



## STILLWATER CHURCH

"People helping people love and serve Jesus!"

### *MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER*

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#### **A Special Message from Pastor Mike Hoppe**

#### **Fasting During Lent**

During this season of Lent, we invite our Stillwater Church family to join together in the Daniel Fast. This fast follows the Old Testament prophet Daniel's practice of eating only simple foods such as vegetables, fruits, grains, beans, and water while avoiding foods such as meat, eggs, dairy, sugars, processed foods, caffeine, and alcohol.

Fasting may last 10 or 21 days, as Daniel practiced, or for fewer days with a modified diet if needed. The purpose of fasting is to weaken our fleshly desires in order to strengthen our spiritual sensitivity. When combined with prayer and repentance, fasting draws us closer to God and His refining work in our lives.

Because fasting is challenging, it is especially meaningful to walk through this journey together. In the lobby, be sure to pick up a free Lenten daily devotion book and Daniel Fast guide. You are also invited to share recipes, photos, and testimonies of what God is teaching you in our "Lent at Stillwater 2026" Facebook group.

Repentance is the seed of revival, and we look forward with anticipation to how God will move in your life during this Lenten season.

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#### **Mark Your Calendars!**

- Mondays - Food Pantry, 9-11am
- Tuesdays - Tuesday Adult Small Group, 10am, Choir Room
- Tuesdays - Prayer Team Meeting, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Wednesdays - Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs, 5:30-7:15pm
- Thursdays - VIBE Ministry, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
- Feb. 27-28 - Healing & Deliverance Seminar, Stillwater Church
- Mar. 1 - Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- Mar. 1 - Kentucky Mission Trip Meeting, 12pm, Fellowship Hall
- Mar. 5 - Nurture Team Meeting, 10am, Choir Room
- Mar. 6 - Kids Night Out, 5:30-8:30pm
- Mar. 6 - Friday Night Lenten Service, 6pm
- Mar. 8 - Coffee Bar for Time Change, 9:30-10:30am

- Mar. 8 - Threads of Grace Ministry, 2-4pm, Fellowship Hall
- Mar. 13 - Club 345, 6pm
- Mar. 15 - Missions Team Meeting, 12pm, Choir Room
- Mar. 15 - Kids Sunday School Teachers Meeting, 2pm, Choir Room
- Mar. 15 - Kids Worship & Wee Worship Leaders & Helpers Mtg, 3pm, Choir Rm
- Mar. 20 - Friday Night Lenten Service, 6pm
- Mar. 21 - Emmaus Gathering at Stillwater, 6pm
- Mar. 22 - Hospitality Team Meeting, 2pm, Fellowship Hall
- Mar. 28 - Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, 6:30-10:30am, Fellowship Hall
- Mar. 29 - Confirmation Sunday/Palm Sunday
- Apr. 2 - Last Supper Drama, 7pm
- Apr. 3 - Good Friday Service, 7pm
- Apr. 4 - Easter Eggstravaganza, 9-11am
- Apr. 5 - Easter Sunday, 6:30am Sunrise Service at Bayou Sara Boat Launch
- Apr. 5 - Easter Sunday, 8:30am Traditional Service & 10:30am Contemporary Service

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### Wednesday Night Dinner and Program

**Dinner:** Wednesdays at 5:30pm. First-time guests and college students always eat for free. Meal cost: \$9/adult, \$7/child, \$28/family max. Please sign up on the Sunday connection cards or contact the church office to register.

**Studies:** Starting at 6:00pm, all ages have great opportunities, including nursery, elementary school, middle school, high school, and adults.

*What's for dinner this week? Chili with Beef and Beans, White Bean Chicken Chili, coleslaw, cornbread, Mexican cornbread, tea & desserts!*



### Lenten Sermon Series "In the Fire: Lessons from Daniel"

Step into the book of Daniel and discover how faithfulness can shine under pressure. Throughout Lent, we will practice weekly, practical spiritual disciplines such as surrender, courage, and humility that are taught through this powerful story.

- Mar. 1 "The Crumbling Statue: Practicing Surrender" Daniel 2:31–36
- Mar. 8 "Fiery Furnace: Practicing Courage" Daniel 3:16–20
- Mar. 15 "Writing on the Wall: Practicing Humility" Daniel 5:22–24
- Mar. 22 "Lions' Den: Practicing Prayer" Daniel 6:13–16
- Mar. 29 "The Coming Son of Man: Practicing Prophetic Living" Daniel 7:13–14

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### Healing and Deliverance Seminar, Feb. 27-28

Stillwater will host a Healing and Deliverance Seminar, led by Rev. Teresa Gilland, on Friday, Feb. 27, 6-8pm, and Saturday, Feb. 28, 9am-3pm. Lunch will be provided. This will be a learning experience as well as an opportunity for anyone to participate and receive healing and deliverance. Please register for this event on the sign-up sheets in the lobby or contact the church office at [info@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:info@stillwaterchurch.com) so that lunch and handouts can be planned accordingly.

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### Men's Breakfast, March 1

All men of the church are invited to Men's Breakfast on March 1, at 7am, in the Fellowship Hall! Cost is a freewill donation, and the men enjoy casual conversation and a short devotion.



## Friday Night Lenten Services

James Currie will be leading two Lenten services on Fridays in March. Everyone is invited to hear the following messages:

March 6 "Handle with Care"  
March 20 "Eulogy for the Living"

## Coffee Bar Sunday, March 8

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to spring forward one hour before you go to bed! Then, join us that Sunday morning, 9:30-10:30, for Coffee Bar Sunday!



## Hospitality Team Meeting, March 22

A graphic with a light blue background. The title "HOSPITALITY TEAM MEETING" is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, "SUNDAY, MARCH 22" and "2:00 PM" are written. The text describes the meeting for greeters, ushers, and other church members. At the bottom, there are illustrations of people shaking hands and a coffee cup.

**HOSPITALITY TEAM MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 22** **2:00 PM**

ALL greeters, ushers, coffee hostesses, Security Team members, communion stewards and those involved in sanctuary readiness and visitor bag prep are asked to attend. This is an important meeting as we will be discussing best practices and Holy Week service preparations. All who are interested in the Hospitality Ministry of Stillwater Church are welcome to attend!

## Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, March 28

A blue graphic for a Lions Club pancake breakfast. It features the Lions Club logo, a stack of pancakes with a sausage, and a coffee cup. Text includes: "Drive-Thru & Dine In", "While Supplies Last", "SARALAND LIONS CLUB", "PANCAKE BREAKFAST", "Saturday", "March 28, 2026", "6:30-10:30 am", "Location: Stillwater Church, 425 McKeough Ave, Saraland, AL 36571", "Includes: Homemade pancakes, Local Conecuh Sausage, Hot Coffee & Drinks", and the website "www.saralandlionsclub.com".

Drive-Thru & Dine In

While Supplies Last

**SARALAND LIONS CLUB**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**TICKETS:**  
\$10 Adult  
\$5 Children  
6 Yrs or Under

**Saturday**  
**March 28, 2026**  
**6:30-10:30 am**

**Location:**  
Stillwater Church  
425 McKeough Ave  
Saraland, AL 36571

**Includes:**  
Homemade pancakes  
Local Conecuh Sausage  
Hot Coffee & Drinks

[www.saralandlionsclub.com](http://www.saralandlionsclub.com)

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## Visionary Team Report

Our Visionary Team held our quarterly review of our church's health and where God needs us to go in the future. Below are a few important points they discussed:

**-Leadership:** Jim Walsh (Chair, Trustees), Dylan Armour (Finance), Josh Burch (Staff/Parish), Dotty Armour (Delegate)

**-Roof:** Blessed to be able to pay for \$75,000 flat roof replacement with 10-year warranty. Replacement begins in March.

**-Early Learning Center:** Had financial struggles much of the year, but enrollment is very strong, parent feedback is very positive, and some changes moved the program back to financial strength. Recent upgrade to baby playground.

**-Resale Store:** Very strong donations and sales. We continue to work on recruiting volunteers.

**-Missions Budgeting:** The Mission Advancement Team created a new budget and budget creation process for the first time to fund many great projects and mission partners.

**-Staffing Changes:** Linda Burr moves to Resale Store Financial Secretary, Kim Whisonant moves to Church Financial Secretary. Currently hiring for part-time office manager. Hiring Mallory Barnes as part-time assistant youth pastor.

**-Future Upgrades:** Continuing to raise funds for new 15-passenger bus and kitchen renovation.

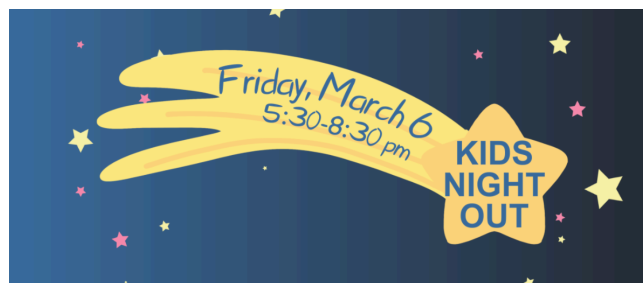
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## Stillwater Office Manager

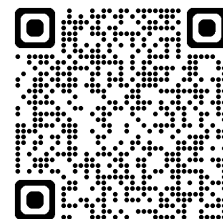
Our staff is currently shifting roles within Stillwater, creating an opening for an Office Manager. This position oversees day-to-day office operations, including scheduling volunteers and rooms, welcoming guests and answering calls, creating e-newsletters and other communications, and assisting pastors and staff. Basic computer skills are required. This is a part-time position of approximately 15 hours per week, Monday through Wednesday. For more information, please contact Pastor Mike Hoppe at [mike@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:mike@stillwaterchurch.com).

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## Kids Korner



Stillwater is having our first **KIDS NIGHT OUT** on Friday, March 6, 5:30-8:30pm. Kids age 2 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to come for an evening of fun so their parents can have a night out as well! The cost is \$20 per child with a \$50 family maximum. We will have pizza, watch a movie, play games, do a craft project (or two!), laugh a lot and just have fun together. We will have a preschool group and an elementary group. Reservations are required and must be made by 6pm on Wednesday, March 4. Use the QR code to make a reservation.





LOTS of hands and help are needed for the **EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA!** A volunteer signup sheet will be available in the lobby during March. Individually wrapped candy and candy/trinket filled plastic eggs are needed for the egg hunts. A donation box will be available in the Fellowship Hall during March. Our children will be able to “shop” in our Bunny Store after the egg hunts (some of the eggs will contain Bunny Money!) and merchandise is needed for that store. Donations of small games, balls, stuffed animals, chocolate bunnies, bubbles, books, crayons...anything a child might want to purchase with their bunny money would be greatly appreciated!

### **IMPORTANT KIDS MINISTRY LEADER MEETINGS ON MARCH 15:**

2pm - Kids Sunday School Teachers

3pm - Wee Worship and Kids Worship Leaders and Helpers

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### **Student Ministry Update**



**Graduation Sunday, May 17** - We would love to celebrate and recognize any high school and college graduates during worship that day. Contact the church office at [info@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:info@stillwaterchurch.com) or 251-675-2728 with your graduate's information so that we can recognize them on Graduation Sunday.

**Real Life Youth Summer Camp, May 25-29** - Students will have the opportunity to go to Real Life Summer Camp in Blue Springs, Marianna, Florida. In addition to the amazing activities at Real Life, the students will experience powerful worship and incredible Gospel preaching. The cost per student is \$325; however, we will be able to subsidize part of that cost. We need to reserve slots for this **NOW**. Please contact Trae at [trae@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:trae@stillwaterchurch.com) if you plan on sending your child.

#### **Regular Student Events:**

Sunday School: 9:30-10:30am

Sunday Evening Student Gathering: 4-6pm

Wednesday Evenings (Dinner and Studies): 5:30-7:15pm

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### **Disaster Response**

Church sponsored Disaster Response training will be provided at Greenville First Methodist in Greenville on Feb. 28. Sign up using the link below as soon as possible if you are interested in attending. Please fill out the information that is requested, and in the **Class Selection Section**, select **First Methodist Church Greenville**.

<https://www.aeccdisaster.org/training/training-schedule/>

Stillwater has a request from our Conference Disaster Response Team to send a team or teams to northern Mississippi to help with tree and debris removal from the recent ice storm. People with Global Methodist sponsored disaster response training is helpful, however, prior experience and training are not required for this response. We are creating a team to serve **March 5-8**. Please contact Charles Moye at 251-288-7874 or [charles.moye@gmail.com](mailto:charles.moye@gmail.com). Even if you are unable to serve on this trip, please reach out as more trips may be planned in the future!

#### **Future Training Dates:**

Chain Saw Safety Course – March 21, 2026 – Time and Date TBD

Disaster Response Training – April – Time and Date TBD

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## Serve Sunday 2026

Preparations for Serve Sunday 2026 are underway! This year Serve Sunday is April 26, 8am-12pm. This is always a beautiful time to come together as an entire church family to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

A major project on Serve Sunday is our Yard Teams. We would love your help! Do you or someone you know need assistance in their yard? Please fill out the link below!

<https://forms.gle/gP7rzefrozC7k3Mp7>

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## Stillwater Resale

What an amazing month of February we have had at the resale store. Sales have held steady with a gradual increase in customers and sales weekly.

Our amazing volunteers have worked tirelessly to see that the store is stocked and ready for our customers every week, as they receive donations, sort the goods, price and put the items in place on the sales floor.

Our customers are very complimentary on the friendliness of our workers, cleanliness of our facility, and great prices on our merchandise. We have developed a core of both men and women shoppers that have turned out to be faithful regulars to our store, and we have many first-time shoppers.

Stillwater Resale still has room for many more volunteers and something for everyone to do. Drop by and join in the fun that we have daily as we strive to make Stillwater Resale the place to shop and also to volunteer! See you there!

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## March Birthdays

03/02 Marsha Lee, Miles Redmond  
03/03 Melinda Malinoski, Abby Sasser  
03/04 Carter Barbetta, George Coate  
03/05 Angelina Crownover  
03/06 Peyton Brown  
03/07 Kim Whisonant  
03/08 Josiah Nabholz  
03/09 Randy Chestang  
03/11 Logan Armour, Scott Brookerd, Owen Martin  
03/14 Juanita Simison  
03/15 Arlene Bynum, Audrey Lloyd, Melody Moore  
03/17 Diane Brookerd  
03/18 Lorna Marchiolo, Mary Ella Passmore  
03/21 Patrick Bonvillain, McKenzi Garbison, Nicholas Whisonant  
03/22 Wanda Andrews  
03/26 Dennis Cranmore, Lyle Knight  
03/28 Ben Martin, Jon Martin  
03/30 April White



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## Weekly Prayer List

To submit a prayer concern or a praise to be shared on our weekly prayer email, or to sign up to receive our weekly prayer emails, please contact the church office

at [info@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:info@stillwaterchurch.com).

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Telephone: (251) 675-2728  
Email: [info@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:info@stillwaterchurch.com)  
Website: [stillwaterchurch.com](http://stillwaterchurch.com)

To give online, click [here](#) or scan the QR code below!



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