



FPC Tidings

FEBRUARY 2022

Inside this issue:

From Psalm 38	2
Beyond Candy Hearts and...	2
Faith's role in Love	3
December Finances	3
February Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
February Calendar	4

“Though He slay me, yet I will trust in Him”

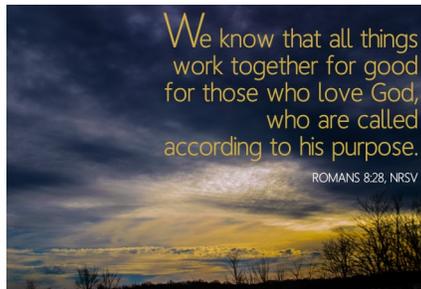
Job 13:15

Many of you, perhaps, struggle now and again discerning God's permission versus his determination in life's defining circumstances. There are simply some things on earth we will not understand. Issac Watts texts in his vintage hymn, “When I Can Read My Title Clear”, “Let cares, like a wild deluge come, and storms of sorrow fall! May I but safely reach my home.” We need not wait for heaven, however, to realize God's resolve. He loves us unconditionally and is in control. “We know all things work together for good to those who are called according to His purpose” Romans 8:28. Jesus said, “I came that they

might have life, and that they may have life more abundantly” John 10:10. That promised abundant life is now. So you may ask, how do we account for the calamity of covid and the devastating disaster of a few weeks ago. There are those among us who have encountered unspeakable loss and sorrow. All things work together for good? Abundant life? No one desires or welcomes suffering, but if we are to become like Christ, can we expect to escape affliction? Faith becomes owned through adversity.

“Weeping may tarry for the night but joy comes with the morning.

Psalms 30:5



Special Dates of Interest:

- African American History Month
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2022*
- Presidents Day, *February 21, 2022*
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 27, 2022*

God of love—for, with, and in us

An ancient heresy – that the God of the Old Testament was a God of judgment and wrath, while the God of the New Testament is a God of grace and love – still persists a bit. Yet God is the same God, with the same characteristics, throughout time. Way back in Genesis 3, God graciously sewed garments to clothe humans, although they had disobeyed him. And even in the Gospels, God's anger was evident through Jesus'

response to temple moneychangers cheating the poor.

God always works for life and goodness in all things. Sometimes people misunderstand God's ways; sometimes God, like a human parent, uses “tough love.” Mick Brooks writes: “The Old Testament is God for us, the time of Christ is God with us, and the age of the Holy Spirit is God in us” (*Every Day With Jesus*, Sept/Oct 2020). That may be a bit

simplistic, but it's a good reminder that while God's ways of interacting with us vary, he – the God of Love – does not.



From Psalm 38

A psalm of David. A petition.

LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

Your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down on me.

Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; there is no soundness in my bones because of my sin.

My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.

LORD, do not forsake me; do not be far from me, my God.

Come quickly to help me, my Lord and my Savior.

Many days I think like David, overwhelmed by the trials and tribulations of life. I wonder why, how, when, if, etc. Does God withhold his grace and mercy? No, he gives to all who give him their lives and dedicate themselves to serving him. I

find myself wanting to do more but I'm getting older. I don't have as much energy and strength as I once had. So, what to do? How about doing what I can physically, mentally, and emotionally and finally relying upon Him who is my salvation. I pray many times throughout the day asking God to remind me of his promise to be my Savior.

We have many opportunities to serve him in this humble house of God. We are helping the helpers by housing and feeding the volunteers who are aiding the communities ravaged by the December 10th tornado, we are continuing to help the Christian Food Bank and Breaking Bread feed the hungry, we have our peanut butter ministry continuing each month, we are raising donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb 13th, we are still praying and planning to go back to the Yuca

tan to provide clean water, and are serving fellow members of our congregation and community. If you have a need let us know. If you are compelled to help, call the church office (270.821.6420) or myself (270.339.8414), and we will get you linked to the coordinators of your specific request.

If you need a pastoral visit, someone to share a cup of coffee with, or a prayer need give me a call or come by the office. I'll have a set, but flexible schedule posted by the time you read this.

Love in the Holy Name of Christ,

Pete.



BEYOND CANDY HEARTS AND ROSES

The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underesti-

mate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1

John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine’s Day is as good a reminder as any.

Faith's role in Love

In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27, ESV).

But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. "I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then

all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more." That "more," she explains, involves these paradoxes: "We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand."

Even if God's purposes and plans don't make



sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon, "When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart."



DECEMBER FINANCES AT A GLANCE

		YTD	
Income	\$43,464.99	YTD Income	\$348,565.61
Expense	<u>-\$17,176.04</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$315,182.29</u>
Net	\$26,288.95	YTD Net	\$33,383.32
Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$16,991.99	Income	\$265,418.92
Expense	<u>-\$15,449.30</u>	Expense	<u>-\$248,511.15</u>
Net	\$1,542.69	Net	\$16,907.77
Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$26,473.00	Income	\$83,146.69
Expense	<u>-\$1,726.74</u>	Expense	<u>-\$66,671.14</u>
Net	\$24,746.26	Net	\$16,475.55
Operating Funds			
Beginning Balance	\$145,286.20		
Ending Balance	\$149,627.81		
Investment Account	\$210,041.97		

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 7th Bettye Riddle
- 17th Lyndi Bryan
- 19th Susanna Lee
- 20th Jim & Janet Agin (A)
- 22nd Serenity Agin
- 23rd Glori Cope
- 24th Stuart Sherrell
- 25th Folmer Starr
Tim Lester
- 28th Nancy Franklin

February 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<p><i>1</i></p> <p><i>1:30 Prayer/Bible Study</i></p> <p><i>6 PM Session Mtg</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p><i>5:15 Fellowship Meal</i></p> <p><i>6-6:30 "Bible Project"</i></p>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<p><i>6</i></p> <p><i>Communion Sunday</i></p>	<i>7</i>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p><i>1:30 Prayer/Bible Study</i></p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p><i>5:15 Fellowship Meal</i></p> <p><i>6-6:30 "Bible Project"</i></p>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<p><i>13</i></p> <p><i>Souper-Bowl Sunday—Chili Lunch</i></p>	<i>14</i>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p><i>1:30 Prayer/Bible Study</i></p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p><i>5:15 Fellowship Meal</i></p> <p><i>6-6:30 "Bible Project"</i></p>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i>		<p><i>22</i></p> <p><i>1:30 Prayer/Bible Study</i></p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p><i>5:15 Fellowship Meal</i></p> <p><i>6-6:30 "Bible Project"</i></p>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>					