

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

2101 WILDWOOD AVENUE, COLUMBUS, GA 31906

Lent is more than a season for religious routine and activity. It is an invitation to renewal. For forty days (not including Sundays), the Church mirrors the path of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, learning again what it means to depend on God, to tell the truth about our lives, and to open our hearts to transformation. Long before Lent became a fixture on the calendar, it was the rhythm for believers who longed to prepare their hearts for the joy of Easter.

In the early Church, Lent was deeply connected to preparation for baptism. New converts spent these weeks in intense prayer, fasting, confession, and learning the faith before being baptized on Easter morning. Those already baptized joined them in solidarity, remembering their own need for repentance and renewal. Their practices were simple and powerful: fasting from food to make room for prayer, giving generously to the poor to understand simplicity, gathering often for worship to devote themselves to Christ, and confessing sins so that grace could be received honestly.

Christians today continue this ancient journey in meaningful ways. Some fast from certain foods or drinks. Others fast from distractions like social media or entertainment—which I highly recommend. Many commit to daily scripture reading, intentional prayer, acts of generosity, and worship. These practices are not about denial and withdrawal for their own sake, but about creating space — space to listen, to notice, to return to God with our whole hearts.

Lent teaches us that spiritual growth begins with honesty and is sustained by grace. As we walk this road together, may these forty days help us lay aside what weighs us down and again take up the life Christ offers.



## **Traditional Worship**

**8:30 A.M.**

**Illges Chapel (M250)**

**Rev. John Fugh, Jr.**

***Encounters on the Way:***

***Nicodemus***

**John 3:1-17**

## **Contemporary Worship**

**9:00 A.M.**

**Fellowship Hall (M220)**

**Rev. Dr. Shane Green**

***Groaning in Bondage***

**Exodus 2:23-25**

## **Traditional Worship**

**11:00 A.M.**

**Sanctuary (M260)**

**Rev. Dr. Shane Green**

***Groaning in Bondage***

**Exodus 2:23-25**

**Broadcast Live at 11:00**

**at [stpaulcolumbus.live](http://stpaulcolumbus.live)**

**Purple, the traditional color of Lent, is used on the First Sunday to mark the beginning of this sacred season. It symbolizes repentance, reflection, and preparation as we journey toward Easter. Historically associated with both royalty and solemnity, purple reminds us that we follow Christ the King on the road to the cross. Throughout Lent, this color invites us into a quieter, more intentional time of prayer, self-examination, and renewal.**

## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

This week's **Family Night Supper** features Breakfast Night —pancakes, egg casserole, grits, bacon, sausage, biscuits, salad bar, and desserts (same menu for kids). Our program continues the **Lenten devotional study** by Rev. John Fugh, Jr., *Encounters, Stones, and an Empty Space: From Sacred Altars to the Empty Tomb*. Books are available in the church office for \$10.

### Important upcoming dates:

February 26 - Youth Ski Retreat  
March 15 - St. Paul Day for Missions: Rise Against Hunger  
March 29 - Palm Sunday  
March 30 - Holy Week Begins, with Devotionals  
March 22 - Annual Egg Hunt  
April 5 - Easter  
April 23 - Confirmation Banquet  
April 26 - Confirmation Sunday  
May 3 - Senior Sunday  
June 8-11 - VBS  
July 6-10 - St. Paul Kids' Camp

Here's a reminder that you may find events and happenings on our website at [stpaulcolumbus.com/events](http://stpaulcolumbus.com/events).

## ADULT MINISTRIES Friday, March 13

A trip to "Hills and Dales" Estate in LaGrange, GA for \$25  
Plus, Lunch at Nutwood Winery  
(Lunch is at your cost.)  
Church bus leaves St. Paul at 9 AM  
RSVP: [grace@stpaulcolumbus.com](mailto:grace@stpaulcolumbus.com)



**St Paul Serves - Rise Against Hunger** (Annual Missions Event) On March 15, our church will partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack nutritious meals for families facing hunger around the world. Please plan to join us:  
[stpaulcolumbus.com/event/day-of-missions-march-15](http://stpaulcolumbus.com/event/day-of-missions-march-15)

**Part-Time Kitchen Help Needed:** St. Paul is seeking a dependable part-time person to assist with kitchen support. For more information, please contact Philip Badcock at 706-327-7419.

## PASTORS & PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Dr. Shane Green  
Senior Minister

Rev. John Fugh, Jr.  
Associate Minister

Philip Badcock  
Church Administrator

Grace Bailey  
Director of Christian  
Education

Lauren Coleman  
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Bruce Getz  
Broadcast Operations  
Manager

Donna Hightower  
Director of Children's  
Ministry

Roy Hightower  
Assistant to Director of  
Children's Ministry

Theresa Holzknecht  
Communications  
Director

Catherine Hutchings  
Receptionist

Shannon Land  
Executive Administrative  
Assistant

Laura Marvets  
Director of Youth  
Ministry

Cindy Shavers  
Financial Records &  
Administration

## New Lenten Sermon Series Starts Today!

## KIDMIN MOMENTS

### The Forgiving Father

Jesus told the story of the forgiving father to show how much God loves His children. Even when we make mistakes, God welcomes us back with love and forgiveness. Because we belong to God, we can choose to follow Him and live our whole lives for Him. When we decide to serve God with everything we are—our hearts, our choices, and our actions—we are *All-In*.

# ANNUAL EGG HUNT

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026



4:00 PM  
2200 OAK AVENUE

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is on Sunday, March 22, at 4:00 at 2200 Oak Avenue. Pre-filled candy eggs are needed for the hunt. Please bring your candy donations to the main office by March 18.

## SPY MINISTRY

SPY Winter Ski Retreat Boot Fitting is TONIGHT! If you're heading on the ski trip, be sure to join us at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Building for your required boot fitting. Afterward, we'll roll right into a combined Middle School and High School gathering from 5:30–7:30 p.m. with a great snack supper of pizza!

## COMBINED SNY TONIGHT!



Parents, as you send your students tonight, take a moment to remind them they are beloved—and that God's prevenient grace is already at work in their lives.

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Sunday, February 22

8:30 AM Traditional Worship (M250)

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship (M220)

9:30 AM Weekly Communion (M260)

10:00 AM Bridges SS Class (M235)

10:00 AM Disciple 1 Bible Study (Library)

10:00 AM Foundry Class (Y101)

10:00 AM High School Youth SS Class (Y104)

10:00 AM Middle School Youth SS Class (Y106)

10:00 AM New Life SS Class (Y102)

10:00 AM Seekers Class (M234)

10:00 AM Wesley/Miller-Wilson Class (M232)

10:00 AM Wildwood Class (M150)

11:00 AM Traditional Worship (M260)

2:00 PM Spring Harbor Worship (Off Campus)

4:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting (M203 - Conference Room)

5:30 PM Children's Choirs (M235)

5:30 PM Combined SNY with Snack Supper (Y210)

Monday, February 23

1:30 PM Staff Meeting (M203)

6:30 PM Ministries Committee Meeting (M203) - Conference Room

Tuesday, February 24

10:00 AM Tuesday Morning Bible Study (M232)

11:00 AM Grace Bible Study (M234)

4:00 PM Spring Harbor Study (Off Campus)

Wednesday, February 25

6:00 PM Family Night Supper (M220)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (M260)

Thursday, February 26

6:30 AM Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study (M232)

9:30 AM Preschool Moms Bible Study (M234)

Youth Ski Retreat - Off Campus

Friday, February 27

Youth Ski Retreat - Off Campus

Saturday, February 28

Youth Ski Retreat - Off Campus

## TALK ABOUT IT

Today's Sunday School Lesson for  
Preschool and Elementary  
Children

The Forgiving Father (Luke 15:11-32)

Anchor Point – Parables teach us  
about God's love.

Say the Bible verse together:

"Everyone who has ears should  
pay attention." Luke 8:8

Questions for family discussion:

- Why do you think the younger son wanted to leave his father's house?
- How do you think the younger son felt when he didn't have any money left and didn't have a place to live or food to eat?
- Do you think you could be as forgiving as the father in this story?
- Why do you think the older son was so mad when his brother came home?

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for your  
forgiving spirit when we come to  
you and repent. Help us to show  
that forgiving spirit to others  
around us. Amen.

## SERVING THIS WEEK

- (8:30) Acolytes: Gray Williams and Brucie Getz
- (11:00) Camille Forsyth and Rush McMurphy
- Cross Bearer: Edie Getz
- Acolyte Helper: Lucy Cochran

## ALTAR GUILD

- Chapel: Jenny Swift and Anna Flournoy
- Delivery: Katie Waldrep and Leslie Ann Jones

## USHERS

- (8:30) Ken Crumpler, Stan Copelan
- (11:00) Will Burgin (lead), Eric Kilgore, Jason Pease, Jay Parker, Gordy Pease, Nick Garcia

The flowers on the Sanctuary Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Richard E. Steele by Hugh & Vicki White, Christie Bell, and Morgan Oakes.

Our Christian love and heartfelt sympathy is extended to Donna and Roy Hightower and family in the loss of Roy's uncle, **Larry R. Hightower**, on February 10, 2026.

Our Christian love and heartfelt sympathy is extended to Richard Mobley, Jr. and family in the loss of his step-father, **Jack Eatman**.

Our Christian love and heartfelt sympathy is extended to Norris Rambo and family in the loss of his brother, **William Walter Rambo**, on February 14, 2026.

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

### **Building Fund**

In memory of **Etta Langley**

- by Harriette Cavender
- by Mr. and Mrs. Houser Pugh
- by Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Staples

In memory of **Bill Langley**

- by Mr. and Mrs. Houser Pugh

In memory of **Barry Mobley**

- by Betty and Buddy Roberts

In memory of **Bill Ploeger**

- by Mr. and Mrs. Houser Pugh

In memory of **John Walden**

- by Harriette Cavender
- by Mr. and Mrs. Houser Pugh

### **Wynnton Neighborhood Network**

In memory of the **Honorable Judge William Rambo**

- by Alice Douglas



SPY SUBERBOWL



**Italy: June 2-11**  
**\$5390 per person**  
**RSVP at 706-327-7419**

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 22, 2026  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

## **The Chiming of the Hour**

**The Welcome & Announcements** .....Rev. John Fugh, Jr.

**The Choral Call to Worship**.....Praise the Lord! by Donald Moore

## **The Cross and Flame Come to the Altar**

**The Prelude**.....*A Way to Calvary Leadeth (Via Dolorosa)*, arr. Dale Wood  
organist, Adleyn Scott

**The Hymn of Celebration**.....*And Can It Be that I Should Gain* (#363)

**The Affirmation of Faith** .....*The Apostles' Creed*

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## **The Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.  
Amen.*

**The Pastoral Prayer with the Lord's Prayer**.....Rev. Fugh

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**The Leader: Let Us Worship God with His Tithes and Our Offerings.**

**The Offertory Prayer**.....Rev. Fugh

**The Offertory**.....Resignation by C. Callahan  
organist, Adley Scott; pianist, Jill Honeycutt

**The Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below: praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**The Scripture Lesson**.....Exodus 2:23-25

**Leader:** *The Word of God for the People of God.*

**Congregational Response:** *Thanks be to God.*

**The Passing of the Peace**

**Leader:** *The Peace of Christ be with you.*

**Congregational Response:** *And also with you.*

**The Welcome and Registration of Attendance**

**The Children’s Moment**.....Mrs. Donna Hightower

*(After the Children’s Moment, ages K4-2nd graders are dismissed to go to Children’s Church, Room M235; children 3 and younger are taken to the nursery by parents.)*

**The Anthem**.....*God So Loved the World*, by J. Stainer

**The Sermon**.....*Groaning in Bondage*, Rev. Dr. Shane Green

**The Hymn of Consecration**.....*Depth of Mercy* (#355)

**The Cross and Flame Go Before Us into the World**

**The Choral Benediction**.....*Threefold Amen*

**The Postlude**.....*Prelude in C*, by J.S. Bach  
pianist, John Finley

**The Church Returns to His World to Serve Him**