



MARCH 2026 / VOLUME 298

SALTSHAKER

Quote of
the Month

I like escalators,
because an
escalator can never
break: it can only
become stairs.
- Mitch Hedberg

Mercy Sunday

Sunday,
March 15

The Mercy Team invites you to join us on Sunday, March 15, for Mercy Sunday. John Steakley, the founder and director of Unbound Grace, will be preaching, and we will have the opportunity to hear from Mercy Team members about their ministry during the Sunday School hour.



Guest Speaker:

John Steakley
Unbound Grace

AVPC NEWS

CAMP SOLID ROCK June 8-11

Camp Solid Rock (AVPC's version of Vacation Bible School) is for kids going into 4K through 5th grade. We invite kids in our church family and community to learn timeless truths of the Bible through drama, songs, stories, games, and crafts. If you're interested in helping lead or plan Camp Solid Rock this year, contact Catie Lumpkin.



A Dark and WACKy Night July 6-9

Worship Arts Camp for Kids, or WACK, is for kids going into 2nd through 8th grade. WACK helps kids explore the various ways they can use their talents and passions to worship through fun classes on topics like Art, Dance, and Drama. If you're interested in helping lead or plan WACK this year, contact Heather Sommer.

AVPC NEWS

COVENANT FAMILY VERSE OF THE MONTH

"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:9-11

OUR SYMPATHY

We want to express our deepest sympathies to:

Bill Sommer for the loss of his mother.

Scott Goodhew for the recent loss of his uncle, Bill Goodhew.



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|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3/2 Larry Church | 3/11 Maggie Folker | 3/23 Austin Kate Harris |
| 3/3 Clint Cvacho | 3/12 Nancy Chambers | 3/25 Silas Allday |
| 3/4 Jackson Hall | 3/12 Jessica Snow | 3/26 Jack Cwynar |
| 3/4 Catie Lumpkin | 3/13 Addy Kate Armstrong | 3/27 Ava Labreche |
| 3/4 Carol Popwell | 3/17 Joel Bostrom | 3/27 Gayle Young |
| 3/5 Kip Blighton | 3/17 Jay Lloyd | 3/28 Nancy Becker |
| 3/5 Annelise Cwynar | 3/17 Sue Ann Oaks | 3/28 Sherrill Coley |
| 3/5 Mark McCallum | 3/19 Jade Harris | 3/28 Barrett Hall |
| 3/6 Sarah Jane DeRieux | 3/20 Carol Apol | 3/28 Kyle Parker |
| 3/6 Tom Hinke | 3/20 Tim Cambron | 3/29 Kathy Light |
| 3/6 Tara McCallister | 3/20 Michael Chick | 3/30 Paden Franklin |
| 3/6 Daniel Sommer | 3/20 Shari Wimberly | 3/30 Lucy Price |
| 3/9 Isaac Lumpkin | 3/21 Jim Baird | 3/31 Zoe Labreche |
| 3/9 Courtney McCrory | 3/21 Suzanne Brown | 3/31 Allen Short |
| 3/10 Tricia Foster | 3/22 Ansley Cohen | |



Pastor's Pen

There were a number of heavy conversations and prayer-saturated events I was honored to engage in over the last couple weeks – they occurred with friends close by and geographically far away. The interactions included: prayer with people struggling with a legal matter where they righteously hope for justice; the community fallout from one who took their own life; a conversation with a friend who is advising someone considering physician assisted self-harm on the west coast – each of these are impossibly tough, but as Christians there is bedrock hope! I was reminded of a little article we included in a bulletin years ago quoting Trevin Wax. I trust his words that follow are a great encouragement for those experiencing fatigue and anxiety:

“On the cross, God demonstrated His perfect justice and great mercy. He executed justice by pouring out His wrath against sin upon His only Son. He showed mercy by absorbing that wrath Himself, thus allowing us to escape His judgment.

- **Because Jesus was filled with horror and cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” we are filled with wonder and cry, “My God, my God, why have you accepted me?”**
- **Because Jesus cried, “Father, forgive!” the taunts we hurled at Him at the cross are transformed into praise for His generous mercy.**
- **Because Jesus said, “I thirst,” we can drink from the fountain of living water and never thirst again.**
- **Because Jesus said, “Woman, behold your son” and felt the pain of separation from His earthly family, we can experience the blessing of being united with a heavenly family.**
- **Because Jesus cried, “It is finished!” our new life can begin.**
- **Because Jesus committed His spirit into the Father’s hands, God commits His Spirit into our hearts.”**

As we prepare for worship this coming week, allow the kingdom contrasts outlined above to guide us into seeing the practical graces of Jesus in our life. Those works of our Lord include God's mercy, acceptance, assurance, satisfaction, renewed life, adoption, and power of the Holy Spirit in us and through us!

Love to you all
-Kyle Parker, Senior Pastor

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 25

Join us for a hike at Aldridge Gardens on April 25 at 10:00 AM. Come enjoy fresh air, good conversation, and beautiful scenery. More info to come!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Each year, I hold my breath through the months of January and February; it's like I am unconsciously counting the seconds until daylight extends and the winter doldrums subside. It's an annual battle I continue to repent of; the mantra: "Let's just get through the winter." The last two months have once again exposed my mental struggle of not pressing into the Father and His presence. In His faithful tenderness, God has used you to remind me that I am not forsaken; our days are purposed. Your faithfulness to love and serve our AVPC children on Sunday mornings and evenings strengthens my heart each week. The Lord drew my heart to Him throughout the entire Missions Conference week. To hear our missionaries' hearts for the Lord, even in their weariness, was a gift and honor.

Throughout these winter months, I have been meditating on Psalm 67. Here are verses 5-8, "For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him. He is my rock and salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in Him at all times, O people, pour out your hearts before Him; God is a refuge for us." Winter is an appointed time to sit in silence before God and allow our hearts to be reminded of the Truth.

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,

Catie Lumpkin
AVPC Children's Ministries Director

Kid's Bridge Night schedule

March 1 - Dougherty/Schofield Small Groups

March 8 - Russell Small Group

March 15 - Bobo Small Group

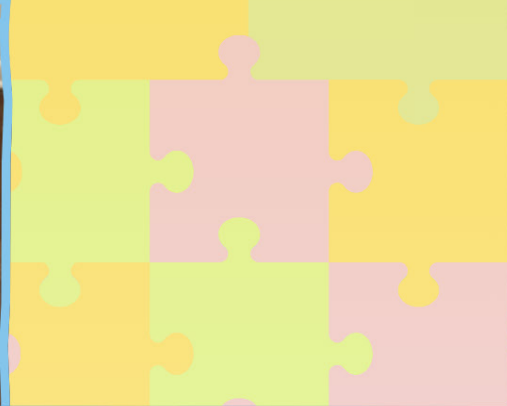
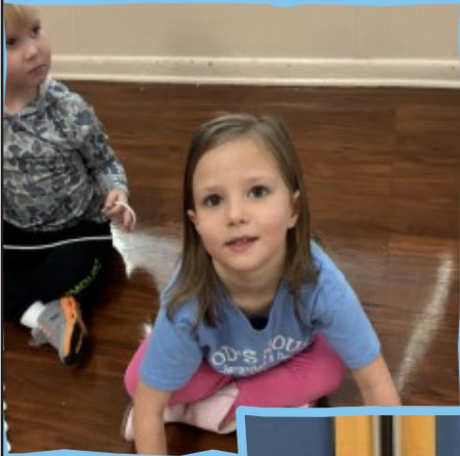
April 12 - Choir

April 19 - Lloyd/Chick Small Groups

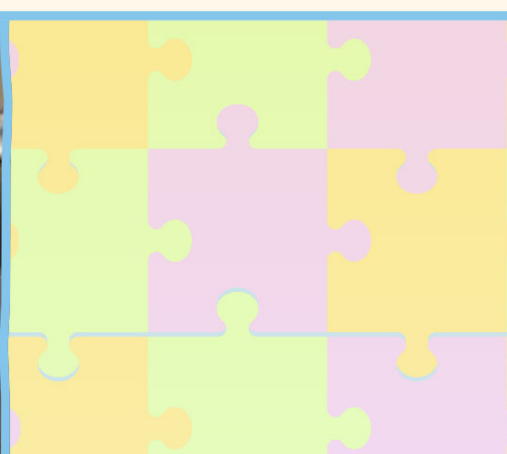
April 26 - Youth Night



GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN



This past month at GHK has been packed with fun! We had a dentist visit, a library field trip, and much more! We are so excited for what else is in store.



Youth Ministry News



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Episcopal Church. United Methodist Church. Roman Catholic Church. Left. Right. Homeschool. Public school. I suspect that as you read the preceding list, you experienced some sort of visceral reaction to at least some of the groups represented by each term. A reaction that is deeper than intellectual, a reaction that came from the deepest recesses of your soul. Perhaps there was the slightest hint of a thought about those people. Perhaps, if you are someone who is quick to pray, you found an almost reflexive prayer, "Thank you, Lord, that I am not like them." If you didn't pray that in the moment, perhaps you have found yourself praying that in recent days or weeks.

James Madison once famously asked, "Is there no virtue among us? If there be not, we are in a wretched situation. No theoretical checks-no form of government can render us secure. To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people, is a chimerical idea." As I survey the current political and social landscape in our country, I see only a shadow of virtue. It used to seem like if you did not see virtue in one direction, turn and look the other direction and you would find it. Now as I look that opposite direction there seems to be the same gaping maw. Brothers and sisters, we need revival in our nation, which must start in the Church. I was challenged by one of the missionaries at the missions conference to consider the reality that revival begins with repentance. In Luke 18 (you may have recognized the prayer above) Jesus reminds us that repentance doesn't start with those people, repentance starts with me. I have been on my knees more often lately, beside the tax collector crying out, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" As we move deeper into the season of Lent, would you join me in that repentance? I believe that the Lord can renew me, can begin a revival in me. As He does, I believe it can spread to you, I believe it can spread to those people, I believe it can spread throughout the Church in America, I believe it can spread throughout our offices and schools, throughout our trade guilds, and throughout our nation.

Peace,
Clint

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 13 - Hockey Night

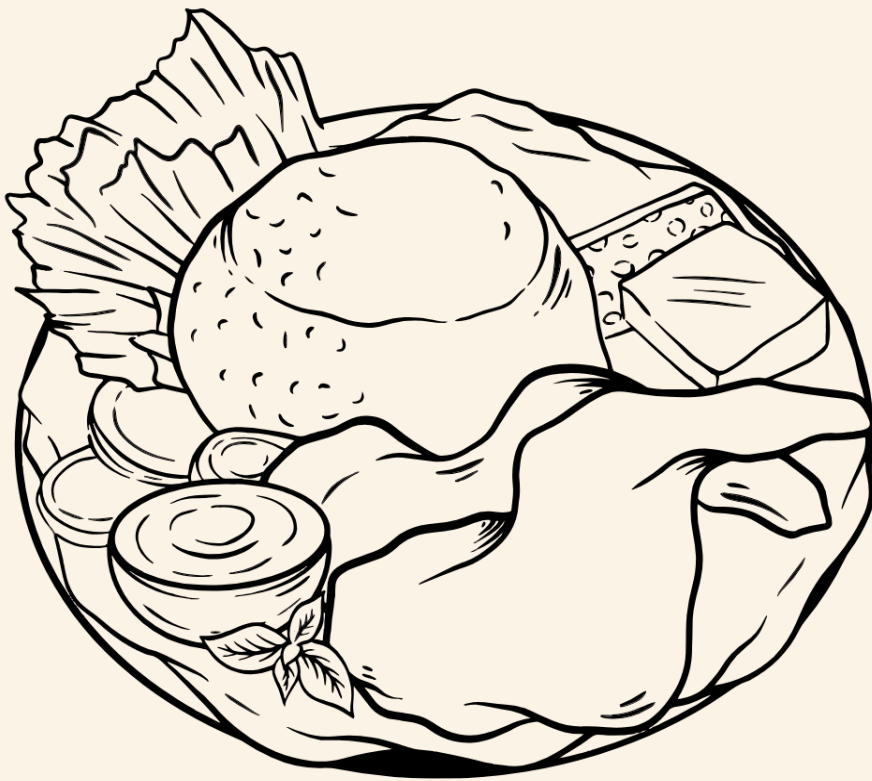
March 14-15 - Jr. / Sr. Guys Backpacking Trip

May 3 - Youth Sunday / The Fellowship / Sr. Tea

YOUNG ADULT NEWS

Young adult lunch

MARCH 8
12:30 PM



Home of Amy & Michael MacCAughelty

2832 Cahawba Trail

Meet Our New Missionary

Corey Jackson - Luke Alliance

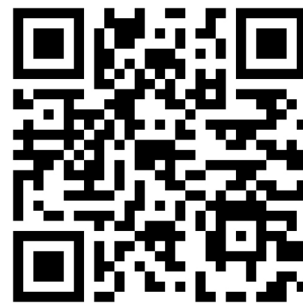
LukeAlliance

Corey Jackson serves as the president of the Luke Alliance, which envisions a world where Christians face less persecution and have a robust path to relief and continued mission. They work towards this by providing pastoral care and global advocacy for the persecuted Church.



LEARN MORE

Scan the QR Code below to read a full Q&A with Corey and learn more about him, his family, and Luke Alliance.





**Short Term Mission Trip
October 8-15
Albania & Kosovo**

We're excited to announce a short-term mission trip to Albania and Kosovo happening October 8-15, 2026. This will be a 7-day trip with 5 days serving in-country alongside our ministry partners.

We'll be sending 12 adults, divided into two teams, to encourage CRU staff, serve in campus ministry, and help with outreach through a local coffee shop ministry in Prishtina.

If you're interested in learning more or potentially being part of the team, please contact Michael MacCaughelty (michael@avpc.org). We'd love for you to prayerfully consider joining us. Scan the QR code below for more information.





SESSION/DIACONATE MINUTES

SESSION MEETING • JANUARY 20, 2026

- Approved the Diaconate request to fund a new furnace for the Kitchen/ Kitchen Hall not to exceed \$10,500 from the Capital Reserve Fund.
- Approved the "Seasonally Adjusted 5-Month budget" proposed by the Finance Team and the Diaconate.
- Approved a budget overage for hosting the February 10 Evangel Presbytery Meeting by an amount not to exceed \$1,250 in the 2026 Five-month General Fund Budget.
- Approved Ruling Elders Nicholas Ireland, Thomas Prettyman, and Karl Poythress as delegates to the 2026 General Assembly meeting in Louisville, KY.
- Approved John Steakley from Unbound Grace to preach for Mercy Sunday on March 15.

DIACONATE MEETING • FEBRUARY 10, 2026

- Approved a recommendation for a one-time gift from the Diaconal Fund to support ongoing refugee ministry efforts through Birmingham Cross Cultural Connections.

DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FINANCIAL REPORT IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.