

Winns' Messenger

Published for Members and Friends of Winn's Baptist Church
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March 2026

Dear Church Family,

Let's consider the phenomenon of momentum. It's what we have when something is already in motion. If you've ever had to push an inoperable vehicle, you've noticed that it's much harder to get it going than to keep it going. With the bout of low-traction snow that we experienced in the recent past, we were reminded that having a little speed up before trying to drive through particularly slippery patches could make the difference between continuing on or getting bogged down to a stop.

Leadership guru John Maxwell, when applying this to organizations, calls this the Law of the Big Mo. As we moved through a season of change over the last couple of years, there was a danger of losing our momentum as a church. Some things slowed down, but through the prayers and efforts of individuals and groups within the church family, we never stopped. As we've adjusted and settled in, we kept things moving, and now we are steadily picking up speed! As the Senior Pastor, I am delighted with the efforts that we are sustaining and increasing that are making a real difference in the world around us for the Kingdom.

As we ride this wave forward, let us each resolve to do what we can to add to the momentum, and refuse to do that which would hinder it. May we endeavor to be each other's biggest fans and greatest supporters. Please commit to refraining from trying "to get my way," so that we can all work together to make sure that Jesus gets His.

As we will soon be celebrating 250 years in Kingdom service as a church, we will rejoice in what God has already done, while being jubilant about what He is, and will be, doing in our season of our church's life.

Moving forward,
Pastor Jeff

The Lord of the Storm Prevails Again!

Barbara Bowen, Missions Committee Chair

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” – Ephesians 3:20-21

Punxsutawney Phil’s latest prediction didn’t come as much of a surprise this year as we dug our way out of nearly back-to-back snow and ice storms. While it would have been easy to let frigid temperatures keep us from worshipping and serving, God was faithful in clearing a path forward so His name could be made known to those who needed to hear the Good News.

The Lord of the Storm was certainly in our boat last month, granting safe passage on slippery roads and bringing about good outcomes from difficult circumstances. Our adopted missionary class was a shining example of faithfulness, forgoing farewell celebrations at their home churches to arrive ahead of the inclement weather. They also pressed on with outreach visits under less-than-ideal conditions, sharing the gospel throughout our community and seeing many come to faith or express a desire to learn more.

Our February 7 virtual prayer walk at the International Learning Center was a special blessing. A small group from Winn’s prayed for all 87 participants by name and lifted up their children who will serve alongside them. Weekly targeted prayers will continue through their March 12 commissioning and into their time on the mission field as Winn’s members stay connected through shared email contacts.

The commissioning will be our final activity with this class and offers one last opportunity to encourage these faithful servants. The ILC team has invited us to join them for lunch at noon, with the ceremony to follow at 2 p.m. and an open house afterward. This meaningful celebration is one you won’t want to miss and will serve as a powerful send-off for those being deployed for God’s glory.

This adoption project has also underscored the importance of maintaining a dual focus on North American and international missions. These new missionaries are funded through our gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and made a Kingdom impact even before leaving U.S. soil. Now, it’s time to do the same for those serving closer to home.

More than 291 million people in North America live without the hope of the gospel. Some have no church nearby. Others attend congregations that may soon close. Many lack access to God’s Word in their own language. Without the Good News, they face both life and eternity without Christ.

Your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering support more than 3,000 missionaries and their families, who established 964 new congregations in 2024 alone. Among them are Fred and Casey Weymouth, who planted The Fix Church to minister to individuals recovering from addiction and have seen its reach expand into the surrounding community.

Winn’s 2026 goal is \$10,000. Please prayerfully consider giving so the work of the gospel can continue across Virginia and throughout the United States, Canada, and their territories.

I really didn’t know what to expect but was excited for Winn’s to join the missionary class for worship at the



International Learning Center. An evening of cultural worship? I asked if I should bring a grass skirt and they told me they would be provided. Seriously though, I was thinking maybe they would give examples of what worship looks like in different parts of the world. That would have been fun. But what they had planned was better. Mark Stevens, one of the trainers at the ILC greeted me on the way in and told me the plan: let the Holy Spirit lead. The worship was to model a Russian underground church based on 1 Corinthians 14:26.

“How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”

The missionaries in training brought the various elements of worship, starting with a young lady singing “Psalm 46” by Shane and Shane. (Highly recommend-look it up) The song set the tone for the evening, referring to the shelter God provides in the storm and His leadership in battle. Here’s the chorus:

“Lord of Hosts, You're with us
With us in the fire
With us as a shelter
With us in the storm
You will lead us
Through the fiercest battle
Oh, where else would we go
But with the Lord of Hosts?”

Some brought a word, others confessed fears of taking their children to the mission field. Several shared arts that showed attributes of God, while still others recited poems and led songs of prayer and praise.

There was gravity in the worship. Many of the missionaries were going to difficult areas hostile to Christianity. All were leaving comforts and loved ones. The songs and prayers feel different in that context. You could feel the weight and also the camaraderie. A young man reminded the group of Jim Elliot’s statement, “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

It’s not what I expected. The Holy Spirit did indeed lead, and it was better.

Worshiping with you,
Caleb Brauer

Good morning, Church Family:

I just watched President Trump's, State of the Union address, actually I listened to it on YouTube at 1.5 speed (it's the only way to listen to speeches/saves time!) and there are some pretty good things that the administration is handling. What struck me though was the "other side of the aisle" wouldn't stand or clap for non-partisan issues. There is definitely a division in our day in time that didn't used to be quite this way, and it saddens me to see it. We need to be praying for our country and living out a godly example to those around us and sharing Jesus with as many people as we can. We never know when the Lord Jesus will return, but it could be soon and we all need to be ready and found busy in the Master's fields when He comes. I encourage you not to let the narrative of the world bring you down. Just pay attention enough to basically know what's going on and spend time with Jesus and your family instead.

I recently got the opportunity to share the Gospel at my uncle's funeral and two of my cousins got to hear it for the first time. Please pray for Chris & Stephanie to trust in Jesus and their families.

I don't know about you, but 2026 is flying by! That being said, I need all families with a student graduating from high school or college to let me know so I can plan for our graduate recognition in May.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Doug



And The Winners Are



Speed

1st Ari Huggins

2nd Alex Huggins

3rd Tenley Smithwick



12 and Under Design

1st Jessie Rath

2nd Rune Sherrod

3rd Addie Huggins



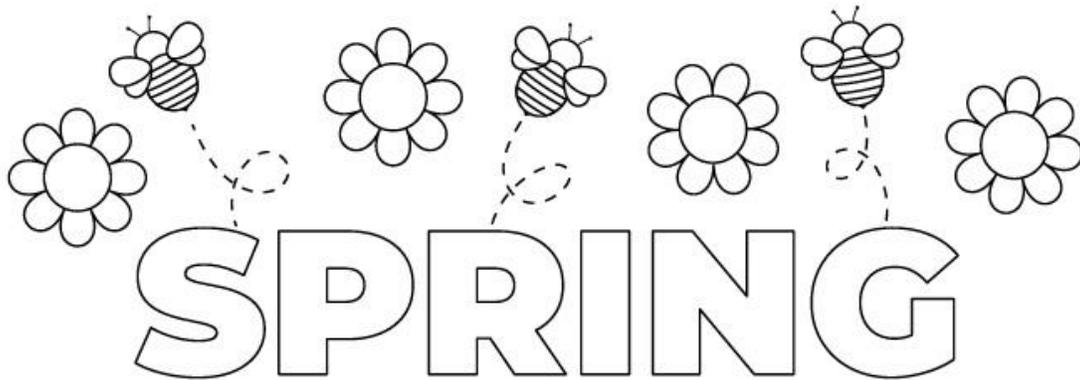
13 and Up Design

1st Emily Smithwick

2nd John Rath

3rd Ari Huggins





WORD SEARCH

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APRIL
BEE
BIRD
BLOOM
BLOSSOM

BUD
BUTTERFLY
CATERPILLAR
FLOWER
GARDEN

GRASS
MARCH
MAY
NEST
PLANT

PUDDLE
RAIN
SPROUT
SUNSHINE
UMBRELLA

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Address Service Request

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. P Good
morning, Church
family:



For the month of March, we will be collecting, Socks and T-Shirts.

