



BEULAH & MONTEREY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH e-Newsletter FEBRUARY 2026

February Celebrations

Birthdays

- February 4 - Tate Dunn
- February 8 - Jessa Fowler
- February 15 - Michael Herold
- February 17 - Cash Chambers
- February 23 - David Blanchard
- February 25 - Wren Cox

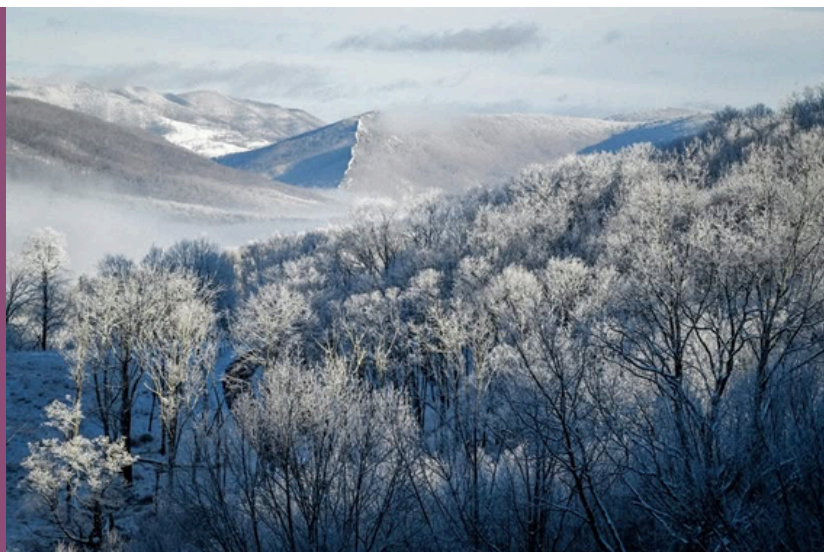
Anniversaries

- February 1 - Dail & Christy Fields

Photo by Michael Bedwell

Leading Our Worship in February

- February 1: Reverend Chris Scott
- February 8: Will Cox, Lay Leader
- February 15: Reverend Adam White
- February 22: Reverend David Hindman



Stay tuned for information about an upcoming 'Slices and Scripture' event being planned for mid-March!



Christy & Dail Fields have a beautiful Christmas tree that is free to a good home! The un-lit tree is 7' tall and 4.5' wide at the base. They can be contacted at 540-468-2021.

Prayer List

Ann Swecker, Bill Harman, Pat Lowry, Miles Johnston, Casey Ralston, Jennifer Propst, Joe and Ruby Simmons, Miriam Helmen, Bobbie Jo Gardner, Carol Furr, Becky Magee, Ramona Arbogast, Marlene Reynolds, Ray Mueller, Bill and Mary Lou Cox.

We pray for healing, peace, love and a spirit of unity for our country and the world.



February often invites us to think about romantic love – candy, chocolates, and grand gestures—but scripture widens the lens and reminds us of God’s love for us and how we are called to live out love in our everyday life.

In light of God’s call to love not only in word but in action, we are invited to pay attention to how love of neighbor is lived out beyond our own community. The following statement from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness speaks to this moment, grounding our faith’s call to compassion and justice in the realities of today’s world.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) **OFFICE OF PUBLIC WITNESS**

Statement on the US Detention of Refugees

Scripture calls us to welcome the stranger and protect the vulnerable, and to honor the dignity of those who seek refuge among us.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness is deeply concerned by reports that refugees who have been lawfully admitted to the United States are being detained. Families who have already been welcomed into safety and passed extensive screening should not be uprooted again, separated from the communities supporting them, or made to live under renewed fear and uncertainty. Scripture calls us to welcome the stranger and protect the vulnerable, and to honor the dignity of those who seek refuge among us. We believe our nation must not undo the safety it has already promised, but instead uphold justice, compassion, and the rule of law for our newest neighbors.

On January 9, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Operation “Post-Admission Refugee Reverification and Integrity Strengthening” (PARRIS), which reopens and intensively re-examines certain refugee cases after resettlement. The operation’s initial focus is reported to be approximately 5,600 refugees in Minnesota who remain in refugee status while awaiting green cards. In recent days, refugee-serving organizations have reported that refugees, including children, have been detained, with limited public information about the standards being applied, the scope of enforcement, or the due process protections available.

This is not a routine administrative review. It is a sweeping action that undermines the promise of protection the United States makes when it resettles refugees. It is unjust to detain people who are here legally, and it is especially cruel to subject families to detention and secrecy after they have already survived persecution and displacement.

Just as importantly, these actions risk communicating to the world and to refugee communities that the United States will not honor the protection it has promised. They reflect a deeply troubling and cold-hearted turn toward a refugee policy shaped more by suspicion than by compassion, and they weaken the moral credibility of our nation’s commitment to welcome those who have fled persecution.

The United States has made binding commitments under international law to protect refugees; this operation contradicts those commitments.

Our denomination’s stance is clear and longstanding. Presbyterians have repeatedly affirmed the call to welcome refugees, to support their resettlement, to seek family reunification, and to oppose policies that endanger refugees or return them involuntarily to harm. Across decades of General Assembly action, the PC(USA) and our predecessor denominations have urged the United States to uphold humane refugee policy, uphold the rule of law, and resist cruelty and discrimination.

The Office of Public Witness calls on the administration to:

- Immediately halt detentions of lawfully resettled refugees connected to Operation PARRIS
- Guarantee due process, including access to legal counsel and clear, timely procedures
- Provide transparency about the legal authority, criteria, and implementation of this operation
- Protect family unity and ensure refugees are not isolated from their communities and sponsors
- Reaffirm the U.S. commitment to refugee protection, rather than weakening it through fear-based enforcement

We urge Congress to conduct immediate oversight, demand public answers, and ensure that refugee policy is carried out humanely and lawfully.

We call on Presbyterians and people of faith to continue to stand with refugees, support resettlement communities, and live out Christ’s call to love our neighbors. In this moment, we urge our nation to choose welcome over suspicion, truth over secrecy, and hope over fear.



The above photos were taken at the January 11th worship service at Beulah Presbyterian. Rev. Bill Cox served as moderator as elders Holmes Stephenson and Vernon Simmons were installed. The three of them are pictured in the right photo along with Clerk of the Session, Julia Blanchard.



Through her role with Virginia 4-H Cabinet, Highland 4-H member Lauren Mason participated in 4-H Day at the Capitol. During the event, Lauren met Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger as well as Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Katie Frazier, Delegate Chris Runion, and State Senator Mark Obenshain.



The Chambers family enjoyed some unusually wintry weather at their new home in Texas.



VPAS's "Soups, Socks and Sunshine Drive" is taking place now through the end of February and is a wonderful way to put love into action.

Donation items needed include:

- Canned soup to provide warmth and nutrition
- New men's and women's socks, a high-need item for comfort and warmth
- Cards, drawings, or kind notes to offer sunshine, encouragement, and connection

Winter can be especially challenging for older adults. "Soup, Socks and Sunshine" offers a tangible way for community members to show care, helping seniors stay warm, nourished, and emotionally supported during the cold season.

Donations may be dropped off, in Highland County, at the VPAS Office (49 Spruce Street, Monterey) or the Highland County Public Library (31 N. Water Street, Monterey). For more information, contact Valley Program for Aging Services at 540-468-2178.