



# COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



### From the Pen:

Valentine's Day brings good news because—whether single, married, divorced, separated, or any other sort of status—people can connect to the best kind of love, God's love. And Valentine's Day recognizes a holiday of taking time to show affection, to bring a little more meaning into everyday actions.

Instead of mentioning romance in 1 Corinthians 13, the great love chapter teaches about the love of God: agape love, everlasting love, unconditional love, unselfish love. God's love is wide open. His love is available to any people who will yield their hearts and lives to Him.

On one popular reality TV show, a single man meets several single women. As he gets to know them a little better, he eliminates the women he is not interested in. Sounds cruel, right? It is. But it's all done in the name of "love"—and entertainment. As the women on the show are publicly rejected, one by one, they feel awful. One woman expressed her hopelessness, saying, "If I could have opened myself up to him, I think, if he saw the real me, he would definitely reconsider." Another thought if she were more beautiful or charming, then he would have chosen her. "I tried, and it just wasn't enough," she said. In romance, many times, heartbreak comes before lasting love.

But God does not line people up, inspect them, and then reject the ones He doesn't like because that is not what real love does. Sometimes cultural expressions and ideas about love are so cheap that it's almost

impossible to fathom, in contrast, the wonderful extent of God's love.

The Bible confirms this, saying, "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

God knows people very well, and He loves us. He knows the strengths and weaknesses, the secret sins and personal joys. God desires to save us from ourselves. His love gives us a second chance, and really, more chances than we deserve.

Billy Graham says, "No matter what sin you have committed, no matter how dirty, shameful or terrible it may be, God loves you. You may be at the very gate of hell itself, but God loves you with an everlasting love."

The Bible teaches that God is love. In the language of mathematics, that means *God = love*. Unlike a lovesick admirer, God does not simply profess His love in words. God proves His love in action. The Bible says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Jesus Christ's sacrifice represents the ultimate act of love because it shows God's grace. Christ is not just a good person who did good things for people and then was willing to die for His actions. Christ died in order to bring people closer to God.

Billy Graham says, "The fact that God is love does not mean that everything is sweet, beautiful and happy and that God's love could

not possibly allow punishment for sin. God's holiness demands that all sin be punished, but God's love provided a plan of redemption and salvation for sinful people. God's love provided the cross of Jesus Christ by which we can have forgiveness and cleansing."

Besides, what good is it to die for someone if the act accomplishes nothing? Or if the motives are impure? The Bible says, "If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:3).

In speaking of love, 1 Corinthians 13 challenges people to do everything out of love, specifically the kind of love that God has shown through Jesus. Love is the motive. That means loving friends, enemies, neighbors, co-workers, spouses, children, parents, and even strangers with the merciful and selfless love that comes from God.

What a great challenge! There should be a holiday that celebrates love. Oh, and there is. But while Valentine's Day focuses, for the most part, on romantic love, people can be sure that there's so much more to that dreaded four-letter word. There's a lifetime of days to connect to God, the Source of love, who teaches us, by example, to love with patience, faith, generosity, wisdom, and grace.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NIV):** *1 If I speak in the tongues<sup>[a]</sup> of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,<sup>[b]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

*4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are*

*tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,<sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

*13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

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**Bereavement Support Group meets  
Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM** in the  
fellowship hall.



Our member, Stephanie Nalley, isn't always able to be with us, but we know she is here in spirit. We miss her beautiful voice and hope she can return soon. Hope you enjoy the pretty blanket. We love you, Stephanie. ♥

## CORNERSTONE

Hello from Cornerstone. We would like to thank everyone who participated in our soup, cake and bisque fundraiser. We appreciate all of your orders as well as extra donations. Like everything else, the cost of supplies has increased significantly, and we didn't want to pass that extra cost onto our normal sale prices. The delivery of the food had to be pushed back a week due to a scheduling conflict. The food will be ready for pick up on Sunday, February 12th. That day is also our 2nd Sunday luncheon. We would love to have you there.

Happy Valentine's Day to all! You may or may not know that Valentine's Day was created to honor St Valentine. Saint Valentine was a 3rd-century Roman saint, commemorated in Western Christianity on February 14 and in Eastern Orthodoxy on July 6. From the High Middle Ages, his Saints' Day has been associated with a tradition of courtly love. He is also a patron saint of Terni, epilepsy and beekeepers. Saint Valentine was a clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and his body buried at a Christian cemetery on the Via Flaminia on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine (Saint Valentine's Day) since at least the eighth century.

### *From Jan*

#### UMYF

The youth have had their 2023 planning meeting and are excited for the busy year ahead. The first big thing on our calendar is an Easter play. Mark your calendars for Palm Sunday evening at 6:00. Participating in this play will be the youth, children, and young adults. Stay tuned for more information!



Love to each of you. No matter what the weather, God's love warms our hearts. Let's put that love into action by praying for others. We are in such great need for a committed prayer team. Every ministry needs a team for support, activities, and prayer.

\*Next Sunday there will be an insert for you to complete indicating the area you are willing to do for your church. Please pray for yourself concerning this.

Please ask God what He wants you to do. The opportunities are:

**Card ministry** – information and supplies needed will be provided.

**Visitation** – group of two or three

**Planning events** – National Day of Prayer, our participation in VBS and other events, Prayer Services

**A team praying for families within the church** – A list of members will be made available & divided up for ones who are led to pray for others, not in public, and yet committed to pray at home.

**A team committed to pray for local, district, state, and national levels of the 'church'.** Information will be provided.

**A team committed to pray for missions and ministries, the pastor and family, and other church leaders.**

**You are not asked to pray in public.** When you select the area you are led to help with let me know & we will get together and I'll share prayer info you need.

Now that you know more about our prayer ministry needs please pray about this. It's been a lot for one to try to do. Your help is much appreciated.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18, Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.** 🙏🙌

**Birthdays**

**Anniversaries**

**Monthly Events**

**Scheduled Meetings**

**Weekly Events**

**CLC – Christian Life Center**

**FH – Fellowship Hall**

**S – Sanctuary**

**CW – Contemporary Worship**

**TW – Traditional Worship**

**2<sup>nd</sup> SL – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Luncheon**

**AB – Administrative Board**

**BSG – Bereavement Support**

**Group**

**CB – Cornerstone Band**

**DD – Dixie Doll Twirlers**

**JAM – Children’s Ministry**

**SL – Senior Luncheon**

**UMYF - Youth**

**YA – Young Adults**

February 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Terri Crawford	2 6 PM, CB, S	3 Wes Householder 7 PM, AA, FH	4 Bruce Bleil Jacob McGrew
5 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC YA, CLC	6 May Nell Holland 3 – 6 PM, DD, CLC	7 5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC	8	9 6 PM, CB, S	10 7 PM, AA, FH	11 All Day, CLC Cornerstone YA, CLC
12 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S 12 PM, 2 <sup>nd</sup> SL, FH 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC YA, CLC	13 Cole Foretich 3 – 6 PM, DD, CLC 6 PM, AB, FH	14 5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC	15 1 PM, BSG, FH	16 Robert Johnson Gregory Rushing 6 PM, CB, S	17 7 PM, AA, FH	18 AM, DD, CLC
19 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC YA, CLC	20 Beverly Jones Wayne Taylor Ginger Trochesset 3 – 6 PM, DD, CLC	21 5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC	22	23 Tim Ludlow Jimmy Wendling 6 PM, CB, S	24 Michael Dyer Cathy Walker 7 PM, AA, FH	25
26 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC YA, CLC	27 Emi Ramsey 3 – 6 PM, DD, CLC	28 5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC	Backpack Blessings 5 <sup>th</sup> – peanut butter 12 <sup>th</sup> – small cereal 19 <sup>th</sup> – chicken noodle soup 26 <sup>th</sup> – oatmeal/grits			