

THE OLIN T. BINKLEY MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

MARCH 8, 2026
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



John August Swanson, *Moses*

BECOMING AWARE

"Following Yahweh in the wilderness, however is not the life of the salon or the drawing room, sipping from fine china. It is a hard-scrabble, risky existence whose practitioners have to drink directly from the rock."

-Timothy F. Simpson, *Political Theology Today*

"Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other.

It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully".

-Abraham Lincoln, 2nd Inaugural Address

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

RINGING THE SANCTUS BELL

PRELUDE

High on the Mountain Top
Mike Harris, pianist

Ebenezer Beasley
arr. by Linda Hartman

CHORAL INTROIT

When They Said Unto Me

Garth Molyneux

*RESPONSIVE INVOCATION

We pray today for all who are walking a hard journey:

for those whose daily paths encounter barbed wire and guns;
for those who did not want to leave home but were forced to;
for those who set out today in search of food and water;
for those whose journey is shattered by economic hardship;
for those whose journey is marred by pain or despair,
and for those who faithfully journey alongside them;
for those who are making a move and beginning again;
for those who are clinging on to something that has ended;
for those who are being bullied, and for those who are bullying;
for those who have just taken their first breath, and
for those who today will take their last.

May this Lenten journey, with its stories
about the hard places of Jesus' experience,
give strength and courage to all
whose journey is far from easy.

**And may it inspire us to risk Christ's Way of love
as we share the journey with other travelers.
We make this prayer in his name. Amen.**

*HYMN

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

#709

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marcus McFaul

*Please pass the Friendship Registers found on each row.
Complete the requested information and then pass it back down the row.
Thank you for worshipping with us at Binkley!*

*Infants through Kindergarten are invited to Nursery care in the Sunroom.
Parents, please pick up your children at this location following Worship.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 95:1-6

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God
with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are God's also.

The sea is God's, for God made it, and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to

them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

John 4: 5-11

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"

For the Word of God in scripture,
and for the word of God in and among us,
Thanks be to God.

HEARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Susan Rogers

A CALL TO CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God of mercy, hear the prayers of your thirsting people.
For every time we have attributed your miracles in our lives
to our own hands alone,
Forgive us, we pray.

For every time we promised to trust you but turned to our own way
when your response did not come soon enough
or in the way we expected,
Grant us mercy, O God.

For the many opportunities to extend forgiveness
that we have refused,
Show us what it means to love, again, dear Lord.

For each way we put our own understandings above your wisdom,
For each time we resist your command to be reconciled with those
who believe differently from us,
Direct us in the way of peace, we pray.

For our silent sins, our quiet acts of violence,
and our indifference to the suffering round us,
**Forgive us, Loving One, and quench our thirst with your grace;
Remake us into vessels of tenderness and compassion.
For Christ's sake we pray.**

Because of God's great love for us,
we have peace with God and access to God's grace

all through Jesus Christ who provides
living water that quenches the dryness of our souls.
In this we know we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

CALL TO PRAYER

It Is Well With My Soul
Binkley Bells

Linda R. Lamb, arr

The Binkley Bells would like to thank Charles Carver for his generous donation to pay for the refurbishment of our handbells. The Carver family originally purchased the bells back in 1989 in memory of Charles' wife, Jenny.

DISCIPLINE OF SILENCE AND MORNING PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sun of My Soul

Tom Fettke, arr.

Sun of my soul Thou Savior dear, it is not night if Thou be near;
O may no earthborn cloud arise to hide thee from Thy servant's eyes.

Abide with me from morn till eve, for without Thee I cannot live.
Abide with me when night is nigh, for without Thee I dare not die.

Come near and bless us when we wake, e're through the world our way we take;
Till, in the ocean of Thy love, we lose ourselves in heav'n above.

SERMON

"Is the Lord Among Us or Not?"

Marcus McFaul

*HYMN

Ours the Journey

#458

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Herr Jesu Christ dich zu uns wend"

Johann Christoph Bach



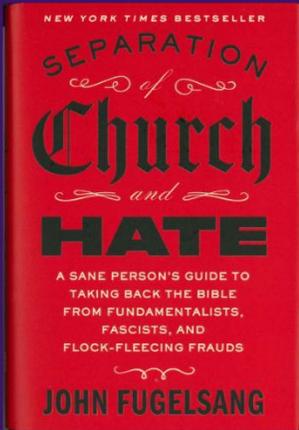
The flowers on the communion table are given by Valerie Willhoit in honor of the Lentz Family Choral Scholars

Next Sunday: Claire Dillashaw preaches on John 9 and the Chancel Choir will sing an anthem. March 22nd: Dedication of Bowen Stokes, son to Jessica and Vanessa Clark Stokes; Brad Berglund – guitarist and vocalist.



Easter Lily orders

Easter Lilies are \$20 each. Order forms are available in bulletins and on the welcome desk. You may order online [HERE](#). All orders must be completed by [March 30](#).



Lenten Book Study.

Dr. McFaul invites you to read and discuss John Fugelsang's provocative bestseller Separation of Church and Hate starting on Thursday, February 19th for five consecutive weeks at Noon in the Lounge for 1 hour. Chapters 10-12 for Thurs. 3/12.

Please join in the discussion!

The Endowment Fund of the Binkley Baptist Church provides an opportunity for church members interested in the work and mission of the church to make gifts and bequests to a permanent fund. The income from this invested principal is used to fund special needs or opportunities of the church that supplement normal programs and ministries supported by the annual budget. Any church committee or church member can make a request for expenditure of eligible endowment funds.

Please fill out the form (<https://bit.ly/BinkleyEndowmentRFP>) by Sunday, March 15 and direct any questions to binkleyendowmentcommittee@gmail.com.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to answer phones during Tuesday morning staff meetings - 10-Noon.

Typically only one Tuesday per month is needed.

Email or call the office or speak with Phala Gellert to sign up.



TODAY! Register for the 2026 Binkley Women's Retreat! **The Things That Make for Peace** May 15-17, 2026, at the Beach! at The Trinity Center, Salter Path, NC. Register online [here](#) or pick up a registration form at the Welcome Desk



Sojourners: will meet this week as part of Jeff Swanson’s class.

Understanding and Reflecting on the Liturgical Year: will meet again later in the year.

Mindful Parenting: At each weekly meeting in the Chapel, the class discusses ideas about parenting from current resources. Novice and experienced parents and caregivers – all are welcome. Ty Hagler facilitates this class.

Thinking carefully about mental illness, violence, and guns: a social justice lens - a class from Jeff Swanson. Further information below. The class will meet in the Lounge.

Upcoming Class: From Brad Berglund: Keepers of the Faith: The Irish High Cross - Carved stone crosses are one of the most unique features of Irish Spirituality and grace nearly every country across the Irish landscape. Often referred to as the stained glassed windows of the Irish tradition, many crosses feature etched-in-stone versions of biblical stories and stand up to 20 feet in height. Through slides and narrative, we’ll look at the history of these fascinating crosses, their dates and construction techniques and how this deeper understanding can inspire your own faith journey. March 22nd in the Lounge.

In the Narthex this Sunday and every Sunday, the 2026 Crop Hunger Walk T-shirts will go on sale for \$10 each. So far no one has signed up for this year’s Crop Walk. Use the Q Scan to get to the website and join the Binkley Walkers’ team.




Thinking carefully about mental illness, violence, and guns: a social justice lens

March 1, 8, and 15th

Three-Session Adult Sunday School with Jeff Swanson, PhD

North Carolina is home to more than two million people who experience mental illness each year, yet our public behavioral-health system reaches only a fraction of those in need. Governor Stein’s recent Executive Order highlights the crisis: nearly every county faces a shortage of mental-health professionals, and too many people go untreated until they end up in emergency rooms, jails, or prisons. Nationally, more people with disabling mental illnesses are incarcerated today than were housed in the largest state hospitals a generation ago. At the same time, the United States continues to lose about 130 people every day to preventable firearm injuries—more than half by suicide. These two problems intersect only at their edges, but both raise profound ethical questions about safety, autonomy, justice, and our obligations to one another. This three-session series will explore these issues through a public-health lens and the moral commitments of a faith community dedicated to compassion and social justice. We will also consider how partisan polarization distorts public understanding—and how congregations like Binkley can help bridge divides to support humane, evidence-based solutions.

March 8 - Session 2 – Outpatient Civil Commitment:

Autonomy vs. Paternalism. Understanding Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), the surge in involuntary commitments, and the ethical tensions at the heart of current NC policy debates.

March 15 - Session 3 – Psychiatric Advance Directives:

Ulysses in Recovery. How PADs help people preserve autonomy during future crises, the ethics of self-binding, and ways congregations can support dignity and recovery.

Jeff Swanson is Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University School of Medicine and a faculty affiliate of the Wilson Center for Science and Justice at Duke Law School. Trained as a sociologist, he works across disciplines to build evidence for interventions, policies and laws to improve outcomes for people with mental illness and to prevent firearm-related violence and suicide. He is a long-time Binkley member.

Background readings for further interest – supplied on request



Binkley Senior Adult Ministry Updates From Diane Eubanks Hill, Minister with Senior Adults

The coming months bring new opportunities for community and learning and inspiration:

Watch Out for Scams! Wednesday, March 18, 10:30, followed by lunch.

Almost every day, educated members of our community lose thousands of dollars. Most are people who once thought “That could never happen to me.” Join us Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall to hear 1st Lieutenant Daniel Roberson with the Orange County Sheriff’s Office present his popular program about scams, how and why they work, and what you can do to prevent becoming a victim of one.

The program is designed so that participants can hear about common “local” scams, how sophisticated the industry is world-wide, and learn from the experiences of others. Questions and discussion are invited throughout or welcomed at the end of the presentation.

Pizza and salad from Alfredo’s, along with brownies and cookies, will be available. Suggested donation: \$10 each. Please register [here](#).

Aging in Community led by April Kemper. This group gathered on February 19 and explored challenges each is facing, offering care and support. Many thanks to April for leading! Watch for opportunities to gather with this group - possibly for a visit to the Botanical Gardens - once the weather is better. Drop ins are always welcome!

Sunday Afternoon Hymn Sing – Gather with your friends at 4:00 on the afternoon of May 3 to enjoy some of your favorite hymns from our Chalice Hymnal. Watch for the opportunity to indicate your requests. Plan to stay around for ice cream and conversation!

Back Porch Brunch and Book Discussion – Gather on my back porch to discuss Joan Chittister’s fascinating book *The Gift of Years – Growing Older Gracefully*. (Note new title for book discussion.) The book is composed of about 40 brief chapters on topics such as Regret, Meaning, Letting Go, Agelessness, Forgiveness.... In the Introduction Chittister observes “...it is important to come face-to-face with what it means to age, to be older, to be old, to become an elder in society.” I found this book extremely meaningful a few years ago and look forward to exploring it now with my Binkley family. I invite you to pick up a copy and start reading and pondering!

All events offered by Binkley’s Senior Adult Ministry are open to anyone interested, no matter the age. Questions? Contact a Senior Adult Planning Team Member (Tonya Hamm, Buck Horton, April Kemper, Denise Laux, Craig Meisner, Elizabeth Perry, Betty Prioux, Sheryl Scrimsher, Dennis Will or Diane Eubanks Hill, Minister with Senior Adults) Next planning meeting March 16th.



Children & Youth Activities

Date	Children	Youth
March 8	Chapel @ 9 Sunday School @ 9:45 Worship @ 11	Chapel @ 9 Sunday School @ 9:45 Worship @ 11
March 15	Chapel @ 9 Sunday School @ 9:45 Worship @ 11	Chapel @ 9 Sunday School @ 9:45 Worship @ 11

BINKLEY PRAYER CONCERNS AND JOYS

CHURCH FAMILY

Liz Medefesser	Chet & Verla Insko	Al Wheless & Melissa Moore	Martha Smith & Allison Smith
Maribel Bruno	Lyn Lamont	Deborah Tippett	Susan Pike
Sue Wallace	Howard Tate	Susan Rogers	Elizabeth Eagle
Mike Ennis	Dennis Will & Family	Bo Lloyd	Art & Gwen Sherwood
Jerry and Eileen Richards	Katherine Walker	Curt McLaughlin	Alan Brown

We extend our sympathies to the family of Shaun Wilburn (Son of Nettie and Sam Wilburn) who died this past week.

HEALTH CENTER RESIDENTS AND THOSE IN THE HOSPITAL

Laurence & Rachel Avery	Betty Bean	Nell Morton	Ruth Ann Ross	Yvonne Holt
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EXTENDED FAMILY

Renzo Hernandez (Maribel Bruno)	Joe Grieshaber (Karen Long)	Lillian Moneyhun (Gloria Lightsey-Lewis)
Antonio Faria Bonano (Maribel Bruno)	Luisa Euwema (Julie Lentz)	Ethan & Charlotte Zolit (Martha Hutt)
Lidsi Diaz (Maribel Bruno)	John Coble (Charles Coble)	Roy Cotton (Karen Long)
Marlene Gual (Maribel Bruno)	Keith Siegel (Kimberly Eastman Zirkle)	Ruby Switzer (Katherine Walker)
Anthony Taylor (Dorothy Pennell)	Valerie Harper (April Harper)	Ben Armfield (Susan Rogers)
Jerry Nettles (Phala Gellert)	Penny Freeman (Wendy Gellert)	Kathy Gregory Bell (Myra Knight)
Thomas McIlwain (Ashley Nissler)	Rowan Caraway (Dennis Will)	Charles and Joyce Ham (Angie Hutto)
Philip Callen (Karen Long)	Randolph Wilson (Denise Laux)	Gene Carpenter (Libba Wells)
Banner & Ingrid Carrera (Dorothy Pennell)	Michele DeRieux (Kathryn Handley)	Bill Daniel (V Sue Wallece)
Jan & David Edwards (S. Ketchin)	Tom Dagenhart (Diane Eubanks Hill)	Debbie Hawkins (Mike Hawkins)
Mark Price (Jan Young)	Joyce Davis (Karin Mills)	Betty Hillman (Martha and Ginger Greene)

CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS

The Comprehensive Rural Health Project, Jamkhed Tan & Scott Coats (Myanmar missionaries)	Pinheiro Baptist Church, Maceio, Brazil - Odja Barros & Wellington Santos, Pastors
The People of Iran	People of Sudan
Hope Flowers School – Issa Family	Pastor Ishan Biswas, Native Evangelical Church, Bangladesh
Palestinian and Israeli victims of violence	Men of Orange Correctional Center
	The People of Ukraine

OUR STAFF

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