



The Mustard Seed

*"... If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed,
nothing shall be impossible to you."*

Matthew 17:20

The newsletter of The Hermitage Presbyterian Church, 421 Highland View Drive, Hermitage, TN 37076

Volume 48 No 8

FEBRUARY 2019

LES IS MORE

February is the month of love arrows and cupids, hearts and roses, lace and doilies. Do you remember decorating a shoe box in 2nd grade, Elmer's glue, glitter, and construction paper scraps? Remember how to fold two strips of paper together so that the hearts "boing" out on your box? Remember the puppy-love crush you had on Billy, or Abigail, or your teacher?

How did Valentine's Day start? According to the History Channel, there are at least three different saints named Valentine after whom the day is named. All three of these men were martyred in the days of the early church (first 300 years). They gave their lives for what they believed.

John tells us in his gospel, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13)." These three Valentines had great love.

Theirs was not the romantic love we usually associate with Valentine's Day. Theirs wasn't even a friendship kind of love expressed by 2nd graders as they put cards in shoeboxes – theirs was a love unconditional, giving, and sacrificing.

Agape love, unconditional love, isn't the kind of love that leads a couple to the wedding altar. But agape love IS the kind of love that leads a couple, 40 years later, to say to one another, "I love you," as they reach across the bedside and hold hands. Agape love, unconditional love, is the love Paul wrote about:

Love is patient and kind;
love is not jealous or boastful;
it is not arrogant or rude.
Love does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;

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it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.
Love bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

I pray that you come to know, through both giving and receiving, this agape love, and that you come to deeper fellowship with God who is the source of this love.

Yours in Christ,
Leslie

NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The Session held its regular Stated Meeting on January 20, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

Through the end of December, operating income is 3% behind budget for the year but regular giving is ahead of last year's giving by 3%. Operating expenses are favorable to budget by 7% for the year. The Session would like to thank the congregation for continuing to give faithfully to support the operation of the Church.

The Business Team presented a Child Safety Policy that was approved and will be implemented this year. The team also reported that a vendor was chosen for regular maintenance on the HVAC system and an electrician is being contacted to run a line for a heater in the women's restroom in the fellowship hall.

The MOE Team presented that Old Hickory Presbyterian Church made a donation of food to our church food closet. They would like to continue to do this and they will also send people in need to us for food. Nancy Provost is working with our young people to gauge interest in going to NaCoMe this summer. Scholarship money is needed and money from our Easter breakfast will go to this fund. A church rummage sale has also been scheduled for April 6 with proceeds going to the NaCoMe scholarship fund.

Sunday, February 3 will be Church "Souper" Bowl Sunday. The MOE Team is asking for donations of hearty soups, chicken & dumplings, beef stew and chili for the food bank.

Jennifer Bingham
Clerk of Session

WELCOME VISITORS

Charlie Dreyer

FLOWER CALENDAR

The following people have signed up to provide flowers in the sanctuary during worship for the month of February:

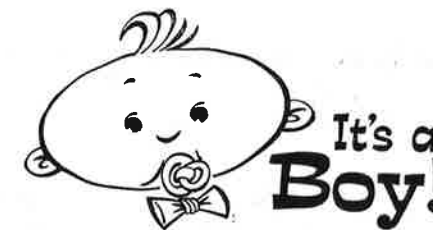
February 03 Sally Robertson
February 10 Open
February 17 Open
February 24 Karen Bengtson

You can place flowers or a plant in honor or in memory of someone or a special event. Please let the church office know what you would like to have printed in the bulletin.

LITURGIST NEEDED

We still need people to volunteer to serve as the liturgist during worship on Sunday mornings. This is a great opportunity for you to participate in worship and anyone can do this! All materials are provided so that you just have to read your part to lead worship. You can choose whether or not you want to lead the Children's Sermon; it is NOT a required part of the liturgist's responsibilities.

To volunteer, please reply to the church office, or contact Renee Dugger (lreneedugger@gmail.com).



Congratulations to Shelby and Jason Robertson at the birth of their son, Jensen Isaiah Robertson, on December 9, 2018. Sally and John Robertson are the proud grandparents.



We extend our prayers and sympathy to Cheryl and Mike Case and their family at the death of Cheryl's step mother, Helen Gregg.

SNACKS FOR TULIP GROVE ELEMENTARY

We are still collecting items to fill the snack bags that we provide for the children at Tulip Grove Elementary School. Items needed are juice boxes, fruit cups, chewy granola bars, pudding cups, fruit bars, and cheese crackers (no peanut butter please). **Place items in the box provided in the narthex.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2019</h1>						
					1 10:00 am - Food Closet	2
3 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Communion 1:15 pm - MOE & BT 2:00 pm - MTLA 7:00 pm - A.A.	4 10:00 am - Good Sam 11:00 am - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	5 7:00 pm - BSA Roundtable	6 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	7 10:00 am - Day Circle 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	8 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	9
10 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Noon - Fellowship Coffee 7:00 pm - A.A.	11 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	12 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	13 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	14 Valentine's Day 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	15 10:00 am - Food Closet 6:30 pm - Barbie Doll Club	16
17 9:45 am - Sunday School 1:00 pm - Session 7:00 pm - A.A.	18 PRESIDENTS DAY 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	19 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	20 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	21 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	22 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	23 Noon - 10:00 pm - Barnlofters
24 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 3 - 6 pm - Michael Bengtson Court of Honor Ceremony 7:00 pm - A.A.	25 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	26 11:30 am - Lunch Bunch, Olive Garden, Mt. Juliet 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	27 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	28 6:30 pm - Barnlofters		



- 01 Easton Morrison
- 11 Dawn Linn
- 13 Nathan Linn
- 14 Ann McGee
- 17 Ben Lemon
- 19 Sam Riggan
- 20 Cindy Fuller
- 21 Amy Alley
- Brad Carpenter
- 22 Anthony Phillips
- 28 Micaela Dominguez

In order to keep our birthday list accurate & up-to-date, let the office know of any corrections & additions.

FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- February 06 Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
- February 13 Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- February 20 Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
- February 27 Jeremiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

THANK YOU NOTES

- Thank you for your thoughtful Christmas gift of money. I'm thankful for the opportunity to be a part of worship at HPC. I always feel appreciated.
Amy Alley
- Thank you for another great year of serving and ministering at HPC. I appreciate the goodies from the ladies as well as the generous Christmas bonus. It is a blessing to work alongside this congregation, pastor and elders.
Edwina Ulmer
- Thank you for the Christmas bonus and basket of goodies! I am anxiously awaiting several years of fruitful presence together in and to our community. Thank you.
Leslie
- Thanks so much for the Christmas basket.
The Speers'
- Thank you for the special gift of the basket of "goodies." You are special and I miss seeing you every Sunday.
Johnnie Hunt
- Thank you for my gift basket. I could use every thing. I love my HPC church family. God bless you all.
Arlene Brown
- My heart-felt thanks for the lovely big red bowl filled with goodies. Thanks to the McFaddens for the beautiful red throw. Thanks to the Harnacks for lots of stamps, always needed. The HPC Youth Group were very generous with their contributions. Thanks to Margaret Cantrell and many others for your kindness, so appreciated.
Midge Missimer
- Thank you for remembering us at Christmas time. It was exciting and we thought of each of you as we opened each gift and greeting. Your love and caring remain a blessing to us.
Mildred and Tammy

FELLOWSHIP AND MORE

Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day and more! We hope to see signs of spring this month, and we hope you are holding up your resolution to become more involved in the life of your congregation and church family. The Bible Study Class is finishing the study of the book of Luke and will begin the book of Acts. The Literature Class is continuing "God of the Big Bang," a look at how religion and science can interact. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 for Luke or 9:45 for Big Bang. And join us for fellowship, food, and Bible study on Wednesday nights.

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27	Prepared Supper, 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, 6:45 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 7	Day Circle, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, Feb. 10	Fellowship Coffee following worship
Saturday, Feb. 16	Dinner Club, hosts Anderson, Bingham, Hausman/Douglas, Provost
Sunday, Feb. 17	Session, 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 26	Lunch Bunch, Olive Garden, Mt. Juliet, 11:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS, STUDY, AND YOUTH, 6:00 P.M.

Feb. 6	Chili & Baked Potatoes Hot Dogs Salad/Toppings Dessert	Feb. 13	Creamed Chicken & Veggies Biscuits Salad Dessert
Feb. 20	Lasagna Salad Garlic Bread Dessert	Feb. 27	Ham Apples Green Beans Salad/Rolls <u>Dessert</u>

DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CLOTHING MINISTRY

As you are cleaning out your closets and gathering items for the rummage sale, don't forget the ongoing needs of the homeless population that Downtown Presbyterian serves. HPC has partnered with them to provide used (clean) clothing, and new socks and underwear. The cold weather needs are: coats, gloves, hats, jackets, sweat shirts, sweat pants, jeans, long-sleeved shirts, shoes, and boots. Of course, they accept summer clothing items also because those will be needed in a few short months. This ministry is so important to the many struggling folks who depend on your donations, and the Downtown Presbyterian staff are so grateful for your generosity. Thank you, in advance, for your help.

FOOD CLOSET FOOD OF THE MONTH

Throughout the month of February, HPC will be collecting *boxed saltine crackers* for our Food Closet. We greatly appreciate your generosity, either by donating purchased food items or monetary donations that enable us to purchase needed supplies for the food closet. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you would like to help hand out food bags to those in need in our area.

DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR TO DATE

Regular Giving	\$	216,402
Operating Expenses	\$	194,151
Mission & Other		
Designated Giving	\$	15,417
Mission & Other Expense	\$	15,626
TOTAL ALL GIVING	\$	231,819
TOTAL ALL EXPENSE	\$	209,777

Jeff McCann, Sr.
Treasurer

MEMORY GARDEN BRICK ORDER

Those who are considering purchasing a memorial brick for our memory garden are encouraged to complete their order form(s) and return them to the church office, or to me by February 10, 2019. If you need help filling out an order form or have questions about what message you'd like to express in order to honor or memorialize someone, I will be glad to meet with you to help in anyway that I can. The bricks are a lasting and loving way to pay tribute to any person, family, or group that is meaningful to you – or to HPC.

Just a reminder that single (4x8) bricks are \$100.00, and doubles (8x8) are \$200.00: with all of the proceeds going to the beautification and/or maintenance of our campus. We are looking forward to getting our next order back in time to place the bricks before the spring reopening of the fountain. In fact, we are really looking forward to SPRING!

Thanks to everyone who has been supportive of this project in the past, and to all who will be adding your unique love gifts in the future.

Linda Douglas

MOE RUMMAGE SALE, APRIL 6

Do you have a Christmas gift you need to find a space for? Do you have some Christmas decorations you just don't need anymore? Have you started spring sorting and cleaning? If any of these or other suggestions apply to you, please save those items for the MOE Rummage Sale scheduled for April 6. It has been two years since our last successful Rummage Sale, and some of us already have a stack started for the next one! This is our chance.

The money raised from the sale will go toward the NaCoMe Youth Camp Scholarship Fund. Last year our congregation helped send two boys from the Wednesday Night Youth Group, completely paying for PJ Johnson. This year Junior Dominguez and PJ want to return, and they hope to take Trey with them. NaCoMe youth camps are such a life-changing opportunity for young people that we are honored to have a part in sending some of our youth. We hope you will help by donating items and shopping the sale on April 6.