



Hebron Community Church

February 2025 Newsletter

February: A Chance to Reflect on the True Meaning of Love

This month we celebrate Valentine's Day, the 'day of love'. As I've said before, this is a day that probably evokes one of the widest ranges of emotions in people. For some, it's a beautiful, romantic time. For others it's a reminder that they are without a significant other in their lives, for whatever reason, but as we look at the idea of love, we must first look to source of all love, God. The Bible tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8), but what does that mean? God's love for us is unconditional. I remember seeing a church sign that read: "God loves you, and there's nothing you can do about it!" God's love for us never changes. There is nothing we can do to make God love us any less and nothing we can do to make Him love us any more.

But we still have the question, what is true love? Webster's dictionary defines love as a "strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties", "attraction based on sexual desire" or "affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests"¹. That is probably how much of the world defines love, but there is a problem with these definitions. These make it seem like love is conditional or based on some obligation. Our parents love us because we're their children and they brought us into the world; our children love us because we're their parents and we take care of them. Our love for our spouses can sometime be conditional, as well, based on how they make us feel or what they do for us. I heard another pastor wisely say one time that he saw a challenge to list out the reasons he loved his wife. He sat down with his blank sheet of paper, ready to write. He began to think about all the things he loved about his wife-- that she was beautiful, that she was sweet and caring, that she was a good mother to their children, etc, but he realized that these were all things that were conditional. He finally wrote down one simple sentence. I love my wife because I choose to love her. He had begun to understand that true love was something different, something more.

When scripture tells us in 1 John that God is love, what does that mean? It means that God defines what love is, not in the same way the dictionary defines something, but it means that God is the very definition of love. When we look at Him, we see love. This is most evident when we look at Jesus, as He was God in the flesh. Jesus gave up the luxuries of heaven to be born into this messy, sinful world to a humble, poor family.

He faced all the trials and struggles that we as humans face. He showed compassion for those around Him and healed the sick, fed the hungry, and set the captive (us) free. He taught us what true love was and then went to the cross to be the sacrifice for our sin to prove that love. If we want to know what true love is, that's where we start.

One thing we learn from Jesus is that true love isn't conditional. True love loves even the seemingly unlovable. There are times when I know that I'm not so lovable and I know my wife can attest to that. None of us deserve the love of God, but God loves us anyway. Scripture says in Romans 5:8 that "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." God's love for us doesn't depend on us, but on the faithfulness of God. We can trust in His love, because we can trust in Him. God will never turn His back on us or stop loving us, even when we don't love Him back.

That is the kind of love that we need to seek to show to others in our own lives. We need to love others not because of who they are, what they can do for us, or even if they deserve it. We need to love them because of who we are and who God has called us to be. The 2 greatest commandments are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt 22). This is not something that we can do on our own, but only by His example and through His power. He will give us His grace to help us love others and give of ourselves for them, even when they can't give anything in return. May we learn from the love of God in loving our families, our friends, and everyone we come into contact with. I pray you experience the love of God in very real ways this month and always.

Your servant brother in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dustin D. James". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Pastor Dustin D. James

Vacation Bible School

Plans for VBS this summer are underway with strong leadership in place! Watch for more information. If you are interested in helping, you will have much joy in participating. just contact Martha and you will be most welcome.

February Birthdays

1st Joannie
Wilson
Michael
Chatfield
4th Paul Crews
6th Brenda Moss
9th Alan Wilson
14th Jonah Sykes
Bonnie
15th Mitchell
16th Ashlea Fields
17th Linda Williams
18th Megan Warren
23rd Violet Sykes
Odell
24th Creekmuir
27th Greg Martin
Jeannie Jester
28th Phil Hundley
Dillon Williams

Up Coming Events in March

9th Souper Bowl Sunday Luncheon
12th Lenten Service w/Lunch at 12:00 pm
16th Spaghetti Lunch for Methodist Home for
Children
17th Friendship Circle at 7:00 pm
18th Newsletter Deadline for March
19th Lenten Service w/Lunch at 12:00 pm
26th Lenten Service w/Lunch at 12:00 pm
27th Methodist Men at 6:00 pm.
Every Tuesday night at 6 pm is Prayer meeting in the
Prayer Room
Every Wednesday night at 6 pm Bible Study
Pastors Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 1:00 pm.

Methodist Women

Friendship Circle

The women of the church continue to be very busy. The January stew and bake sale were very well attended. There was a lot of help for both events to make them a success.

Friendship Circle is preparing for the spaghetti lunch which will be held on Sunday, February 16, following the worship service. As in the past, proceeds will benefit the Methodist Home for Children. The cost is donation only and take-outs will be available for those who are unable to stay.

Planning is also underway for the ladies' spring lunch. This year, anyone interested in the work we are helping with in Guatemala is invited. We have heard a report but are excited to watch the video. The luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, March 22. We will eat at 11:30 with the program to follow.

We are also excited to be looking forward to a craft day (or two!) this summer. We have someone who has agreed to help us make tabletop Christmas trees for the fall festival. We will set that day later. Anyone who would like to join us, watch for more details.

The next stew and bake sale is Saturday, March 8. Yum!

HEBRON COMMUNITY CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Sunday, November 10, 2024

Present:

Pastor Dustin James	Jay Wilson	Bob Swanson	Ben Boney
Betty Boney	Pat Snipes	Buster Albright	Brenda Moss
Robin Sykes	Sue Creekmuir	Sandy Dixon	Margaret Lankford
Sammy Lankford	Martha Graham		

Dustin shared a devotion taken from “Renew My Heart” written by John Wesley and titled, “A More Glorious Ministry”. The devotion was based on 2 Corinthians 3:9. We are reminded that anything we do is done by God’s Holy Spirit. Following the devotion, Dustin offered a prayer for our work.

The minutes of the October meeting had previously been distributed and were approved on a Motion by Bob and Betty with a second by Brenda.

A question was raised regarding the monetary gifts and love-offering given during the Christmas season. It was decided that information would be placed in the bulletin beginning Sunday, November 24, notifying the congregation money would be collected for the love-offering. The monetary gifts for staff members and the love-offering for Dustin will be presented on Sunday, December 15, during the morning worship service.

FINANCE

The income for October was \$12,000. The expenditure was \$11,051. This calculation does not include proceeds from the Fall Festival. The net proceeds from the festival were \$7,437 after 10% was sent to Samaritan’s Purse, as agreed at the October meeting. When the festival proceeds are added in, we are projected to have a plus balance of \$80 for the end of the year. This would be a good beginning to 2025.

The 2025 budget will be discussed later in the meeting but was set without consideration for a change from heating oil to gas. There is no estimate as to when any work on the pipeline might begin.

TRUSTEES

There was a recent issue with the sewer line at the church. Paper towels were clogging the line. An electric hand dryer will be installed in the handicapped accessible bathroom and the paper towel dispenser will be removed. This bathroom is apparently where the towels were disposed of, and the hand dryer should remedy the problem.

All the water-stained and mismatched ceiling tiles have been replaced. Where there were any signs of the roof leaking, the holes were repaired. Sammy will have the roof checked and will work toward having the roof replaced. The roof will need to be replaced within 5-10 years.

Cleaning of all the windows has begun. This is quite an undertaking. A commercial window replacement company will be contacted regarding the cost of installing energy-efficient windows throughout the facilities. They will be asked about replacing the windows a few at a time rather than replacing them all at one time. This will help tremendously with our heating and air expenses as will the installation of the gas line.

The insulation has been looked at and needs to be replaced but will be extremely expensive. Other areas are being investigated for needed repair or to help with efficiency. Replacing the boiler is number one in importance in reducing expenses. After over 6 months of discussion with the gas company, we still have not received an estimate. We will wait for Edwin, at the new self-storage facility on Mebane Oaks Rd., before beginning any work. Edwin will have units which require gas. Hopefully, this will reduce the cost of installation for us.

The one window in the Hut which faces the cemetery will soon be replaced.

SPRC

The job descriptions have been completed and written. Brenda asked if we would keep the current cleaning company or replace them and who would be responsible for monitoring the work. Following discussion, Martha made a motion to form a new housekeeping committee which would oversee monitoring the work done and any change in the company or the people responsible for the cleaning. The committee will consist of three members who will be Jay, Robin and Buster. The committee is named The Housekeeping Committee. Sue seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

NOMINATIONS

The list of the leadership teams for 2025 was distributed and approved. A final list will be made available which will include The Housekeeping Committee.

WORSHIP

There is nothing to report for October. Plans are in place for our Charge Conference and the community Thanksgiving service. Richie will be asked to function as our Santa for our congregation Christmas service and dinner.

One of the Welcome signs located at the street is tattered and will be removed.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

We are still encouraging everyone to fill a shoebox Christmas gift box. We are behind last year's numbers and need to remind everyone to bring the boxes in time for delivery. The delivery date has been extended to November 24.

There is nothing to report for Helping Hands. Bob delivered a Sunshine Gift Basket to Bruce Mullis in October. Bruce was very appreciative of the gifts and the visit. The Ride Mission is functioning and being of service.

The Angel Tree for Alamance County will be set up beginning Sunday, December 1. We were asked if we want to continue to provide gifts for Alamance County this year or direct gifts for distribution in the mountains for those affected by Helene. It was decided we would serve a local family.

METHODIST MEN

The men elected officers for 2025. They are Chairperson, Bob Swanson; Vice Chairperson, Johnny Greeson; Secretary, Jay Wilson; Treasurer, Ben Boney.

The next stew sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 23.

The men continue to support Piedmont Rescue Mission. There was a good turnout at the recent banquet.

METHODIST WOMEN

The women will sponsor a bake sale the morning of the men's stew sale.

A donation was made to a church in Guatemala we have been in contact with. The donation will help provide Christmas gifts similar to the Samaritan Purse shoebox Christmas gifts, for children in the area. The women voted to send \$600 and thanks to a special donation for the effort, an additional \$100 was sent.

PASTOR

Charge Conference is next Sunday, November 17. The format will be a worship service with communion. Corey will lead the service and will be assisted by Dustin. AnnGayle will play for the service. All leaders in the church were encouraged to attend and to also invite members of the congregation to attend. Nominations and Finance have been busy preparing the list of church leaders and the budget for 2025.

On Sunday, November 24, at 5:00 p.m., we will host a special Thanksgiving community service with our sister churches. The churches in the Burlington District GMC which comprise our Southern Circle are Bellemont, Hebron, New Beginnings, Phillips Chapel, Salem, Orange Chapel, and Breakthrough Community Church of God. We will share communion, and special music will be provided by folks from different churches. Following the service, we will join for a potluck dinner. Set-up for the dinner will follow the stew sale on Saturday. Additional fall decorations will be added for the occasion.

Dustin and Evelyn have been working on plans for a Friday night and Saturday morning in February to gather older youth and young adults for a time together. Topics which might be discussed would include love of God, loving ourselves and relationships and marriage.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025

After discussion, a motion was made by Sue and seconded by Martha to approve the 2025 budget, which includes a 3% pay increase for Dustin and for Cathy. The motion passed.

We will have no scheduled council meeting in December. Our next scheduled meeting will be Sunday, January 12, 2025.

There being no further business, we adjourned.

Respectively submitted,
Martha Graham

February 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Sunday School Worship / Communion	3 9-4 ALM	4 9-4 ALM 1 Pastors' Mtg. 6 Prayer Mtg.	5 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	6 9-4 ALM	7	8 4-9 Hut Reserved
9 Sunday School Worship	10 9-4 ALM	11 9-4 ALM 6 Prayer Mtg.	12 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	13 9-4 ALM	14	15 10 Set Up for Lunch
16 Sunday School Worship Spaghetti Lunch for MHC	17 9-4 ALM 7 Friendship Circle	18 9-4 ALM 1 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg.. Newsletter Deadline	19 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	20 9-4 ALM	21	22
23 Sunday School Worship	24 9-4 ALM	25 9-4 ALM 6 Prayer Mtg.	26 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	27 9-4 ALM 6 Methodist Men	28	1

Nursery Schedule

Greeters

Acolytes

February 2nd

Becca Bartlett & Marti Graham

Marleigh Lankford

February 9th

Betty Albright & Jenny Allred

Michael & Renee McPherson

Carlos Montejo

February 16th

Brenda Moss & Maddie Moss

Marti Graham

Peyton McBride

February 23rd

Robin Sykes & Betty Boney

Robin & Jr. Sykes

Annabelle Allred