Hebron Community Church

February 2026 Newsletter

February: Held by Love, Called Deeper

1 John 3:1a—"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

Here we are, already entering into our second month of 2026. February is a month that is often full of a variety of emotions, but it invites us to think about love—how we express it, how we receive it, and sometimes how deeply we long for it. In the middle of our busy schedules and full lives, I'm grateful for the invitation this month gives us to pause and remember a simple, grounding truth: that we are deeply and unconditionally loved by God.

God's love is not fragile or fleeting. It is not something we can earn when we get things right, nor is it taken away when we fall short. God loved us first, and that love was made visible in Jesus—God with us, walking among us, and remaining faithful even to the cross. His love meets us not only in moments of joy and celebration, but also in seasons of grief, uncertainty, and quiet endurance.

One of the promises that has continued to anchor my own faith is this: God does not love us from a distance. He is present with us. He walks with us. He remains with us. He has called us children! Wherever you find yourself right now—strong or weary, hopeful or unsure—you are not walking alone.

From that place of being loved and held by God, our life of discipleship begins.

The Core Values we've been exploring in worship and our Wednesday study are not expectations meant to weigh us down or some new program to try, but pathways that invite us deeper into life with Christ. They help shape who we are becoming together as a church—people who worship sincerely, love God and others generously, serve humbly, and live out our faith with courage and compassion. These values are not about doing more for God, but about allowing God's love to form us more fully.

Discipleship is a journey, and I'm mindful that no two journeys look the same. Yet each of us is invited to grow—to listen more closely for God's voice, to trust Him more deeply, and to take the next faithful step, even when the path feels uncertain. Jesus' invitation is both gentle and steady: *"Remain in my love"* (John 15:9). It is not a call rooted in pressure, but one grounded in grace.

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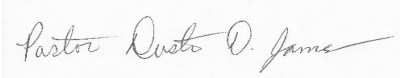
As we move through this month, my prayer is that we would rest in the assurance of God's love for us. And from that place of rest—not striving—may we continue to grow deeper as disciples of Jesus Christ.

May we be a church marked not by perfection, but by *presence;* not by busyness, but by *abiding;* and not by fear, but by *love*. God bless you as you abide in His love.

Your servant brother in Christ Jesus,



Pastor Dustin D. James

Methodist Women Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle met Monday, January 19, with a lot of business to discuss to begin the new year. The annual spaghetti lunch is scheduled for February 22, following our worship service. Proceeds will again be donated to the Methodist Home for Children. This has become a special service and lunch. Please mark your calendars.
All ladies of the church, we are planning our Spring Luncheon for Saturday, March 14. Watch for more details!
The men's last stew sale of the season is scheduled for Saturday, March 7. We will have a bake sale that same day and look forward to this time to not only work together but enjoy our time together.

Friendship Circle ladies have prepared a few "prayer squares" for any of you to take for yourself or to share with someone who might benefit from having one. A note of explanation is attached to each square 🙏🏻

February Birthdays

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

Up Coming Events in March

1st	Isaiah Café open 9:55 to 10:25 Quilt Hallway
	5 pm Roar Youth Meeting in the Hut
4th	12 pm Lenten Service
7th	Stew / Bake Sale
8th	3 Church Council / 5 pm Roar Youth Meeting
11th	12 pm Lenten Service
15th	11:30 k-5th Interest Mtg. / 5 pm Roar Youth
18th	12 pm Lenten Service
22nd	Spaghetti Lunch following Worship
	5 pm Roar Youth Meeting in the Hut
24th	Newsletter Deadline
26th	6 pm Methodist Men
29th	5 pm Roar Youth Meeting in the Hut

Every Tuesday night at 6 pm is Prayer meeting in the Prayer Room
Every Wednesday night at 6 pm Bible Study
Pastors Meeting every Tuesday at 10:00 am.

HEBRON COMMUNITY CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Sunday, January 11, 2026

Present:

Pastor Dustin James	Jay Wilson	Lois Dixon	Chris Perera
Buster Albright	Ellen Williams	Bill Williams	Pat Snipes
Ben Boney	Betty Boney	Sammy Lankford	Jeff Sykes
Martha Graham			

Pastor Dustin began our meeting with prayer and a devotion which was based on 1st John 4:16. The message is God is love. He showed us how much He loves us by sending His only son. We just need to ask, seek, and knock.

The Minutes of the December meeting had been previously approved and were not read.

NOMINATIONS
A list of the leadership team for 2026 was distributed. Buster was elected Vice Chairperson of the Administrative Council.

SPRC
Ellen stated she spent time with Sandy Dixon, the previous chair of SPRC, and has received copies of the Minutes of their meetings along with any other information she will need to proceed as the new SPRC chairperson.

FINANCE
The finance report was reviewed. December gifts $19,432.74, December bills $21,670.36. The year-to-date difference for 2025 is -$19,292.22.

TRUSTEES
The trustees are aware there are several areas which will require repair or replacement in the future. We have an older building and these updates are inevitable. He also expressed appreciation, and others agreed, for the skilled workers in our congregation and their willingness to use their talents for the maintenance of our church property and grounds.

WORSHIP
The Worship Committee hasn't met in 2026, but Lois doesn't see a need for changes in the near future.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH
Angel Tree gifts were delivered to Ambraya Timmons, social worker at Garrett Elementary School. We had 3 families with a total of 6 children. Six gifts were selected for each child. In addition, Food Lion gift cards were given to the parents. Ambraya reported she appreciated all that Hebron did for these families and reported that the families were pleased and appreciated all the gifts as well.
Sunshine Baskets will continue to be delivered, starting this month. All gifts are collected in the flower closet, under the stairs, on the left side of the vestibule. Volunteers deliver the baskets and report on the responses of the recipients.
It is yet to be determined who will head up the Helping Hands Ministry beginning in 2026.
For the Ride Mission, Jay took Sam Chang to the airport today for Sam's trip to Taiwan.
Missions and Outreach programs and projects will be determined and scheduled at the Day Apart on January 31. Pat is encouraging everyone on the Missions and Outreach Committee to attend the Day Apart to voice suggestions, make recommendations and begin plans for the new year.

METHODIST MEN
Methodist men will resume meeting January 22, at 6:00.

METHODIST WOMEN

The Friendship Circle will meet Monday, January 19, to begin scheduling activities for 2026. The spaghetti lunch is already on the church calendar and information about that will be coming soon. The ladies will have a bake sale Saturday the 17th, along with the men's stew sale.

PASTOR

Area pastors met with our Bishop this past week in Goldsboro. The meetings went well and pastors were provided with material to help with Spirit-filled preaching and getting us back to who we are and what we are supposed to be about. The CORE values study began this past Wednesday in our church. Dustin encouraged any who were unable to attend this past week to be at the next meeting Wednesday the 14th. On February 23rd through the 25th, ILI (International Leadership Institute) training will be held in our church. It is being sponsored by pastors and some laity in our Southern Circle and will include participants from churches throughout our district. Dustin has attended two of these sessions and felt truly blessed. This is an in-depth training, and all our church members are invited to attend.
Lenten lunches and services are being planned and will be like what we did last year. It is hoped our Bishop will be able to join us one Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is February 18. This will be our first Lenten lunch. On Wednesday, the 25th, while the ILI training is in session, participants will join in the Lenten lunch and then return to the training.

Our next scheduled meeting will be Sunday, February 9, directly following the Souper Bowl Lunch.

There being no further business, we adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Martha Graham

February 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School Worship Communion 2 pm VBS 5 Roar Youth	2 9-4 ALM	3 9-4 ALM 10 am Pastos Mtg. 6 Prayer Mtg.	4 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	5 9-4 ALM	6 Set up for luncheon	7
8 Sunday School Worship Souper Bowl Lunch /Church Council mtg. 5 pm Roar Youth	9 9-4 ALM	10 9-4 ALM 10 am Pastors Mtg. 6 Prayer Mtg.	11 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	12 9-4 ALM	13	14 BBQ sale
15 Sunday School Worship 11:30 Youth Interest 5 Roar Youth	16 9-4 ALM 7 Friendship Circle	17 9-4 ALM 10 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg. Newsletter Deadline	18 9-4 ALM 12 Lenten Service 6 Bible Study	19 9-4 ALM	20	21 10 am lunch set up
22 Sunday School Worship Spaghetti Lunch 5 Roar Youth	23 9-4 ALM ILI Training / Hut and Upstairs	24 9-4 ALM ILI Training / Hut and Upstairs 10 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg.	25 9-4 ALM ILI Training / Hut and Upstairs 12 Lenten Service 6 Bible Study	26 9-4 ALM 6 Methodist Men	27	28

	Nursery Schedule / Children's Church	Greeters	Acolytes
February 1st	Robin Sykes/Markie Roberts Carolyn Wilson/Jame Avery		Carlos Montejo
February 8th	Joannie Wilson/ Betty Albright Chris Perera / Sylvia Price	Bob Swanson	Annabelle Allred
February 15th	Betty Boney / Pat Snipes Jenny Allred / Rachel Lankford	Joannie Wilson	Marleigh Lankford
February 22nd	Marti Graham / Jay Wilson No Children's Church		Carlos Montejo

February 1st Isaiah Café will be open from 9:55 am until 10:25 am with small pastries and juices available in the Quilt Hallway.