



Week of March 16 – March 21

Scripture of the Week:

In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14 NRSV

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. - Romans 8:26-27 NRSV

March 16, 2026

As an Elder, I had the opportunity to attend a Presbytery meeting in Birmingham a couple of years ago. When I walked into the church, I was greeted by a young man who had been a college intern with our church. He was now serving in a church in Birmingham. I soon ran into a young lady who was involved in UKIRK while in school in Tuscaloosa and who had taken a leadership position at Living River. During the meeting another child of our church was there for examination while she attended seminary. I saw these examples of the Holy Spirit working in our church. When the Holy Spirit motivates us to pray, serve and invest in our church, we are often plowing the ground and planting the seeds for a harvest in God's time. (Elder Forest Wilson)

March 17, 2026

I was sitting in Sunday School recently when one of our class members mentioned a family in need of support. The family had recently lost a nine-year-old child in a horrible accident and did not have the funds necessary to bury the child. Our class immediately started taking up a collection, and two of our members took the lead to text others asking for help. The outpouring of love and support was overwhelming, and the necessary funds, and more, were raised almost overnight. Two weeks later, a close friend of the family in need, and a member of our class, was literally overcome with emotions as she expressed the overwhelming gratitude and thankfulness of the family that received the generous donations. I know that the Holy Spirit was prompting our class to get involved to help this family in need, and it was again clear to me that the outpouring of love and support that occurred was the work of the Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit! (Elder Tony Hubbard)

March 18, 2026

About 40 years ago, I was newly married and living in our first house. One night I was awakened with an intense thirst. This was very unusual, for I had never been one to get a drink of water during the night. Because our kitchen was on the opposite end of our house from where I was, I tried to ignore my thirst. I rolled over and tried to go back to sleep. It was impossible. It's hard to describe, but my thirst was so intense and felt urgent. I got up and went into the kitchen and grabbed our water jug out of the refrigerator. As I was closing the refrigerator door, something bright caught my attention out of the corner of my eye. It was a flame coming from the eye of my stove. I had accidentally left the stove eye on low and not far away was a bottle of cooking oil. The heat had melted the plastic bottle, and oil was spilling onto the eye. It was just starting to catch fire. I do not remember exactly how, but I quickly extinguished the fire. Afterwards, I stood there shaking with the realization that my house would have burned if God had not awakened me to go to my kitchen to get a drink. It has been 40 years since my divine intervention experience, and I have never since gotten up during the night for a drink of water. I have no doubt that I was protected that night by the Holy Spirit for which I am eternally grateful. All praise and glory to God! (Elder Mary Burns)

March 19, 2026

"Start where you are; use what you have; and do what you can." Those were the words spoken by Dr. Vernon Swift, pastor of the Elizabeth Baptist Church to a community gathering last summer at First African Baptist Church commemorating the anniversary of Tuscaloosa's Bloody Tuesday. He was describing the efforts of the Foot Soldiers of the Civil Rights Movement, including those who were attacked inside their church on June 9, 1964, as they prepared to march in protest of segregated facilities inside the newly opened Tuscaloosa County Courthouse. Dr. Swift's message was a powerful reminder of what God's children can accomplish with limited resources and a willingness to follow the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Whether we are trying to remedy injustice or simply feed the hungry, we as individuals don't have to have all the money or all the ideas to make a difference. All we have to do is sign up, show up, and listen, and the Holy Spirit will take it from there. (Elder Gaines Brake)

March 20, 2026

Anytime you are in our beautiful historic sanctuary, in the presence of all the history, legacy, stained-glass windows, and beautiful music, you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit around you as you prepare your mind for worship. On February 8, 2026 – with the presence of 8 young member families holding and presenting their infant child for introduction to the congregation during "Child of the Covenant" – the Youth Sunday program was led by 6 high school seniors who led worship with sermonettes and middle school/high schoolers who led the entire order of worship. You couldn't help but feel the spirituality in the room, and the Holy Spirit at work across generations, nurturing the future of First Presbyterian Church. (Elder Leanne Spencer)

March 21, 2026

I have seen the Holy Spirit in the Journey Sunday School class many times. This class started when our kids were babies, and they are pretty much all grown now. Many years ago, we lost a member to cancer, and the girl's bunco group that formed from this class went to be with her one last time in Huntsville. I couldn't attend, but I know from all who went that the Holy Spirit was definitely there and surrounded the group with love and a sense of peace. (Elder Charlotte Bowers)