VOLUME 4 · ISSUE 3 • MARCH 1, 2018

Grace *Notes*

The Monthly Newsletter of River of Life Ministries

This month's theme: A Season of New Beginnings

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



PASTOR'S PICK

"They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."
LAMENTATIONS 3:23

READING
The Ragamuffin Gospel
Brennan Manning

ON REPEAT
10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)
Matt Redman

Winter never gets the last word

Dear Church Family,

If you've stepped outside lately, you may have noticed it: a little more light at the end of the day, a few brave green shoots pushing up through cold ground. March has a way of reminding us that no season lasts forever — not even the long, gray ones.

Maybe this winter was a hard one for you. Maybe you're carrying something heavy into spring. I want you to hear this clearly: you are not alone, and you are not forgotten. The same God who wakes up the dogwoods every year is faithfully at work in your life, even when the ground looks bare.

This month, as we walk toward Palm Sunday and Easter, let's make room for something new — a new habit of prayer, a new friendship in the pews, a new way to serve our neighbors. Bring a friend, pull up a chair, and come as you are. There's always a place for you here.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Kyle

WHAT'S HAPPENING

March at a glance

SAT 3 — **Men's Breakfast**
8:00 AM · Fellowship Hall. Pancakes, coffee and good conversation.

SUN 4 — **Communion Sunday**
10:30 AM · We'll share the Lord's Supper together during worship.

SUN 11 — **Spring Forward!**
Daylight saving time begins! Set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night.

SAT 17 — **Serve the City Day**
9:00 AM–Noon · Yard work and repairs for neighbors in need. Lunch provided.

TUE 20 — **Women's Spring Gathering**
6:30 PM · Dessert, devotion and fellowship to welcome the first day of spring.

SAT 24 — **Egg Stuffing Party**
10:00 AM · Help fill 2,000 eggs for our community Easter egg hunt.

SUN 25 — **Palm Sunday**
10:30 AM · Children's palm procession, then birthday cake at coffee hour.

FRI 30 — **Good Friday Service**
7:00 PM · A quiet, candlelit evening of reflection and communion.

APR 1 — **Easter Sunday**
9:00 & 11:00 AM services · Community egg hunt at 12:30 PM on the lawn.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Celebrating you!

Margaret E.	Mar 7
Daniel R.	Mar 14
Lily T.	Mar 22

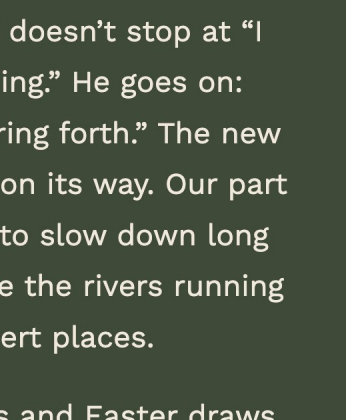
We'll sing to our birthday friends during coffee hour on March 25. Cake is on us!

EVERY WEEK

Sundays
9:30 AM Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship Service
Kids' Church during service

Wednesdays
6:30 PM Midweek Bible Study
6:30 PM Youth Night

Fridays
7:00 AM Prayer Circle



He is risen

MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL

Something new is *springing up*

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."
ISAIAH 43:19 (KJV)

A seed doesn't look like much. Buried in the dark, it seems like nothing is happening at all. But under the surface, roots are reaching down and life is quietly pressing up toward the light. By the time we see the first green shoot, the real work has been going on for weeks.

God often works in our lives the same way. We pray and wait and wonder if anything is changing. Isaiah's words were spoken to people in exile — far from home, tired, and unsure of the future. And into that wilderness, God said: *look closer. I'm already at work.*

Notice that God doesn't stop at "I will do a new thing." He goes on: "now it shall spring forth." The new thing is already on its way. Our part is to know it — to slow down long enough to notice the rivers running through the desert places.

As spring arrives and Easter draws near, let's practice paying attention. Where is new life breaking through in your home, your friendships, your heart? It may be small. It may be hidden. But it is real, and it is growing.

REFLECT THIS WEEK

1. What "winter" are you ready to leave behind?
2. Where have you seen a small sign of new life lately?
3. Who could you encourage with that hope this month?

A PRAYER FOR MARCH

Lord, open our eyes to the new things You are doing. Where we see only bare ground, help us trust the roots You are growing. Make a way in our wilderness. Amen.

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"Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God."
ROMANS 15:7