



CBC Connect

March 2023

700 South Converse Street. Spartanburg, SC 29306



Bishop's Heart Lent

Lent is an ideal time for us to draw closer to God. When John the Baptist conducted his preaching ministry in the desert he cried out, “repent” (Mt 3:1), and when Jesus began to preach in Galilee he said the same thing, “repent.” (Mk 1:15) Jesus' message is also to repent and believe in the salvation that is now here. To repent, from the Greek word *metanoia*, means to change one's mind and agree that one's sins are abhorrent. It is not only remorse for sin but a turning away from sin and self-centeredness and turning back to God. Repentance is a changed attitude that chooses to live for God. To “believe”, from the Greek word *pisteuo*, means to be fully convinced. To “believe” and to “repent” go hand in hand. It is impossible to fully believe in Jesus' message of salvation and not turn away from our sins. (1 John 3:4–6) We will never be perfect on this earth, but our inclination to live a sinful life should change into a desire to live for God.

When Peter preached his first sermon at Pentecost, the Scripture says his hearers were “cut to the heart” and asked, “what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37) Peter told them they must repent. Repentance and prayer are one of the best ways to turn to God! If you have never prayed very seriously, or if your prayer life has fallen on hard times, Lent is a wonderful occasion to repent and start or restart your communicative relationship with God.

When we come before the Lord, in the light of His holiness it reveals the inadequacy of our lives. When Simon Peter first glimpsed at Jesus during the miraculous catch of fish, the power of the miracle caused Peter to say, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” (Luke 5:8)

If we are in any way choosing to do what we want, rather than what the Lord wants, it's time to examine our consciousness and draw closer to Christ.

Lent is a time of conversion – a time to return to the Lord in whatever ways we have turned against or away from him. We should return to the Lord in our attitudes, our conversations, our plans, and our goals, even in our hopes and our dreams. May repentance, reflection, rededication, and renewal be your portion this Lenten season.

Monthly Events

Miracle Monday

Monday, March 6th, 2023

Join us for our
Miracle Monday Service at 7:00pm.
Bishop Dr. Kimberly Moore of
Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church
will be our guest.



Shepherd Staff Anniversary

Sunday, March 19th, 2023

Wear orange and gray as we celebrate
our Shepherd Staff Ministry.

300

Men and Women
in Black

Sunday, March 26th, 2023

Wear black and bring your \$100 seed
and be a blessing to CBC.



Save the Date

Join us April 17th for our
Miracle Monday Service at 7:00pm.
Pastor Sean Dogan of
Long Branch Baptist Church



CARERS



Trustees: Micheal Brown, Liberty Canzater, Donnie Smith, Ronnie Smith
Deacons: Lenny Kindall, Johnny Harris, Rodney Tidwell, Eric Sullivan, Larry Porter
Deaconess: Jennifer Kindall, Lucretia Harris, Psyche Tidwell, Carutha Porter, Valerie Sullivan



Just remember, while you worship and while you tarry...
NO FOOD OR DRINK in the AV Room or Sanctuary!



Ministry Leaders and Members- If you would like to purchase or pick up your key fob please see Minister Aleasha Jackson.



The Deacons will resume communion and visitation. If you desire visitation and communion please call Minister Akia Jackson at 864-582-2550 ext. 228

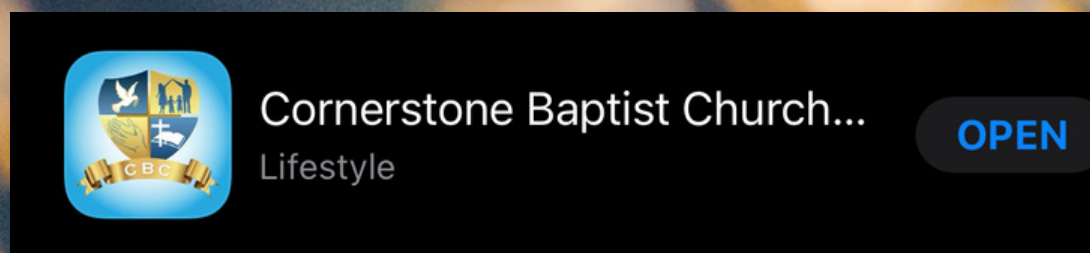


Join us for Intercessory Prayer at 8:00 am, Sunday School at 8:30 -9:30 am, and Sunday Morning Worship at 9:30 am.

 Cash App [\\$CBCSpartanburg](#)



Pay your tithes with ease with credit card, debit card, online through PayPal or CBC Cash App.



Follow us on Facebook and on YouTube for all worship experiences & virtual Bible Study on Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm!
Download our CBC App and save 864-689-2996 in your contacts on your phone for important notifications.



Encouraging Corner with Co Pastor

Come Closer

James 4:8 (NASB)

Come close to God and He will come close to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

The reality of our world is that most of us live according to worldly wisdom, we are driven by envy and we pursue a selfish ambition to get what we want. Yet, there is a call to get back to living according to heaven's wisdom, trusting God to provide all the good we need, and focus ourselves on serving others. How should we respond if we realize we've been living according to worldly wisdom, driven by envy and selfish ambition to get what we want? What should we do if we want to get back to living according to heaven's wisdom, trusting God to provide all the good we need, and focus on serving others? In the previous verse, James describes how we should repent. First, he wrote that we should quit blindly chasing what we want. Instead, we should submit to God. Next, we should resist the devil, instead of continuing to cooperate with him. James promised that when we resist Satan, he will leave. Here in verse 8, James calls us to draw near—to move closer—to God. This comes with an additional promise: God will respond by moving closer to us. That's an incredible act of mercy on God's part. The God of the universe owes us nothing, including His closeness. What grace on His part to come in our direction at all! This is especially gracious as a response to our step in His direction. Next, James calls us sinners to clean our hands. He calls us double-minded people: trying to serve both self and God. James pleads with us to purify our hearts. The idea here is to completely turn from our sin, to resolve that we will serve God, and to begin again. Come closer. In verse 8, James calls us to draw near—to move closer—to God. This comes with an additional promise: God will respond by moving closer to us. That's absolutely incredible! The God of the universe owes us absolutely nothing, including His closeness. What grace on His part to come in our direction at all! This is especially gracious as a

response to our step in His direction. Next, James calls us sinners to clean our hands. He calls us double-minded people, trying to serve both self and God. James pleads with us to purify our hearts. The idea here is to completely turn from our sin, to serve God, and to come closer to His amazing plan for our lives. As we enter this Lenten season of reflection, repentance, and renewal, let's come closer to Jesus, the resurrected one. He lived, died, and rose so we could have access to the Father ...so come closer.

*Credit: Bible Reference Commentary