



### February Scripture Readings

- 1 Deuteronomy 4:7-9
- 2 Deuteronomy 5:4-6
- 3 Deuteronomy 10:12-13
- 4 Psalm 7:8-10
- 5 Psalm 26:2-7
- 6 Psalm 73:26-28
- 7 Psalm 84:1-2
- 8 Psalm 86:1-2
- 9 Psalm 119:9-11
- 10 Psalm 139:23-24
- 11 Proverbs 3:3-6
- 12 Proverbs 4:23-24
- 13 Proverbs 16:23-24
- 14 Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
- 15 Jeremiah 29:11-13
- 16 Joel 2:12-13
- 17 Matthew 6:19-21
- 18 Matthew 15:17-20
- 19 Matthew 22:37-40
- 20 Luke 6:45
- 21 Romans 8:27-28
- 22 Ephesians 3:14-19
- 23 Colossians 3:14-16
- 24 1 Timothy 1:5
- 25 Hebrews 4:12-13
- 26 Hebrews 10:22-25
- 27 James 4:8-10
- 28 1 Peter 3:14-16

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# The Connection

**February 2025**

A monthly publication of the

**Millington United Methodist  
Church**

**Our Mission: To Know Christ, and to**



- 9 Lori Hall
- 10 Mark Truett
- 11 Melissa Trato
- 12 Michael Burks
- 15 Maury Chapin
- 15 Watson Gray Reinert
- 16 Chad Reinert
- 17 Charlotte Buccaneer
- 19 Tonia Burns
- 19 Kathryn Cram
- 19 Jahari Tanner
- 22 Tammy Henderson
- 27 Bobbye Thom
- 28 Debbie Olmstead

### February National Days

1. National Play Outside Day
2. National Heavenly Hash Day
3. National Missing Persons Day
4. National Homemade Soup Day
5. National Shower With a Friend Day
6. National Frozen Yogurt Day
7. National Wear Red Day
8. National Cut the Cord Day
9. National Bagel and Lox Day
10. National Clean Out Your Computer Day
11. National Shut-In Visitation Day
12. National Plum Pudding Day
13. National Galentine's Day
14. National Organ Donor Day
15. National Gumdrop Day
16. National Do a Grouch a Favor Day
17. National Random Acts of Kindness Day
18. National Battery Day
19. National Chocolate Mint Day
20. National Comfy Day
21. National Caregivers Day
22. National Cook a Sweet Potato Day
23. National Dog Biscuit Day
24. National Tortilla Chip Day
25. National Chocolate Covered Nut Day
26. National Set a Good Example Day
27. National Retro Day
28. National Time Refund Day

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*In honor of the love of Christ, I offer you this story.*

## **The Quiet Sermon**

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone embers flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

*Pastor David*



# Finance



# Moment

The word, “GRACE” comes from a Greek word, “Charis.” It forms the root of our words, “Charismatic,” “character,” and “charity.” It literally means, “GIFT.” It specifically relates to God’s gift to you and me of love, salvation and eternal life. Because grace is a “gift,” it is free. It is without condition, and when we receive it we may not deserve it. How do we respond to a gift? Don’t we want to give in return? When we realize God’s incredible and eternal gift, how can we respond?

**One way is by giving sacrificially and generously to God.**

.....

**If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life.** 0319 **Billy Graham**

## Mission & Outreach Notes:

Have you ever considered being a part of something bigger than each of us individually that helps to share God’s love from 9020 State Road? We would welcome your participation on the Missions and Outreach committee. This committee finds already established ways or new ways to be missionaries from here --- AND support those who do the work elsewhere.

The OUTREACH portion is important locally because we desire to be an active part of the local, larger Family of God. To that end, we “reach out” as often as possible with various ways to show our care for others. We support the high school “closet” with emergency clothing and hygiene items. We present all district (including home schooled) 4<sup>th</sup> graders with new dictionaries. We support campus ministries, local community workers (First Responders, school staff, etc.), and mission work close to home and in other countries! Please think about it!

Our next outreach will be carried out by the Ladies 4<sup>th</sup> Day Group, and we will be preparing Valentine bags on Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, for local shut-ins and some who are convalescing from health issues. If you know of someone who needs a little boost that way, let Barb know this week or by Monday at the latest. Also, anything you would like to donate to the cause (homemade craft, or a fun or useful novelty item?) will be appreciated. FYI.... We plan to prepare 20 bags.

We also consider our special M-15 Heritage Route Yard Sale as a service outreach. It will be on Saturday, May 3, on our church lawn. Spread the word to potential sellers and come to shop. Spaces rent for \$25 for a 10’ x 20’ spot, and can be rented through the office with Barb, 8 am to 12 pm Mondays through Thursdays. (989) 871-3489. We provide rented port-a-johns and handwashing station and have two food trucks already committed – Savage Burger and Cone-Appetit.

Happy Valentine’s month. If God had a refrigerator, YOUR picture would be on it.

 Sharon





# Songs On Strings & Vocal Things

Sunday  
Mar 2  
2025  
3 PM



FENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

119 S. LEROY ST. FENTON, MI



Featuring The Music Of

## Matt Packer & Liz Collins

PRESENTED  
BY

Memory Lane Sing Alongs  
&

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(Free Will Offering Gratefully Accepted)

## Leave it to God

Fourth-century theologian Augustine urged again and again that we focus on practicing love in the here and now, not on worrying about our lives in the hereafter.

In *Beautiful Bodies*, Margaret Miles writes that especially regarding complicated doctrines like predestination and challenges like “The one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:13), we can’t do anything *but* leave those to God. It’s impossible for humans to take responsibility for ourselves in such matters. If we could determine our afterlife destiny by means of effort, persuasion or bribery, self-pride would surely be the accompanying sinful result.

“In fact,” Miles writes, “preoccupation with one’s eternal destiny distracts from a Christian’s present business. ‘Leave it to God,’ St. Augustine said, and place your attention on living lovingly in the body of Christ here and now.”

## “Time”

Time is  
too slow for those who wait,  
too swift for those who fear,  
too long for those who grieve,  
too short for those who re-  
joice.  
But for those who love,  
time is eternity.



## A prayer for Presidents Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist’s teaching: “Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled “from sea to shining sea.”

## Kindness kickbacks

Random Acts of Kindness Day, observed each year on February 17, is a reminder of the power of altruism. Followers of Jesus express kindness selflessly, out of love for God and our neighbors. Yet in return, we reap emotional — and even physical — benefits.

Researchers have identified a “helper’s high” that can ease anxiety and depression. Spontaneous or planned acts of “pro-social spending” have been shown to reduce blood pressure, improve heart health, reduce pain and even extend longevity.

For maximum impact, experts recommend getting creative with random acts of kindness and mixing them up. But no matter how you spread kindness, you’re bound to experience blessings in return!

## Valentines for kids

Valentine’s Day isn’t just for schoolchildren and sweethearts. Loving parents should strive to give their children these life-changing gifts during February and beyond.

- **Acceptance:** Say and show that you love children for who they are. Give this gift with a kiss.
- **Self-confidence:** Help boost kids’ trust in themselves. Give this gift with a hug.
- **Peace:** Model how to give your worries to God. Offer this present with laughter.
- **Gratitude:** Help children be genuinely thankful for each new day and for all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.
- **Faith:** Introduce children to Jesus, the best friend they’ll ever have. Do this by taking them to church and Sunday school regularly.

## Things You Need to Know

We, as a church and community, have been collecting empty medicine bottles, cleaning them and then I have been taking them to the Free Medical Clinic in Flint. They are very grateful and appreciative for them. Each bottle they receive saves them 20-25 cents. I will no longer be able to continue to do this, but I feel it is a ministry that is very helpful for the Free Clinic.

I am asking if there is someone in our church or that you know of, that would be able and willing to promote this, please contact me at (989)871-2242.

Thanks so much for your help and support over the years.

*Maurry Chapin*

## True love

Many of us celebrate Valentine's Day in both fun and serious ways. Children exchange treats and humorous cards with classmates and friends; some bring home handmade cards for the adults in their lives. Romantic partners may go out to eat and present each other flowers, chocolate, a fancy card — maybe even an engagement ring!

As playful as Valentine's Day can be, it's also a great time to remember the serious side of love, as indicated by these quotes:

- "When you love someone, you love the whole person as he or she is, and not as you would like them to be." —Leo Tolstoy
- "You don't love someone because they're perfect; you love them in spite of the fact that they're not." —Jodi Picoult
- "Love ... is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. ... It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses." —Ann Landers  
We can do the difficult work of true love — actions, not just feelings — only because God loved us first. He did (and does) so despite our imperfection, and in Jesus, God shows us how to share true love with others. This Valentine's Day, if you don't remember any other profound quotes, hold this one in your heart:
- "We love because God first loved us." —1 John 4:19 (NCV)

## Love makes us worthy

Unlike God, who loves unconditionally, humans often make choices and set limits when doling out affection. But Thomas Merton reminds us, "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy."

As for how to develop and maintain that type of love? Merton shares, "It is in deep solitude that I find the gentleness with which I can truly love my [neighbors]."

February 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February is African American History Month		Without Valentine's Day, February would be ... well, January." —Jim Gaffigan		Coming in March: Blood Drive March 27 12—5:45pm	To Pre-register call 800-Red Cross 800-733-2767	1
2 10am Worship 9am Sunday School  4th Sunday after Epiphany	3	4 8:30 Women's 4th Day	5	6	7	8
9 10am Worship 9am Sunday School  5th Sunday after Epiphany	10	11 8:30 Women's 4th Day	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15
16 10am Worship 9am Sunday School  6th Sunday after Epiphany	17 Observed Presidents' Day  Random Acts of Kindness Day	18 8:30 Women's 4th Day	19	20	21	22 Washington's Birthday
23 10am Worship 9am Sunday School  7th Sunday after Epiphany	24	25 8:30 Women's 4th Day	26	27	28	

## *A Note from Barb...*

*In the last few weeks, there has been a lot going on in my life. For these things, there has been a lot of prayers being said for me and my family. While there has been a lot of worry, sleepless nights, and lots of road trips, there also has been a lot of time to talk to God.*

*This has been a huge comfort to me. By trusting in the Lord with all my heart and not leaning on my own understanding (Proverbs 3:5), I have been able to lift a load from my heart that the Lord took over for me.*

*I am so thankful for the wonderful Covenant Hospital staff and for the wonderful friends that have been praying for us. And for my family who have stepped up and helped in so many ways. And I especially want to thank BOTH of my church families who have not only sent prayers but have helped just by being there.*

*Letting go, and letting God, is the best peace that I have ever known.*





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**Our Mission: To know Christ and to make Him known**

Check out our Sunday sermon online on our Facebook page at :

**Millington United Methodist Church**