

Glade Weekly News

February 24 – March 2, 2025



Glade Church, a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation, is a progressive Christian community—welcoming, compassionate, and joyful—seeking to embrace all people wherever they find themselves in life. We strive to discern God’s still-speaking voice through worship, study, fellowship, and service. We work for God’s peace and social, economic, and ecological justice.

Lectionary Readings for the Week

Exodus 34:29-35 — Psalm 99 — 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 — Luke 9:28-36, 37-43a

Scripture for the Week

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (Common English Bible)

Don't get upset over evildoers;
don't be jealous of those who do wrong,
² because they will fade fast, like grass;
they will wither like green vegetables.
³ Trust the Lord and do good;
live in the land, and farm faithfulness.
⁴ Enjoy the Lord,
and he will give what your heart asks.
⁵ Commit your way to the Lord!
Trust him! He will act
⁶ and will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
your justice like high noon.
⁷ Be still before the Lord,
and wait for him.
Don't get upset when someone gets ahead—
someone who invents evil schemes.
⁸ Let go of anger and leave rage behind!
Don't get upset—it will only lead to evil.
⁹ Because evildoers will be eliminated,
but those who hope in the Lord—
they will possess the land.
¹⁰ In just a little while the wicked won't exist!
If you go looking around their place,
they won't be there.
¹¹ But the weak will inherit the land;
they will enjoy a surplus of peace.

³⁹ The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;
he is their refuge in times of trouble.
⁴⁰ The Lord will help them and rescue them—
rescue them from the wicked—and he will save them
because they have taken refuge in him.

Word for the Week



Pastor Kelly's Comments on the Scripture

This psalm does tend to be a little oversimplified. It states that all poor people are righteous while all rich people oppress the poor. This, of course, is not always true. There are poor people who are morally deplorable – sometimes out of desperation to survive, true, but also because it is the moral path some choose. And there are some rich people who go out of their way to help their less fortunate neighbors.

However, unfortunately, it is usually more true than not. Now, the Psalm assures people that God is ultimately in control, and so they shouldn't be envious of their oppressors for their prosperity. The perception that their oppressors are in control is simply an illusion. And aside from not putting much stock into such a temporary state as an oppressor's prosperity, giving in to envy will only lead to evil.

The psalm states to let go of anger and leave rage behind because evildoers will be eliminated. Yes, eventually, all evil will be eliminated, though that will take millennia of God's people working for justice. In the meantime, I encourage you to let go of anger and leave rage behind more for your own spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical benefit. Forgiving your enemies' trespasses does not mean that you are condoning their actions, but rather, it means that you are not giving your energy (and anger takes a lot of energy) to something that can only hurt you.

Anger is like a cancer that lives inside you, and if you don't move beyond it, if you don't put it to rest, it will destroy you over time. It will turn your spirit bitter. It can induce depression and anxiety. It can cause your emotions to spiral out of control. And all of that stress on your senses can and does affect your physical body. Forgiving your oppressors, or circumstances beyond your control, only means that you are denying that oppression the power to affect you in such a negative way. Don't keep it inside.

Pastor Kelly Bryant

PS: I urge you to help us stand together against injustice. Call your congressional representatives with your concerns. The congressional switchboard number is (202) 224-3121. Also, <https://5calls.org/> is helpful in contacting the representative for your area. Thank you!

Office Day Next Week: Tuesday, March 4th. Kelly isn't listing hours to not place limits on their availability to you. Please contact them for a meeting at a time that fits your schedule on office days. Should you need Pastor Kelly, please don't hesitate to contact them.
540-521-9993, bryantkj@gmail.com.

Join us for worship at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday Morning

Attend in-person at 1600 Glade Rd. Blacksburg, or on Zoom at

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88914981619?pwd=Q3E4Rk95d2llZGtONlVqSDcrMm1xdz09/#_success

New Member Class Coming Soon!

Pastor Kelly is planning a New Member Class after their ordination. Stay tuned, details coming soon!

Spiritual Formation Class and Youth Group meets again on March 9

Spiritual Formation for adults now meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Next meeting date is Sunday, March 9 at 9:45 AM. We hope you'll join us!

Service of Ordination for Pastor Kelly



We hope everyone will be able to join us for Pastor Kelly's Ordination Service on Sunday, March 9th at 5 PM. The service will be followed by a potluck reception. If you signed up to bring a dish before the service was rescheduled, you will need to sign up on the new sheet. If you plan to bring a dish please sign up by Sunday 3/2/25 so we can make plans to supplement with additional items to serve our guests if needed.

If you can't make it to the service in person, it will be available using the Zoom link for Sunday morning service and will also be recorded.

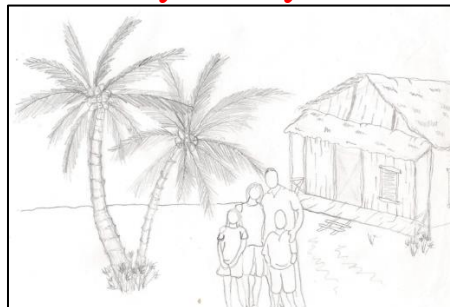
Link to the new potluck sign-up sheet: [Potluck Sign-Up Sheet](#)

Ash Wednesday Service



The Ash Wednesday Service will be on Wednesday, March 5 at 6:30 PM.

World Day of Prayer Service



This year's local World Day of Prayer service is being hosted at Asbury United Methodist Church in Christiansburg on Friday, March 7. If anyone from Glade is interested in attending, light refreshments will be available at 6:00 and the prayer service will begin at 6:30.

Volunteers are needed for Kids Church and Youth Group

There are leader slots available for youth, kids, and nursery. Session topic info is available on the sign-up link below. Youth Group is on the first and third Sundays of each month and Kids Church is on the second and fourth Sundays of each month during worship service. Here is the link to sign up to serve our children:

[Kids Church and Youth Group Volunteer Signup](#)



Mark your calendar - The Big Event will be on April 5, 2025 from 8 AM until noon. This is the day where VT students come and help us tackle projects outside the church. We need volunteers to clean inside the church as well. If you want to help but already have plans that day, you're welcome to go to the church any time to clean. Contact David Taylor (David.taylor1@verizon.net) for more information or to sign up.

Laundry Love

Thursday February 27 from 6-8 PM and Sunday March 2 from 2-4 PM at North Main Laundromat.

Laundry Love has opportunities to volunteer. This is a great way to put "Words" into "Actions" of faith and love. We do this at the laundromat on North Main across from the Y-Thrift Shop. Click below to volunteer!

[VOLUNTEER FOR LAUNDRY LOVE](#)

Help provide an extravagant welcome

We have Greeters posted at the two main entrances to the church to welcome people as they arrive on Sunday mornings. Greeters hand out a bulletin, make sure visitors receive a visitor card to fill out, and answer any questions they may have about the church service and the building. See Sandra Bryant for more information or to sign up to be a Sunday Greeter.

Glade Community Group on Facebook

We have a private community group on Facebook! If you're active on Facebook and would like to join, contact Sandra Bryant at kstbryant@gmail.com to get connected.

Coffee & Devotion Group Meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 am

This virtual get-together meets at 10 a.m. on Zoom and lasts for about an hour for a time to meet people, share thoughts, hear a brief devotion, and join in prayer. This time of fellowship is open to everyone, it's a time to gather for conversation, devotion and prayer. Come meet some people you may not know.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89240288592?pwd=KzhRWlJiQTkzWWRlYTNUbRkdPaUNqUTog>

Radical Conversations [RadCon] Meets Saturdays at 11:00 am

Radical Conversations meets from 11:00-12:15 each Saturday morning at the church. This is a time for open discussion of a wide range of topics. RadCon is open to any and every interested individual.

Women's Book Group Meets Third Mondays at 7 PM on Zoom

The Women's Book Group meets on the third Monday of each month on Zoom at 7 PM for a discussion of the current book. The book for March is "House of Eve" by Sadeqa Johnson. Contact Rebecca Herman at rherman@gilesk12.net for the Zoom link.

UCC Purpose, Vision, and Mission Statements

Purpose: To love God with all our heart, mind soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. (From the Gospel of Matthew)

Vision: United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

Mission: United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

John 17:21 is the scriptural foundation of the United Church of Christ