

Grace United Methodist Church
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2026



Matthew 5:13-14 (NKJV)

Believers Are Salt and Light

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Salt and Light

Here at Grace United Methodist Church, we often talk about what it means to be salt and light, not in theory, but in practice. Jesus did not speak these words as a compliment; he spoke them as a calling. Salt preserves. Light reveals. Both matter most when conditions are difficult.

In recent weeks, we have seen clear signs of that calling being lived out among us. One small but powerful example: since the beginning of the year, our Laundry Soap Ministry has produced **140 gallons** of detergent—our largest single production to date. That number represents far more than soap. It represents dignity offered freely, burdens eased quietly, and neighbors loved in practical ways. It is faith expressed not only in words, but in action.

At the same time, our Trustees have been hard at work responding to challenges that are far less visible but no less important. A roof leak in the Sanctuary is not the kind of problem any church hopes to face in winter. Yet through careful attention and faithful stewardship, the situation has been temporarily stabilized until weather conditions allow for permanent repair. Their work reminds us that caring for the church means caring both for the mission *and* the space that shelters it.

And then there is the wider moment we are living in together.

Our city, and our congregation, stands at a point of real uncertainty as the country's Temporary Protected Status for Haitian immigrants expires on February 3rd. For some among us, this is not an abstract policy conversation. It is personal. It is frightening. It is filled with unanswered questions about safety, stability, and the future.

As followers of Christ, we do not minimize fear, and we do not surrender to it. We affirm, clearly and without hesitation, that Grace United Methodist Church remains committed to being a place of welcome, prayer, and presence. We may not control political systems or enforcement decisions, but we do know who we are and whose we are. Our call is to stand with those who are anxious, to pray without ceasing, to speak truth with love, and to embody the hospitality of Christ in real and tangible ways.

Salt and light do not eliminate darkness or difficulty overnight. But they *do* make life possible *within* it. Much of this was comprised as part of my sermon just yesterday, and that in and of itself shows us all that the Holy Spirit is here, He is present, and He is with us.

Thank you for being a congregation that shows up; for neighbors, for one another, and for the work God has placed before us in this time and place. Let us continue to walk forward together: hopeful, pragmatic, faithful, and grounded in the love of God made known in Jesus Christ.

In Peace and Love

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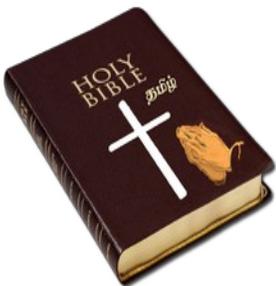


February Scripture Readings

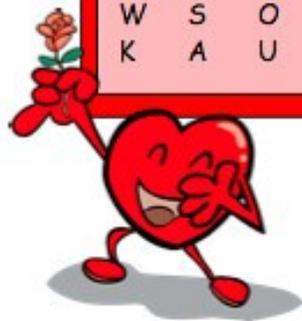
Feb.	1	Psalm 6:3-4
Feb.	2	Psalm 86:16
Feb.	3	Psalm 119:28-29
Feb.	4	Psalm 28:7-8
Feb.	5	2 Peter 1:5
Feb.	6	Psalm 29:11
Feb.	7	2 Corinthians 2:15
Feb.	8	Luke 6:38
Feb.	9	Deuteronomy 4:39
Feb.	10	Deuteronomy 10:20-21
Feb.	11	Psalm 85:12-13
Feb.	12	Proverbs 11:26-27
Feb.	13	Galatians 6:9
Feb.	14	Psalm 26:6-7
Feb.	15	Psalm 25:10
Feb.	16	Isaiah 1:19
Feb.	17	2 Corinthians 9:8
Feb.	18	Hebrews 4:6
Feb.	19	Colossians 3:8,10
Feb.	20	Ephesians 1:12
Feb.	21	Psalm 18:3
Feb.	22	Psalm 32:2
Feb.	23	Mark 1:35
Feb.	24	Matthew 6:6
Feb.	25	Proverbs 8:6
Feb.	26	Psalm 91:14
Feb.	27	1 Chronicles 28:9
Feb.	28	John 6:32

PRAYERS NEEDED
Bruce Eckler
Dave Speas
Jeanne and Shelly
Our Country
Our Church

SHOWER OF BLESSINGS FOR
FEBRUARY
Larry and Phyllis Garber
706 Village Rd
Springfield, Oh 45504



Chef Solus Valentine's Day Healthy Heart Word Search Puzzle!



APPLES
FIBER
BEANS
HEART
VALENTINE

LOWFAT
EXERCISE
VEGETABLES
LEGUMES
SEEDS

NUTS
HEALTHY
AEROBICS
NUTRITION
ACTIVE



A friend sent an early "Valentine" to see if it will make it around the world by Feb. 14th.

True Love

For God so lo **V**ed the world,

That He g **A**ve

his on **L**y

Begott **E**n

So **N**

That whosoever

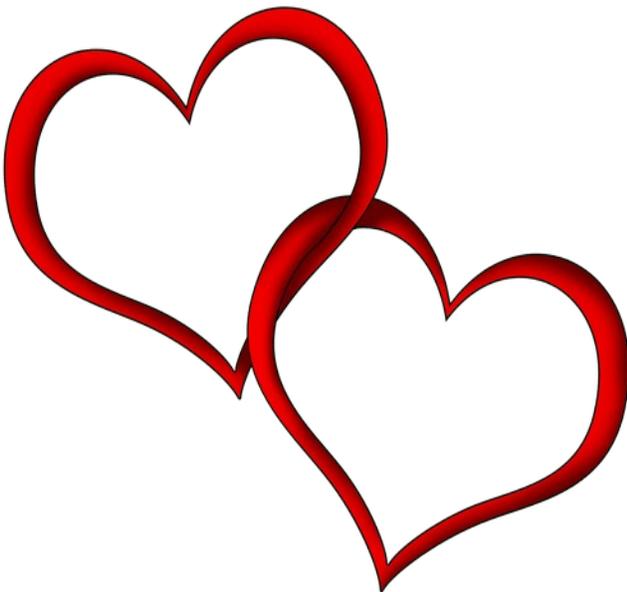
Believeth **I**n Him

Should **N**ot perish,

But have **E**verlasting life."

John 3:16

Send it around the World



*Cut out and use as
As a Bookmark.
Or give to someone
you think may need
to hear these
words!
HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY*