



Volume 362

# PRESBY PRESS



Greenwood Presbyterian Church

February 2023

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.  
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."  
1 John 4:7

## **SESSION MINI-MINUTES**

Submitted by Jan Mernone, Clerk

I think we do a good job of honoring our members on their birthdays, so this month I want to highlight two famous men with February birthdays, long gone, whose wisdom has lasted. First, our courageous and conflicted Civil War President, Abraham Lincoln. Here are some lighter quotes from him.

- "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."
- "When I do good, I feel good. When I do bad, I feel bad. That's my religion."
- "No matter how much cats fight, there always seems to be plenty of kittens."
- "I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down."

Our first President, George Washington, and some pithy sayings attributed to him.

- "While we are contending for our own liberty, we should be very cautious not to violate the rights of conscience in others, ever considering that God alone is the judge of the hearts of men..." Sept. 1775
- "Happiness depends more upon the internal frame of a person's own mind than on the externals of the world." February 1787
- "Still I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain (what I consider the most enviable of all titles) the character of an honest man." August 1788
- "Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness." January 1790

Having been warmed up with the wisdom imparted by two great men, here goes what those in leadership roles at GPC decided. January finds **Session** looking over and making changes to the **Consent Agenda** where Session approves who will serve on Personnel, Finance, Nominating, who will serve as Clerk and Treasurer. Here we also reaffirm policies that control the business of the Church. Pastor Peter asked each Session member to verbalize what they wanted the **mission** of GPC to be for 2023. Here were the responses: reach out to community; attract younger people; pastors in area meet together and come up with strategies; get lay people more involved in all aspects of our church; have playground equipment for neighbors to also use; sponsor a support group for grieving people; offer prayers for those whose jobs require hard decisions; getting more regular attendees to join the church. It was decided by Session that the **Annual Meeting** would take place in the Fellowship Hall combined with a pitch-in lunch on February 12. Ordination and Installation will take place on February 19. February 19 will also be **Boy Scout** Sunday with pancake breakfast after church. The Clerk read thank you notes from Marcia Justus and Charlotte for their Christmas Gift from all of you, and from Presbyterian Mission for your contributions.

Outreach will collect money on **Souper Bowl Sunday** (but we weren't sure when the Super Bowl was). A movie night, Blessing of the Animals, and giving out water at the Freedom Fest are all in our future.

Finance presented the report from **CapinCrouse** regarding the state of our church finances from 2021. Finance is also working on the playground, with some equipment stored and waiting for better weather to put it together.

Maintaining gave a report on the condition of the **rental house**. Due to water damage, much needed to be torn out. We have had plumbers and contractors working inside the house. So far we have spent nearly \$10,000. Jan McFerran has been in contact with the insurance adjuster so that is in the works. After much discussion, Session decided to finish fixing the house, then rent it for two years at a nominal rent to someone who will maintain the grounds of the church, rental property, and extra lot.

As usual there is a lot going on at GPC. So much is unseen by those of us not directly involved. Thanks to all who labor in the name of the Lord to maintain his house, put programs together to benefit our brain and spirituality, keep everything straight and above-board with finances, and reach out with caring to the community and to our own members.

*Sending you warm thoughts, Ye Ole Clerk*

### **THE CARING BEAR CONNECTION**

Submitted by Betty Gilliland, Deacon

The Board of Deacons started this new ministry in 2019 to keep a better connection with our members that are no longer attending church regularly. Then unfortunately Covid put everything on a shut down for a few years. But the Deacons are now ready to start up again with this ministry.

To refresh your memory about this, volunteers deliver a "Caring Bear" to someone they have adopted and will keep contact with throughout the year.

This will be a one on one connection of visiting personally or through contact with a phone call or note card several times a month.

We feel this will better connect the member with things going on in the church and let us keep up with things going on in their life. If you would like to know more about this or become involved, please feel free to contact Betty Gilliland.

*Please keep this ministry in your prayers.*

### **SECOND ORDER OF MEMORIAL BRICKS**

Submitted by Fred Johnson



We will be placing another order for memorial bricks before we sand and seal the existing brick area. Forms are outside the church office, as well as included here at the end of this issue. Orders must be in no later than **February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Send the completed form and payment to the office, place in Sunday's offering plate, or send to Fred Johnson.

## **VALENTINE'S DAY HISTORY – The Story Behind St. Valentine**

Submitted by Lauren Underwood, Written by Daniel Threlfall © ShareFaith.com

We don't usually think of Valentine's Day as an explicitly Christian holiday. Other major holidays have obvious Christian origins: Christmas (Christ's incarnation) and Easter (Christ's resurrection), sure, but Valentine's Day? It's true that Valentine's Day is not connected with an event in the life of our Lord like Christmas and Easter are, but Valentine's Day does have some intriguing Christian roots. Along with most holidays, Valentine's Day has suffered from its share of commercialization and confusion, yet the poignant story of the original Valentine's Day is worth remembering.

In the interest of full disclosure, after about 1,700 years of history, it's kind of hard to know exactly who Valentine was and what he did. The truth is, there were probably several Valentines. Also, the truth is probably not as highly dramatized as we may wish. The truth is embedded somewhere in the depths of history, never to be known until we get to heaven. What follows may be part tradition and part truth, but completely fascinating.

The year was 270. The Roman Empire was engaged in a desperate attempt to retain the *Pax Romana* that had endured for centuries. Christianity was active during the 3rd century. Although Christ had died over two centuries prior, Christians were eagerly propagating their faith and churches were springing up everywhere. These early centuries of the church were the times of the great apologists such as Clement, Ignatius, Origen, Polycarp, Athanasius, and Chrysostom. But the 3rd century was also the time of the Christian martyrs. Prior to Constantine, the empire was not friendly to Christianity—not at all. Claudius, the reigning emperor of the time, was a warlord, intent only upon preserving his empire and routing his enemies. Christianity was not on his like list. His primary interests were military, and he would stoop to nothing to ensure that his mighty army remained loyal to him.

It was Claudius's maniacal grip on the military that led him to install a very foolish policy empire-wide. Claudius had a problem on his hands when it came to the army. Believe it or not, his men would actually prefer to get married and stay home with their wives and families rather than risk their lives and sacrifice for their country! Military recruiting was suffering because of the petulant affection between man and wife. Love was getting in the way of patriotism! Claudius would have none of it. Being the man with the big stick, he could make laws and enforce them, too. So he did. Claudius passed a law forbidding anyone to get married. Obviously, this was an outrage. Was he serious? No marriage?

Living in this anti-Christian and anti-marriage climate, was Valentine. Valentine was a Christian priest in Rome. He knew from the Bible that marriage was good and honored by God. He knew that marriage was lawful according to the Christian faith, so he took it upon himself to perform Christian marriages—contrary to the law. As a priest, he performed secret marriages for couples who desired to be married bravely defying the anti-marriage edict. It wasn't just marriages that Valentine was working on. He was also trying to protect persecuted Christians who were being chased down and haunted by the aggressive Roman leaders. Christians knew that they could flee to Valentine to find protection.

Valentine was taking a huge risk. Not only was it absolutely forbidden to marry or to perform marriages, but it was also a criminal offense to aid or abet Christians—especially ones whom the Roman Empire had on their hit list! Valentine was enmeshed in what the Roman Empire considered high treason and traitorous activity. Although he was being loyal to his faith, he was flying in the face of Roman law. The Roman government hunted him down and locked him up in prison. Now,

Valentine—protector of Christians and performer of marriages—was himself suffering for his love and devotion to God.

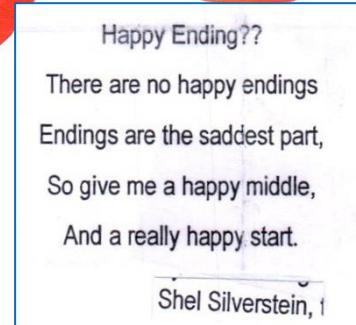
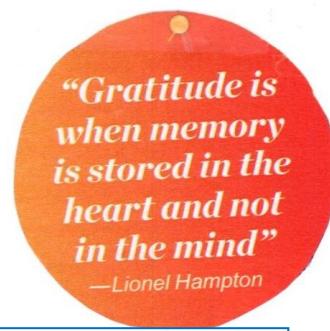
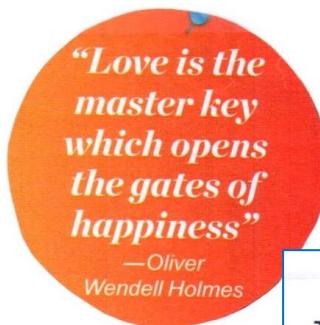
It got worse. Valentine, true to his bold character, tried to convert Emperor Claudius to Christianity. This had gone too far. Claudius demanded that Valentine recant his faith and submit to the cruel and godless tyranny of Rome. Valentine staunchly refused. The Roman Prefect condemned him to torture and death. He was beaten violently, then beheaded. Valentine was martyred for his faith.

According to legend (and probably false), Valentine himself fell in love during his time of imprisonment. The daughter of the prison guard met Valentine and fell head over heels in love. As the story goes, their romance was the prototypical saga of steadfast love, broken only by the tragic death of Valentine. He wrote a note to her, allegedly penned on February 14, the day before he was beheaded. He signed the note, “Love from your Valentine.” Henceforth, we have the first Valentine’s Day card.

Although the story of Valentine’s Day is shrouded in mystery, buried in tradition, and (thanks to commercialism) stripped of its significance, we can bring some of the truth back. The truth is, love can’t be squelched, outlawed, or stamped out. The significance of Valentine’s life was not that he defended love and romance and performed secret marriages. Valentine—a day now besmirched by cupids, chocolate, and candlelit dinners—is a day founded upon the life of a martyr. Valentine died a bloody death, beaten and beheaded. The truth is, Valentine was in love with his Savior, Jesus Christ. Love for Jesus trumped his love of self. Valentine nobly gave his life for the God he loved.

That is true love. But true love is deeper still. It goes beyond our love for God. “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. John 3:16 defines love: “For God so *loved* the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

This Valentine’s day, do something different. Sure, talk about love, but talk about true love—the love that God had for us. The love that sent Jesus to a cross. Talk about our love for Him—the kind of love that goes beyond mere comfortable Christian existence. The kind of love that is willing to take risks, to sacrifice everything, and even to give our lives for Him who loved us.





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## BOY SCOUT NEWS

Submitted by Dave Baker  
Liaison for BSA Troop #266

BSA Troop #266 Troop Meetings are  
Thursdays from 7:00pm to 8:30 pm  
Meeting in the Fellowship Hall



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

- ❖ MEETINGS THIS MONTH: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- ❖ 2/2 Thursday – CPR #2 at 7:00pm at GPC in Fellowship Hall. All Congregation invited.
- ❖ 2/4 Saturday - Philmont Practice Hike at Morgan Monroe State Forest. Leave GPC @ 8:00 am
- ❖ 2/4 Saturday – Parking Fundraiser for the Monster Jam @ Lucas Oil Stadium. Leave GPC @ 6:00 pm
- ❖ 2/5 Sunday - Parking Fundraiser for the Monster Jam @ Lucas Oil Stadium. Leave GPC @ 2:00 pm
- ❖ 2/9 Thursday – Bring Scout Book for Advancement Readings
- ❖ 2/11 Saturday – Perfect North Day Trip. Leave GPC @ 8:00 am
- ❖ 2/18 Saturday - Philmont Practice Hike at Brown County State Park. Leave GPC @ 8:00 am
- ❖ 2/19 Sunday – SCOUT SUNDAY & PANCAKE BREAKFAST after Church Service in Fellowship Hall
- ❖ 2/20 Monday – Adult Committee Meeting at GPC in Board Room @ 7:00 pm
- ❖ 2/23 Thursday - Path to Eagle for Life Scouts (30 mins) at GPC @ 6:30 pm
- ❖ 2/25 Saturday - Philmont Practice Hike at Morgan Monroe State Forest. Leave GPC @ 8:00 am

CUB SCOUTS #266-Meetings are every Thursday at 6 pm until 7 pm except the 4th Thursday go until 8:30

- ❖ 2/16 Thursday - Patrol Leaders Meeting @ 6:00 pm at GPC in the Board Room
- ❖ All other Activities with the Cub Scouts, See Scout Leaders for more information.

BROWNIES / GIRL SCOUTS – See Leaders for information. Meetings are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall - Time 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Please see or call the Brownies Leaders for more Activities for the month.

Anybody interested in Scouting please contact the Scout Leaders or the Church Office

## HOOSIERS

"Ain't God good to Indiana,"  
said Riley, Hoosier poet.  
I love the changing seasons--  
so orchestrated,  
you hardly even know it.  
Few extremes, thank you Lord;  
A tornado outbreak, now and then;  
an earthquake, I don't remember when.  
From spring rains we're not immune;  
a hot, dry spell sometimes in June.  
But, all in all, I think we are so blest--  
and I feel Indiana is truly best.  
My heart goes out to folks  
in repeated disaster states--  
Why do they stay? I ask myself.  
Why not move to a safer clime?  
"It's home", they say,  
"We'll try it one more time!"  
So God, be with these folks--  
keep them safe as much you can--  
Show us how we can help them,  
and lend a helping hand.  
Fran M.



Submitted by Fran Mitchell

# *Recipe of the Month*

Submitted by Sandra Kelly

## No-Bake Cookies

### Ingredients

- ❖ ¼ cup Butter (melted in saucepan)
- ❖ 2 cups sugar
- ❖ ¼ heaping cup cocoa
- ❖ ½ cup (or a little extra) milk
- ❖ Dash of salt
- ❖ 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ❖ ½ cup peanut butter (JIF)
- ❖ 3 cups quick oats



### Instructions

- ❖ Bring butter, sugar, cocoa and milk to a boil, stir, boil another minute and then remove from heat
- ❖ Add salt, vanilla and peanut butter to melted ingredients and mix together.
- ❖ Add the oats, stir and mix well.
- ❖ Drop spoonfuls of mixture onto wax paper. (You have to work fast!)
- ❖ Let cool 30-35 minutes
- ❖ Remove from wax paper and place in container / serve.

Bulletin Boards  
by Eleanor



## JUST FOR FUN

Submitted by Fran Mitchell

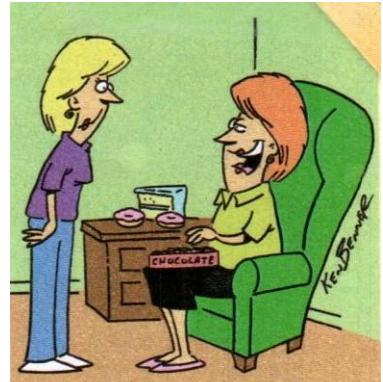
### **Say what?**



Three retired men were playing golf together one day. Each of them had started to suffer from hearing loss as they'd gotten older. The first guy says to the second, "Windy, isn't it?" After taking a swing, the second guy turned to the first and replied, "No, it's Thursday." At this point, the third guy approaches the tee box. After taking his turn, he responds, "So am I. Let's have a beer."

### **Snowhere to go**

A woman was driving in a snowstorm, but she didn't panic because she remembered her dad had once said, "If you ever get stuck in a storm, wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it." Sure enough, a plow soon came by, and she started to follow it. After 45 minutes, the truck driver got out and asked her what she was doing, so she explained. The driver said, "I'm done with the Walmart parking lot. You want to follow me to Best Buy?"



"I diet religiously, but only on Sundays"

## BIRTHDAYS

### **FEBRUARY**

- 1 Larry Fulkerson
- 7 Stuart Laughlin
- David Paquette
- 11 Richard Gray
- 14 Andy Barnes
- Geraldine Sullivan-Clark
- 27 Jim Duke
- Liv Judge



### **MARCH**

- 3 Helen Banton
- 5 Suzanne Coyle
- 8 Fred Hackett
- 10 Jim Barnes
- 13 Gayle Talley
- 14 Keith Hardin
- Jim Lowes
- 15 Fred Johnson
- Bill McFerran
- Nancy Nelson
- 16 Braeden Nelson
- 17 Jack Schier
- 18 Harry Hardin
- 24 Joyce Baker
- 25 Ashley Hubbard
- 30 Kristi Hackett

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