



The Presby Record

A community beacon of faith, love and hope.

Volume LV, Issue 2

February 2025

Mark's Message

Surely, this month, you will hear, see, touch, taste, and even smell what the world describes as love. Someone will likely tell you they love you, and you will see plenty of signs touting "love is in the air." Perhaps you will hold a Valentine's or taste a candy heart or box of chocolates. No doubt, some will enjoy the fragrance of roses received from that special someone. All our senses in February will be tuned toward love, but can we recognize love? Even if we experience all these things, will it be love?

Perhaps one of the greatest Christian statements on love came from 5th Century North African Bishop St. Augustine of Hippo (nope, not St. Valentine). For Augustine, the ultimate display of love came in the form of the divine love of the Gospel, namely, grace. In Book 10 of his *Confessions*, he wrote,

"Late have I loved you, beauty so old and so new: late have I loved you. And see, you were within and I was in the external world and sought you there, and in my unlovely state, I plunged into those lovely created things which you made. You were with me, and I was not with you. The lovely things kept me far from you, though if they did not have their existence in you, they had no existence at all. You called and cried out loud and shattered my deafness. You were radiant and resplendent; you put to flight my blindness. You were fragrant, and I drew in my breath and now pant after you. I tasted you, and I feel but hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I am set on fire to attain the peace which is yours."

Augustine calls God beautiful, luminous, magnificent, and aromatic. He reveals his zealous desire to achieve the peaceful existence that God alone can give. In recounting how God called and cried out to him, put to flight his blindness, touched him, and set him on fire with a love that knows neither limit nor fatigue, Augustine offers the recipe for us to do the same. Recognize, simply, that God is longing for a relationship with us, and for us to share our sentiment of the divine love—grace—with others.

Augustine describes how his love for God's creations restricted his ability to see and know God. He eventually came to understand that God's creations could only exist because they came from God. This realization led Augustine, at the age of 31, to convert to Christianity. This led to a desire to seek more of God and the peace that only God could provide through divine grace.

How do we love? How are we loved? Regardless of how many of our senses are stimulated by the upcoming Hallmark holiday, we should contemplate how God loves us and calls us to love others. Imagine the joy a new believer receives in being introduced to the overwhelming love of God. We are tasked with this joyful duty of love; it is not for us to simply possess the knowledge that God loves us, but it is for us to share that with all creation. There is nothing biblically that takes precedence over this fundamental and foundational principle of our faith: love God; love neighbor. This is our ultimate mission and ministry. So let love rule.



Adult Bible Study

For the remainder of February, Wednesday night Bible Study will continue our study of the minor prophets. So far, we have read through Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jonah, and we will also look at Micah, Zechariah, and Malachi in the coming weeks. If you have not yet attended, please know that you do not have to have read those books we have already discussed to understand what is discussed with each new book. This study will largely inform our discussion of the Gospel narratives we will study during Lent, beginning on March 12th and continuing through April 9th. If you cannot attend but would like to “listen” to the study, please make sure Andi has your email, and she will include you in the weekly message she sends with a Zoom link. We also hope you will make plans to join us for our Ash Wednesday worship on March 5th.

Communion Set Up and Servers

February 2 – Kathleen Jordan set up and serve
Valerie Wade serve

March 2 – Adam Greathouse set up and serve
Valerie Wade serve
Dave Harvey serve

Liturgists

February 2 – Kathleen Jordan

Feb 9 – Buck Ivey

Feb 16 – Valerie Wade

Feb 23 – David Harvey

March 2 – Jamie Boyd

March 5 Ash Wednesday – Buck Ivey

February Birthdays

1 - Bryan Roberts

3 – Wyatt Mullins

4 – Brendon Stennett, Julie Simon, Kensie McComas

6 – Kim Gaines

7 – Stephen Moss

8 – Danica Combs (2019)

10 – Valerie Wade

12 – Obi Otto

16 – Bill Hartman

19 – John Leftwich, Lucy Schumacher

20 – Kathryn Maddy

24 – Gracie Denison

29 – Boots Pinnell

Prayer Concerns

Congregation Members:

Mike Clark

Mike Merguc

Mark Curtis

Alex Dayfield

Sara Kell

Bill Hartman

Care Facilities:

Ann McCormick, **Apt. 106**, English Meadows, 5 Bexley Dr, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Sadie Ashworth, 5 Rolling Meadows Dr., Room 118, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Cel Jones, Meadowbrook Acres Rehab, Room A-13
2149 Greenbrier Street, Charleston, WV 25311
Phone 304 344-4268

Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends

Ashley Nestman, Lymphoma (Connie Ivey)

Kathi Curtis' mother, Shirley Ware, Florida

Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Parkinson's (Kathryn Maddy)

William Wallace (Traletta Wallace's son) kidney

Roger Schomburg (Kathryn Maddy's uncle)

Victoria Reynolds (Wanda Bowman)

Joshua Higgins (Ron & Sharon Peterson's nephew)

Jeff Maddy (Kathryn Maddy's husband)

Michael Murphy (Mark Boyd's friend) cancer returned

Eloise Waugh, Florida

Clyde Ellis (Valerie Wade's high school classmate)

Bruce Kessler (recovering from surgery)

Harry Speidel (Connie Ivey's brother)

Debbie Speidel, broken shoulder (Connie's sister-in-law)

Darrin Grass, stomach cancer (Laurie Turley)

Keith Machado, diabetes complications (Laurie Turley)

Mary Jo Swartz

Flo Rogers (Jack's wife) recovering from surgery

Kathy Leftwich's friend and former colleague's husband is in critical condition in the ICU (Iowa) with pneumonia and a variety of other serious health issues. David Willoughby, Kathy Weed's brother is recuperating from eye surgery.

Jennifer Wade Myers, (Jeff's oldest daughter and Valerie's step-daughter) congestive heart failure, San Diego, CA

Jennifer Ray, high risk pregnancy (Donna's cousin)

Prayer Box Concerns

Please pray for Teresa and Susie to be cancer free and healthy.

Military

Captain Allie Curtis, US. Army (United States)

Hunter Parsons U.S. Navy (Virginia)

Mickey Swartz, Aircrew Flight Equipment

Technician, U.S. Air Force (Eugene, Oregon)

Lieutenant Jack Wiles, U.S. Air Force

Spiritual Life Committee

Valerie Wade, Kristi Sutphin

As we launch into a new year, there's a lot going on in the life of our church. Please join us on February 9 to celebrate Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be collecting cans of soup as well as donations to support our local food pantry. After church, we will have a soup luncheon and would love for you to join us in fellowship.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are in the process of staffing our nursery on Sunday mornings during church. Kristi Sutphin is heading up this team and if you are interested in being a part of this important work, please let Kristi or Valerie know. We are required to have two people in the room, so if you love children and are interested in this ministry, please join this team. Kristi will prepare materials, so you just need to show up and present the lesson to our kids.

We are announcing that Kathy Harrah has volunteered to manage the kitchen. I'm sure that she's going to do a great job.

Thank you Jeff Maddy for installing the pull-down changing table in the Ladies Restroom for the little ones. We are painting the nursery.

Thank you Jeff Maddy for installing the pull-down changing table in the Ladies Restroom for the little ones. We also purchased a napping cot to use to change the toddlers and it's also in the Ladies Restroom. Donna

The **Winter Market** continues on February 15, March 1, and March 15. We continue to have fantastic vendors and hope that you will come out and support them.

Abbie Burch prepared and delivered 10 **Blessing Bags** for Christ's Kitchen. Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, we are able to provide these bags on the odd numbered months of the year as well as the month of December. We continue to need gloves to include in the Blessing Bag and there is a basket in which to collect them in the Fellowship Hall.

On Sunday, January 26, we had a reception in the Fellowship Hall to welcome our new members. It was a lovely time and we're very thankful to have Andrew, Katie, Dustin, Jesse, and their children with us.

Plans for VBS have begun so please be on the lookout for information regarding this. We are thrilled that Holly Greathouse is heading up our VBS again this year and it's going to be a fun and exciting time of learning for our families.

Wednesday Nights for the adults will continue and will conclude on April 9. Mark also plans to prepare Lenten materials for our children.

Little's Storytime Team

LITTLES continues to be a bright spot and we've recently added two children. Many thanks to Donna and her team for their amazing work.



Through the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**, Kroger will donate to First Presbyterian Church 5% of all grocery/pharmacy purchases YOU make just by using your Kroger Plus Card. Please sign up for this FREE profitable program for FPC. You only have to open an account and register your Kroger Plus Card online at: krogercommunityrewards.com. OR You can simply telephone Kroger Community Rewards at 1-800-576-4377. They will assist you with registering your Kroger Plus Card. You will need to have handy either your Kroger Plus Card number or your alternate ID (your telephone number).

A Memorial

Given in memory of **Fil, Ginny & Patrick Frasher** by:
Michael Frasher & Janis Boury

Facilities Committee

Jack Rogers, David Harvey

- Painted the Littles' Room (known as nursery) and is ready for story time on Friday, Feb 7.
- We are in the process of contracting a company to install HVAC in the sanctuary.
- Ice maker replacement in the kitchen will be completed Thursday 2/6/25.
- The Committee is working on a way to start a fund raiser for future Nursery renovations.
- United Structural Systems is gathering information on the humidity issue in the basement and will have a plan for the equipment and costs needed soon.
- A BIG THANK YOU to the Maddy Family for doing snow removal on our sidewalks.
- The tankless water heating system has been flushed and serviced.
- Next meeting date is: Monday, February 10 via ZOOM.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Stated Meeting January 12, 2025
- Meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Boyd.
- We welcomed Dustin and Jess Combs, & children and Andrew Reyes and Katie Blossie to the membership of First Presbyterian Church. Katie Blossie, Jazmine, Jasiah, Jonelle, and Danica Combs will receive the sacrament of baptism on Jan 26th.
- Approved dates the Doll Club meets.
- Received Treasurer's report as written.
- Approved 2025 Budget.
- Approved \$160,000 for new HVAC in sanctuary and new roof on the education building.
- Approved Souper Bowl Fundraiser.
- Approved Rev. Boyd to attend a Retreat at Massanetta Springs April 21 – 25.
- Rev. Boyd discussed topics for Wednesday

Bible Study.

- Approved 2025 communion dates.
- Approved WVMAW group staying in First Presbyterian Church sometime in April.
- Meeting closed with prayer.



February 9, 2025 IS SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY. Join us for lunch following worship.

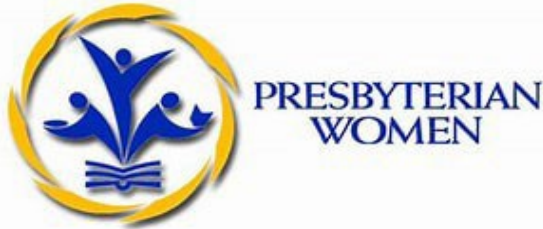
As Super Bowl Sunday approaches that means it's time for our annual Souper Bowl of Caring!

We sponsor the Souper Bowl of Caring each year as it demonstrates the power of community mobilization and the importance of local action to Tackle Hunger.

Soups currently needed are **Chicken Noodle, Vegetable, Tomato, Cream of Chicken, and Cream of Mushroom**. Monetary donations are also welcomed.

All donations will go to our local food pantry in St. Albans. You can bring them to the church anytime until **February 16th**.

Thank you!



Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:
nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
support the mission of the church worldwide, work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive, caring
community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise
of God's kingdom.

Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation

The 2024–2025 Horizons Bible study

by author Patricia K. Tull

Presbyterian Women meet each month, September through May, on the second Tuesday and Wednesday for Bible study and fellowship. This year's study is a call to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts.

This month we move on to lesson six. We will ground ourselves in scripture as we tackle the ongoing debate surrounding climate change. The prophets us warn of threats to Shalom ~ the world as God intended it to be. They warn us to avoid complacency and self-concern. The wisdom of God in Ecclesiastes assures us we must participate with joy in the work God has given us to do.

Everyone is welcome to join the study either on zoom or in person, whether you read the lesson or not.

Daytime Circle meets Wednesday, February 12 at 12:00 noon in person fellowship meal. Bring your own brown bag lunch. At 12:35 pm we begin the Bible study and conclude promptly at 1:30 pm. **Evening Zoom Circle** meets on Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 pm. The zoom will open at 6:45 for early birds to fellowship.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85861031680?pwd=Nw4SR3>

Clr969qxLdwY9avWaru3wiai.1

Meeting ID: 858 6103 1680

Passcode: 406332

Class of 2025

Dave Harvey (1)
Adam Greathouse (1)
Buck Ivey (1)

Class of 2026

Kathleen Jordan (2)
Valerie Wade (2)
Kristi Sutphin (1)

Class of 2027

Jennifer Burgess (1)
Kathy Harrah (1)
Jack Rogers (2)

Ministers

Pastor
Custodian
Musician
Treasurer
Tech Team

Every Member of the Congregation

Rev. Mark Boyd
Mike Merguc
N. David Stern
Buck Ivey
David and Wendy Harvey, Betty King

Trustees

Class of 2025: Buck Ivey
Class of 2026: Holly Greathouse
Class of 2027: Dewitt Bowman

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