

*First Presbyterian Church
418 West Coolidge
Borger, TX 79007
~February 2017~*

First Presbyterian Church
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“Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.” Open my imagination and heart, Lord, to your glory all around me.

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

February

Borger, Texas

2017

February is the month of love. How sweet yet, very few of us are looking for Cupid to strike us with an arrow. And thank goodness for that—that's stressful!

Yet each of us, and all of us, are involved in relationships of love. Some have spouses, but all of us have family, friends and church family that we genuinely love. We can split some important hairs and look at the different kinds of love in Greek: "Eros" (romantic passion), "philia" ("brotherly love"), and "agape" (Christ-like, sacrificial love), but really the Apostle Paul covers them all quite well in the familiar passage from 1 Corinthians 13.

"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."

I occasionally try to warn young couples away from using this passage in their wedding. In part I warn them because Paul was certainly not writing these words with romantic relationships in mind but with the "agape" love of Christ with which we are all to approach our relationships with God's people, but mostly it's because young couples rarely understand how very difficult it is to live out these words. It is a struggle every day of our lives to live out this Christ-like love, especially when others (or we ourselves) are being "difficult". And we all know plenty of "difficult" people!

Yet these are the very words with which Paul would likely charge us this February when the world around us seems so very "difficult" and in such desperate need of love in so many ways. Who will love these difficult, desperate people if not the people of Christ? This month, let us all work hard to love one another and reach out in new ways to love some of the challenging folks we encounter. Let us pour Christ's love into the world around us in new ways!

With love,
Janell

BIRTHDAY!

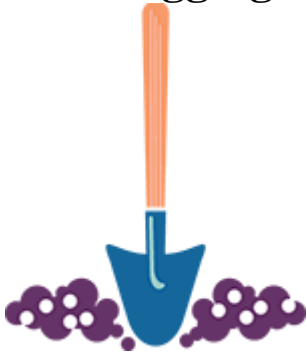
February Birthdays:

2 – Christian Nicholas

Anniversaries

No Anniversaries this month

Start digging!



Scripture promises that God has a plan for our lives but also reveals that he wants us to play an active role in that plan. In 2 Kings 3, three kings band together to defeat Moab but end up in an 80-mile desert. Amid this dire situation, God commands the people, “Make this valley full of ditches” (verse 16, KJV) and promises to fill them with water — even though it won’t rain.

Before the people’s need was supplied, they had to trust God and act. The next morning, water filled every ditch they had dug. Plus, they were victorious in battle.

The takeaway? God will bring the blessing, but we may have to dig first!

Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, *February 5, 2017*
- Valentine’s Day, *February 14, 2017*
- Presidents Day, *February 20, 2017*
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 26, 2017*

The Treasurer reported the following figures for December, 2016:

Total Income	\$	4,612.17
Total Expenses	\$	<u>6,273.39</u>
Total	\$	(1,661.22)

Year to Date		
Total Income	\$	89,970.55
Total Expenses	\$	<u>98,975.25</u>
Total	\$	(9,004.70)



“We cannot pray in love and live in hate and still think we are worshiping God.”

—A.W. Tozer



Care of Members and Friends

Malnor Arthur
Marie Gould
Teddy Buckland

First Presbyterian Church of
Dumas, our prayer partner.

DUTY ELDER FOR FEBRUARY

JULIA KASCH

SESSION MEETING

February 19, 2017

In all his glory

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, many Christian churches celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord. After telling his shocked, uncomprehending disciples that he would die and rise again, Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain. Suddenly Jesus appeared to be glowing! “He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light” (Matthew 17:2, ESV).

Moses and Elijah appeared, and a voice said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (verse 5). Jesus’ disciples fell to the ground, overcome by fear. But Jesus touched them, told them not to be afraid and led them down the mountain.

The disciples witnessed firsthand the glory and Godhood of Jesus, who would soon die for the sins of the world and rise again to give us life.

God’s conversation hearts

Those familiar conversation hearts that show up every February can be more than just trite romantic or friendly sayings. Use them to remind you — or to teach a child — of the greatest love of all: God’s love for us, which empowers our love for others. For example:

- **TRUE LOVE:** What love is truer than giving up one’s only Son so people might have everlasting life? (John 3:16).
 - **MINE:** Jesus knows us intimately, as a shepherd knows his sheep. No one can snatch us from him (John 10:27-29).
 - **FOREVER:** God loves us with an “everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3).
 - **LOVE ME:** The greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Luke 10:27).
 - **TRUST ME:** “Let not your hearts be troubled.” We can count on Jesus, now and for eternal life (John 14:1-3).
 - **SWEET TALK:** God’s words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103).
 - **BE GOOD:** We show our love for Christ by keeping his commands (John 14:15).
 - **CALL ME:** God longs to be in fellowship with us. We can talk to him anytime in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3).
 - **FRIENDS:** The greatest love involves laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13) — precisely what Jesus did.
 - **#1:** “We love because [God] first loved us” (1 John 4:19).
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Session Connection:

Julia Kasch
Sue Hooten
Don Thompson
Margaret Edgington

Clerk Of Session/Administration/Christian Ed.
Fellowship
Property
Worship



HI-PLAINS HELPING HAND DONATION:

First Presbyterian Church has recently increased its financial donation to the agency and will no longer gather food or hygiene products.



Dale Goldsmith will fill the Pulpit on February 12, 2017.



Office will be closed from February 20, 2017 in honor of Presidents Day.



**“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”
—John Holmes**

* * *

**“Patience with others is love, patience with self is hope, patience with God is faith.”
—Adel Bestavros**

* * *

**“Love is taking a few steps backward, maybe even more ... to give way to the happiness
of the person you love.”
—A.A. Milne**



February 2017 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals Year A

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany—February 5

Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12]
Psalm 112:1–9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16]
Matthew 5:13–20

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany—February 12

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 *or* Sirach 15:15–20
Psalm 119:1–8
1 Corinthians 3:1–9
Matthew 5:21–37

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany—February 19

Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18
Psalm 119:33–40
1 Corinthians 3:10–11, 16–23
Matthew 5:38–48

Transfiguration of the Lord—February 26

Exodus 24:12–18
Psalm 2 *or* Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16–21
Matthew 17:1–9

Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 1



The gift that gives



Love ever gives,
forgives, outlives
and ever stands
with open hands.
And while it lives, it gives.
For this is love's prerogative —
to give, and give, and give.

—John Oxenham

Giving credit where due?

Running late for a meeting, a man circled the block, looking for a place to park. Desperately, he raised his eyes toward heaven and prayed, “Lord, if you’ll find me a parking spot, I promise I’ll start going to church again.”

Just then, a car pulled out of a space right in front of the man. “Never mind,” he said to God. “I found one!”

Extravagant love

The love St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13 is “no mild, tepid thing,” writes Mark Buchanan in *Your Church Is Too Safe* (Zondervan). “It is no flight of fancy, no frisson of giddiness, no mere ruffle of sensation. This love is neither nice nor prissy nor fragile nor coy. This love is fierce and wild and dangerous and unbreakable. It is sublime and subversive. It is indefatigable and undefeatable. It is nothing less than the love God has for you, to bind you and to loose you, to take you captive and then set you free. This love is extravagant.”

YOU ARE
LOVED

WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE

JEREMIAH 31:3



NEVER FORGET THAT YOU ARE
LOVED, VALUED, HONORED, RESPECTED AND PRAYED FOR.