

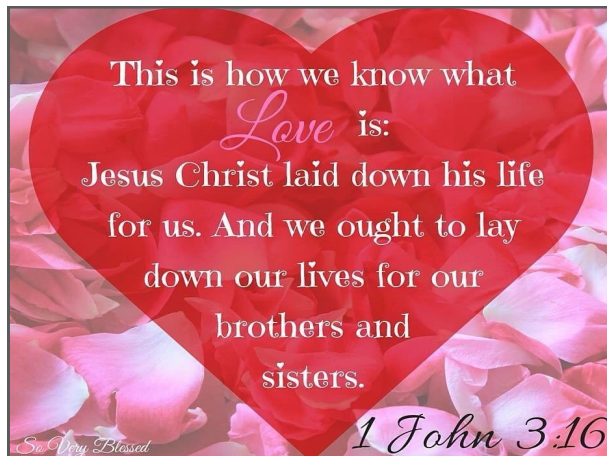
from front cover

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us” (1 John 4:11-12).

To love one another simply out of a sense of duty is good, but to love out of appreciation (rather than obligation) is even better. These two aspects of Christian love cannot be separated from one another: If we love God, we will love one another; and if we love one another, we will grow in our love for God. And both statements are true because **“God is Love.”** Hopefully and prayerfully, this “Valentine’s Day” will be the best yet!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Jim & Fran



First Baptist Church
201 South Main St.
Benton, IL 62812
618-438-7661

February 2025

The Herald

WHAT GOD DID

What is Love? “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7).



For centuries Valentine’s Day has been celebrated on February 14.

Originally, it was to honor Saint Valentine, a Christian martyr, and to celebrate love and romance.

Over the centuries, it has become a significant cultural and commercial celebration (much like Christmas) of romance between couples: presenting flowers, candy, and cards; expressing their love for one another.

Valentine’s Day, like most holidays, becomes an excuse to have another day to party, it seems. Therefore, we should be looking to God and what the word **LOVE** means to Him for us!

What did God do? **“He sent His Son.”** *At the cross*, God manifested His love when He gave His Son as a sacrifice there for our sins. The sending of Christ into the world and His death on the cross were not prompted by mankind’s love for God. They were prompted by His love for mankind. The world’s attitude toward God is anything but love!

continued inside





Come join the fun and fellowship at **Sing 'n Share** on Wednesday, **Feb. 19**, at 4 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Ken Whittington, chairman

- ❖ The 2025 Budget was approved by the Trustees for presentation to the Annual Business meeting.
- ❖ Changing the church garbage removal to Bulldog was approved. However, there were some contract issues with our present provider.

BRIEF NOTES

- ❖ Did you know that if you are age 70½ or older you can get a tax break by donating to your church directly from your traditional IRA? Talk with your tax advisor for details. Or visit www.irs.gov
- ❖ Giving statements for 2025 were mailed out in January.
- ❖ Food Pantry Hours: Tuesdays, 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. and Thursdays, 1 to 4 P.M.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|----------------|
| 7 | Leon & Vicky Sanders | 22 | Barb Lynch |
| 9 | Henry Stickel | 24 | Joyce Thompson |
| 11 | David Williams | 27 | Jane Dillon |



WHY MAKE BIBLE STUDY A PRIORITY?

Whether we realize it or not, we all search for meaning beyond ourselves. In the Word, we find our ultimate meaning in a Person, not a concept. Our goal in studying is to come closer and closer to the meaning God intends us to receive, and ultimately closer to Him. Scripture is the breath of God carrying the weight of who He is with its message, which means the more we interact with it, the more we personally engage with the Spirit himself. When we refuse to open God's Word, it is not just a rejection of a material book, it is a rejection of a relationship with God himself.

Make scripture study a priority for 2025. Grow deeper in your faith by attending our weekly Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall. We'll start on **March 12** at 10 A.M.



The Ministerial Alliance has again decided to hold two lunches during Lent. On Ash Wednesday, March 5, First United Methodist Church will host the lunch. First Christian Church will host the Good Friday lunch on April 18. Watch for details in the coming weeks.

THIS MONTH

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Feb. 5 | 9:30 A.M. | Ladies' Coffee |
| Feb. 6 | 9:00 A.M. | Brown Bag Packing |
| | 10:00 A.M. | Board of Trustees Meeting |
| Feb. 7 | 10:00 A.M. | Ministry at Heritage Woods |
| Feb. 19 | 4:00 P.M. | Sing 'n Share |
| | 5:00 P.M. | Board of Deacons Meeting |
| Feb. 21 | 10:00 A.M. | Ministry at Helia Healthcare |

WEEKLY

| | | |
|------|------------|-----------------|
| Sun. | 9:30 A.M. | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 A.M. | Worship Service |



Feb. Offering
Spaghetti Sauce

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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