

THE BEACON

Brookstown

United Methodist Church

Rev. James T. (Chip) Webb, Jr.

February 2026

A Message from Pastor Chip

LENT: Do No Harm; Do Good; And Focus on Your Heart

“In the latter end of the year 1739 eight or ten persons came to Mr. Wesley, in London, who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired, as did two or three more the next day, that he would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads.”

And so, for those who like things spelled out and enumerated, Mr. Wesley produced “The General Rules of the United Societies”:

“It is therefore expected of all who continue therein that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation:

“First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced.”

This prohibition is followed by a good list of those practices which were to be avoided. Some have stood the test of time, and others are best understood within the historical context. Most of us have a good sense of right and wrong, and might benefit from a review of our personal transgressions, from which conviction, repentance and grace have delivered us. And, be open to the possibility that we are not yet a finished product!

“Secondly: By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men.”

Again, Mr. Wesley followed with a reasonable list of “good of every possible sort,” consisting of communal and individual behaviors that we now regard as “works of mercy”. Mercy is key.

Here, it is beneficial to recall perhaps the most quoted of all Wesley quotes: “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

The bad news is that Mr. Wesley probably never said this one. Anyway, we have no record that he said it. But even as a misquote, it is just about as good as you can get, and it emphasizes the wholeness of heart with which we are to love our neighbor.

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ~ Luke 18: 10-12

(continued on next page)

A Message from Pastor Chip (continued)

Read within the context of the General Rules, Luke's account of Jesus' teaching on doing no harm and doing good, bears repeating. Note that the Pharisee avoided lots of evil behavior, even expressing gratitude, and engaged in doing good regularly, fasting twice a week and giving a tenth, presumably of his gross earnings! Yet, Jesus teaches that behaviors - our doings and not doings - are not the full picture of who we are.

In the General Rules, Wesley continues:

"Thirdly: By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are:

The public worship of God.

The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded.

The Supper of the Lord.

Family and private prayer.

Searching the Scriptures.

Fasting or abstinence."



Wesley concludes the Rules with this third admonition to attend upon all the ordinances of God. We might refer to these practices as "means of grace", and our attending upon them focuses our hearts not on our relations with others, but appropriately upon our relationship to God: **worship, Word, Supper, prayer, Scriptures...**

And, **fasting and abstinence** remain for United Methodists appropriate disciplines, particularly during the days of Lent. But be cautioned, attending upon the ordinances of God is not a competition sport, and succeeding is more a matter of one's heart than effort. A failing effort in fasting remains a means of grace!

Hear again the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Only one was a successful practitioner; and only one went home justified before God.

Look inward, angels.

Ash Wednesday

February 18



On this special day of the Christian year, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday.

In Old Testament days, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death. Others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. The speaking of Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

*"Though our feelings come and go,
God's love for us does not."
~ C.S. Lewis*

Lenten Living

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century, as a time of reflection, penitence, and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth — a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.

~ From "The Newsletter Newsletter"

Prayer for the Season

Merciful God, You called us forth from the dust of the earth; You claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth.

*May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace;
our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.*

It is in Your holy name that we pray. Amen

The Brookstown Express

Valentine's Movie Night & Parents' Night Out

Friday, February 13, 6-9pm

Parents drop your children off at Brookstown for a fun evening of fellowship, pizza, chocolate fondue, popcorn, and a movie! Then, you can have the evening free to go and enjoy a Date Night for Valentine's!

Brookstown's Annual Ski Trip

Sunday, February 22

Calling all youth and adults who would like to go skiing at Winterplace, West Virginia! We will take the church bus, leaving around 6-6:30am. **Let Tim or Roberta Lasley know if you are interested by February 13.** Each ticket includes lift ticket, ski/snowboard rental, free 90-minute group lesson and skiing until 4pm. Lunch tickets and snowboarding are also available. The church will cover the cost; mark your calendar now!

Thank you for sharing your children with us!

~ Marsha Campbell, Children's Ministry Coordinator

~ Jonna Lasley, Youth Ministry Coordinator

TRUE
LOVE

BE
MINE

"Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile."

~ Franklin P. Jones

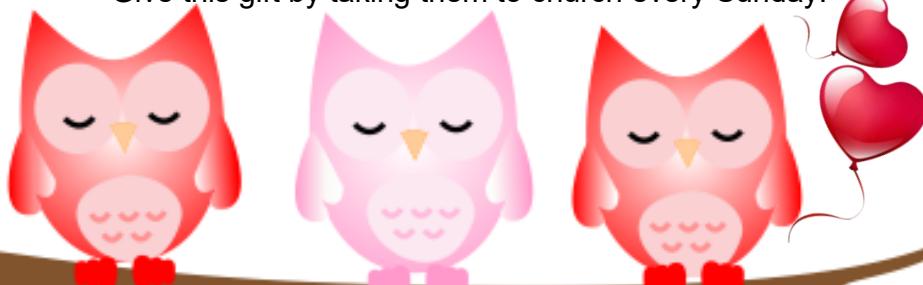


Dear children, let us not only love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth.

~ 1 John 3:18

Valentines to Give Your Children

- Acceptance – Teach children that you love them for who and what they are.
Give this gift with a kiss.
- Self-confidence – Help children understand that they can trust themselves.
Give this gift with a hug.
- Life without needless fears – Don't let your children see you as a worrier.
Give this gift with laughter.
- Appreciation – Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life.
Give this gift as they go out the door.
- Faith – Introduce your children to God, the best friend they'll ever have.
Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.



Blood Drive

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Red Cross Blood Drive held January 7 in the Brookstown Fellowship Hall. It takes everyone to make it all work, and we appreciate our volunteers and donors!

The next Blood Drive will be held March 4, from 1:30-5:30pm. You can make an appointment by calling Tim Lasley at 336-817-4593, or sign up online: www.redcrossblood.org

Use Sponsor Code: Brookstown
Thank you ~ Tim Lasley

***Jesus replied:
“Love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind.’ This is the first and
greatest commandment. And the second is like it:
Love your neighbor as yourself.”
Matthew 22:37-39***

Flowers for Services

You can help beautify the sanctuary throughout the year with one of God's loveliest gifts: FLOWERS! The 2026 Flower Chart is in the narthex, ready to be filled.

Sign up now for your special Sundays!



United Women in Faith

The monthly meeting for our United Women in Faith will be Wednesday, February 18 at 11am in the Fellowship Hall. The program is titled "Connected in Our Roots", and will share some of the history of Black American mapmaking and the use of maps in the struggle for justice for Black Americans. We'll also consider where we might become more integrated in our communities and look at an alternative interpretation of the Tower of Babel.

All women are invited to join us and bring a favorite covered dish for a potluck meal together.

~ Martha Isenberg, UWF President



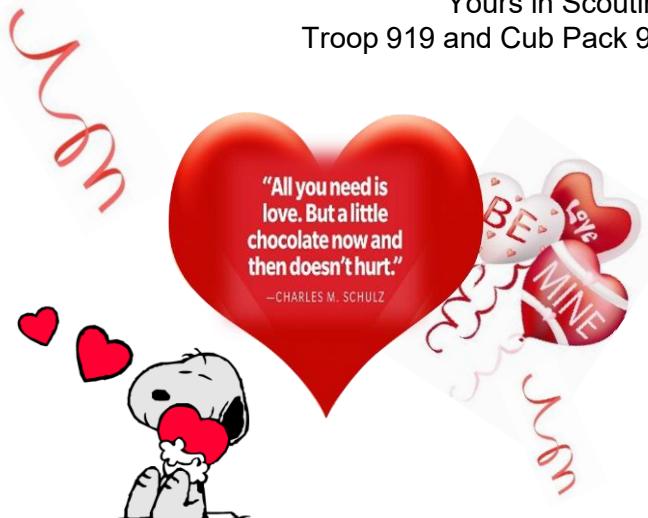
*God of love, as we share Valentines this month,
remind us also to share practical expressions of Your love for all:
food, shelter, clean water, acceptance of differences, a helping hand.*

Scouting for Food

Due to recent weather conditions, Scout Troop 919/Cub Pack 919 were unable to participate in bag drop-offs Saturday, February 7. Please don't let that stop your efforts to support our local community!

Their New Plan: Troop 919 will have Scouting for Food bags at Olivet Moravian and Brookstown UMC February 8. There will be drop-off points at both churches and at Wilson's Garage. You can fill the bags and bring them to church next Sunday or drop them off anytime at these locations. The food will be taken to the Lewisville Community Food Pantry (LCAP). **Try to drop off by February 15.**

Yours in Scouting,
Troop 919 and Cub Pack 919



Crisis Control Ministries

Below is a list of 2026 Gifts of the Month for you to clip and carry with you or put on your refrigerator as a reminder. Please notice there are the regular items, as well as items for children each month.

CCM Gifts of the Month for 2026

January – Beef Stew
For Kids: Fruit Cups

February – Soul Foods (canned beans, black-eyed peas, Jiffy Cornbread mix, etc.)
For Kids: Cereal Drive, to donate, visit:

Crisiscontrol.org/weecare

March – Pancake mix & Syrup
For Kids: Granola Bars

April – Canned Fruit
For Kids: Goldfish Snack Bags

May – Baked Beans (pork & beans, Beanie Weenies, etc.)
For Kids: Cereal Bars

June – Peanut Butter & Jelly
For Kids: Gummy Fruit Snack Packs

July – Salad Dressing, BBQ Sauce, Hot Sauce
For Kids: Packs of Cheese &/or Peanut Butter Snack Crackers

August – Toilet Paper & Paper Towels
For Kids: Applesauce Cups or Pouches

September – Instant Grits & Oatmeal
For Kids: Juice Boxes

October – Canned Meats (salmon, ham, chili, corned beef, SPAM, etc.)
For Kids: Candy & Cookies

November – Baking Items (cooking oil, baking mixes, etc.)
For Kids: Little Bites Snack Cakes

December – Spices (salt, pepper cinnamon, basil, vanilla extract, etc.)
For Kids: Hot Cocoa Mix

*There are containers at the church entrances for donations.
Please help fill them for those who are in need.*



CCM Food Pantries Also Distribute:

Personal Hygiene Products
Laundry Aids
Cleaning Supplies
Paper Products



ANNIVERSARIES

Chip & Kathy Webb 27



“They who love are but one step from heaven.”

~ James Russell Lowell

If your birthday or anniversary needs to be added, please let me know.
Lavonda

Church Contact Information

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Like us on Facebook

Sharing His Light

My prayer to God is that you see His presence when you look at me. His steadfast love has set me free, and His reflection I can be when God is shining bright in me.

~ MaryAnn Sundby

February

The Greatest Love of All

On Valentine's Day, we remember that God is the source of all love in the world. His perfect love for us has made all human love possible.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality.

1 John 3:18-19 MSG



“Let all you do be done in love.”
1 Corinthians 16:14



BIRTHDAYS

Chris Ziglar	2
Eli Lowrance	2
Theresa Williams	4
Susie Douglas	5
Sandy Tysinger	5
Hannah Snarski Steppe	8
Rick Steppe	9
Kathy Webb	11
David Fulton	12
Ira Nye	13
Sherrill Sharpe	14
Camden Douglas	15
Bruce Bailiff	15
Wesley Douglas	18
Carol Sprinkle	20
Tommy Beroth	21
Erin Jameson	22
Bob Harrell	22
Margarita Burton	23
Grant Brown	23
Jerry LaPrad	23

Flowers for Worship Services
February 1 & 8 –
Scott & Robin Williams

Other Sundays in February are open.



Sharing His Love

Love ever gives, forgives, outlives and ever stands with open hands. And while it lives, it gives. For this is love's prerogative – to give, and give, and give.

~ John Oxenham





“What Do I Have?”

What do I have, Lord, that You would need me as a servant?

“Eyes,” He said,

“to see the beauty in all that I’ve made — and My children as they travel life’s highway.”

“Hands,” He said,

“to reach out and touch hurting souls, to give a hug or encouraging pat on the back.”

“Feet,” He said,

“to lead My children through this world of strife, and to help them run from sin and follow Me.”

“Mouth,” He said,

“to lift up your voice and sing praises to Me, so others may hear the joy in your heart.”

“Ears,” He said,

“to listen to My still, small voice of love, and to hear My children when they cry for help.”

“Heart,” He said,

“so you may know the full love of My Spirit, and love My children as I have loved you.”

~ Thomas Butler