

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**1401 WEST MAIN ST**

**SPRINGFIELD, OH 45504**

**937-323-9078**

**EMAIL: [graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net)**

**FEBRUARY**

**2024**

A decorative arrangement of ten red hearts with white outlines. Three hearts are positioned above the year '2024', and seven hearts are scattered around the bottom and sides of the year.

## February 2024 Newsletter

**Romans 13:8, "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for they who love their fellowman have fulfilled the Law."**

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> is Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. It seems very fitting that Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday should be on the same day. Valentine's Day is a time to recognize the people in our lives that we love and that love us. I have fond memories of making a Valentine box as a child to put on my desk to receive my Valentines. I remember the care I took signing my Valentines and picking out the ones I liked best to give to the kids I liked best. Valentine's Day was special because everyone tried to communicate love and care for others.

Ash Wednesday was not an event that I observed as a child. When I attended church, which was seldom, I attended a Baptist Church, and they didn't observe Ash Wednesday. I think Ash Wednesday of 1972 was my first Ash Wednesday service which I attended at St. John's Lutheran Church, where Dan and I were married on August 11, 1973. It was at St. John's that I learned that there is one spiritual law that is the fulfillment of all other laws. In **Galatians 5:14**, we read the entire law is summed up in a single command; **"Love your neighbor as yourself."** Further in **Romans 13:10** we read, **"Love does no harm to its neighbor."**

Real love, Godly love, cannot harm its neighbor because Godly love is never selfish. Godly love cannot harm any more than the sun can produce darkness instead of light. In **1 John 4:8** we read, **"God is love."** Consider **1 John 4:10, 19**, **"This is love, not that we loved God... We love God because God first loved us."**

Truly, loving anyone as it is described in **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**, and **13** means that, **"Love is patient and kind, love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. So, faith, hope, love abides, these three; but the greatest of these is love."**

This Valentine's Day please come celebrate Ash Wednesday, either at 11:00 A.M. or 7:00 P.M. We will be celebrating the kind of love God has for us that allows us to love one another and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This is the kind of love that God gives us is life giving and cannot be diminished or destroyed even by death. When God fills us with Godly love, we can love each other, now and forever more. Thanks be to God! - *Pastor Vicki Downing*

- Feb. 1 Psalms 25:10
- Feb. 2 Psalm 85:12-13
- Feb. 3 Galatians 6:9
- Feb. 4 Deuteronomy 10:20-21
- Feb. 5 Isaiah 1:19
- Feb. 6 2 Corinthians 9:8
- Feb. 7 Hebrews 4:16
- Feb. 8 Colossians 3:8, 10
- Feb. 9 Ephesians 1:12
- Feb. 10 Psalm 18:3
- Feb. 11 Psalm 32:2
- Feb. 12 Mark 1:35
- Feb. 13 Matthew 6:6
- Feb. 14 Proverbs 8:6
- Feb. 15 Psalm 91:14
- Feb. 16 1 Chronicles 28:9
- Feb. 17 John 6:32
- Feb. 18 Psalm 69:32
- Feb. 19 Psalm 63:5-7
- Feb. 20 Psalm 27:14
- Feb. 21 Proverbs 18:21
- Feb. 22 Deuteronomy 10:12
- Feb. 23 Psalm 57:2
- Feb. 24 Psalm 19:9-10
- Feb. 25 Psalm 33:18-19
- Feb. 26 Deuteronomy 31:8
- Feb. 27 Matthew 6:33
- Feb. 28 Exodus 31:3
- Feb. 29 John 14:27

**Prayers Needed:**

Jack Yeager  
 Millie Luttrell  
 Phyllis & Larry Garber  
 Jeanne & Shelley Powell  
 Lois Strobel  
 Janet Blazer



Shower of Blessings

Recipient for January:

**Jane Shough  
 6D Consistory St  
 Springfield, OH 45504**



# Hello February

LaWhimsy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				6 pm Trustee MT		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7pm NA	7pm Men's BS	11 am Soap- Making  7pm NA	6:30pm Choir	6:30 pm All-Church Mt		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7pm NA	7pm Men's BS	7pm NA	Ash Wednesday Service: 11am & 7pm 6:30pm Choir			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
7pm NA	7pm Men's BS	12pm Wom- en of Faith  7pm NA	6:30pm Choir			
25	26	27	28			
7pm NA	7pm Men's BS	7pm NA	6:30pm Choir			

## February Worship Participants

<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>February</b>	Larry Campbell
<b>Communion Set-up</b>	<b>Feb 4</b>	Pastor Vicki
<b>Communion Servers</b>	<b>Feb 4</b>	Donna Layne & Greg Hosier Kim Stehle & Betty Prosser
<b>Communion Clean-up</b>	<b>Feb 4</b>	Betty Prosser
<b>Greeter - Front Door</b>	<b>Feb 4-11</b> <b>Feb 18-25</b>	Donna Layne & Greg Hosier Pattie Mumma
<b>Greeter – Sanctuary Door</b>	<b>Feb 4-11</b> <b>Feb 18-25</b>	Mary Ahlborn & Kim Stehle Bob & Ramona Keeton
<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Feb 4</b> <b>Feb 11</b> <b>Feb 18-25</b>	Marilyn Martin Pattie Mumma Marilyn Martin
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Feb 4-11</b> <b>Feb 18-25</b>	Larry Campbell & Greg Hosier Donna Myers & Larry Campbell



### Counters

<b>Feb 5</b>	Mary Ahlborn & Deb Cooke
<b>Feb 12</b>	Cindy Yeager & Jennifer Sabo
<b>Feb 19</b>	Kim Stehle & Connie Mitchell
<b>Feb 26</b>	Mary Ahlborn

### Special Music

<b>Feb 4</b>	Becky Frantz
<b>Feb 11</b>	Jim Mayhugh
<b>Feb 18</b>	Choir
<b>Feb 25</b>	Jayne Tatro



# FEBRUARY PUZZLE



Anagrams are words that contain the same letters but arranged in a different order. For example, *act* is an anagram of *cat*. The answers to the clues below are anagram pairs. If you get all 10 by February 25th, email your answers to [graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net) for a small prize.

Ex)	A person who makes bread.	The opposite of repair.
	<i>baker</i>	<i>break</i>

- |     |                               |                                   |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.  | What you call a person.       | Hair around a lion's neck.        |
|     | _____                         | _____                             |
| 2.  | What superheroes wear.        | A place to see stars and planets. |
|     | _____                         | _____                             |
| 3.  | Beef or pork.                 | A group of athletes.              |
|     | _____                         | _____                             |
| 4.  | Another word for strange.     | Less narrow.                      |
|     | _____                         | _____                             |
| 5.  | One of the four directions.   | A place to sit.                   |
|     | _____                         | _____                             |
| 6.  | A place to grow flowers.      | Something to be careful of.       |
|     | _____                         | _____                             |
| 7.  | Another word for big.         | An angry stare.                   |
|     | _____                         | _____                             |
| 8.  | What polite people say.       | Not awake.                        |
|     | _____                         | _____                             |
| 9.  | A time when things are cheap. | A marine mammal.                  |
|     | _____                         | _____                             |
| 10. | Person who fibs.              | A dragon's home.                  |
|     | _____                         | _____                             |