

RESPOND EARLY. SERVE WELL.



EARLY RESPONSES HELP  
LEADERS PLAN ACCORDINGLY



DECLINING EARLY GIVES  
TIME TO FIND COVERAGE



PENDING ASSIGNMENTS  
CREATES LAST-MINUTE STRESS

When you receive a Planning Center request, please respond as soon as possible.

ACCEPT or DECLINE, just don't leave your assignment pending.

Early responses help our team make arrangements and ensure every position is covered.

### THIS APPLIES TO:

- ✓ HOSPITALITY TEAM
- ✓ AUDIO/VISUAL TEAM
- ✓ WORSHIP TEAM
- ✓ CHOIR & BAND
- ✓ PRITCHARD KID TEAM
- ✓ WORSHIP CARE

SERVING STARTS BEFORE SUNDAY.  
RESPOND EARLY SO EVERY POSITION IS COVERED.

# PRITCHARD CHURCH MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2026 | VOLUME 61 | ISSUE 2

## The Prodigal Savior

Through our study of Luke, the main theme is "the Prodigal Savior." What we come to see as we examine the narrative of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is that in order to rescue the prodigals, the son of God became prodigal.

He became prodigal to our expectations of a savior. The temptation account demonstrates the ways we typically believe God works - through material blessings (turning rocks into bread), through political power (using the powers of this world in order to force obedience), and through celebrity (using exceptional entertainers to jump off high places and demonstrate their prowess).

He became prodigal to his own people, defying their understanding of holiness and goodness. Rather than exacting revenge and retribution on the Romans, he forgave them. Rather than extracting an eye for every eye previously taken, he restored sight to the blind. In that process, Jesus experienced rejection by those that he was closest to.

He became prodigal to the religious expectations of his day. The Pharisees and teachers of the law believed that morality was found by following a strict set of rules. "Do this, don't do that, can't you read the signs!" The people he came to save trusted their law, trusted their rules, and thought that God did too. But Jesus demonstrated a morality that was beyond the law: love your enemies, bless those that curse you, do to others what you'd like done to you.

We are talking about a prodigal savior, and the great news is that prodigal savior makes it where we don't have to be prodigal any longer.

But, what we saw in the parable we continue to see in life: those who cannot accept and welcome home those other sinners, those who refuse to live under the rules of the prodigal savior, make themselves

*(continued on next page....)*

prodigal to him. The older son put himself out of the house because he could not tolerate grace for others. He needed to make sure justice, his own justice, was served. And so the story ends in invitation.

The invitation is for all of us. If we know we're lost, great, easy to come on home. But if we believe we are righteous the invitation becomes all the more important: stop worrying about those sinners and their sins, just be glad they're home. Come enjoy the party with the all the prodigals, including the prodigal savior.

*Chris Richardson*  
Lead Pastor

## Hearts of Hope DINNER

A VALENTINE'S DAY  
DINNER HONORING AND  
UPLIFTING OUR WIDOWS  
AND WIDOWERS.

**FEBRUARY 14**  
5-7 PM

RSVP THROUGH  
PRITCHARD CONNECT  
OR SCANNING HERE



### Loving Kindness and Community

Join us for Sweet Spirits Wednesday, February 11 at 11:00am. Enjoy a delicious meal featuring BBQ, baked beans, hushpuppies, slaw, and heart-shaped cookies, along with fun door prizes, including gift cards and flowers!

Our time will include a welcome with announcements and helpful updates, a meaningful devotion, a hymn, guided prayer, and a fun *Name That Song* activity. You're sure to connect, laugh, and fellowship together!

Register by the end of the day on Thursday, February 5, for a fee of \$10. After this date, the cost will increase to \$12.

# Happy Birthday

Amanda Thomas	2/5	Dennis Brown	2/19
David Hewitt	2/5	Ray Kimball	2/20
Debra Huhnerkoch	2/6	Bryan Ostrander	2/21
Jimmie Philbeck	2/9	Catie Cottle	2/21
Stan Heiser	2/9	Brian Thomas	2/22
Jean Merchant	2/10	Carole Johnson	2/22
Jack Richardson	2/11	Vickey Arroba	2/22
Drew Mayer	2/12	Galen Bolin	2/23
Jeff Knell	2/12	Kaye Crosby	2/23
Anne Norman	2/13	Meg McCormick	2/25
Clayton Erickson	2/13	Greg Taylor	2/26
Jean Thompson	2/14	Tom Creech	2/27
Ken Edahl	2/14	Caitlin Erickson	2/28
Gail Helms	2/15	Elizabeth Boswell	2/28
Alan Urwick	2/16	Don Hidy	2/29
David Foard	2/16		
Lisa Wall	2/16		

### Wrapping Up 2025

The Thrift Store currently exist to support the mission work of "Helping Hands" (formerly called "Baptist Men's Local Project Fund"). Our "Helping Hands" ministry builds ramps for the elderly and handicapped at no cost to that individual. An item donated is never wasted. For 14 years, items that we could not sell in the Thrift Store were boxed up and given to Blanket America Ministries which served the very poor of the Appalachian Mountains. Proceeds from our Thrift Store from 2003 through 2013 (including yard sales) was \$156,506.51. Proceeds from 2014 through 2025 (no yard sales included) were \$72,823.87. The total for the past 23 years has been \$229,320.38. Our proceeds for 2025 were \$7,549.38. We thank all who have donated to this mission project, who have stopped in to shop, who have spread the word, who have volunteered and who have prayed for us. We know God is working in our ministry by the blessings that are received from the work of those using the funds.

The Thrift Store is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10:00am-4:00pm. We are closed in the months of August and December.

To God be the glory for all that He does for us and others because of this ministry!

Brenda Farson and Nancy Elder,  
Thrift Store Coordinators



## A Summary of the Pritchard Church Monthly Generosity Report:

DECEMBER 2025

*A copy of the full report is available on request.*

	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>
Generosity (Tithes & Offerings)	\$220,104	\$1,221,048
Other Income	<u>\$17,205</u>	<u>\$227,365</u>
Total Revenue	\$237,309	\$1,448,413
Expenses	\$118,447	\$1,470,216
Net Income	\$118,862	<b>-\$21,803</b>

The information above provides a high-level view of the financials for December and 2025. If you have been watching, you know that although we ended the year ~\$21k short of our expenses, we made up a lot of ground in November and especially December, closing the gap as much as we did.

As the new year starts, I want to challenge you to give more.

Why would I be so blunt? Shouldn't I employ a "soften" appeal?

The reason such a clear statement is appropriate is that, as I've been discussing in this article for the past few months, when you give, God does transformative work in your heart. It's part of Him transforming you into the person He wants you to be. I don't want to tiptoe around such a thing! We ALL need to be challenged to progress in our sanctification, and that happens when we yield control to Him.

If you have not contributed financially to Kingdom causes at Pritchard, would you start by giving \$5 a month?

If you received a raise recently, would you trust God with a portion of it?

If you have been a faithful giver for years, would you ask God if He would have you increase your giving?

No matter what amount you give, when it's directed by God, He is worshipped, and you are blessed! If you are a Christian, you have entrusted your eternity to God; in 2026, would you trust Him with the financial blessings He has given you as well?

Saved to Serve,  
*Rusty Thomaston*

## EASTER AT PRITCHARD

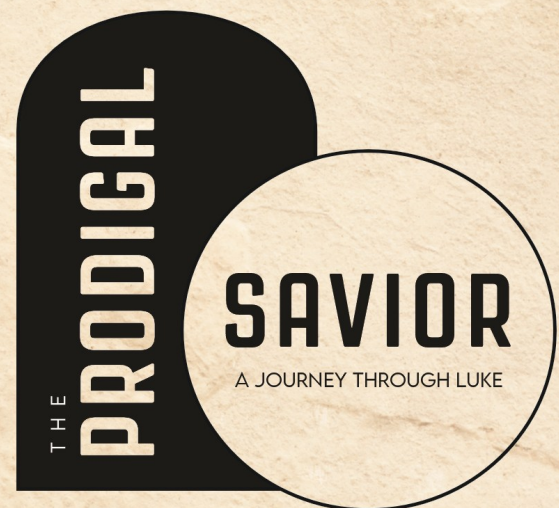
**FEBRUARY 18**  
ASH WEDNESDAY  
SELF-GUIDED PRAYER LABYRINTH

**MARCH 22**  
SPRING FLING

**MARCH 29**  
PALM SUNDAY

**APRIL 2**  
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

**APRIL 5**  
EASTER SUNDAY



### Parking Decal Update

Thank you to those who have submitted your vehicle information. Please keep your current parking decal in place until you are notified to remove it.

If you have not completed the vehicle information form, please do so. We're simply planning ahead and will keep you updated.

### We Express Our Love and Sympathy to:

- ~ The family and friends in the passing of Ann Teague.
- ~ Stanley Eaves and family in the passing of his wife, Peggy "PJ" Eaves.
- ~ The family and friends in the passing of Joseph "Joey" Sirianni.



**Sunday, February 1...COMMUNION**

9:00am—Children and Youth Programming

9:15am—Connect Groups

10:30am—Worship

**Monday, February 2**

**Tuesday, February 3**

10:30am—Women on Mission

12:30pm-3:00pm—Pickleball

2:00pm—Afternoon Bible Study Group (Spence home)

**Wednesday, February 4**

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)

10:00am-4:00pm—Thrift Store open

6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, February 5**

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)

10:15am-11:15am—Sunago Singers

**Friday, February 6**

**Saturday, February 7**

5:00pm-7:00pm—More Than Conquerors

**Sunday, February 8**

9:00am—Children and Youth Programming

9:15am—Connect Groups

10:30am—Worship

11:45am—Missions Meeting

**Monday, February 9**

6:30pm-7:45pm—Deacons Meeting

**Tuesday, February 10**

10:00am—See 'n Sew

12:30pm-3:00pm—Pickleball

**Wednesday, February 11**

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)

11:00am-1:00pm—Sweet Spirits

6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, February 12**

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)

10:15am-11:15am—Sunago Singers

**Friday, February 13**

**Saturday, February 14**

5:00pm-7:00pm—More Than Conquerors

5:00pm—Pritchard Kids: Parents Night Out

5:00pm—Hearts of Hope Dinner

**Sunday, February 15**

9:00am—Children and Youth Programming

9:15am—Connect Groups

10:30am—Worship

11:45am—Church Council

**Monday, February 16**

**Tuesday, February 17**

12:30pm-3:00pm—Pickleball

**Wednesday, February 18...ASH WEDNESDAY**

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)

10:00am-4:00pm—Thrift Store open

12:00pm-7:00pm—Ash Wednesday Self-Guided Prayer  
Labyrinth

6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, February 19**

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)

10:15am-11:15am—Sunago Singers

**Friday, February 20**

**Saturday, February 21**

5:00pm-7:00pm—More Than Conquerors

**Sunday, February 22**

9:00am—Children and Youth Programming

9:15am—Connect Groups

10:30am—Worship

5:00pm-7:00pm—All On the Table

**Monday, February 23...LENT BEGINS**

**Tuesday, February 24**

10:00am-12:00pm—Volunteers to Crisis Assistance

12:30pm-3:00pm—Pickleball

**Wednesday, February 25**

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)

8:30am—Women's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)

6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, February 26**

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)

10:15am-11:15am—Sunago Singers

**Friday, February 27**

5:00pm—Men's Retreat Weekend Kicks Off (Cheraw, SC)

**Saturday, February 28**

5:00pm-7:00pm—More Than Conquerors