

Monocacy Church of the Brethren

Monthly Newsletter

March 2026 – Issue 3

240-405-5967 – <http://www.monocacychurchofthebrethren.org>



The
Season
of
Lent



After Ash Wednesday begins the 40-day period of Lent, a word whose roots refer to the “lengthening” of days in springtime. Spiritually, however, its purpose is preparation: a time of fasting and prayer before the joy of Easter. Fasting was common by the fourth century as a way to avoid self-indulgence during a time of repentance – even marriage was prohibited during Lent, as College of the Holy

Cross [professor Joanne Pierce](#) explained.

Some Christians follow traditional fasts today, but others give up something pleasurable for the entire 40 days, from chocolate to TV. But Lent is not just about giving up, [according to Pierce](#). Its spiritual renewal is about giving, too, such as “making amends with estranged family and friends,” or doing community service.

Giving up chocolate must be one of the most common Lenten vows – but what happens if you take it a step further and nix sweets entirely? Penn State neuroscientist [Jordan Gaines Lewis](#) walked us through [the science of your brain on sugar](#). The delight it brings most people is a “natural reward,” an incentive to keep eating carbohydrates. But “modern diets have taken on a life of their own,”

she wrote: even a decade ago, the average American was estimated to consume 22 teaspoons of added sugar per day.

Another increasingly popular “fast” is especially 21st century: going offline. Taking a pause from the internet, especially social media, is sometimes promoted as a way to help focus on faith and “real world” connections. That can work, but some of these theories’ assumptions about technology are misguided, argued [Heidi Campbell](#), a Texas A&M communications expert who studies religion.

Digital fasting often buys into the idea of “technological determinism,” which often portrays technology as something dehumanizing and all-powerful. But this overlooks users’ ability to make choices about which goals of their technology can and can’t fulfill – including spiritual goals. Today, apps even offer to help people study religious texts, find faith-based products, or connect with others who share their beliefs.

“Technology can, in fact, be good for religion,” [Campbell wrote](#). “The question is, how do we engage with technology thoughtfully and actively?”

Christians live out Lent in many different ways. Yet “Lent in the 21st century remains essentially the same as in centuries past,” [as Pierce wrote](#): “a time of quiet reflection and spiritual discipline.”

Excerpts from Tucson.com

The Bulletin Board

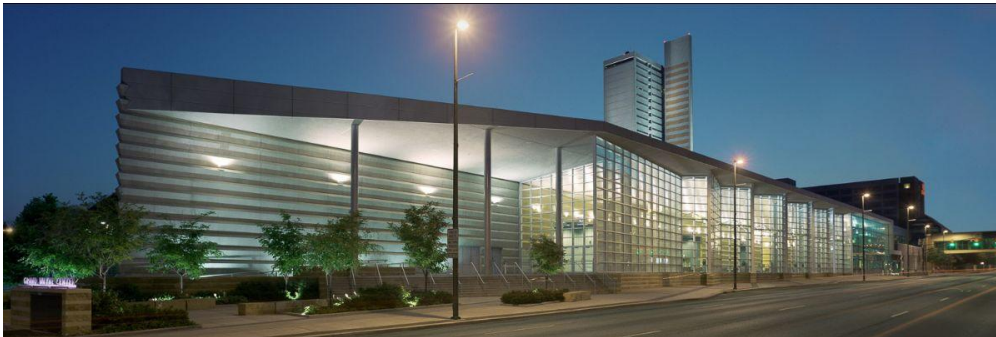


The Church Cleaning Schedule is posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you can help with church cleaning.



The Ladies semi-annual Bake Sale on February 21st netted \$521. Thanks to all the bakers and to those who helped setup and cleanup.

Church of the Brethren
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
June 28-July 2, 2026



Join us for the 239th recorded Annual Conference this summer in Fort Wayne, Indiana – Sunda June 28 – Thursday, July 2 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center.



Kelly Rump Hired As Director of Camps and Global Village.



Every Sunday from 9:30 – 10:30 am

Adult Sunday School

David Jeremiah Series - The Promise of Heaven

- March 1 - The Promise of Heaven
- March 8 - What's Up With Heaven
- March 15 - A Body For Heaven
- March 22 - The Celestial City
- March 29 - Heavenly Worship

Pastor Schedule For March

- March 1 – Bro Lerry Fogle
- March 8 – Bro Larry Dentler
- March 15 – Pastor Tracy Wiser
- March 22 – Dr. Richard Gough
- March 29 – Bro. Larr Dentler

Survivor Guide

B I B L E

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Upset	John 14
Weak	Psalms 18:1-29
Lonely	Psalms 23
Sinned	Psalms 51
Worried	Matthew 8:19-31
Anxious	Philippians 4:4-9
Unhappy	Colossians 3:12-17
In danger	Psalms 91
Depressed	Psalms 27
Lack of Faith	Exodus 14
Need Courage	Joshua 1
Need Direction	Psalms 73:21-26
Seeking peace	Matthew 11:25-30
Leaving on a trip	Psalms 121
Struggling with loss	Luke 15
Struggling Financially	Psalms 37
Discouraged with work	Psalms 126

**AVAILABLE 24/7 | PHONE SERVICE NOT REQUIRED
DIRECT PETITIONS HEAVENWARD**



Birthdays

Curtis Hartman 3rd
Jake Lutz 7th
Tyler Sumner 8th
Faye Wolfe 16th
Carol Simpson 20th
Lisa Reed 26th
Justin Peters 30th

BJ Troxell 4th
Joyce Seiss 7th
Josh Gomer 13th
Ronnie Anders 17th
Caleb Mason 23rd
Travis Stambaugh 27th

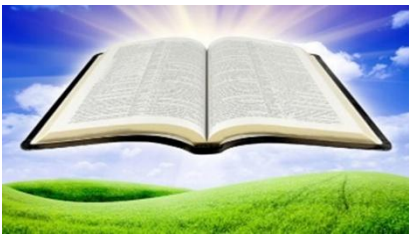
Eric Kilcoyne 5th
Cheyenne Simpson 7th
Daniel Peters 14th
Joey Lutz 18th
Chelsea Smith 26th
Caleb Peters 30th

Anniversaries

Kayla and Kyle Petrosky 14th

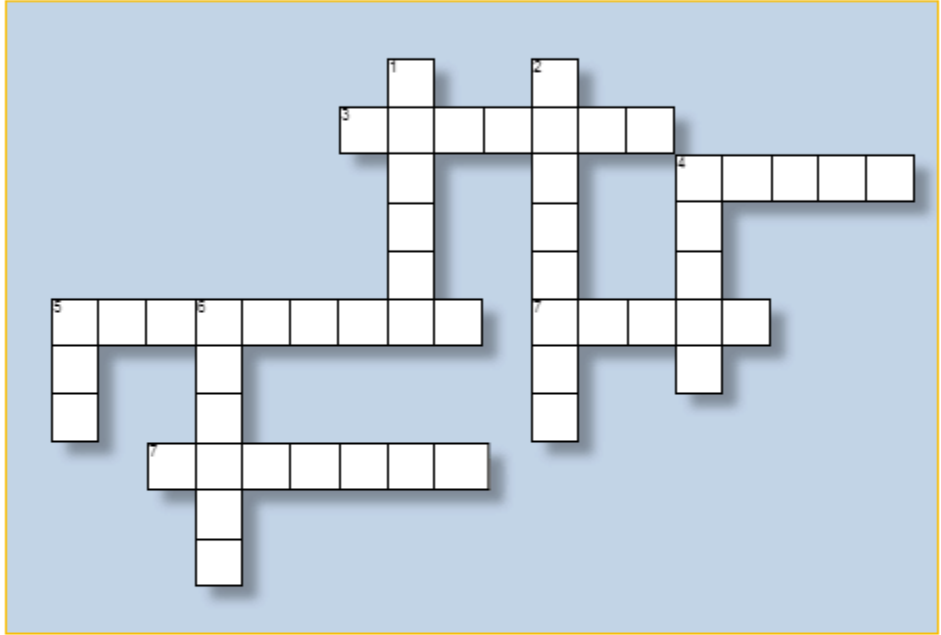
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Daily Scripture Readings for March 2026

1 Second Sunday in Lent	2 Psalm 128 Numbers 21:4-9 Hebrews 3:1-6	3 Psalm 128 Isaiah 65:17-25 Romans 4:6-13
4 Psalm 128 Ezekiel 36:22-32 John 7:53-8:11	5 Psalm 95 Exodus 16:1-8 Colossians 1:15-23	6 Psalm 95 Exodus 16:9-21 Ephesians 2:11-22
7 Psalm 95 Exodus 16:27-35 John 4:1-6	8 Third Sunday in Lent	9 Psalm 81 Genesis 24:1-27 2 John 1:1-13
10 Psalm 81 Genesis 29:1-14 1 Corinthians 10:1-4	11 Psalm 81 Jeremiah 2:4-13 John 7:14-31, 37-39	12 Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:10-21 Ephesians 4:25-32
13 Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:22-31 Ephesians 5:1-9	14 Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:32-34 John 1:1-9	15 Fourth Sunday in Lent
16 Psalm 146 Isaiah 59:9-19 Acts 9:1-20	17 Psalm 146 Isaiah 42:14-21 Colossians 1:9-14	18 Psalm 146 Isaiah 60:17-22 Matthew 9:27-34
19 Psalm 130 Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8-3 Revelation 10:1-11	20 Psalm 130 Ezekiel 33:10-16 Revelation 11:15-19	21 Psalm 130 Ezekiel 36:8-15 Luke 24:44-53
22 Fifth Sunday in Lent	23 Psalm 143 1 Kings 17:17-24 Acts 20:7-12	24 Psalm 143 2 Kings 4:18-37 Ephesians 2:1-10
25 <u>Annunciation of the Lord</u> Psalm 143 Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41 Matthew 22:23-33;	26 Psalm 31:9-16 1 Samuel 16:11-13 Philippians 1:1-11;	27 Psalm 31:9-16; Job 13:13-19 Philippians 1:21-30
28 Psalm 31:9-1 Lamentations 3:55-66 Mark 10:32-34	29 Liturgy of the Palms	30 Monday of Holy Week
31 Tuesday of Holy Week		



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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>3. God said Abraham would be "the father of many _____."</p> <p>4. Lights in the sky</p> <p>5. Another name for children</p> <p>7. Abraham's name before God changed it</p> <p>8. Accept as true</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1. Land where Abraham lived</p> <p>2. Promise or agreement</p> <p>4. God changed Sarai's name to this.</p> <p>5. Not young</p> <p>6. God told Abraham, "I am your _____."</p> |
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