



Valentine's Day Traditions Through-out History

In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century.

By the middle of the 18th century, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions at a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap."

Today, according to Hallmark, more than 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year behind Christmas.



Birthdays in February

 **Happy Birthday to you!!** 



1. Gloria Wells
6. Hayes Ludlum
7. Hope Turnbull
8. Greg Maready
10. Robert Steen
15. Mary Carone
16. Katie Robison McCourtie

16. Debbie Thomas
18. Nolan Hall
- Jean Parks
21. Dona Lanier
24. Chuck Farrior
26. Tom Whitfield
27. Hampton Hall



NEWSLETTER



WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Robert H. Lapp, Interim Pastor

FEBRUARY 2026

Cheryl Brinkley, Editor



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING HUNGER OFFERING

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Following Worship

Our annual Souper Bowl of Caring Offering will be received on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8. This offering was started by a Presbyterian Youth Fellowship Group in South Carolina and has spread to many other organizations. All money raised nationally remains local and supports many different ministries of assistance, such as our church's food pantry.

All money collected will be given to our Helping Hands Food Pantry here at the church. You may put your contribution in the bucket or offering plate in worship, mail it to P.O. Box 717, Wallace, NC 28466, drop a check in the mail slot in the front door of the church office building at 205 W. Main Street, or contribute online at www.wallacepresbyterian.com.





ACTIONS OF THE SESSION

At the Tuesday, January 20, 2026, stated session meeting:

- Rev. Robert Lapp offered the opening devotion and prayer.
- The statistical report was received (2024 membership - 217; 2025 - 214).
- Received thank you notes from Duplin Christian Outreach Ministry and Feed Our Hungry Children Backpack Offering.
- Elders signed up to serve as worship leaders and to offer the opening devotion and prayer at the session meetings.
- The full Presbytery will meet on Saturday, March 7. WPC can send one commissioner.
- Jim Sills, Co-chairperson of the Pastor Nominating Committee, offered an update on the pastoral search process.
- Wayne Casteen, Treasurer, offered a report on the church's finances.
- Rev. Eduardo Moreno has retired from the presbytery staff and has vacated his office on the second floor of the church office building (old manse). The presbytery offered the office furniture (desk, filing cabinet, book shelves, etc.) to the church. The session voted to receive it.
- The Youth Handbells have begun rehearsals on Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour.
- Received a report on the columbarium project that included drawings and photos of projects designed and completed by Columbarium Planners.
- Received a report on the Confirmation Class and the 13 students who are participating.
- Cheryl Brinkley, Church Secretary, will be on vacation from February 2 - 9.
- Upcoming Dates of Note: Scout Sunday and Souper Bowl of Caring - February 8; Ash Wednesday - February 18; March 21 - Rise Against Hunger; Confirmation Sunday - May 3; Creation Camp @ Camp Kirkwood - June 7-11.
- Joys and concerns were shared and the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Beloved,

We will celebrate a special holiday this month. Valentine's Day is a day to remember those we love. Ash Wednesday begins the holy season of Lent. But the day I'm thinking about is February 10 which marks the beginning of a new baseball season when pitchers and catchers report for Spring Training. Go Mets!

So in the spirit of Spring Training, when "hope springs eternal" and every team is still a World Series contender, I thought I'd share a few lessons that baseball has taught me over the years.

First Inning: Spring Training is a time to practice the fundamentals. After a particularly dismal game, Yogi Berra closed the clubhouse to reporters and said to his team: "You guys played lousy today. We're going to go back to basics: This is a ball. This is a bat!" Then Jesse Gonder, a reserve catcher, piped up: "Slow down, Yogi; you're going too fast!" Lent is a time to get back to the fundamentals of our faith and to renew our commitment to Jesus Christ.

Second Inning: It's a team sport. Every team wants a superstar. Shohei Ohtani may be an exceptional hitter and pitcher, but even he can't play every position. Jesus knew he couldn't do it alone so he formed a team of disciples. And Paul described the church as a Body, made up of many members. Be a good team player!

Third Inning: Advance the runner. In many ways that's been my philosophy of ministry. So the question I ask myself is: "Did I advance the runner?" Are we in a better position now than we were before? And remember a sacrifice hit on our part may be what the team needs the most at that moment in the game.

Fourth Inning: You've got to learn to hit the curve. Life isn't always going to serve up a fat pitch over the heart of the plate. Life is going to throw you curves, so be ready.

Fifth Inning: You must stay focused. You can't afford to lose concentration, not even for a moment. Keep your eye on the ball. Keep your eye on Jesus. Seek first the kingdom of God.

Sixth Inning: Errors are a part of the game. Everyone boots a routine grounder now and then. Nobody's perfect. Nobody bats 1.000. The best hitters make an out 7 out of 10 times. But God forgives us and keeps us in the line up to continue to compete. God may have more faith in us than we do in ourselves.

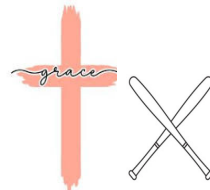
Seventh Inning: 162 games is a long season. Even the best teams only win 6 out of 10 games. During a long season, filled with ups-and-downs, you can't get too high or too low. You have to go out each day and give it your best effort. Learn from your mistakes and strive to improve a little each day.

Eighth Inning: Comebacks are part of the game. "The game's not over until it's over.." On Good Friday it may have seemed that evil won, but the game wasn't over yet - Easter Sunday brought the victory over sin and death. Hope in God is central to our faith.

Ninth Inning: In baseball the home team bats last and in life, writer Anne Lamott reminds us that, "Grace bats last." Thanks be to God!

Faithfully,

Pastor Robb



♥ **HAPPY**
Valentine's
DAY ♥



**FEED OUR HUNGRY CHILDREN/
BACKPACK MINISTRY OFFERING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22**



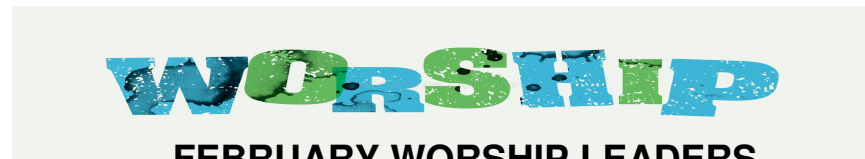
We will receive our monthly (school year) Feed Our Hungry Children/Backpack Ministry Offering during worship on Sunday, February 22. This offering is an extension of Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries and provides lunches and weekend food for students in Duplin County Schools. You may contribute to the offering in worship, by mailing a check to the church at P.O. Box 717, Wallace, NC 28466, by dropping your contribution through the mail slot of the front door of the church office building, or by giving online at www.wallacepresbyterian.com.



FEBRUARY 2026

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| February 1: | Matthew 5:1-12 |
| February 8: | Matthew 5:13-20 |
| February 15: | Matthew 17:1-9 |
| February 22: | Matthew 4:1-11 |

The sermon texts are provided so you can read them and pray about them before worship. Please keep our congregation and pastor in your prayers as we read and hear God's Word during the month of February.



DATE	LEADER	PREACHER
February 1	Addy Casteen	Robb Lapp
February 8	Parker Thompson	Robb Lapp
February 15	Devan Riley	Robb Lapp
February 22	Addy Casteen	Robb Lapp



Music On Market

Save the Date!
A Living Last Supper
Saturday, February 21, 2026, 7:30 PM
Sunday, February 22, 2026, 3:00 PM

A dramatic and poignant portrayal of Jesus and his disciples on the night before his betrayal, enhanced by music from the Lenten portion of Handel's Messiah.

Free & non-ticketed
Seating is limited and first come, first served
St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church
1416 Market Street | Wilmington, NC



Confirmation Class

- Class 2** - Sunday, February 8, 12:00 - 2:00 in fellowship hall (lunch provided)
- Scout makeup** - Sunday, February 15, 12:00 - 2:00 in fellowship hall (lunch provided)
- Class 3** - Sunday, February 22, 12:00 - 2:00 in fellowship hall (lunch provided)
- Class 4** - Sunday, March 8, 12:00 - 2:00 in fellowship hall (lunch provided)
- Mission Project** - Saturday, March 21, 1:00 - 3:00 in fellowship hall (Rise Against Hunger)
- Class 5** - Sunday, March 22, 12:00 - 2:00 in fellowship hall (lunch provided)
- Class 6** - Sunday, April 19, 12:00 - 2:00 in fellowship hall (lunch provided)
- Lock In** - Friday night, May 1 - Saturday morning, May 2 (details to be announced)
- Confirmation Sunday**, May 3, 9:45 breakfast meeting with the session to be received into membership; 11:00 welcome into membership in the worship service.

Leaders:
 Pastor Robb Lapp - 910 279-2388; interimpastor@wallacepresbyterian.com
 Christy Johnson - 910 271-2346; cjohnson120272@gmail.com



Wednesday morning, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in Room 304

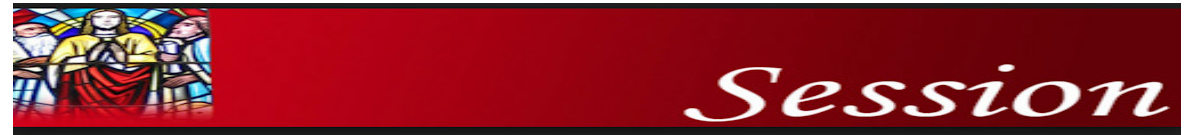
February 4	Matthew 5:13-20
February 11	Matthew 17:1-9
February 18	Matthew 4:1-11
February 25	John 3:1-17

You are invited to join our weekly Bible Study as we read and discuss the sermon text for the following Sunday.



2026 CHURCH OFFICERS

Clerk of Session: Hope Turnbull
 Church Treasurer: Wayne Casteen
 Corporation President: Curt Simpson



2026 SESSION

Robert Lapp, Moderator

Hope H. Turnbull, Clerk

CLASS OF 2026

Kevin Johnson
 Royal Johnson
 Nell Sloan

CLASS OF 2027

Karla Casteen
 Geneva Maready
 Devan Riley

CLASS OF 2028

Susan Carone
 Kristin Cottle
 Dwight Hall

2026 Ministry Team Assignments

Christian Education:	Kristin Cottle
Building & Grounds:	Royal Johnson, Dwight Johnson
Worship & Music:	Karla Casteen, Susan Carone
Personnel:	Royal Johnson
Stewardship & Finance:	Devan Riley
Congregational Care:	Nell Sloan, Geneva Maready
Outreach:	Kevin Johnson



Scout Sunday

WPC and Pack 35 will celebrate Scout Sunday on February 8. Pack 35 has been providing Cub Scouting to the young boys in the Wallace area for almost 75 years. Scout Sunday gives our pack the opportunity to put our final and most important Scout Law point into action, 'A Scout is Reverent.' Our pack is appreciative of Wallace Presbyterian Church for being our charter organization.

Chad Savage, Pack Leader



FEBRUARY



02/01: Mary Laine & Jason Rouse
 02/08: Harley & Isla Blanton
 02/15: Harriet & Windsor Farris
 02/22: Jennifer & Royal Johnson

Kevin Johnson, Head
 Bill Carone Ray Cobb
 Henry Stevens

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

OPENING CHURCH BUILDING

02/01: Tonya Patram
 02/08: Courtenay/Parker Thompson
 02/15: Ellie Newton
 02/22: Debbie Price

February 1-15: Nate Farris
 February 16-28: Clay Blue

CHURCH NEWS . . . For Your Information

* **We will collect** our annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" Offering after worship on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8.

* **The session** will meet on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 304. If you have any business or concerns for the session to consider, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor.

* **We will receive** our monthly (school year) **Feed Our Hungry Children/Backpack Ministry Offering** during worship on Sunday, February 22.

SAVE THE DATE!



Help package
10,000 meals
 to fight global hunger!

Wallace Presbyterian Church

Saturday, March 21st

1 - 3 PM



Register & donate!



events.riseagainsthunger.org/wpc26



LENT

Lenten Opportunities for Worship and Renewal

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. The ashes remind us of the consequences of our sin which is death. During Lent we remember and respond to the atoning death of Christ. Lent offers the opportunity to respond to the death of Christ so that we may rise with Him. Thus, it is appropriate to give up something for Lent (dying) and to take on an opportunity to serve (rising). **On that day from 12 noon - 1:00 pm, the sanctuary** will be open for quiet meditation and to receive the imposition of ashes, if you'd like. A resource with scriptures and prayers will be provided. You're welcome to come and go during that hour as your schedule permits. **Community Lenten Services and Lunches** will be hosted by the Wallace Methodist Church at 12:00 noon on Thursdays - March 12, 19, and 26.

SAVE THE DATE!

Kirkwood Creation Camp

GET READY FOR AN
 UNFORGETTABLE WEEK OF
 FAITH, FRIENDS, AND FUN!

JUNE 7TH THRU 11TH, 2026

2015 CAMP KIRKWOOD RD
 WATHA, NC 28478



JOIN US FOR FUN!

