



**IT TAKES GRACE**

**GREAT BANQUET TEAM MEETINGS ARE STARTING UP!**

The Spring season of Great Banquets is right around the corner. Team meetings begin this month. Be sure to hold all these weekends in prayer. If you are interested in attending a Great Banquet, please call the office [270.821.6420] so we can hook you up with a sponsor.

**Hopkins County Jail (Men) #22:** March 3-6

**Muhlenberg County Jail (Women) #9:** March 10-13

**YES Boys:** March 11-13

**Chrysalis #54:** March 18-20

**Men's Great Banquet #171:** April 14-17

**Green River Correctional Center #11:** April 21-24

**Women's Great Banquet #172:** April 28-May 1

**Women's Great Banquet #173:** May 12-15

**West Kentucky Correctional Center:** May 20-22

So, how are you doing on your New Year resolutions? Hmm...

Didn't make any? Me either. I'm a chicken, too.

Seriously, whether we've announced it or not, whether we've put it in our Dear Diaries or not, you and I know that sometimes we need a fresh start. Don't we? Maybe it's to experience victory over a particular struggle, to make an upgrade in our career, to revive our marriages...somewhere most of us have something to work on – and if you don't, you need to be teaching a class to the rest of us.

Maybe we can learn something from Peter the Apostle. He certainly came to the place where he needed a fresh start. Luke 22 tells us that after Jesus was arrested, Peter was warming himself by a fire, and he denied even knowing Jesus...three times! Jesus turned and looked him squarely in the eye. Can you imagine Peter's shame and humiliation? He left and wept bitterly. Can you imagine carrying the weight of that night on your shoulders?

But Jesus had made plans for Peter's fresh start. It began at the empty tomb

three days later, when the angel told the women, "He has risen! He is not here...Go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see Him there, just as He told you.'" [Mark 16:6-7]

Did you catch that? "Tell His disciples...and Peter." Makes you wonder if the angel knew that Peter didn't feel much like one of the apostles at that point. "Make sure you tell Peter, because he's wondering if Jesus still loves him."

Later, in John 21, Peter went down to Galilee with some of the disciples and fished all night. At sunrise, they looked out and saw Jesus on the beach. Jesus yelled out to them, "Try fishing on the right side of the boat!" So they did, and 153 fish filled their net.

Peter couldn't stand it. He jumped overboard and swam to Jesus – notice he didn't try walking on the water this time. Jesus had a campfire set up and ready. Do you think maybe the smell of the fire reminded Peter of his last fireside failure? Three times he had denied Jesus; now three times Jesus asked, "Peter, do you love me?"

Maybe it was so Peter could say, "Yes!" I'd call that a fresh start – with amazing grace!

I'm guessing Jesus is still, even today, wanting to give you and me a fresh start, too. That's how much Jesus loves the body of Christ. He's done everything necessary for us to be radically different. It's a simple trade: You give Him your disappointments and sin, and He gives you His life in abundance.

It's just February, but I'm guessing we all could use a fresh start of some kind. Remember the grace and love and sacrifice of Christ, especially as we begin this Lenten season. Take advantage of what's going on at church to help fulfill your own fresh start -- Sunday School, Lenten worship focused on unity, Bible Studies, children and youth activity, Marriage Enrichment, Ash Wednesday. Isn't it time?

RevLon

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CLASSES...**

Will begin Sunday, Feb. 7. The free seven week series will be led this year by Lon and Pat Lorton. There will be no charge for the classes. We're hoping to see a lot of couples take part in this maintenance/tune-up program. We'll be utilizing a video series by Pastor James MacDonald of Harvest Bible Chapel in Elgin, Illinois. We'll meet in the fellowship hall to view the videos and enjoy conversation around the table.

February 7: Principles of a Great Marriage

February 14: Marriage and Communication

February 21: Marriage and Conflict

February 28: Marriage and Roles: The Wife

March 6: Marriage and Roles: The Husband

March 13: Marriage and Finances

March 20: Marriage and Parenting

For our first class, we will not try to compete with the Super bowl. We'll stay after worship and share pizza and salad, ending the program with an hour and a half.

All other classes will begin at 5:00PM with a light supper and finish by 6:30PM. You can call the church office or Lon and Pat to let us know of your interest.

**LADIES!**

Reorganizing the former Girl-friends' Night Out!

We need your ideas! Please come to an organization meeting on Tuesday, February 16, at 7PM in the fellowship hall.

## “LOVE”

We are approaching a month that is filled with the sweetness of love. Valentine's Day is a day that people purchase cards, chocolates and flowers for one another. About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. This makes it the second largest seasonal card sending time of the year. More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day. Over \$1 billion worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day in the U.S. 189 million stems of roses are sold in the U.S. on Valentine's Day. 73 percent of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.

Most folks don't know the story of St. Valentine. But he was a saint that was imprisoned for performing weddings for Roman soldiers. Why would someone be imprisoned and ultimately executed for doing this? Because the Roman emperor at this time didn't want his soldiers married which he believed would affect their loyalty to him and their willingness to fight. Rumor has it, that before St. Valentine was executed he penned a note to the jailor's daughter and signed it Your Valentine. You can fact check me on this of course but it's interesting that this holiday of giving and focus on loved ones had its origin in the pursuit of protecting and promoting the framework of the family, a husband and wife.

Family has an amazing impact on the path of our society and culture. As the family goes so goes everything else it seems. When God created man and then woman, Adam and Eve, He did it with the intent of being the

community and foundation from which all humanity would have as its beginning. Filled with sin and pretty dysfunctional from the beginning it still has the potential to emulate holiness filled with love. I know that this world is imperfect and I know that we are imperfect people but that doesn't excuse us from seeing a perfect plan in God's grace. The amazing fact about being married to the love of your life is that you are in a place to give and receive grace on a regular basis. True love doesn't hold grudges or demand it's own way. It's not rude and it's never ending. You know where this is going right?

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 So let's love one another with genuine love and know that we have received perfect love in Christ Jesus. Be gracious and generous and don't let evil conquer you but overcome evil by loving, even those that don't love you back. That's what Jesus did and He gives us the same power to accomplish His will! May your life glorify the One who gives you life! God is good all the time and all the time God is good! In Christ's Love, Rob

Romans 12



YOUTH NEWS: February 10<sup>th</sup> is our annual Ash Wednesday Soup & Sandwich youth fundraiser. Please come out and support our students and all the things they do in pursuing and learning the Way of Jesus. And please make sure to stay for our worship service immediately following the meal at 6.

February 28<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 at First United Methodist Church will be a seminar for parents and grandparents. The founder of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding Walt Mueller will lead us this series called “No Parent Left Behind” with sessions focused on “know your teen”, “Know their world” and “Know your role”. This is a multi-church event that FUMC is hosting and it's free. So please make sure to make it a priority to hear, learn and contribute to the gift of raising kids.

## FROM THE INSIDE

John 6: 40-48

Jesus is teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum to the people that he is the bread of life. Jesus has come to give life but the people have come to have their bellies filled. They have come to Jesus for what he will do for them not because of who Jesus is. They do not recognize their spiritual hunger and are blind to the offer Jesus is making. Jesus has made a tremendous statement and an amazing offer. “Everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” Whoever will come to Jesus will never be cast out, and will not be lost. The Jews have a problem with what Jesus is telling them. Jesus has proven that he has come from heaven by the miracles he has performed, but that is not their concern. They want their flesh satisfied. Jesus tells them “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me

draws him. And I will raise him on the last day.” This declaration is similar to the statement “All that the Father gives me will come to me.” No one can come to the Father unless the Father draws that person. This is an important doctrine statement. The Father must call you. The Father must draw you. No one woke up one day and said that he was going to come to Jesus on his own power or desire. How did you get your faith? You came to faith by hearing the word of Christ. This is what Jesus is telling these people. The reason you do not come to me is because the Father has not drawn you. Jesus is not declaring some sort of arbitrary predestination here. Jesus is telling them that the reason they do not come to him as the bread of life is because they have not been taught by God the Father. If they knew the scriptures then they would come to Jesus. Faith does not come any other way. You do not come to eternal life by looking at nature. You do not come by meditating in silence. You do not

come by coming up with your own plans from your own heart. No one comes to Christ unless the Father draws him. If you never hear the scriptures, you will never come to Jesus because that is the only way to know Jesus. There is no other way. God is calling people and drawing people to Christ through the living word. Without God's revelation, no one could come to Christ for eternal life. How were you born again? How did you experience this new life and new birth? It is through the living and abiding word of God. This word, which is the gospel, is what was preached to them so they would be born again. I plead with you today to open the word of God and let God draw you to Jesus so that he can be the bread of life and give you eternal life today!

On the Inside, with Brent Kercheville, Pete.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

	4th	Burl Milligan	20th	Jim & Janet Agin (A)
	7th	Bettye Riddle	21st	Josh & Holly Pohlman (A)
	11th	Joe Phelan	22nd	Serenity Agin
	14th	Charlie & Shirley Hoskins (A)	23rd	Glori Cope
	17th	Lyndi Bryan	24th	Stuart Sherrell
	18th	Maggie Pierce	25th	Folmer Starr
	19th	Susanna Lee	28th	Nancy Franklin

Grapevine School Staff Ministry—  
For the month of February we will be providing valentine candy for grapevine school. If you will bring individually wrapped candy (either bought or homemade) to the church by Sunday, February 7th we will have them in plenty of time to take to Grapevine on February 9th. Thank you so much for the continued support that you are giving to this important ministry.

# February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:30 AM Norma Siria Circle 6PM GB Bd Mtg	2  7PM Session Mtg	3 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6
7 Marriage Class right after service	8	9 Presbytery Mtg Highland Church	10  5:15 Youth Fundraiser 6:00 Worship Service 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13
14  5PM Marriage Class	15  7PM GB Team Mtgs	16	17 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Woodlawn Movie 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 5PM Marriage Class	22 7PM GB Team Mtgs	23	24 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27
28 5PM Marriage Class	29 7PM GB Team Mtgs					

## FOUL WEATHER NOTICE

We've already missed a Sunday morning and Wednesday night because of winter weather. Hopefully, there won't be any more. Realistically, though, we need to be prepared in knowing how to find out if we'll have worship or other church activities. So, here's the plan:

1. Any weekday activities will be in line with the school notices. If they cancel due to bad weather you will know that we will not be meeting either.

2. For other activities, primarily Sundays, you will have several options:

- A. Check the church website at new-fpc.com
- B. Check the Facebook postings.
- C. If you are on our prayer lines, we'll send information out by e-mail and text.
- D. Elders will be contacting their shepherd list to pass along closings.
- E. We will also try to get a message on the church phone answering machine.

## LENTEN SEASON IS HERE

**Our Lenten Season begins February 10 with our Ash Wednesday worship service at about 6:00PM, following the youth fundraiser supper at 5:15.**

**The focus of Lent this year will be unity – in Christ and within His body, the church.**

**Rob and Lon will be preaching a series titled "One – One Hope, One Truth, One Way," referencing the movie *Woodlawn* throughout. We plan to show the movie on Wednesday night, February 17, following our Fellowship Meal at 5:15.**

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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