



Hebron Community Church

February 2024 Newsletter

February: The Month of Love

This month we celebrate 2 holidays, one that often gets overlooked, and another that, I would venture to say, evokes the biggest amount of mixed feelings of any other day in the year. And this year, they fall on the same day. The one that gets all the press has some people that absolutely love it, while there are others who dread it and others who absolutely despise it. I am talking, of course, about Valentine's Day—the 'day of love'. Those who are in a relationship may love it, as it is a day set apart for them to show their partner how much they care for them. It is a day they can celebrate the romantic side of love. But, even for those in relationships, there are some who dread it, because they feel the pressure of trying to make everything just perfect—by getting the right presents, and making sure everything is so romantic.

Then there are others who dread the day for other reasons. Many despise Valentine's Day because they are reminded everywhere they look that "love is in the air", just not for them. These are people, who for whatever reason, are alone and do not have a significant other to celebrate with, and everywhere they look they see reminders of that very fact. They may be able to do alright the rest of the time. Maybe they are used to being alone, but at Valentine's Day, they are reminded everywhere of just how lonely they really are. For these people, Valentine's Day can be pure torture and they just pray for the day to be over. I have to admit that I understand the range of emotions, because I have felt them all through the years. There have been many Valentine's Days that I have spent alone, but now I am blessed to have a chance to make the day special for my beautiful wife.

Valentine's has often been my least favorite holiday, and I can relate to those who don't look so favorably on it. But, even for those who face this day alone, we are reminded that we are not alone; we are never alone. God is always there, and it is His love that truly matters. We can face the loneliest days and anything else this life has to throw at us because of His love that surrounds us. In fact, the other day that we celebrate with Valentine's this year, the one that often gets overlooked, is one that reminds us of how great the love of God is. This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. Ash Wednesday is a day that is often forgotten in the midst of all that is going on. It is a purely religious holiday. There is no way for the stores to make money off of it, so it doesn't get the push others do, but Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a time for us to prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter, when we remember just how great God's love for us is—that God in Jesus was willing to suffer so much and die as the sacrifice for our sins. Ash Wednesday reminds us that even though we are sinful, and so unworthy, God loved us enough to die in our place.

It is that great and awesome love of God that is the example for us in our earthly relationships. The unconditional love of our Gracious Lord is the model we need to follow always.

God loves us unconditionally, without regard to what we do and how many sins we have committed. God is our constant companion, loving us, calling us into relationship with Him and even when we mess up, He's there to pick us up, dust us off and put us back on the right path.

I Corinthians 13 tells us what true love is: “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. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” (1 Cor 13:4-8a NRSV) This is a true reflection of the love God has for us, and in fact, we could replace ‘love’ in the passage with ‘God’ and it would be just as true, as God is Love. His love should be our model for all of our relationships, not just our romantic relationships. Love always looks to the good of others. If we truly love someone, we will put their needs before our own. That is what love is all about. It’s not about some warm, fuzzy feelings that can come and go. It’s about us making the choice to put someone else’s needs before our own. Those with successful relationships have learned that things aren’t perfect all the time. Those romantic feelings you had at the beginning, in the honeymoon phase, will ebb and flow. There will be times when you are madly in love with your partner, and there will be times when it seems that everything they do drives you crazy, but you still love them despite all of that. That is the kind of love that God has for us—it is always there and will never fail, even when we do.

A good exercise for us is to put our name into the passage, instead of ‘love’. If I can’t say “Dustin is patient; Dustin is kind, etc” then I need to do some praying for God to work in my heart to help me to love as He does. I pray this season of love will be a blessed one for you and yours. No matter how you are facing this season, remember that God is there and His love is better than any card or box of chocolates you could ever receive. Look to God to be your guide in showing all those you are in relationship with, how much you truly love them.

Your servant brother in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dustin D. James". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Pastor Dustin James

On December 9th we had our first Christmas Dinner at Hebron. The evening started with the reading of the Christmas Story to the children in the sanctuary followed by the singing of Christmas Carols. Afterwards the congregation moved into the hut where the dinner was served. The hut had been setup with a few of our old and new decorations and beautiful red tablecloths with luminaries on the tables. The dinner was a traditional dinner with many goodies and desserts to finish it off. We had approximately 96 people to attend and there was lots of love and laughter celebrating the upcoming season of hope. The night was complete with a visit from Santa himself for the children and they all patiently took their turn to tell him their dreams of toys and such for their gifts on Christmas morning, but not a person in the hut that night was without the teachings from Pastor Dustin and many others gone on before. We all knew what the greatest gift we will ever receive was and I believe we all left with a warm heart in knowing that no matter the situation, the nasty weather which we were having or anything else going on, that God is always with us. Thank you to everyone that helped bring this together, at Hebron Community Church we are a team and no one shines but the ONE that shines through us.

Robin Sykes

The Friendship Circle sells Happy Home Flavoring to help raise funds for our ongoing mission projects. We have 7 ounce bottles of Happy Home Flavoring in imitation vanilla, imitation clear vanilla, lemon, almond, maple, black walnut and coconut for \$3.00 each. We also have 7 ounce bottles of Happy Home Red Food Coloring for \$6.00 each. Please see Betty Boney or any of the circle members to purchase what you need.

We would like to welcome AnnGayle Thomas to Hebron! AnnGayle has graciously offered her musical talent to play for us during our worship service for 2 weeks out of the month.

AnnGayle grew up in Rural Retreat, Virginia where she attended a little white mountain Methodist church. Her sister played the piano in the church and when she stopped playing AnnGayle took over at the tender age of 11yrs old.

She was a music major at Elon College where she was in the Fighting Christians marching band and was their drum major. She is a retired elementary school teacher and lives here in Mebane. She resides with all of her sweet furry babies Patsy Cline, Conway Twitty Kitty, Reba, Loretta and of course Merle Haggard! Please extend a Hebron welcome to AnnGayle! We are so blessed to have her!

Robin Sykes
Worship Committee Chair

Outreach and Missions Ministries

Last year many lives were touched by your generosity and love through various missions. People were emotionally supported during difficult times, and meals were provided when requested. Children (and adults) were educated in God's word via the Vacation Bible School program. School supplies were donated and given to children in need. The Fall Festival was a huge undertaking by many members and friends, and successfully reached out into the community to provide food, fellowship, and fun. Canned food was provided for the hungry in our community. Christmas gifts and clothing were provided (in overabundance) for children in our community and around the world. And so much more!

As we begin a new year, the Outreach and Missions Team in collaboration with the Worship Committee, Methodist Men, and the Friendship Circle members are excited, and already making commitments to serve God in mighty ways at Hebron Community Church. With God in the center of all that we do, His love will extend to our neighbors, our community, and beyond. Plans are in the works to compile a list of all of Hebron's missions and activities, and they are many! Because the list is extensive, it affords everyone opportunities to serve. Foremost to be faithful to God, faithful to our church, and faithful to each other.

Blessings and Hebron love,
Pat Snipes

News Years Eve service was a wonderful event. Even with Just 13 in attendance at midnight we enjoyed snack and fellowship and communion. Thanks to pastor Dustin for this glorious event and reminding us God is with us all the time. Special thanks to all who attended and all that were with us in spirit.
Joannie Wilson.

February 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29 9-4 Abundant Life 6:30 Scouts	30 9-4 Abundant Life	31 9-4 Abundant Life	1 9-4 Abundant Life	2 9-12 Abundant Life	3 9 am Day Apart
4 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Communion	5 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts	6 9-4 ALM	7 9-4 ALM	8 9-4 ALM	9 12:00 Stencil Board Painting	10 9 am Stencil Board Painting 3 pm Prep for Souper Bowl lunch
11 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Souper Bowl Lunch 3:00 Church Council	12 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts	13 9-4 ALM	14 9-4 ALM 6:00 Ash Wednesday BYOF	15 9-4 ALM	16	17
18 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Spaghetti Lunch	19 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts 7:00 Methodist Women/Friendship At Betty Albright's	20 9-4 ALM	21 9-4 ALM	22 9-4 ALM 6:00 Methodist Men	23 12:00 Crafting	24 9:00 Crafting
25 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	26 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts	27 9-4 ALM	28 9-4 ALM	29 9-4 ALM	1	2

Nursery Schedule

February 4th Markie Roberts & Jay Wilson
 February 11th Maddie Moss & Brenda Moss
 February 18th Betty Albright & Pat Snipes
 February 25th Betty Boney & Cicero Sykes

Greeters

Sammy Lankford & Brenda Moss
 Robin & Junior Sykes
 Dale & Sandy Dixon