



WHAT'S CENTER STAGE AT LIMESTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • GAFFNEY, SC

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

February 2 in the Life of the Church

While most of America thinks of February 2 as only Groundhog Day, it does have a meaning in the liturgical year. February 2 marks 40 days after Christmas. According to Mosaic law, firstborn sons



are to be brought to the temple and redeemed by the parents. Originally in Exodus, all firstborn sons of all tribes were to be priests in the temple. As such, they “belonged” to God. The tribe of Levi ultimately became the priestly tribe, but firstborn sons were still “bought back”

ceremonially by the parents. According to Leviticus 12, the mother of the month-old baby boy was made ceremonially clean by an offering brought on the same occasion.

Luke 2:22-36 tells the story of Jesus’ presentation in the temple as Mary and Joseph fulfill those laws. In that story we meet Simeon and Anna. He is a priest, and she is described as a prophetess who lived in the temple. Anna is described as being “of a great age,” and Simeon is reckoned to be “mature” as well. These two

people recognize who Jesus is. Simeon takes the baby Jesus in his arms and praises God saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

Often we think that as people get older they live more in their memories, but here are these two people (and remember that 40 years old was considered “old” in Jesus’ day) who are looking toward the future and the fulfillment of God’s promises. That’s how we all should be living.

The earliest reference to the celebration of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple is in the 4th century. By the middle of the 5th century, the festival was observed with lighted candles because Jesus was, quoting Simeon, “a light...for the Gentiles.” This led to the day also being known as Candlemas.

Note: For those of you who came to the discussion on the Nativity in art, what do you see in this picture? Be sure you notice the white dog at the left!

2023 Souper Bowl of Caring



After worship on Sunday, January 29, the Confirmation Class went to Spartanburg to enjoy lunch together and to paint bowls in honor of the Souper Bowl of Caring. The bowls, above, are in their painted-but-not-fired condition. They will be fired this week and reclaimed on Sunday, February 5. Then you’ll see them in worship on Souper/ Super Bowl Sunday.



Visual Parables

Are you a movie fan? Do you wish someone would help you think about your faith in relation to the movies that you see? For more than 30 years, Ed McNulty (a now semi-retired Presbyterian minister) has been writing on faith and film as film critic for *Presbyterians Today* and through his *Visual Parables* journal and website: <https://readthespirit.com/visual-parables/>

McNulty includes a relevant scripture reference in many reviews and within the reviews will point out various moments particularly connected to faith. His review of the 2019 film of *West Side Story* references his review of the 1961 version and suggests that it might be a film to consider during Advent. He cites the lyrics to "Something's Comin'" as an Advent text:

Could be!
Who knows?
There's something due any day;
I will know right away,
Soon as it shows.
It may come cannonballing down through the sky,
Gleam in its eye,
Bright as a rose!

Could it be? Yes, it could.
Something's coming, something good,
If I can wait!
Something's coming, I don't know what it is,
But it is
Gonna be great!

McNulty has just released his list of top films of 2022. You can read that at: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pcusa-pastor-and-film-critic-dr-edward-mcnulty-releases-his-top-10-film-list-for-2022/> You can sign up for the *Visual Parables Journal* at his website listed above. In addition, McNulty has published two devotional books with the title *Praying the Movies* and a book titled *Jesus Christ Movie Star*, that looks at how Jesus is portrayed in film. His 2007 book *Faith and Film: A Leader's Guide* includes discussion guides for 27 films.

The Work of the Church

Join us on Wednesday, February 8 for a program on the work of the church committees. You'll hear an update from each committee chair on the work of that committee. Come discover what is going on and what will be going on. Come get involved!

Sunday, February 5

9:45 AM Confirmation Class – Parlor
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School
10:15 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

Monday, February 6

5:30 PM Girl Scouts
5:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal – Handbell Room
6:30 PM Bible Study – FLC

Wednesday, February 8

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

Sunday, February 12 – Souper Bowl of Caring

9:45 AM Confirmation Class – Parlor
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School
10:15 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

Please remember in prayer:

Bill Wheeler; Peggy Miller; Ken Byers; Friends and Family of Peggy Jolley; Friends and Family of Fulton Ross; Anna Cox; Rachel Hopper; Steve Beheler; Confirmation Class: Layla Lemmonds, Taylor Miller & Leah Miller; Confirmation Sponsors: Michelle Jolly, Hazel Hubbard, & Becky Wheeler.

Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2022 have either been e-mailed or are available in the narthex. If you did not receive yours, please contact Jim Watts or the church office.

Circle Meeting

Circle #1 will have its February meeting on February 14th at 10:30 AM in the church parlor. Our minister Lynn Miller will lead the Bible study, "Celebrating Sabbath: Lesson 5, Sabbath and Servitude." Everyone is invited to come for this study and fellowship.