



The Center Chronicles



March 2026



The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, received during Lent, has a eighty year history raising funds to show compassion and support the most vulnerable around the world. It was started by Episcopal Bishop Henry Knox Sherril who set a goal to raise one million dollars in “one hour” to raise one million dollars for World Relief in the midst of a post WWII era. The goal was to raise funds

to assist those whose lives had been shattered by war and weather related catastrophes such as famines and floods that took place around the world.

It was a fund that missionaries could use to provide things like aid, farming equipment, water wells in the fields they were serving. When famines hit Africa, the OGHS offering joined with other organizations to address world hunger issues. In the 1980’s, Presbyterians gave over “\$93 million dollars for disaster recovery, refugee resettlement, along with its continued response to hunger and development.”

In 2005, there was a record giving the OGHS offering in response to the destruction and ruin caused by Hurricane Katrina. I myself, took two mission teams to Pearlington, MS. and the rural bayou’s west of New Orleans to muck out and help to rebuild damaged homes staying in Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) camps that was funded by the OGHS offering. In 2010, when an earthquake devastated Haiti, more than 10,000 families received equipment, tools, and indigenous seeds so they could grow food for themselves and others. More recently when Hurricane Helene brought devastation and floods to Western North Carolina and Upper East Tennessee, once again camps were set up to help those those impacted by the storm’s destruction.

Once again, as we go through the Lent season preparing our hearts for the celebration of Easter, we are joining churches across this nation taking up the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. As the kids collect their change, envelopes will be placed in the pews which you can use to make this special offering. Because of technology, the ways to give to the OGHS offering has expanded. Gifts can be made....

- Online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
- Text OGHS to 91999 to give
- Scan the QR code printed here



Blessings,
Jon



Thanks to the Volunteers

On behalf of Center Church, I give thanks for all the volunteers who made a difference in two local mission projects. Volunteers built a handicap ramp for Mr. Billy Tucker who recently lost his right leg to circulation complications from Diabetes. The team built a 32 foot ramp which will enable him to get from his home to his car.



The second project involved putting paneling up for Steven and Carla who are living in a shed. Though we still have to work on the electrical system, they are thrilled to have a place to call their own. One of the blessings of the project is that they asked me to do their wedding.



Thanks to all the volunteers whom Christ called to make a difference.



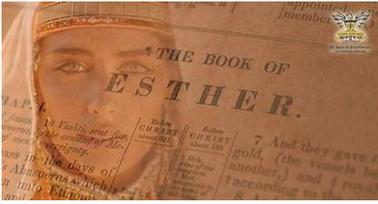
Dorcas Ministry meets every first and third Wednesday at 9:30 am

The Dorcas Ministry is a vital ministry of Center Church. What a blessing! If you want to get involved, please contact Sandra Black at 423-253-3876.



Children's Bell Choir Practice on Wednesdays @ 5:30 pm

The kids are doing a remarkable job learning to read music notes and playing on time. Thanks to Becky Stone and her helpers as they instill in our kids a musical gift, they can use to glorify God.



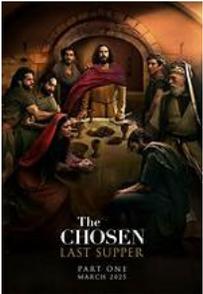
Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday night Bible Study will return **Wednesday, March 11 at 5:30 pm**. We will be doing a three-week study on the **Book of Esther** in the Old Testament.



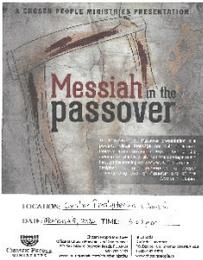
Monthly Session Meeting

A regularly scheduled Session meeting is set for **Thursday, March 19 at 6 pm**.



The Chosen Last Supper Series continues

Sunday night at 4:30 pm, anyone is invited to join us in a time of fellowship as we watch and discuss the Chosen, season 5 which focuses on the final week of Jesus' ministry up to his arrest.



Messiah in the Passover

On Palm Sunday, **March 29 @ 6 pm**, a special presentation will be given by Boris Goldin from Chosen People Ministries. On that night, Boris will walk us through on how the Passover/ Seder meal testifies to how Jesus used this meal to establish a new covenant by becoming the suffering servant described in Isaiah 53 and the Sacrificial lamb of the Passover at the same time. It will be a special presentation that will enrich your understanding of God's Salvation story.



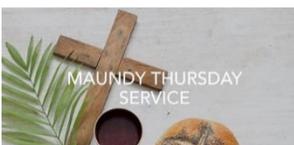
Holy Week Schedule of Events

March 29- April 5

The following events will be taking place during Holy Week:



March 29 @ 10 am- Palm Sunday. We will be waving Palms on this day.



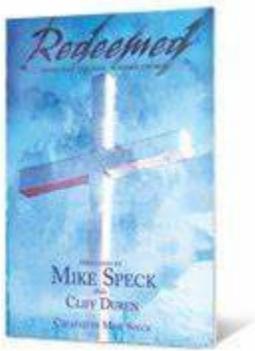
Maundy Thursday @ 7pm. We will remind ourselves of Jesus's final commandment to his disciples and to us.



Good Friday @ 7 pm. We will humble ourselves and nail whatever sins we struggle with to the cross.



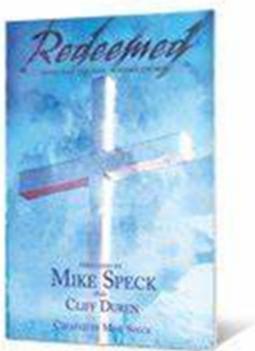
Community Easter Egg Hunt @ 2 pm. Children from all over will gather for a great time of fun and meet the Easter Bunny. All children will meet in the Fellowship Hall.



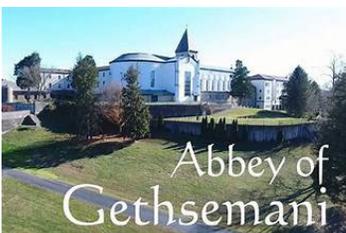
Community Easter Cantata @ 6 pm Everyone from Tellico Plains, other churches and surrounding area are invited to worship with us as we sing about the meaning of the cross regarding our relationship with God through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.



Easter Sunrise Service @ 7 am I can't think of a better way to begin the Easter celebration. We will meet in the Church Pavilion for worship.



Easter Service Cantata @ 10 am We will gather and Sandy Childress will direct the church choir as we celebrate Easter Sunday in song. There will be a brunch meal following the service with an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids.



The Pastor will be at Gethsemani, April 6-10

The Pastor will continue his Easter celebration in silent reflection at the Abbey of Gethsemani which is a Franciscan Monastery in Kentucky.

Prayer Time
A Good Friday Prayer by Peter Marshall

As we look upon Thy cross, O Christ, filled with wonder and with awe at the love that brought Thee to it, humbly we confess that we have no offering meet for such a love, no gift for such a sacrifice.

Thou wert willing to go to the Cross so that men might forever be haunted by its sign, might return to the foot of that Cross to be melted and broken down in the knowledge of Thy love for and all men everywhere.

When we see a love like that- the love of God yearning for the hearts of His children, we know that only love can respond.

We acknowledge, O Lord, that there is so little in us that is lovable. So often we are not lovely in our thoughts, in our words, or in our deeds. And yet, Thou dost love us still, with a love that neither ebbs nor flows, a love that does not grow weary, but is constant- year after year, age after age.

O God, may our hearts be opened to that love today. With bright skies above us, the fields and woods and gardens bursting with new life and beauty, how can we fail to respond? With the clear notes of bird songs challenging us to praise, with every lowly shrub and blooming tree catching new life and beauty, our hearts indeed would proclaim Thee Lord, and we would invite Thee to reign over us and make us truly Thine own. May Thy healing love invade our inmost hearts, healing sorrow, pain, frustration, defeat, and despair.

May this day create within us a love for Thee of stronger stuff than vague sentimentality- a love which seeks to know Thy will and do it. So grant that this day of hallowed remembrance may be the beginning of a new way of life for each of us, a new kind of living that shall be the best answer to the confusion and to the challenge of evil in our day. This We ask in Jesus name. Amen....