

All Beautiful the March of Days

Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday, or Shrove Tuesday) is the last day of *Shrovetide*, a Christian period of celebration before Lent begins — usually on the three days immediately before Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras offers a last round of merrymaking before the start of the somber Lenten season.

The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word *shrive*, meaning absolution following confession. Christians traditionally visit church on Shrove Tuesday to confess their sins and clean their soul, thus being *shriven* (absolved) before the start of Lent.

During the liturgical season of Lent, some Christians abstain from consuming certain foods such as meat, eggs, dairy products, and alcoholic beverages. Shrovetide provides them with the opportunity to use up these foods prior to the start of a 40-day fasting season..

The tradition of pancake meals and pancake races during Shrovetide owes itself to this practice of using up surplus eggs, milk, and butter prior to Lent.

Alamance Presbyterian Church invites you to a Mardi Gras Pancake Supper in Brown Fellowship Hall, **6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4.**



Ash Wednesday

This year, **Ash Wednesday** is on **March 5**. A worship service will be held in the sanctuary at **7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5.**

Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance, marked by ashes placed on a worshiper's forehead in the shape of a cross during church services.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the liturgical season of Lent; and is calculated to take place 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays).

Daylight Saving Time starts at **2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9, 2025.**

Questions with Kyle: A Sunday school class that dares to ask big questions and discuss all the possible answers.

Pastor Kyle teaches this class. It begins at **9 a.m.** and ends at **9:35.** The class meets in the Parlor — near the kitchen in the Gathering Room — because that room is very close to the coffee pot.

- **February 16: Where are you coming from?** Start with the idea that the way we think and what we believe is influenced by the culture(s) and circumstances we were born into. In light of that, how can we learn from people with other worldviews?
- **February 23: What's next?** On the Sunday of the Annual Meeting, we'll spend some time in class talking about what might be on the horizon for Alamance Presbyterian Church; and wonder how we might respond.
- **March 2: Where are you getting that?** In an increasingly-divided political climate, more and more our faith seems to come up to justify political positions. Is that justifiable?
- **March 9: What is our calling?** In an increasingly divided world, what is the Holy Spirit calling us to be? What's it calling us to say? What's calling us to do? We'll talk about the purpose and mission of the church in our time and place.
- **March 16: How do you know this is from God?** People claim all the time that God has shown them the truth, or asked something of them. How do we know that God is talking to them? How do we know they aren't just talking to themselves?



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