



*Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day!*

## The Hill Country Connection March 2025

Hill Country Christian Church

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Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lenten season, is this coming Wednesday—March 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be observing this meaningful service at 6:00 p.m. I hope you will make the effort to participate. There will be beautiful music, a short homily, and the imposition of ashes at the end of the service (for those who wish—this isn't mandatory). Wearing sackcloth and ashes was a sign of deep repentance in the Old Testament and is a reminder of our own mortality. That may not be a pleasant thought, but it is an important reminder of the brevity of life and the call of an eternal God for our hearts.

Our theme for Lent this year is: "The Most Famous Last Words" as we look at the seven statements of Jesus on the cross given to us by the four gospel writers. We don't emphasize "giving something up" during the season (although each person can observe Lent in their own way). But whatever course you take, the Lenten journey is one of repentance leading to experiencing the freedom and joy of forgiveness.

As we all looked with horror at the recent disastrous fires in California and our hearts went out to hurt people, it reminded me of a story from a previous fire episode. As a couple drove their trailer through dry Northern California, they felt a tire blow and heard the scrape of metal against pavement. The sparks ignited the 2018 Carr fire—a wildfire that burned nearly 230,000 acres, destroyed



more than 1,000 homes, and resulted in the deaths of several people. When survivors heard how the couple were overcome with grief, they formed a Facebook page to show “grace and extend kindness . . . for the shame and despair” enveloping them. One woman wrote: “As someone that lost their home to this fire—I need you to know my family doesn’t blame you, nor do any of the other families that lost homes. . . . Accidents happen. I really hope these kind messages ease your burden. We will all get through this together.”

Condemnation, our fear that we’ve done something unredeemable, can cannibalize the human soul. Thankfully, the Scriptures reveal that “if our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts” (1 John 3:20). Whatever our hidden shame, God is greater than all of it. Jesus calls us to the healing act of repentance and simply unmask the shame consuming us. Then, encountering divine redemption, we “set our hearts at rest in His presence” (1 John 3:19).

Whatever our regrets over things we wish we could undo, God draws us near. Jesus smiles at us and says, “Your heart is free.” This is my wish for all of us during Lent this year.

## ✿ Irish Blessing ✿

May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
And rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.





Remember that Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Please join us for our service which will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the Lent Theme this year is "The Most Famous Last Words".



**Daylight Savings begins Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, so don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour Saturday night.**



# VBS



Just a heads up – VBS has been scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 4<sup>th</sup>. This year, the theme is “True North”, trusting Jesus in a wild world, and promises to be a lot of fun. Please consider volunteering to help this year, and start spreading the word to neighbors, family and friends so we have lots of kids. More info to come as the dates draw closer.

This month, you know what we have - March 30<sup>th</sup>, a fifth Sunday, so you know what that means???

**A !!!!.....POTLUCK.....!!!!**

**AND GREAT FOOD!!**

The church will be providing fried chicken so we are asking if you could bring one of your favorite side dishes, salads, or desserts to accompany it.

Our potlucks  
never disappoint, can't wait!!



## Prayers

*We have had so many recently who have medical conditions and/or are recovering from those conditions. We want them to know our hearts and thoughts are with them and we offer this prayer.....*

Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus... We are praying for complete healing and good health for our friends. Please take away their worries, & grant them inner peace and strength. Please bless their families with happiness, love and good health and that they all grow old gracefully with your guidance and in your mercy. Thank you Lord. AMEN



# Celebrate!

## March Birthdays

Kathy Pena - 5  
Lillian Willard - 10  
Donna Heath - 11  
Melanie Fishlock - 16  
Joan Miller - 17  
Paul Moore - 26

## March Anniversaries

Gordon & Darlene McAninch - 1  
Chad & Christina Martinez - 25  
Tomas & Elva Sigala - 31



**WEAR GREEN AND LOOK  
BT BEAUTIFUL!!**



**Happy St. Patrick's Day!!**

# March 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am – Bible Class  10:30 am – Worship	3	4	5 1:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Class  Ash Wednesday & Beginning of Lent 6:00 pm - Service	6 		8 8:30 am – Men's Breakfast and fellowship
9 9:30 am – Bible Class 10:30 am – Worship  Daylight Savings Begins	10 	11	12 1:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Class	13	14 	15 10:00 am -- CWF (Christian Women's Fellowship)
16 9:30 am – Bible Class  10:30 am – Worship	17 St. Patrick's Day  	18	19 1:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Class	20	21	22 
23 9:30 am – Bible Class  10:30 am – Worship	24 	25	26 1:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Class	27 6:00 pm – General Board Meeting	28	
30 9:30 am – Bible Class 10:30 am – Worship Potluck right after Worship	31					

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