



First
Presbyterian
Church
of Waynesboro, Virginia

The Columns *Online*

February 22 2023 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

Asbury University moves to end 13 days of revival
An estimated 50,000 have flocked to the rolling revival meeting in this tiny Central Kentucky town.

by Fiona Morgan | Religion News Service

Wilmore, Kentucky (RNS) — After an estimated 50,000 Christian worshippers, celebrity pastors and onlookers flocked to a rolling revival meeting at Asbury University over the past 13 days, the school's administration announced a new, limited schedule for prayer services in hopes of restoring order to the campus in this tiny Central Kentucky town.

Asbury University President Kevin Brown made the announcement Sunday, February 19, telling those attending the revival, "We had authorities that had to redirect traffic away from Wilmore. Our town's institutions and our town's infrastructure is just not in a place to absorb the influx of the blessed guests that we have had."



Attendees at prayer. Both floors were completely full of attendees for the service. Photo by Fiona Morgan

The revival broke out spontaneously on Feb. 8. after a routine chapel service, which Asbury students attend three times a week. After the chapel service, a few dozen students stayed to continue

continued

Asbury Revival, continued



People join together to worship inside Hughes Auditorium.

Photo by Fiona Morgan

worshipping and praying. Word spread throughout the day that students were still in Hughes, and more and more students returned. As word spread, first on social media and then in news reports, including a segment on Fox News' "Tucker Carlson Tonight," people from surrounding communities came to experience what people were calling a revival, and Hughes' 1,489 (famously uncomfortable) wooden seats soon filled up, with newcomers replacing those in a steady stream as people left.

Sitting and standing, some with hands raised in prayer, others jumping, dancing or kneeling, prayer has been constant inside the room. Groups of people gather in circles around the room to pray, often offering to pray for strangers they have just met. Lines form at the front of the room, as some seek prayer at the altar. A small group of musicians on stage plays familiar worship songs.

Attendees attested to a sense of unity in the room and an intense feeling of the presence of God. "I walked into Hughes and the peace I felt was immediate," said Anna Lauren Jacobs, a 2022 Asbury graduate and current law student at the University of Kentucky who came to experience the revival. "It's a kind of joyous peace that is transcendent, and just invites you into a deeper understanding of what it means to partake in Heaven."

Asbury University is a private, non denominational Christian university aligned with the Wesleyan-Holiness movement. On February 12, Asbury Seminary, a sister institution across the street, opened an overflow location in its Estes Chapel. By the evening of the 14th, two more overflow locations were opened and filled, and a long line formed outside of Hughes. For eight days, worship continued 24 hours a day. Early in the morning of the 16th, the auditorium was closed for the first time, but as soon as it reopened, more people flooded in and services continued.

Hundreds of staff, faculty, students, alumni, community members and nearby church members have freely volunteered their time to keep the revival going, with staff from Asbury's enrollment office leading volunteer efforts. Administrators and faculty stayed in Hughes late into the night to work behind the scenes, keep things organized and speak on stage.

This unprecedented number of people coming to Wilmore, a town of about 6,000, has caused safety concerns. Asbury administration said it had no other option but to enforce more regulations. Some 7,000 people arrived the previous day alone, according to authorities. More than 3,000 of them waited outside in line in 30° to 40° weather watching a simulcast on outdoor screens of the proceedings inside Asbury's Hughes Auditorium.

continued

Asbury Revival, continued

Monday the 20th was the last day that revival services in Hughes were open to the public. After that, only those age 25 and younger are allowed in Hughes for services at 7:30 p.m. The public may watch services from other simulcast venues or from a livestream on Asbury's website. Services in Hughes will end on Thursday, which is National Collegiate Day of Prayer, with a service at 8 p.m. for anyone 25 and younger. Out of respect for people still traveling to Kentucky, Brown said continued services will be held at other venues in Central Kentucky, yet to be announced.

Several Christian celebrities have attended the revival, McChord said. Among them were evangelist Nick Hall; Greg Locke, the pastor of Global Vision Baptist Church, known for his conspiracy theories and ardent support for Donald Trump; and Kari Jobe, a Christian singer and worship leader. None of the nationally known figures were invited to speak, however. McChord explained that they have kept the focus on students, in part by establishing a separate line for people 25 and younger to give them priority over other visitors.

Other revivals have reportedly broken out at other colleges throughout the country, including Lee University, Ohio Christian University, Western Kentucky University, the University of Michigan and Samford University.

Despite the attempts to bring the Asbury revival to an end, said McChord, "I believe that this will absolutely grow, and I believe where it will grow from is our college students and our high school-age students. That generation is truly leading this. I believe God has something super special for Generation Z, and I believe he's moving them into a place to be leaders."



OUR WORSHIP CHANNELS

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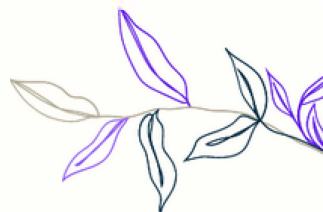




LENT 2023

2/22

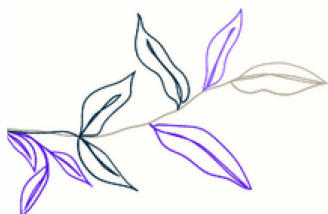
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



3/01

LENTEN SERIES: THE PARABLES
BROWN BAG LUNCH

3/29



4/06

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
SIMPLE MEAL & COMMUNION

ALL EVENTS ARE AT NOON.



First
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Music Notes for February 26.

During this Lenten season, we will sing the same introit each week: *Lord Have Mercy*, by Swee Hong Lim (b. 1963). Swee Hong is the Deer Park Associate Professor of Sacred Music and Director of the Master of Sacred Music Program at Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto, Canada. He is also the Director of Research for the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. As a congregation, we have sung this reverent call for mercy setting before; this year, we ask you to sing through it twice.



Swee Hong Lim.

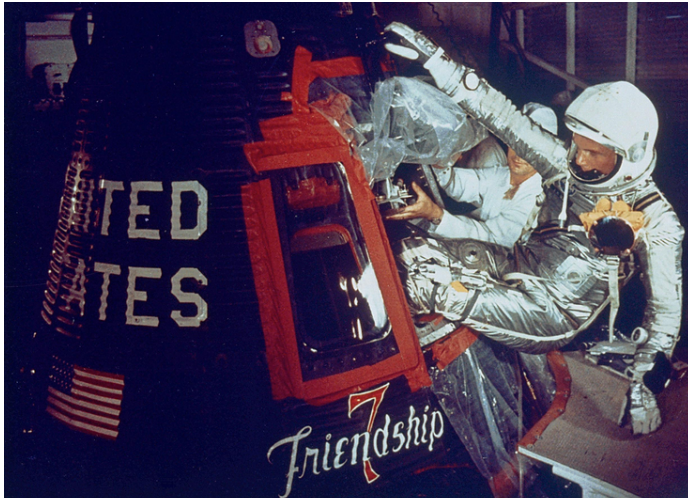
The hymns for the first Sunday of Lent will acknowledge our journey through this penitential season. Hymn 167, *Forty Days and Forty Nights* and Hymn 165, *The Glory of These Forty Days*, remind us of Jesus's temptation in the wilderness, as we begin our forty days of penitence and reflection.

Worship This Week:

**We welcome
General Presbyter Bronwen Boswell
to the pulpit.**



This Week in History.



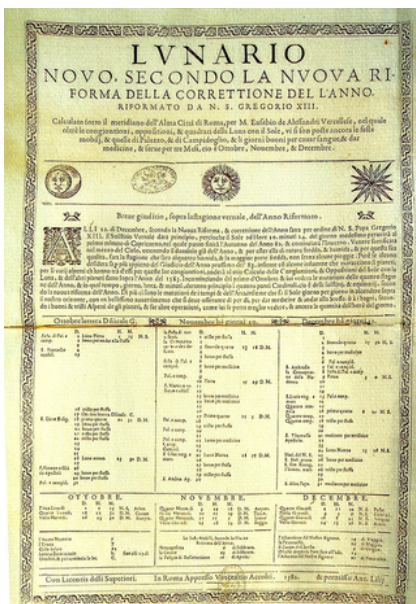
Astronaut John Glenn becomes the first American launched into orbit. Traveling aboard the "Friendship 7," Glenn reaches an altitude of 162 miles (260 kilometers) and completes three orbits in a flight lasting just under five hours.

February 20, 1862



George Washington is born in Westmoreland County, VA. A soldier, surveyor, planter and politician, he would serve as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and become the first U.S. President.

February 22, 1732



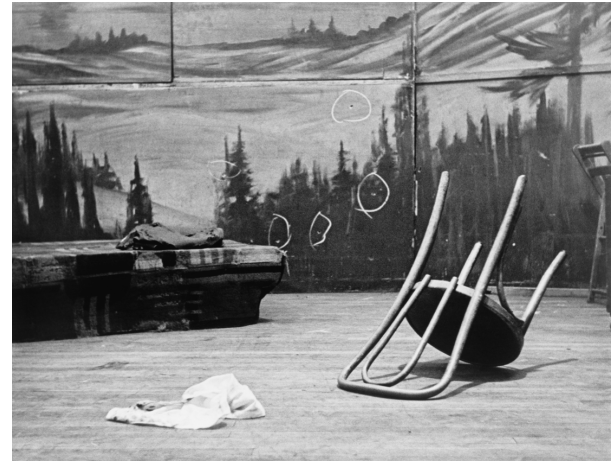
To correct disparities between the Julian calendar and the solar year, Pope Gregory XIII makes minor adjustments to the formula and directs that the day after October 4, 1582 would be October 15th. This Gregorian, or New Style calendar, was then adopted by Catholic countries, followed gradually by Protestant and other nations.

February 24, 1582



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos flees his country for Guam in response to massive demonstrations a fraudulent electoral victory over Corazon Aquino, widow of martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino. She would replace Marcos as president.

February 25, 1473



African American human rights activist Malik el-Shabazz (Malcolm X) is shot and killed while delivering a speech to the Organization of Afro-American Unity, in the Audubon ballroom in New York City. A former minister in the Nation of Islam, his assassination has been linked to his conflict with NOI leadership.

February 21, 1965



The Imperial Japanese Navy conducts the first naval bombardment of the continental United States by a foreign power since the War of 1812. An oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California was shelled by Submarine I-17, causing minor damage.