

The Grapevine



When I reflect on my life, certain moments stand out where the peace of Christ was profoundly real. In the summer of 2002, before heading to Bible school, I sat by a remote mountain lake in Colorado with my dad and brother. The vastness of the mountains, the quiet, and the sense that everything was right between me and God filled me with unshakable confidence in His sovereign guidance over this broken world. I've also experienced the peace of Christ many times in ordinary moments of life.

I'm sure you can recall such moments too. Perhaps it was the acceptance letter to a dream school as a young person, the joy of a child's birth, graduation, or wedding, or simply a quiet morning on your back porch with coffee, communing with God before the day begins. Maybe it came while hiking, fishing, or simply being still in nature.

Yet we've all known the opposite—times of doubt, despair, or distance from God, when peace felt absent. One of the most revolutionary truths I've learned is that we don't have to wait passively for peace the peace of Christ to come to us like we would unpredictable weather. Scripture invites us to actively let it rule.

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15, NIV)

The word “let” means we can cooperate with God in this. Jesus purchased peace as a felt reality for us through His cross—not just future hope, but present experience. But like salvation, it must be appropriated.

A simple daily practice has transformed my life: At day's end, review the last 24 hours. Ask God to flood your heart with light (Ephesians 1:18). Notice when peace was a felt reality—a deep sense of safety, well-being, contentment, and God's nearness—and when it was absent. Identify what invited peace: living in the present (where God is), setting your mind on His Word (“the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace,” Romans 8:6), or turning anxious thoughts into prayers. Identify what robbed it: worry, gossip, frustration or something else. Ask God what He's teaching through both the presence and absence of peace.

Then pray for the next day: Commit to what worked (redirecting thoughts, abiding in the present) and visualize living it out. Throughout the day, pause to “center down,” turning your mind to God when you feel yourself move out of peace, and practice His presence. May this practice bring more moments of Christ's peace to each of us at Cove Spring.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, let Your peace rule in our hearts. Teach us to abide in You, review our days with Your light, and turn toward You continually. Forgive where we've strayed, and guide us into deeper peace. Amen.

Faithfully, Pastor Greg

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Joys and Concerns

Please continue to pray for:

- Josh Zimmerman
- Evelyn Siebring
- Bob Owens – knee replacement recovery
- Susie Everheart–cancer treatment
- Cyndi Rose – surgery, Feb. 5
- James – Dick Hill's cousin

Please pray for the families who have experienced loss:

- The Family of Richard Smith
- Nighkirk Family
- The Family of Helen Meyer
- The Family of Mike Bigelow
- The Family of Sara Patrick

Continued Prayer for:

Ruth Caldwell	Betty Trostel
Nevin Elleman	John Jess
Lee Harrison	Patricia Smith
Kathy Shellhaas	Zach Hodges
Suzan Suber	



Thank you so much for all of the wonderful birthday cards for my 80th birthday. I received over 100 birthday cards and I was so surprised. I am thankful for my church family.

From: Lou Ann Jess

Happy Birthday

Trudy Blackmore, Amanda Matheny
 Aubrey Miller, Alicia Hershberger
 Mackenzie Horner, Corey Rindler
 Chris Duff, Rita Boyer
 Ruth Caldwell, Kacie Tackett
 Audrey Phillis, Daniel Sutherly
 Alek Fine, Hope Ann Fine
 Paislee Dunivan, Betty Trostel
 Scott Williams, Alyssa Bowman
 Delores Swallow, Simon Zank
 Samuel Zank, Dawn Wallace
 Madeline Davis, Margie Orth
 Jake Coverstone
 Jacob Hershberger, Ethan Fine

Happy Anniversary

John & Lou Ann Jess

IMPORTANT DATES

FEB 2 – Deacon Bd. Mtg, 7pm
 FEB 8– Cove Spring Kids, after church
 FEB 8 – Parent's Bible Study, after church
 FEB 10– Women's Fellowship
 FEB 15 – Youth Group Lock-In
FEB 18 – Ash Wednesday service at 7pm
 FEB 22 – Confirmation classes begin



JOIN COVE SPRING CHURCH

NEW MEMBERS RECOGNITION
*will be done on Palm Sunday
 March 29, 2026
 during church service*

- *New Members*
- *Baptisms, Dedications*
- *Confirmations*

Please let Pastor Greg know if you are interested in joining Cove Spring Church

Confirmation classes start Feb. 22



Ash Wednesday
 FEB. 18, 2026
 SERVICE BEGINS AT 7PM



RUMMAGE SALE * If we have enough volunteers

The Friendship Circle Class would like to see if there is enough interest in doing a rummage sale. If you have any big ticket items to donate, or are interested in helping, please let Julia Sutherly know. A decision will be made based on the interest and volunteers.

PARENT'S BIBLE STUDY

FEB 8 - After church

All parents are welcome.
 This group meets during the same time as Cove Spring Kids.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We gather every **Wednesday at 12:30pm** in the church basement. All ladies are welcome to join us!

YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN



Youth Lock-In Information

Who: Youth 6th-12th grade

When: Feb. 15th @8p.m to
8a.m. Feb. 16th

What: fun activities, games, food,
movies, and sharing God's word

Adult volunteers are needed to
help throughout the night. Please
reach out to Michelle Robbins for
more information about helping.

*Youth group is for Jr High & High
School age youth. Please join us!*

COVE SPRING KIDS



FEB 8 - Cove Spring Kids, meeting after
church until 11:45am.

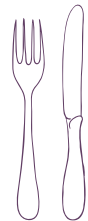
In January, the lesson was: God's plan
for us. The children also made
milestone birthday cards for 2 special
ladies in our church.

*Cove Spring Kids is for Pre-K through 5th
grade. Please join us!*

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We are meeting at the church on
February 10, at 10am.

RSVP to Diana 937-875-1004



The **Youth Group** went out grocery shopping this month with money raised from the Christmas Card delivery project. The youth provided food for twelve food blessing boxes around Troy including ours at the church. Thank you everyone for your monetary donations to help with this youth community activity.

Church Moderator Tom Wallace called the regular Church Business Meeting to order at 7:00 pm and opened with the Lord's Prayer. Seventeen members were present. Minutes were published from the October Business Meeting in the October Newsletter and were available in each vestibule for review. Tom Wallace asked for approval of the minutes as distributed. A motion was made to accept the October minutes by Randy Mott. Bill Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee reports:

Treasurer: Dan Sutherly reviewed the church financial statements. . A motion was made by Marilyn Rowe to approve the Treasurer's report. Diana Wilhelm seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Finance Committee: Included in Treasurer's Report.

Deacon Board: Bill Hershberger reported that the deacons met and welcomed Ann Horner and Brian Bensman. Josh Gearhard is the president and Betsy Staley is the secretary. The team has already met and set some goals, including the idea of possibly offering a Christian-based financial class if there is enough interest. It was decided to video tape one of Greg's sermons, just in case the weather was bad, if he was sick or there was an emergency.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Greg has been attending the parent's bible study and shared that R.J. & Melissa Benham have done a good job leading the group in meaningful conversations.

Security Team: No report.

Trustees: R.J. Benham (not present) reported to Betsy Staley, who shared that all of the projects at the parsonage have been completed, including the new garage door & opener, fence, plumbing, etc. Pastor Greg added that he appreciates all the work that has been done at the parsonage.

Flower committee: Darin Williams reported that they chose to purchase Christmas poinsettias from Andy's Garden. The candelabras for main aisle were rebuilt for the battery operated candles. Delores Swallow donated a large Christmas wreath, but more storage for all of the decorations may be needed. Darin also said that he would like to find new plant stands for the front of the church so that flowers will be more visible. The price lists for the Easter flowers are expected soon.

Youth Group: Michelle Robbins reported that the youth group had another successful Christmas card delivery for church members, which raised almost \$800. The youth group led the service for Christmas Sunday and helped set up the nativity scene. They also help carry tubs of decorations for the Christmas Decorating Committee members and will also be going shopping to purchase groceries to donate. They are gearing up for a lock-in over Presidents' Day weekend.

Cove Spring Kids: Michelle Robbins shared that they had a great turn out for the harvest party. The kids did a wonderful job with the Christmas program. Cove's Kids are still meeting monthly and the number of children attending continues to grow and there was a need for child care during the parent's bible study. The kids made birthday cards for Lou Ann Jess's 80th birthday and Amy Eidemillier's 100th birthday. One of the messages Michelle has reinforced with the kids lately is that "God's plan for our lives starts right away!"

January 13 Business Meeting Minutes continued

Music Committee: Wade Wilhelm reported that the Christmas Eve Cantata was very successful. Twenty-six people went Christmas caroling at various locations, including Story Point and Otterbein. The group sang to Patty Taynor over the phone. He received a nice thank you note for the uplifting music. The praise band is celebrating its 20th year of leading worship music for our congregation. Wade thanked those who have been working on the audio settings on Facebook and noted that it sounds much better. Preparations for the Easter cantata are in progress for the Sunrise Service that will be held at the Lostcreek Memory Barn. Wade complimented Barbara Fulton and Darin Williams for the wonderful accompaniment they provide.

Audio-Visual Team: Randy Mott reported that all of the team's tasks have been completed for the year, including the purchase of 3 new computers. He shared that we have a great group of dedicated people who are always working hard to make things run smoothly.

Missions Committee: No report.

Church Secretary: Betsy Staley reported that the 2026 yearbooks should be printed by the end of January. She also shared the Attendance Record for 2025.

Blessing Box: Diana Wilhelm stated that the Blessing Box is supporting the people in the community and it is being refilled several times each week.

Women's Fellowship: Diana Wilhelm reported that the ladies have been cutting jeans to make rag-rugs. They are planning to host the Miami East High School Basketball Girls for a team meal on January 28th.

New Business:

- Discussion on insurance coverage: The committee has been working to write a policy that will need to be agreed upon by both the church body and the insurance company. This policy is designed to protect Cove Spring if any allegations are ever brought forth against the adult volunteers (nursery, youth group, junior church, VBS, etc.) who have contact with the children of the church and it is still a work in progress. The committee is working hard to provide a policy that will explain the purpose and guidelines, while describing the process to become approved. A concern was shared that it will be challenging to monitor the paperwork and be aware of which adults are permitted to have direct contact with kids.
- Discussion on possible addition to church: Randy Mott shared a map of the church, including the leech field, well and hand written description of the property. He shared that the EPA would have to be part of the planning process if we choose to move forward with building an addition. He estimated that a one story building costs about \$260 per square foot and it could cost over \$1 million for an addition to the east of lower vestibule, depending on finishes, if a kitchen is added, etc. He suggested that if the church wants to proceed further, a committee may need to be formed to discuss options, consult architects, apply for permits, etc.

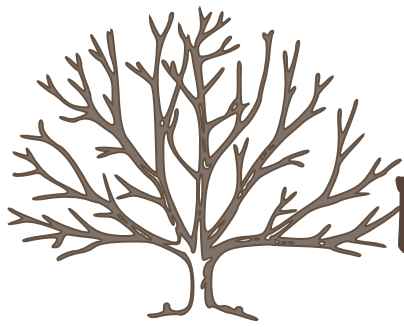
Randy Mott made a motion to close the meeting. Bill Hershberger seconded the motion.

The next business meeting will be held on April 14, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Pastor Greg ended with prayer.

Church Moderator Tom Wallace adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm.

Submitted by: Heather Gilliland



FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Deacon Bd Mtg 7pm	3	4 Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	5	6	7
8 Cove Spring Kids Parent's Bible Study	9	10 Women's Fellowship 10am	11 Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	12	13	14
15 Church basement reserved 4pm-5pm Youth Lock-In 8pm	16 Youth Lock-In ends- 8am	17	18 Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm  Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	26	27	28



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called to peace. And be thankful."
Colossians 3:15, NIV***