

## State of the Church

Quarterly Report to the Congregation

Submitted 15 February 2026 by Timothy Steele



**Mission:** To lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Vision:** To be a church where unchurched and churched people love to attend.

**Strategy:** Endear our community (Love), Inspire our audience (Connect), Equip our core (Involve)

- **Environments:**

- **Worship**

- Lenten Wednesday Services (Feb 18 – Mar 25, 7-7:30 pm) – 6 weekly devotions. Five other devotional leaders include Bill Chase, Jim Irgens, Win Donat, Matt Papach, and Joe Ziemann.  
Holy Week/Easter: Palm Sunday (March 29) with communion; Maundy Thursday (April 2) 7 pm with communion; Good Friday (April 3) 7 pm; Easter Sunday (April 5) 9:30 am with communion; Easter Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt planned.
    - Easter Hymn Sing (Apr 12) Service with communion
    - Upcoming Series: Series answering, “Why did Jesus live as one of us before he died for us?” (Feb/Mar); Series answering, “How do you pick up the pieces and begin again once it all has fallen apart?” (Apr/May)

- **Kids and students**

- **Pingo Land** – Precious Puffins group (ages 3-5) and Caribou Kids (grades 1-5) – meet every Sunday
    - **Xtreme** – Meets first Sunday of the month
    - **Confirmation** – 6 students meeting in small group; three students will confirm their faith in May

- **Adults**

- **Converge** – Through March 1 Strong and Courageous, Study in Joshua (Harley Hammond); March 8 - 29, 2026 - Lenten theme (Bill & Burma Chase); Apr 19 - May 10, 2026 - Death and Dying (Bruce Rudd)
    - **C3 (Catechism Crash Course)** – Four Sundays in March, led by Cole Niebuhr

- **Walther Christian Academy Music Concert** – Arriving March 4. Will provide music for Lenten service (7-7:30 pm) and give a 45-minute concert (7:30 – 8:15 pm).

- Need leaders to step forward and help coordinate
  - Will provide a potluck dinner for students at 5:30 pm
  - Host families needed to provide overnight boarding for students
  - Air mattresses needed (for those students who do not receive a host home – they will stay in the Fellowship Hall overnight)

- **Core Orientation** – renamed “new member orientation” to focus on the third part of our strategy “Equip our core (Involve): Enlist and train students and adults to give, lead and invite.” Scheduling five new families sometime this spring.
- **Cambridge Village Worship Services** – 30-minute service provided once a month for residents of the assisted facility located in Mayfair. Average 10-20 in attendance.
- **Endearment Team** – One part of our church’s strategy is to make a first step for people to experience Jesus through our church supporting our communities. We want the people and organizations in our community to know we’re here, happy we’re here, and better off because we’re here.
  - Scheduling six Thrivent grants to support community projects
    - Habitat for Humanity
    - Two events for Messiah youth to pack Snack Packs for Nourish NC
    - Serve dinner (chili cook-off winner recipe) at Good Shepherd Center Ashley House
    - Provide journals (along with handwritten notes from our church) to residents dealing with addiction (long-term recovery center in Brunswick County – CRCI)
    - Messiah youth to make tie-dye t-shirts for abused children (Carousel Center).
  - Identify/coordinate larger community-wide events Messiah can support through time and service
  - Vetting non-profits and recommend quarterly support to Council