

Glade Weekly News

March 31 – April 6, 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

Isaiah 43:16-21 — Psalm 126 — Philippians 3:4b-14 — John 12:1-8

Scripture for the Week

Philippians 3:4b-14 (Common English Bible)

If anyone else has reason to put their confidence in physical advantages, I have even more:

⁵ I was circumcised on the eighth day.

I am from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin.

I am a Hebrew of the Hebrews.

With respect to observing the Law, I’m a Pharisee.

⁶ With respect to devotion to the faith, I harassed the church.

With respect to righteousness under the Law, I’m blameless.

⁷ These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. ¹⁰ The righteousness that I have comes from knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being conformed to his death ¹¹ so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead. ¹² It’s not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I myself don’t think I’ve reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. ¹⁴ The goal I pursue is the prize of God’s upward call in Christ Jesus.

Word for the Week

Matter vs. Spirit



Pastor Kelly’s Comments on the Scripture

Paul says in verse 9 that he has found a way of living through “a righteousness . . . from the faithfulness of Christ” rather than something that comes from himself. The other apostles had been trying to bully Gentiles into becoming Jewish – after all, the very beginnings of the Christian faith were seen for many years as a different sect of Judaism. One of the big Jewish customs that they tried to force onto Gentiles was circumcision. This was a huge point of contention – not only among the apostles, but between Jewish and Gentile Christians.

But Paul argues, much as Jesus did, that things merely observing traditional Jewish rites has nothing to do with whether someone is truly in the kingdom of God. Paul and Jesus both stated that ritually washing before eating or eating different foods cannot make you unclean. The only thing that can be unclean is your heart, which is reflected in your speech and actions. The Spirit cares not a thing whether someone is uncircumcised or chooses to eat foods traditionally forbidden by Jewish custom. No, the Spirit cares about what is on your heart and your mind, whether you are loving your neighbors as God loves you, and whether you're loving God with all your heart, mind, and spirit.

Pastor Kelly Bryant

Office Day Next Week: Monday, April 7th. 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 outside of these days, 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 in May!

Pastor Kelly is planning a New Member Class on Sunday May 4th after service. If you're interested in becoming a member or want to know more about the Glade community we hope to see you there. Refreshments will be provided. Current members are also welcome to attend!



Mark your calendar - The Big Event will be on April 5, 2025 from 10 AM until 2 PM. 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.

Fundraiser for Blacksburg Refugee Partnership



[Click here to purchase tickets](#)

Spiritual Formation Class meets again on April 13

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

Palm Sunday Potluck!

We are planning a potluck on Palm Sunday, April 13, after service. Bring a dish if you're able and stay for some food and fellowship!



Mark your calendar – Montgomery County Broomin & Bloomin is on April 19, 2025. As in years past, we will clean up the trail behind Food Lion. Contact Jill Sible (siblej@vt.edu) for more information or to sign up.

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](#)

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.

Radical Conversations [RadCon] will NOT meet this week

Radical Conversations will not meet this week due to cleanup happening at the church during The Big Event.

Laundry Love

Sunday April 6 from 2-4 PM and Thursday April 10 from 6-8 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](#)

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=KzhRWlJiQTkzWWRIYTNUkRkdPaUNqUToo>

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 April is "The Briar Club" by Kate Quinn. 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