



# THE NEW LEAF



First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton



## FEBRUARY 2024



For the Spirit God  
gave us does not  
make us timid, but  
gives us power, love  
and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7

Never forget yesterday, but  
always live for today...Because  
you never know what  
tomorrow can bring, or what it  
can take away...



**Rev. Norlita Kaul**

(248) 342-6190

[bridgetonfpcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetonfpcpastor@gmail.com)

In office at FPC 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Monday thru Thursday

**Church Office**

119 W. Commerce St.

Bridgeton NJ 08302

(856)455-0809

Hours: Mon - Thurs 9 am - 2 pm

**Christie Sever**

**Admin. Assistant**

[firstpresbridgeton@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbridgeton@gmail.com)

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Or go to our website [www.fpcbridgeton.org](http://www.fpcbridgeton.org)



# Board Updates

## 2024 Session Liaisons

### Clerk of Session

John A.

### Church Treasurer

Bob W.

### Presbytery Commissioner

Debbi B.G.

### Committees:

#### Christian Education

Sandy Z.

#### Church Nominating

Debbie H.

#### Memorials

Howard T.

#### Mission, Outreach, & Publicity

Debbi B.G.

#### Parish Life

Howard T.

#### Personnel

Debbi B.G.

#### Worship

Debbie H.

## 2024 Deacon Standing Committee

### Moderator

Marge P.

### Co-Vice Moderators

Robert D., Darlene F.

### Secretary

Jane H.

### Treasurer

Heather N.

### Bereavement/Receptions

Darlene F. Robin F., Heather N.

### Cards

Amy B.

### Casserole Committee

Darlene F., Robin F.

### Kitchen

Marge P. Jane H., Debbie F.

### Representative to Mission Outreach

Robert D.

### Nominating Comm.

Marge P.

### Prayer Email

Marge P.

### Visitations/Phone Calls-Everyone

## 2024 Board of Trustees

**Moderator** - Ken F.

**Vice-Moderator** - Sherry M.

**Secretary** - Yvonne C.

**Buildings and Grounds** - Frank P.

**Capital Campaign** - Ken F.

**Finance**-Frank P., Sherry M.

**Insurance** - Bill F.

**BSCA** - Ken F.

**Friends of Old Broad St.** - Yvonne C.

**Memorials** - Bill F., Ken F.

**Mission Outreach & Publicity** -Sandy H., Beth S.

**Nominating Committee** - Caroline O.

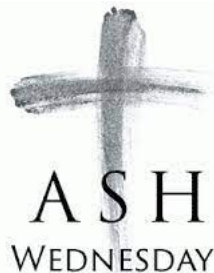
**Parish Life** - Yvonne C., Sandy H.

**Personnel** - Sherry M.

**Stewardship** - Sherry M.

**Technology** - Frank P.

# A time to worship . . .



## February 14 is Ash Wednesday

The congregations of Greenwich P.C. and First P.C. Bridgeton are collaborating for a joint Ash Wednesday dinner and service. Greenwich will be the host this year. Dinner will be potluck soup and bread at 6 PM in their fellowship hall. The service will follow at 7 PM and include the disposition of ashes. Both choirs will sing. A Readers' Theater called "Dust" will take the place of a sermon and requires 3 volunteer readers from each church.

Let's support our sister church as we gather to worship God on this significant day.



## Scout Sunday is February 4

Our scouts will start off our worship service with a presentation of the colors and the Scout Pledge. They will take part in the service by serving as ushers, liturgists and collecting our offering. We are grateful to our Scouts and their leaders.

**Congratulations to Ryan S. for earning his Eagle Scout Award.**

**Please let them know how proud we are of their efforts!**



*Our Girl Scouts will have Cookies Available for purchase also!!*



Deacons will provide snacks for Fellowship Time after the service.

# A time to share . . .

## Time Out Tuesday

Date: February 20, 2024

Time: 12 Noon

Place: Treborgarth (*Robert D.'s home*)



### “Give My Regards to Broadway”

Hosted by Robert D. & Harriet W.

Please RSVP to the Church office (856)455-0809 by 2/16/24

## Crafters' Comradery



Thursdays 1:30

- 3:30 in Bonham Hall Bring your own craft materials, plan to accomplish some crafting, and enjoy fun and fellowship.

## Fellowship Time Hosts Needed

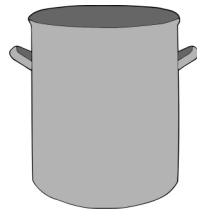
Fellowship time following Sunday worship is important in the life of our church family. Please help the deacons by volunteering to host fellowship time once in a while. There is a calendar on the kitchen counter for sign-ups. Just write your name on the Sunday of your choice.



The Mitten Tree items were given to the Girl Scouts to compliment their coat drive. The socks and fleece blankets will be taken to the Cumberland Manor.

## Souper Sunday

February 11, 2024



Before the “big game,” take time after worship service to feed the hungry by putting a monetary donation in the soup pots. (choose your favorite team - one pot for each team) Donations go to the Bethany Grace Food Program.



Then share a soup potluck lunch in

Bonham Hall.

Deacons will provide table settings, beverages and desserts.

## Troop 1 Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, February 24th

8:00 AM to Noon in Bonham Hall

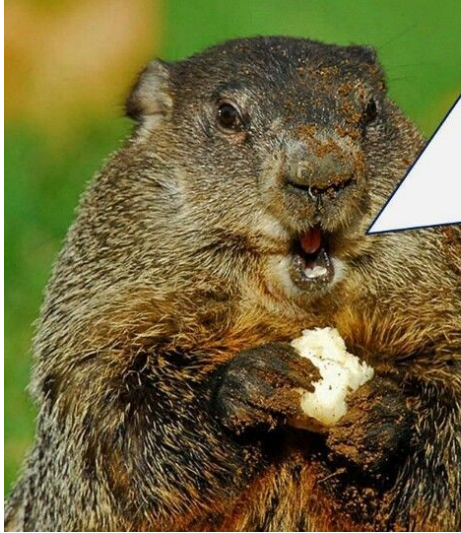


Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from any Troop 1 Scout, by emailing [trop1bridgeton@gmail.com](mailto:trop1bridgeton@gmail.com), or at the door.

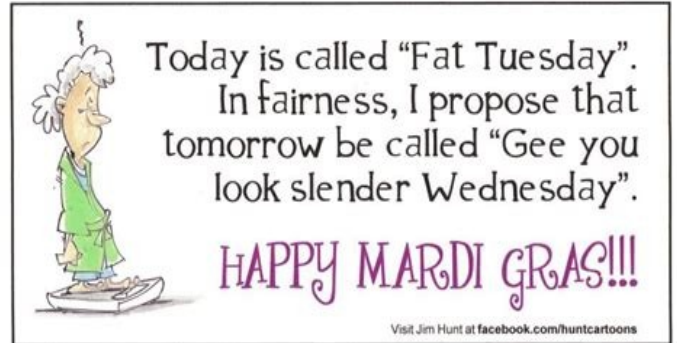
**Come support our scouts!**



# A time to laugh . . .

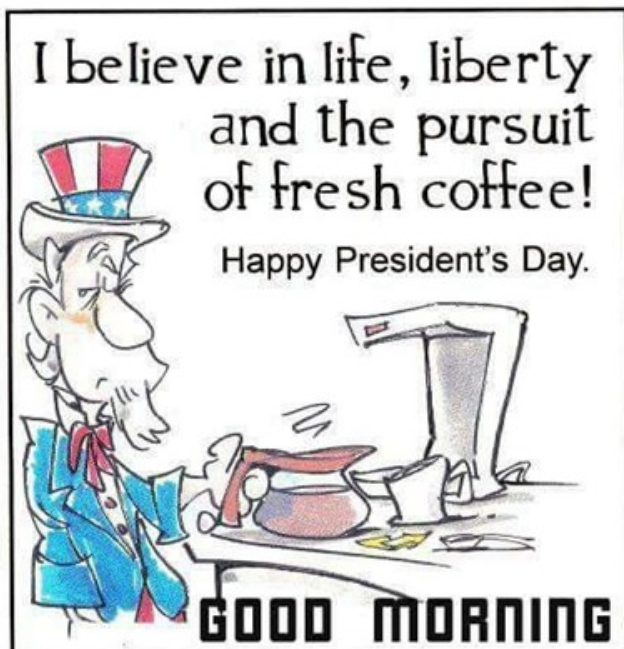
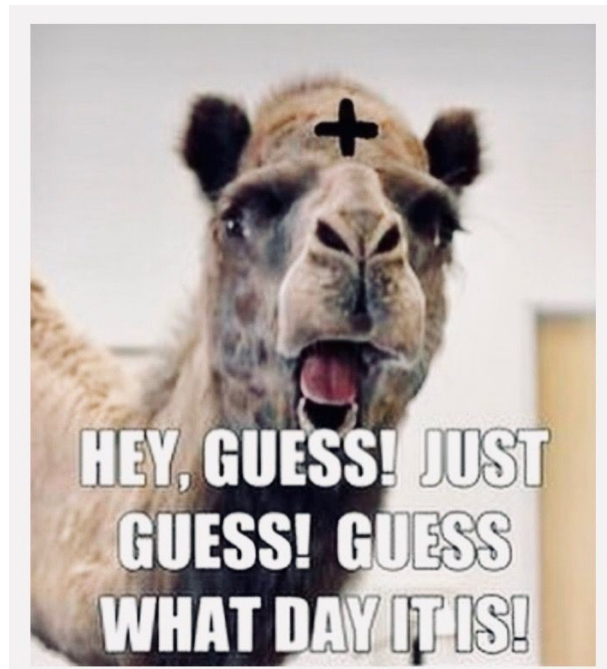


Oh Sure... It is CLEARLY all MY fault. After all, I'M the one with the weather satellites, nightly news, star charts, and a degree in meteorology. Yeah my muddy hole in the ground is just filled with weather prediction equipment. I can see why you asked me to begin with. My bad.



An Englishman, a Frenchman and an Irishman were in a pub talking about their children. 'My son was born on St George's Day,' remarked the Englishman, 'So we obviously decided to call him George.' 'That's a real coincidence', observed the Frenchman, 'My daughter was born on Valentine's Day, so we decided to call her Valentine.' 'That's really incredible', drawled the Irishman, 'Exactly the same thing happened with my son Pancake.'

Hint:  
Fat Tuesday is also known as Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday.



# A time to applaud . . .



Scouts BSA Troop 1, Garden State Council  
On Behalf of **Eagle Scout Ryan Simpkins**

Dear Rotary Club.

I write to share the good news that Ryan S. has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America.

The multiyear journey to the Eagle Scout Award is one of the most involved and transformative experiences a young person can have. They try new things through the merit badge program, develop confidence in the outdoors, practice leadership tactics, and plan, develop and give leadership to a service project that benefits their community.

For Ryan's Eagle Scout service project, he put together several community Little Libraries to encourage literacy in his home area of Hopewell NJ and Bridgeton NJ. Ryan's Little libraries have been placed at two churches, one at West Park United Methodist Church located in Hopewell and one at First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton. Ryan also placed a third Little Library at the Cumberland Manor in Hopewell. Ryan worked hard planning and leading his fellow scouts in his vision to better his surrounding community.

But the Scouting experience goes far deeper than one big project. Ryan also learned what leadership is along the way and has stated his excitement to continue his scouting experience as an adult leader in scouting later in life. Ryan has also joined scouting's honor society The Order of the Arrow.

In addition to passing along word of Ryan's hard-earned accomplishment, I would like to formally invite you to the Eagle Scout Court of Honor at which Ryan will receive his Eagle awards and be recognized for his hard work and dedication to self, community and Troop.

The court of honor will be held at 6:30pm on January 26, 2023, at First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton located at 119 W Commerce St, Bridgeton, NJ 08302. Ryan and Troop 1 would be honored by your presence.

Please contact Troop Committee Chair Robert M. Panichello, and leave a message if you will be attending with any letters, certificates or awards so we can add you to the Court of Honor service.

If you are unable to attend, may I humbly request that you send a brief letter or any other congratulatory awards for Ryan to Troop Committee Chair Robert M. Panichello, as a special surprise for Ryan, we are preparing a collection of these letters and gifts to display at the event and present to Ryan. I know Ryan would be honored and delighted to see your comments included.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this letter — and for all you do to support and uplift our youth.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Panichello, Committee Chair, Troop 1, Bridgeton NJ

472 Atlantic Street Bridgeton NJ 08302

(856) 305-9056



## February Revelings

In the season of Advent, in our worship services weekly, we celebrated the coming of Christ's Light into our world, with our Advent wreath's lighting a candle each Sunday. In ancient days, it was a way of marking time to remind the people of the significance of the coming of the Christ Child into our world, spiritually bringing us out of darkness into the Light of God's love.

On Christmas Eve we celebrated the birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus, and the Christ candle was lit on our Advent Wreath. In the season after Epiphany, the Christ candle has remained lit, during our worship services reminding us that the Light of Christ remains with us and still shines brightly in our world.

A busy month is upon us indeed this year! We'll celebrate with our Scout Troops, "Scout Sunday" on Sunday Feb. 4th. Then for the second Sunday, Feb. 11th, we'll observe the last Sunday of our Epiphany season, with **Transfiguration Sunday**. (See below).



Transfiguration-1 : a change in form or appearance : METAMORPHOSIS, an exalting, glorifying, or spiritual change 2 capitalized : a Christian feast that commemorates the transfiguration of Christ on a mountaintop in the presence of three disciples and that is observed on August 6 in the Roman Catholic and some Eastern churches and on the Sunday before Lent in most Protestant churches.

Then after 3 days (sound familiar?) we'll be starting the Season of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th (also Valentines Day). Again we'll celebrate the significance of this day with remembering our finitude with the distribution of Ashes. Again we'll celebrate this with our neighboring Greenwich Presbyterian (PCUSA) Church, who have graciously agreed to host the event this year. (See information elsewhere in our newsletter).

During the **season of Lent**, we will have a "Lenten Wreath," for our worship services. Every week we'll be reminded of the gift of Christ's Light for our world, what this means and to us individually. One by one, just as the candles were lit, one per week for our Advent Wreath, during the season of Lent, we'll begin to snuff out a candle per week. This is to remind us of the spiritual meaning for God's Love as Light helping to brighten the darkness in the world, and how much the world's evil as a vapor, strives still, to try to overcome this light, trying to snuff it out completely.



On Maundy Thursday, after we commemorate the "Last Supper of our Lord" with his disciples, by the end of the worship service, the Christ candle is snuffed out, to symbolize Jesus being put to death on the cross. Death tries to have the last word, so does evil.

Spiritually as reminder, for 3 days we recall how lost in the darkness we can be, just as the first disciples felt helpless without their teacher, master and friend, alone, perhaps hopeless at times. The shadow of death's darkness envelops us, we realize just how much the Light of God's Love, found in Jesus our Lord means to us too, still 2024 years later!



I hope this helps us to realize why we've been keeping the Christ candle around, lit and going during our worship services, as well as the spiritual significance it symbolizes to/for us.

### **Now for a wee bit about St. Valentine in Celtic Christianity**



Valentine served as a Roman Catholic priest, during the 3rd Century AD. He suffered a Christian Martyr's fate, after spending time in prison, being put to death thereafter, on February 14th. It was rumored that Valentine had helped to heal his jailer's blind daughter, (following in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul, who did likewise during his imprisonment, befriending his jailer etc.). Within the Roman Catholic church tradition, Valentine was given the distinction of "sainthood," something not easily granted/achieved in this tradition. Valentine became as an example/symbol of what Christian love and devotion is about, just as Jesus our Lord did, during his earthly life.

As Christianity began spreading throughout the Roman Empire, as the official religion of it, we know that Christianity made its way to the Celtic Peoples and lands, as far north as England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. These Celtic peoples began integrating their own religious traditions, symbols and festivals into and with the traditions, practices, observances of Christianity. This was it was celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church tradition at this time.



( A Celtic Weaving represents the Holy Trinity, infinity, beginning and ending, inseparable).

The Celts during this time in history celebrated, "Lupercalia" on February 15th. It was a pagan festival honoring the opposite of what "Valentine" preached, practiced and taught. This was a celebration of animal sacrifice, blood and violent celebrations, in and with the hope to keep evil spirits, as well as infertility away, and at bay.

### **Now we come to Ash Wednesday.**

What Do the Ashes Signify?

(from <https://www.learnreligions.com/>)

"During Ash Wednesday mass or services, a minister distributes ashes by lightly rubbing the shape of a cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The tradition of tracing a cross on the forehead is meant to identify the faithful with Jesus Christ.

Ashes are a symbol of death in the Bible. God formed humans out of dust:

Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. (Genesis 2:7, Human beings return to dust and ashes when they die:

"By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19, NLT)

Speaking of his human mortality in Genesis 18:27, Abraham told God, "I am nothing but dust and ashes." The prophet Jeremiah described death as a "valley of dead bones and ashes" in Jeremiah 31:40. So, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday symbolize death.

Many times in Scripture, the practice of repentance is also associated with ashes. In Daniel 9:3, the prophet Daniel clothed himself in sackcloth and sprinkled himself in ashes as he pleaded with God in prayer and fasting. In Job 42:6, Job said to the Lord, "I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance." When Jesus saw towns full of people reject salvation even after he'd performed so many of his miracles there, he denounced them for not repenting:

"What sorrow awaits you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse." (Matthew 11:21)

Thus, ashes on Ash Wednesday at the start of the Lenten season represent our repentance from sin and Jesus Christ's sacrificial death to set us free from sin and death. "

I have found very interesting the perspectives of the Christian Theologian, Marcus Borg, who can be considered "controversial" by some, and a "breath of fresh air," by others. Borg has been an author of 2 books as "bible studies," that I've read, participated in and even led. These are "The Last Week" (Lent, dealing with the events/scriptures surrounding the last week of Jesus' life and death), and "The First Week" (Advent, dealing with the events/scriptures surrounding the weeks prior to and the birth of Jesus into our world). Very insightful these perspectives have been.

Borg wrote an article "Ash Wednesday: Death and Repentance" on March 1, 2014. (<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/marcusborg/20q4/03/ash-wednesday-death-and-repentance>)

Here's some of what he wrote, " Death is one of the primary themes of Lent. Each of us will die. None of us gets out of here alive. My wife has talked about the difference between Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday. During the former, we indulge, party, cavort, and sometimes even wear masks. (Sound a little familiar to the aforementioned Celtic festival?). At the latter, we take off our masks as we are reminded of-indeed confronted with-the fact that we are dust. (Many of us don't want to think about this, much less reflect on it, spiritually speaking.)

A second primary theme of Lent is repentance, commonly understood to mean, repenting of our sins. The reality of death and the need for repentance, they go hand-in-hand for many Christians, especially those who believe in a post- death judgment and separation into heaven or hell or purgatory. (Roman Catholic Christian Faith Belief). None of us knows when we will die. Thus it is wise, prudent, and necessary to repent. Death and post-mortem judgment might be near.

Imagine the many centuries in which our spiritual ancestors took it for granted that heaven and hell, perhaps purgatory (in my family's Roman Catholic faith history this was so), were real. Imagine what death and the imperative to repent would have meant. They were ominous, threatening, fearful. It's important to be right with God when we die-for we risk divine, and maybe eternal punishment. (I once feared this, but now I know better and especially as a Presbyterian Pastor, believe whole heartedly in the love of God and do not fear the separation of/ from God. My salvation is sure, and for this I give God many thanks and all the glory! How about you?). "

Borg goes on writing, "I grew up with that understanding, (divine/eternal punishment), even as I did not grow up in a hellfire and brimstone churches. The threat of hell was not emphasized. But it was clear to me, Christianity was about going to heaven, and thus avoiding the alternative of postmortem divine punishment.

Death and repentance as themes of Ash Wednesday and Lent, now mean something very different to me. I no longer think that the heart of Christianity is about our eternal fate in heaven or hell or purgatory...yet I also affirm that the themes of death and repentance are central to Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, and Christianity. But they are not about where we will spend eternity, but about our lives here and now. And if some want to say, "why is that an either-or? How about both-and?" I am willing to say, "Fine-so long as we don't ignore the here and now."

Borg finishes by stating, "Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week and Christianity itself are about following Jesus on the path that leads through death to resurrection. They are about dying and rising with Christ. We are to follow him to Jerusalem, the place of death and resurrection. That is what the journey of Lent is about.

That journey intrinsically involves repentance. But repentance is not primarily about feeling guilty about our sins, or about doing penance, think of the common practice of giving up something during Lent-whether meat or chocolate or alcohol or shopping and so forth. (Since becoming a PCUSA Presbyterian Pastor, I've long been about the notion of "giving away" something during Lent as a spiritual discipline and sign of God's love in our lives.)

The biblical meanings of repenting are primarily twofold. On the one hand, it means to "return to God, to reconnect with God." On the other hand, it means, "to go beyond the mind that we have," minds shaped by our socialization and enculturation. The result: dying to an old way of seeing and being and living and identity, and being born, raised, into a new way of seeing and being and living and identity. Ash Wednesday, as we are marked for death, is the annual ritual enactment of the beginning of that journey."

(These last 3 years since my late spouse's passing to Covid, I began realizing, that Ash Wednesday is about our own finitude and mortality yes, but it was more. Hence the reason why for these last 3 years and until my retirement as a pastor, whenever I distribute ashes to my congregants, I offer these words, "From dust you have come, and into eternal life, you shall go." It reminds us not only of our finitude, but it also offers us the hope we need on this earthly journey we are on, step by step, day by day. It offers us life as gift, eternal life everlasting, from our gracious and loving Triune God, who always wants the best for us, of us and in us.)

How fitting it is therefore that we celebrate both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday on the very same day this year. The reminder of God's ever present and ongoing love as well as the reminder as Presbyterians we ascribe to, "we are not our own, in life and in death, we belong to God." Have a meaningful February dear friends!

Faithfully,

Rev. Norlita

# A time to care. . .

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/6 Robert B  
2/8 Curtis H  
2/11 Kahlil W  
2/17 Carter M  
2/18 Richard K  
2/21 Kyle S  
2/21 Sherry M  
2/25 Sally R  
2/28 Christie S  
2/29 Marion C



If you or a family member or a close friend needs prayer, please contact the church office or one of the deacons.



Amy B always has cards available for you to sign for those unable to attend church.

Dear FPC Family,

*My heart has been overwhelmed by your generosity that was shared and given to me during our recent Christmas season. You have touched me deeply with your caring, sharing, goodies, especially the monetary love gift. Your thoughtfulness touches my soul. I thank God for each of you and our church. May God's love continue to shine through us all in 2024!*

Faithfully,

Rev. Norlita



# A time to meditate . . .

## February Scripture Verses and Thoughts to Ponder

February, a month often associated with love and winter's grip, holds significance in the Bible as well. It is within this month that we find verses brimming with wisdom, faith, and reflections on life's journey. As we explore these unique verses, discovering the lessons and inspiration that February brings, we begin uncovering the deeper meanings behind this seemingly ordinary month.

**Feb. 1: Psalm 37:5** “Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.” Amidst the challenges and uncertainties of February, this verse reminds us to commit our plans, desires, and paths to the Lord. When we trust in Him wholeheartedly, He promises to bring our endeavors to fruition according to His perfect will.

**Feb. 2: Proverbs 3:5-6** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” As we navigate through February, it's crucial to lean on the wisdom and guidance of the Lord rather than relying solely on our own understanding. By acknowledging God in all our ways, we invite His direction and guidance into our lives, ensuring that our paths align with His divine purpose.

**Feb. 3: Psalm 90:12** “So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” February, being a relatively shorter month, reminds us of the importance of time and wisdom. This verse highlights the significance of recognizing the brevity of life and seeking God's wisdom in how we use our time. By valuing each day and seeking wisdom from the Lord, we can make the most of our limited time on Earth.

**Feb. 4: Philippians 4:** “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” (Pastor's personal favorite) During February, it's common to experience anxiety or worries. This verse encourages us to cast our anxieties upon the Lord and bring our requests before Him in prayer. By replacing anxiety with a thankful and prayerful attitude, we can find peace and rest in God's presence.

**Feb. 5: Isaiah 40:31** “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” February can bring weariness and fatigue, but this verse reminds us of the strength that comes from waiting upon the Lord. By trusting in Him and seeking His guidance, we can find renewed strength to soar above our challenges, run with endurance, and walk steadfastly in His purpose.

**Feb. 6: 1 Corinthians 16:14**

**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**

In February, a month associated with love, this verse serves as a reminder to approach all our actions with love. Whether in our relationships, work, or daily interactions, love should be the foundation of our thoughts, words, and deeds.

**Feb. 7:** Ephesians 4:32 “**And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**” As we journey through February, this verse emphasizes the importance of kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. Following God’s example of forgiveness through Christ, we are called to extend grace and forgiveness to others, fostering unity and harmony in our relationships.

**Feb. 8:** Proverbs 16:3 “**Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.**” During February, it’s essential to surrender our plans, goals, and endeavors to the Lord. By committing our works to Him, we invite His guidance and establish a firm foundation for our thoughts and actions.

**Feb. 9:** Psalm 46:10 “**Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!**” In the midst of the busyness of February, this verse reminds us to find moments of stillness and silence, where we can experience the presence of God. By pausing, we recognize His sovereignty and the assurance that He will be exalted in all the earth.

**Feb. 10:** Romans 12:12 “**Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.**” February may bring its share of trials and challenges. However, this verse encourages us to rejoice in the hope we have in Christ, maintain patience during tribulations, and remain steadfast in prayer. Through this, we find strength and endurance to overcome difficulties.

**Feb. 11:** Psalm 37:4 “**Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.**” In February, as we pursue our desires and dreams, this verse reminds us to find our ultimate delight in the Lord. When we align our hearts with His will and seek Him above all else, He promises to grant us the true desires that align with His purpose for our lives.

**Feb. 12:** Matthew 6:33 “**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**” As we journey through February, this verse urges us to prioritize seeking God’s kingdom and righteousness above worldly concerns. By placing God first, we can trust Him to provide for our needs and bless us abundantly according to His wisdom.

**Feb. 13:** Psalm 119:105 “**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**” During February, as we navigate through various decisions and paths, this verse reminds us of the illuminating power of God’s Word. His Word serves as a guiding light, providing direction, wisdom, and understanding in every aspect of our lives.

**Feb. 14:** Proverbs 4:23 “**Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.**” In February, a month associated with matters of the heart, this verse encourages us to guard our hearts diligently. Our hearts shape the course of our lives, impacting our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. By nurturing a heart devoted to God, we cultivate a life that reflects His love and grace.

**Feb. 15: Isaiah 43:19** “Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” In February, a month that signifies transition, this verse offers hope and assurance that God is capable of bringing forth new things in our lives. Even in seemingly impossible situations, God can create a way where there seems to be no way, transforming our wilderness into a path of blessings and abundance.

**Feb. 16: John 13:34-35** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this, all will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another.” February reminds us of the importance of love and unity. Jesus’ commandment to love one another serves as a reminder that our love should mirror His selfless and sacrificial love. By loving one another, we display the true essence of being Christ’s disciples and draw others to Him.

**Feb. 17: Isaiah 41:10** “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” In moments of fear and uncertainty that February may bring, this verse assures us of God’s presence, strength, and help. We need not be afraid or dismayed, for He is with us and will uphold us with His righteous hand.

**Feb. 18: Romans 8:28** “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” In February, when faced with challenges or unforeseen circumstances, this verse offers comfort and assurance that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him. Our trust in His providence allows us to rest in the knowledge that He is working out His purpose in our lives, even in difficult times.

**Feb. 19: Joshua 1:9** “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” As we venture into February, this verse serves as a reminder of the command to be strong and courageous. God’s presence accompanies us wherever we go, dispelling fear and providing the confidence to face the month’s challenges with unwavering faith.

**Feb. 20: Psalm 62:1-2** “Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.” In February, amidst the noise and distractions, this verse encourages us to find solace in waiting silently before the Lord. He is our unshakable rock, our source of salvation and defense. When we anchor our souls in Him, we find stability and the assurance that we will not be greatly moved.

**Feb. 21: 1 Peter 5:7** “Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” As we encounter burdens and worries throughout February, this verse reminds us to cast all our cares and anxieties upon the Lord. He cares deeply for us and invites us to unload our burdens, finding comfort and peace in His loving embrace.

**Feb. 22: Jeremiah 29:11** “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” This well-known verse provides a source of encouragement and hope for February. Despite the challenges and uncertainties, we can trust that God has plans to prosper us and give us a future filled with hope. In every aspect of our lives, His purpose and guidance prevail.

**Feb. 23: Matthew 11:28** “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” In the midst of February’s demands and weariness, this verse offers an invitation to find rest in Christ. When we come to Him with our burdens, He promises to provide rest and refreshment for our souls. In His presence, we discover true rejuvenation and restoration.

**Feb. 24: Psalm 23:1** “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” As we journey through February, this verse reminds us of the Lord’s shepherding care over our lives. He leads, guides, and provides for our every need. With Him as our shepherd, we lack nothing and can find contentment in His loving provision.

**Feb. 25: Proverbs 16:9** “A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.” While setting goals and making plans for February, we acknowledge that our hearts may devise many plans. However, ultimately, it is the Lord who determines our steps and directs our path. We should trust in His sovereign guidance and surrender our plans to His perfect will.

**Feb. 26: Psalm 139:14** “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.” In February, as we reflect on our identity and purpose, this verse reminds us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God. Our uniqueness and the intricacies of our being testify to His marvelous works. As we embrace our God-given identity, we find reason to praise Him for His extraordinary craftsmanship.

**Feb. 27: Romans 15:13** “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” As February unfolds, this verse becomes a prayer for a heart filled with joy, peace, and hope. It acknowledges God as the source of all hope and the One who fills us with His Spirit. Through faith in Him, we abound in hope, finding deep joy and unwavering peace in His presence.

**Feb. 28: I Corinthians 13:4-6** “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.” February is synonymous with love, thanks to the celebration of Valentine’s Day. In a world that often craves genuine connections, the Bible offers insights into nurturing love and compassion, which beautifully describes the essence of love – patient, kind, and enduring.





**Feb. 29:** I Corinthians 13:7-13 “It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

*Reflecting on this verse encourages us to cultivate selfless love in our relationships, whether romantic, familial, or platonic. May we find God's love sustaining us abundantly to overflowing, and share it with others around us every day, in every way!*

Source: (<https://scripturesavvy.com/>)



*Happy February!*



# A time to plan . . .



## February Meetings

**Session Meeting** Sunday, February 11 following luncheon  
**Deacons Meeting** Monday, February 12 @ 7:00  
**Trustees Meeting** Monday, February 19 @ 7:00

## SERVING IN FEBRUARY

### DATE

### USHERS

### COUNTERS

February 4	Team 1: Curtis H., Debbie H., Frank P.	Team 1: Debbie F., Sherry M.
February 11	Team 2: John A., Bruce C., Ken F.	Team 2: Marion C., Heather N.
February 18	Team 3: Marie D., Joyce I., Heather N.	Team 3: Yvonne C., Debbie H.
February 25	Team 4: Bruce H., Howard T., Bill F.	Team 4: Marie D., Joyce I.

### FEBRUARY WORSHIP FLOWERS

February 4: Robin & Ken F.  
 February 11:  
 February 18: Joyce I.  
 February 25: Marion C.

### FELLOWSHIP IN FEBRUARY

February 4: Deacons  
 February 11: Soup & Potluck  
 February 18:  
 February 25:

Blank spaces for flowers and fellowship? Would you consider helping us to fill them in? It takes a village.....

Deacons will have a "Bakeless" Bake Sale in March instead of the Bake Sale at the Scout Breakfast.

## Hello February

**F**ire will always  
**E**xtinguish unless it's  
**B**urning in your soul.  
**R**ain will always stop  
**U**nless it pours  
**A**gain in your heart.  
**R**eshape your mindset and  
**Y**ou'll reclaim your power.

OurMindfulLife.com





**"February is the  
 month of love.  
 Celebrate your loved  
 ones and spread love  
 wherever you go!"**



# February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
Worship 10am 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Scout Sunday 		Robert B. 	Choir Practice 7:30 pm 	Crafter's Comradery 1:30-3:30 		
Worship 10am 11 Souper Sunday Potluck 	12	13	Valentine's Day  14 @ Greenwich PC 6 pm soup 7pm worship 	15	16	17
Session Meeting Kahlil W. 	7:00 pm Deacons Meeting		Choir Practice 7:30 pm 	Crafter's Comradery 1:30-3:30 		Carter M. 
Worship 10am 18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Richard K. 	President's Day <b>Church Office Closed</b> 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	Time Out Tuesday 12pm 	Book Study 12 pm Evening Prayer 6:45 pm - 7:15 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm Kyle S.  Sherry M. 	Crafter's Comradery 1:30-3:30 		Scout Pancake Breakfast 8am - 11 am 
Worship 10am 25	26	27	28	29		
Sally R. 		Bob W. 	Book Study 12 pm Evening Prayer 6:45 pm - 7:15 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm Christie 	Crafter's Comradery 1:30-3:30 		