greenacrespc.org](http://greenacrespc.org), for registration forms and more information.

Registration opens to the general public on February 18.



# Session Highlights

## Session Highlights:

- Via email, session approved to support the Grief Share program being organized by Rev. Martha Mitchell of Simonsdale PC, Portsmouth. A grant from PEVA will be used to cover the cost of a counselor from Tidewater Pastoral Counseling to lead the group sessions.
- Session elected Treasurer, Warriner Atkinson and Clerk of Session, Lynda Richmond, for 1-year terms.
- Session elected commissioners to PEVA 2020 Stated Meetings.
- Approved distribution, per established guidelines, of 5% from the Hope Duke Fund for Witness/Christian Ed and 4% (reserving ability to disburse additional 1% later if needed) to Service.
- Session approved communion dates for 2020
- Approved change in 2020 Budget to increase Pastor Beth's professional expense allowance to conform to Presbytery minimum of \$3000/year.
- In reaction to an incident which occurred several months ago on the playground, a parent of a preschool student has requested that the church build a privacy fence around the playground. After much discussion, a motion was made and passed to table this until the February meeting. In the meantime, Admin Committee will investigate options/costs involved.
- Chair of the finance committee reported that the church experienced a strong finish to 2019, ending with a surplus of approximately \$5900, and that 2020 appears to be off to a good start, as well.

## Communication Survey

Today, there are so many different ways people get their information, there is Facebook, email, texting and so many others. It can be hard to figure out which ways are most helpful. So in February we are doing a communications study to find out which of the ways you use most to get information about the church and events.

There will be two options to complete the survey, online through a link and as an insert on Sunday mornings. Your feedback is very important to us and will help us communicate what is happening at the church more effectively. It will not take long to fill out and we would appreciate any input you can provide us.

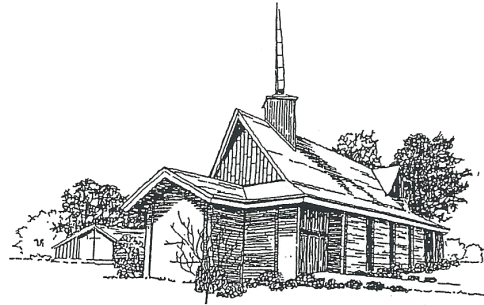
Thank you.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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February BIRTHDAYS	Jennifer Newsome....19
Happy Birthday!	Lane Newsome .....19
Peg Eich .....03	Betty Anderson .....20
Anna Mendelson .....03	Peyton Hodge .....20
Belle Johnston .....03	Luca Huff.....20
Guylene McSparron .05	Mitch Rowell .....23
Donna Emler .....06	Trudy Rizzo .....24
Jaime Ambrose .....07	Eli Beers .....26
Ella Brickey .....08	
Emily Cales .....12	
Pieter van de Graaf..13	
Linda Lawrence .....13	
Susan Robertson .....13	
Katie Eich .....14	
Saylor Burris.....16	
Graham Terry.....17	
Samuel Schweiss.....17	

## Parish Register

January 8, 2020 Alysia Layne Lalka, granddaughter of Jennifer and Lane Newsome

January 17, 2020 - January 18, 2020 Layne Marie Younkins, great-granddaughter of Peg and Les Younkins

*If you would like a birthday included, please call the church office, 484-5125.*

