

February 2025 Newsletter

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Spotlight Focus on Valentine's Day

Over the years, even centuries, Valentine's Day has been a religious celebration, an ancient ritual day, and a commercial holiday. All that change indicates the meaning of Valentine's Day is truly whatever you want it to be. You can skip the celebrations completely (if you're married, I would not advise this) but as Christians we cannot skip over Jesus' teachings on love.

From the Greatest Commandment, the Golden Rule, and even Jesus' prayer in John 17 it is clear that when we love one another we have finally understood Jesus' will for our lives. Let's consider two texts in the gospel of John. First, John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." This is a very high calling, this exceeds "love your neighbor as yourself." This is love like Jesus does. A powerful self-sacrificing love that comes from the strength that only God can provide. How do we do this? Let's look at the second text; John 15:12-17. Here we have the same command to "love each other as Jesus has loved us." But here the command is followed by a word being repeated three times – Friends. From Jesus' words to love one another as He has loved us means to be friends.



As a Christian, make it a practice, a discipline, a spiritual goal or standard to be friends with the people you go to church with. This is Jesus' command. How does this happen? Spend time together in Church and out in the world as well. Go to Sunday School, Wednesday Night, Small groups together. Go to ball games, out for dinner, or play cards at each other's homes. To be friends is a discipline that requires doing life together. I think that is the example Jesus left us. Being friends is His teaching that He commanded us to follow.

So, Valentine's Day is very similar to Christmas in that as Charlie Brown says, "It's too commercial!" Jesus' teaching of love is anything but commercial. It is powerfully life changing. Jesus doesn't just invite you to believe in him and command you to obey him. He invites you to fall in love with him. He calls you to love his Father, just as he loves him. He offers you the Holy Spirit to empower and enable that love. Duty won't keep you from moral collapse. Obligation won't maintain your Christian behavior. Love will. Here is why we can't skip Jesus' teaching to love one another the way He loves us. The happiest day in your Christian life is when the things you ought to do are now the things you want to do because of your love for the one who first loved you.

Your Friend,
Gary



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3rd Gerris Sanders
3rd Donna Waller
5th Nema Kirk
6th Sandra Phillips
6th Wayne Chamness
7th Avery Wilt
7th Grace Gibbs
8th Kristin Johnson
10th Faye Aken
10th Elliott Williams
11th Paula Dunlap
13th Dot Williams
14th Tom Bailey
14th Jennie Gibbs
16th Terry Wright
17th Reagan Dorsey
18th Sylvia Krelo
19th Claude Tripp
19th Morgan Bernardini
21st Brynn Wesselman
22nd Patty Manis
25th Michaela Carter
28th Mable Gibbs

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Gary & Phyllis Jones
4th Dennis & Lisa Bastien
12th Steve & Jane Tuthill
14th Claude & Sandy Tripp
14th Alan & Patti Evans
19th Lance & Teresa Weil
25th Gordon & Becky Burroughs
26th Wes & Jenifer Wilt

But God
demonstrates

his own love

for us in this:
While we were
still sinners,

Christ died
FOR US.

Romans 5:8, NIV

FEBRUARY DATES

*Please remember that dates are subject to change, and that there may be some events added later after this newsletter is published. Follow the weekly bulletins and follow us on Facebook.

- 2/1 Men's Meeting and Breakfast 8:00-9:00 a.m.
- 2/2 Sunday Night Youth 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 2/5 Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal 5:45 Bible Study 6:30-7:30
- 2/8 Women's Breakfast 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- 2/9 Sunday Night Youth 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 2/10 Book Club 6:00 p.m.
- 2/12 Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal 5:45 Bible Study 6:30-7:30
- 2/14 Senior's Valentine Party 6:00 p.m.
- 2/15 Food Pantry 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- 2/16 Guest Services Meeting
- 2/16 Sunday Night Youth 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 2/17 Area Men's Meeting at Heartland Christian Church in Marion
- 2/18 Senior's Luncheon 12:00 noon
- 2/19 Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal 5:45 Bible Study 6:30-7:30
- 2/20 Joint Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 2/23 Sunday Night Youth 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 2/26 Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal 5:45 Bible Study 6:30-7:30

FOR MORE INFORMATION.....

- Men's Breakfast-Kevin Asbury will be leading the devotion
- Women's Breakfast - Beth Alongi is leading the devotion.
- Book Club: This Month's Book is *Counting Miracles* by Nicholas Sparks
- Senior's Valentine's Dinner. Sign up at the Senior's Bulletin Board and indicate your choice of entree.
- Sunday Night Youth. We need volunteers to help provide a meal to the youth on Sunday nights! Sign up at the bulletin board.

FEBRUARY SERVING SCHEDULE

Communion Purchase

Larry & Joyce Hickman

Communion Meditation

2/2 Tim Gossett
2/9 Landon Buser
2/16 Kevin Asbury
2/23 Brandon Buser

Communion Prep

Larry & Joyce Hickman

Communion to Shut-Ins

2/2 Paula Dunlap
2/9 Mark Wilson
2/16 Gary Jones
2/23 Gordon Burroughs

COMMUNION SERVERS

2/2/2025

Wes Wilt
Erin Carter
Grace Godoyo
Lyle Thompson
Aaron Thompson
Maddax Thompson
Don Garver
Jordan Evans

2/9/2025

Mark Wilson
Larry Hickman
Joyce Hickman
Ed Davis
Kevin Asbury
Warren Yates
Kathy Yates
Jarrod Kreid

2/16/2025

Tom Scott
Kathy Elson
Dennis Bastien
Bruce Ridgeway
Gordon Burroughs
Andy Burroughs
Tyler Burroughs
Brandon Buser

2/23/2025

Luke Buser
Rich Bernardini
Doug Gibbs
Jake Gibbs
Gary Monroe
Ron Ritter
Lisa Bastien
Steve Parry

Sunday School Milk & Juice

2/2 & 2/9 Nancy Kreid
2/16 & 2/23 Gordon & Becky Burroughs

Opening Prayer

2/2 Doug Gibbs
2/9 Larry Hickman
2/16 Lyle Thompson
2/23 Lance Weil

Nursery

2/2 Dot Williams with Riley & Michaela
2/9 Gail Ridgeway with Colton
2/16 Christy Stewart with Zoey Swenson
2/23 Emily Evans with Ginny Reiman

Inside Greeters

2/2 Jeanette Thompson & Bobbie Star
2/9 Jesse Brooks & Jim Williamson
2/16 Paula Dunlap & Vicky Parry
2/23 Gary Jones & Larry Hickman

Hall Greeter

2/2 Mark Wilson
2/9 Aaron Thompson
2/16 Larry Hickman
2/23 Brandon Buser

Exit Greeter

2/2 Dale Odom
2/9 Jeanette Thompson
2/16 Vickie Carter
2/23 Paula Dunlap

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Men's Breakfast 8:00-9:00 a.m.
2 Youth Group	3	4	5 Meal 6:00-6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.	6	7	8 Women's Breakfast 9:00-10:00 a.m.
9 Youth Group	10 Book Club 6 p.m.	11	12 Meal 6:00-6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> Senior's Valentine's Party	15 Food Pantry 9:00-10:00 a.m.
16 Guest Services Youth Group	17 Area Men's Meeting at Mulkeytown	18 Senior's Movie Luncheon 12:00 noon	19 Meal 6:00-6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.	20 Joint Board Meeting 6 p.m.	21	22
23 Youth Group	24	25	26 Meal 6:00-6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.	27	28	

Prayers and Praises

Praises: Joseph Reiman came forward and dedicated his life to Christ and was baptized in Him on Sunday, January 19th! Congratulations Joseph! Raelin Chaffin had surgery and all cancer has been removed! Praise God! Mary Ridgeway came forward and placed her membership at ECC! Welcome Mary!

Surgery & Recovering: Whitney Dunbar (Surgery 2/20); Tim Taylor (back surgery); Leon Milfield (cousin of Warren Yates and Carla Bigham— had bypass surgery and is now in a Montana rehab)

Others in Need: Courtney Severs (brain and pancreatic tumors-undergoing testing); Max McDonald (85% blockage in heart-possible surgery); Rick Greenley (frontal temporal dementia-no treatment and is progressing); Dagan Crews (Nashville, TN-heart problems); Darin Snyder (double pneumonia); Margie Tanner (health issues from fall); Shirley Zoller (recovering from pneumonia); Whitney Dunbar (awaiting medical tests-hoping for the best outcome); Joan Watts; Abel Tripp; Tony Hall (44 year old had a stroke-on ventilator); Aydan Zoller (16 year old with multiple health issues); Alec Valerius (Prayers for sensation to return in legs below the knees); Gavin Barnett (diagnosis on Barrelyt's esophagus); Lonnie Jacobs (health issues); Dennis Phoenix (diabetic-toe amputation. Fell and broke femur-facing more amputation on his right foot); Evey Maye (kidney disease-one kidney only functioning at 1%); Heidi Humerickhouse (6 month old with serious health issues); Dawn Cashion (heart issues); Dawn Conner (heart issues); Marge Quillman (91-broken hip, infection-cannot do surgery); Cheryl Reese (Pancreatitis & liver cirrhosis); Vickie Lewis (Health issues); Nyle Ford; Richard Shimkus (balance and overall health); Doug Myers (heart issues); Carol Myers (serious health issues); Nancy Denton (serious heart issues); Chris Darnell (brain bleed-in St. Louis hospital); Nick Fowler (biopsy-testing for possible skin cancer in the stomach); Karen Monroe; David Flowers (broken leg after a fall); Alex Walters (32 year old admitted to Barnes Jewish Hospital after a collapse); Patty Manis (cardiac and other health issues)

Those With Cancer: Stanley Webster (pancreatic cancer); Allen Russell (Jeanette Thompson's son-in-law's brother, having bone marrow transplant for leukemia); Mary Lynn Morber (ovarian cancer); Stacey Arnett (multiple myeloma); Raelin Chaffin (thyroid cancer); John Halstead (leukemia); Lucy Boss (5 year old with leukemia); Barb Nawakoski (lung cancer); Mary McGriff (ovarian cancer); Larry Thompson (radiation treatments); Brian Tuthill (leukemia); Logan Kraeger (31 year old with stage 4 cancer); Melissa Jane Pabst (leukemia has returned); Aiden Caracker (senior @ Elverado with rare cancer-undergoing treatment);

Kathy Yates; Janelle Coleman (mother of 3-breast cancer-preparing for double mastectomy followed by chemo; Sherry Hargis (Chemo Treatments, not doing well); Jason Stutes (lymphoma returned for 3rd time); Reice Mae Albright (Goreville High School student-brain tumor); Addilyn Holmes (6 y.o. stage 3 renal cancer, Wilms tumor-kidney removed-starts chemo January 10th followed by radiation); Cheryl Baker; Jeanette Thompson (leukemia); Linda O'dell (stage3 cancer);

Military Service: William Meadows (Air Force-stationed in Las Vegas, Nevada); Bryce Mathis (Army Ranger); Zac Jorgenson (Air Force-stationed in North Dakota); Nick Depyatic (Air Force-stationed in Wyoming); Micheal Brown (Navy); Chad Lipe (deployed overseas); Major Luke Grieder (Army-stationed in Poland); Rylan Ragar (Coast Guard-stationed in Puerto Rico); Andrew Martin (Army-LTC@Pentagon); Jessica Sickles (Air Force-being deployed overseas); Jeffrey Davis (Navy); Stavian Bizillion (Army); Mekenna Goessman (National Guard); Brooklyn Miller-McMullen (Coast Guard)

Those in Mourning: Jay Seibert; Bob Dawe; Gina Tadlock; Paul McLaughin; Danny Dunlap; Jack Ingram

February Wednesday Night Menu

Meal starts at 5:45. Comes with Drink and Dessert. Cost is \$7/plate or \$18/family. To help Donna prepare, PLEASE sign up prior to the Tuesday before.

2/5 BBQ Sandwiches, Baked Beans, and Potato Salad

2/12 Pizza, Salad, and Breadsticks

2/19 Baked Potato Bar, Salad

2/26 Italian Beef, Cheesy Potatoes, and Green Beans

We hope you enjoy our newsletter. You can also visit our website at

www.elkvillechristian.com for more!

Also be sure to like us on Facebook!



**And now these
three remain: faith,
hope and love. But
the greatest of
these is love.**

1 Corinthians 13:13