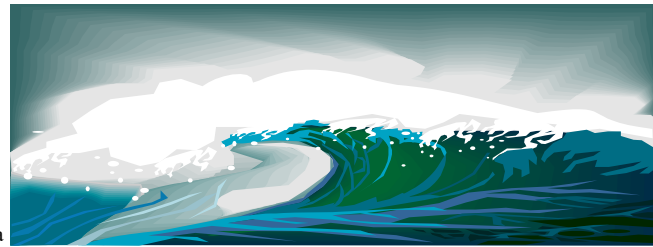




The *February 2024* Anchor

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a



We are entering our second month of the new year. February is often called the love month. We tend to think of February in relation to either Valentine's Day or just being the shortest month of the year. Regardless, we can use February as a time to remember that God is love. Most people quickly turn to First Corinthians chapter 13 which is often referred to as the love chapter. But, I think there is so much more than that chapter. *Good Housekeeping* did a story that looked at 30 surprising facts about Valentine's Day. In the article, it reported the oldest known valentine being sent, a poem written by a French medieval duke named Charles to his wife in 1415. The article said Charles penned a "sweet note" to his lover while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London at just 21 years old. One of the lines in the poem said, "I am already sick of love, My very gentle Valentine." Swoon!

Since then, the holiday has grown to the point of being a big business in the same article. They report the National Retail Foundation says Americans spent nearly \$26 billion on Valentine's Day gifts, equating to an average cost of \$193 per person. Much of that spending includes buying cards, as 145 million cards will be purchased this year. Speaking of cards, I remember growing up and getting to have Valentine's Day parties at school. We would have cupcakes, cookies, and candy. At home, we would fill out Valentine's Day cards and take them to the party to exchange them with others in the class. I remember some cards held lollipops or other small packs of heart-shaped candy. When you're little, you just write your name in the card. But as you get older, we write more meaningful messages particularly to our children or spouse, or significant other. If you really, really loved the person you gave the card to, you would write something really special to them about how much you love them.

The whole idea made me think about what kind of Valentine's Day card would we get from the Lord if He was to send us one. Perhaps one of the cards would simply have the inscription of the Scripture found in John 3:16, ***"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*** That message reminds us about how much we are loved. Or, maybe the card would have 1 John 4:19 inside that says, ***"We love because he first loved us"*** (1 John 4:19). This demonstrates why we share common love for each other. Or how about this Valentine's card that says, ***"Be kind to one another; tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you"*** (Ephesians 4:32). Forgiveness is an act of love. God teaches us that lesson better than anyone else. He didn't deserve to die the way He did for our sins, but He did – for you and me, and to reconcile us to God. When you think about it, there are many, many more verses in the Bible that would be great to read in a card from God to us. I mean, we have God's Word to us in the Bible. The Bible is really a love letter written to you and me from God himself. It's better than any card. Having His Word lets us know who He is, and how to live for Him, and even more what it takes to have eternal life. Then, we take that knowledge and share it with others. We share the love. So this season and month, focus on love, take time to think about what God is saying to you every day. At the end of the day, we can sum up God's words in just three little, but powerful words. ***"I love you."*** That's what He is saying. I love you. What a Valentine's gift from God!

In His Service,

Pastor Toby

FBC Youth

It's been a great month for the Junior and Senior High Youth Group.

Pastor Toby and Tom Stephenson have been voluntarily working with the youth and meeting with them since January. The group meets only on Sunday nights now, the same night as God's Cadets and the Young Adult Group at 6:00. We have been averaging 12 youth plus 2 adults. The Youth Group is meeting upstairs in the large classroom. The youth have been busy planning activities for the year that may culminate with a beach mission trip this summer. They are excited about the prospects. We have several willing to chaperone and we are grateful for that excitement. The aim this year is to focus on some service projects.

In January, the Jr./Sr. High Youth began studying the book of Matthew, line-by-line. They have also started working on memorizing the books of the New Testament in the Bible. The first six books of the New Testament can be learned by using this simple sentence. My Mom Loves Junkfood And Ramens. This sentence has the first letter of each book: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, and Romans.

To date, activities have included baby food roulette (tasting baby food and sardines), Play-Doh Sculpting Charades, the Left-Right Game, and Would You Rather game. Prizes have included candy, cotton candy, and some gift cards.

The first field trip of the year was going to the Charleston Civic Center to take part in Winter Jam, one of the largest Christian Rock Concerts in the U.S. Special thanks to Tammy Stump and Pastor Toby for driving the youth. Eight people attended the concert representing the youth group.

Lastly, the group has been planning activities for the next couple of months and here is that schedule:

Sun. Feb 18 – Cosmic Bowling

Sun. Feb 25 – Snow Tubing at Winterplace

Sun. Mar 17 – Sky Zone Trampoline Park

Sat. Apr 13 – Community Kitchen Service Project
followed by a visit to the Nursing Home

Each of these Sunday events will include a devotion prior to the event that relates to the event.

Thank you for your continued support of the youth group. We are continuing our efforts of recruiting a youth pastor.

We want to pause in this newsletter to thank Ann Johnson for her service over the last few years as youth director. She has been very faithful over five years. Ann continued her position until she retired at the end of 2023. The Board of Christian Education honored Ann for her service with a bouquet of flowers. Thank you Ann for your service.

Jamming at



Winter Jam!

Study the Word



Winterplace Trip



All Youth and families alike are welcome to join in our trip to Winterplace Ski Resort for a day of TUBING!

Lots of fun and adventure for all! Young and Old can have a great time!

Sign up today! Bring a Friend! Contact Pastor Toby or the office for more information.

Sunday February 25
Leaving the church at 3:15

Upcoming Events



West Virginia
Baptist Convention

Annual Training Event

Saturday, February 3, 2024 Parchment Valley Conference Center

Thank you! to the 14 people who are giving up their Saturday to attend the Annual Training Event at Parchment Valley Conference Center on February 3.

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| • Jane Moore | Kristi King | Sandy Confer | Alan Arrington |
| • Grace Shirley | Kathy Hudson | Jim Frazier | Mike DeLong |
| • Talia Martinez | Amy Starkey | Tom Stephenson | |
| • Jo Hendricks | Terry Morgan | Ron Starkey | |

Family Outing - Laser Bowling



We will be traveling to Parkersburg Emerson Lanes for an evening of Laser Bowling on February 18 from 5:00-7:00. We will meet at the church 3:45 pm.

Sign up today!

We need to know how many lanes to reserve.

Contact Susan West

RvHS Chorus Dinner Theatre



Those who signed up will be having an afternoon of entertainment and a great meal on Sunday February 4 as they enjoy the show the students have planned. We will be going to the 1:00 performance.

Breakfast with



The Wisemen 2024

Congratulations!

Mr. & Mrs. Nathanael Flesher



We are pleased to announce the marriage of Nathanael Flesher and Kaylin Butler on January 5. They were married in the church in Cottageville where her grandmother was married.

*May the Lord grant you many years of a joyful
life together!*

2024 FBC Officers

Deacons



Mark Gerstell



Gary Balser



Matt King



Kevin Woods



Jim Frazier



Matt King

Trustees



Ron Starkey



Alan Arrington



Doug Bashaw



Adam Pistelli



Mike DeLong

Deaconesses



Sherry Dzierzanski



Kathy Hudson



Deb Lyons



Christi Mize



Ellen Varner

More Officers to help you

Treasurer



Jo Mahan Hendricks

Financial Secretary



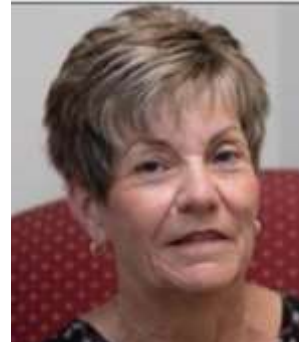
Connie Staats

Sunday School Clerk



Bev Stephenson

Church Clerk



Rhonda Samples

Board of Christian Education

Chairperson



Sandy Confer

Sunday School



Terry Morgan

Missions



Amy Starkey

Adult



Kristi King

Youth



Tom Stephenson

Family Life



Susan West

Children



Brittany Pistelli

Red Cross Blood Drive



Thank you for helping save lives!

Sincerely,

Your American Red Cross

**The Red Cross will be at FBC on
Monday, February 5 at noon to 5:00
for any who would like to give the
Gift of Life!
Sign up today!**



National Men's Prayer Breakfast

February 24 @ 8:30

**Hopewell Baptist Church
Mt. Alto**

"Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ"

This and That



Behind the Scenes

Periodically, things need cleaned out in our homes. The same is true of our church.

Many thanks to Dena Williams, Peg Lyons and Amy Starkey for your willingness to go through cabinets and drawers to discard broken or out dated items, rearrange things in an orderly plan and find the happy owner of lost pans and kitchen items. Thanks much Ladies!



Soon more cleaning will be done in the closet outside of the kitchen so supplies will have a home.

Is this your pan?

MOVIE NIGHT!



Come out one and all to a really good movie night! We will be showing ***Pollyanna***, an older but great movie about days gone by.

Pollyanna is about an orphan girl who goes to live with her Aunt Polly, who is very rich—and knows it.

Pollyanna reaches the hearts of the whole town with her glad game.

It is indeed a movie for the whole family.

As always, we will have pizza, snacks and drinks and are all for free.

Friday, February 9 at 7:00.

Young Adults at Work



The Young Adults group is busy on another project.

They are collecting canned and non-perishable items for our local food pantry and giving boxes.

And to add to the fun, you can choose a team - the Chiefs or the 49ers and see who wins.

**Join in the fun and help too!
Collection ends February 11.**

Sanctity of Life Bottles



We are collecting donations for the Women's Care Center.

Baby Bottles were given out on Sanctity of Life Sunday in January.

Please return your bottle with donations by February 18.

Thank you for caring!



Souper Bowl Food Drive



Food items will be collected til
February 11. Choose your
team! See who wins!



Fun and Games!



Jamming!

Look Who's



Abbi Woods was one of the teachers recognized by the Jackson County BOE for their students demonstrating high achievement on the Middle of the Year iReady Benchmark.



Colton Pistelli won 3rd place in the Jackson County Math Field Day! WOOHOO!



Hadleigh McGoskey became the Devilette 's new all time lead scorer after a 3 pointer against Ritchie County that took her to 1496 points. WAY TO GO!

In the NEWS!

Focus on Sunday School:

It's amazing what you can learn in Sunday School!



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Happy Valentines Day!
Love, *GOD*

February Birthdays



Connie Staats 2/6
Beckham Ritchie 2/10
Jennie Wise 2/11
Emory Davis 2/11
Talia Martinez 2/12
Anna Davis 2/16
Mike Hall 2/16
Jared Torris 2/16
Carolyn Torris 2/20
Richelle Murray 2/21
Mike Graham 2/23
Dave Williams 2/27

**If your birthday is missing,
please let Susan know.**

Bible Book of the Month

Joel



February Calendar

Feb 1 America For Christ Offering begins
Feb 3 WVBC Training Event
Feb 4 RvHS Choral Dinner Theatre
Feb 5 Red Cross Blood Drive; Trustee Meeting
Feb 8 Deaconess Meeting
Feb 9 Movie Night
Feb 10 Social Committee Meeting at Praise Cathedral
Feb 11 Souper Bowl Food Drive
Feb 12 BOCE
Feb 13 Men's Fellowship
Feb 14 Ash Wednesday
Feb 15 CIRCLE
Feb 18 Family Laser Bowling
Feb 20 Finance Committee Meeting
Feb 21 Anchor Articles Due
Feb 23-25 Sr High Convention
Feb 24 AB Men's Prayer Breakfast
Feb 25 Tubing at Winter Place
Feb 27 Deacons Meeting

* Game Day every Thursday 1:00-3:00 (not on holidays)

CommUnity Kitchen

Feb 3 Burt Lyons
Feb 10 Kristi King
Feb 17 ?Episcopal Church
Feb 24 Glen & Rose Stevens

CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Terry Morgan	2 Patrick & Scarlet Mullins, Ryleigh, Emree, Hudson, Hunter	3 Todd & Stephani Murray, Jake & Tatum
4 Rachelle Murray, Jacob, Scout	5 Megan Noble, Brody	6 John & Jennifer Ortt	7 Allen & Holly Palmer	8 Adam Palmer	9 Adam & Brittany Pistelli, Kolton, Max, Ella	10 Tyler & Jennifer Pitts, Owen & Isabella
11 Mick & Susan Price	12 Mary Proctor	13 Kay Pursley	14 Roger & Belinda Rader	15 Juanita Raines	16 Lee & Connie Reynolds	17 Tyler & Michelle Ritchie, Josh, Mary
18 Brent & Angel Ritchie, Conner, Lincoln, Beckham	19 Gary & Rhonda Samples	20 David & Felisha Scott	21 Josh Scott	22 Grace Shirley	23 Darrell & Camille Smith	24 Jim Speer
25 Tim & Connie Staats	26 Diana Staats	27 Jamie Standridge	28 Ron & Amy Starkey	29 Warner Stephens		

And (I pray that you) may have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high and how deep His love is.
Ephesians 3:18

