

from front cover

their desire for a relationship. God does not leave anyone — single, in a relationship, or married — out of His unending love and grace.

1 John 4:8 says, “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

God is love itself. We wouldn’t have any conception of “love” at all if it weren’t for God, the definition of love. God is love and God is light; therefore, His love is a *holy* love. And His holiness is expressed in love. All that God *does* expresses all that God *is*. Even His judgments are measured out of love and mercy (Lam.3:22-23).

God is patient and kind. He keeps no record of wrongs. He always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. God’s love is a perfect love that no one on earth could ever emulate.

John 3:16 says this, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

God gave up His only Son for us. He gave us eternal life because of His great and unmatched love for each of us. God loves you so much. If you were the only one on earth, He still would have sent His Son for you.

So, during this upcoming Season of Lent and Valentine’s Day, remember to set your sights not on earthly relationships (which are important), but on the God above who loves far more fully and abundantly than we could ever imagine.

Reach out to God today and He will help you focus on His love during Lent and on that special Valentine’s Day.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Jim & Fran



First Baptist Church
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February 2024

The Herald

GOD’S LOVE IN THE LIGHT OF VALENTINE’S DAY

February is the month that brings us the Season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday. It also, brings us Valentine’s Day. Let’s begin with Ash Wednesday: It’s one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. For many Christians, it is a season of fasting and prayer. It takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday.



Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance (the repentance of our sins and a reminder to forgive those who sin against us) and fasting. Some Christians practice the wearing of ashes on the forehead. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine’s Day (Feb. 14). We often think of Valentine’s Day as the day for couples to show their love to one another, but rarely do we use the day to remind us of God’s unmatched love for us, His children. For many single people, Valentine’s Day can be a bitter reminder of

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Meal served at 11:30 A.M.

Both locations are handicap accessible

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14 ~ 11:30 A.M.

Held at North Benton Baptist Church
623 Joplin Street, Benton

Hosted by First Baptist Church, First Free Will Baptist Church,
and North Benton Baptist Church

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29 ~ 11:30 A.M.

Held at First Christian Church
302 South Main Street, Benton

Hosted by

First United Methodist Church and First Christian Church

Sponsored by Benton–West City Ministerial Alliance



Come join the fun and fellowship at **Sing 'n Share** on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 4 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Steve Meyer will share his testimony. Those with February birthdays will also be recognized!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Ken Whittington, co-chairman

- ❖ Discussion of the 2024 budget and the projected deficit due to the exhaustion of the Quillman Trust funds.
- ❖ Nominated Brad Berrong, Ken Whittington, and Steve Meyer to serve on the Trustee Board. Brad has also been nominated to serve on the Deacon Board.
- ❖ The Trustees will host the FBC Annual Meeting on January 24.
- ❖ Discussed various options for the repair of the Conference Room ceiling. The room is closed until the ceiling is repaired.
- ❖ Authorized moving \$10,000 from the Edward Jones Money Market to the US Bank checking account.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 7 Leon & Vicky Sanders | 15 Dorothea Sneed |
| 9 Henry Stickel | 22 Barb Lynch |
| 10 Cody Biggs Rogers | 24 Joyce Thompson |
| 11 David Williams | 27 Jane Dillon |



Dear Members of First Baptist Church:
Thank you so much for your generous donation of baby items! The moms and babies we serve here at Barnes Jewish Hospital are so appreciative!

Thank you!

BJH Women & Infant Social Work Team

THIS MONTH

Feb. 1	9:00 A.M.	Brown Bag Packing
Feb. 7	9:30 A.M. 4:00 P.M.	Ladies' Coffee at The Buzz Bible Study
Feb. 13	9:00 A.M.	Board of Trustees Meeting
Feb. 14	11:30 A.M.	Lenten Lunch held at North Benton Baptist Church <i>FBC members to bring desserts</i>
Feb. 16	10:00 A.M.	Ministry at Helia Healthcare
Feb. 21	4:00 P.M. 5:00 P.M.	Sing 'n Share Board of Deacons Meeting
Feb. 28	4:00 P.M.	Bible Study

WEEKLY

Sun.	9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Sunday School Worship Service
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Feb. Offering
Spaghetti Sauce

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

201 South Main Street ~ Benton, IL 62812
Phone: 618-438-7661
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Staff

Rev. Jim Jenkel, Pastor
Annette Campbell, Administrative Assistant
Danny Joplin, Maintenance/Custodian