



# COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## *February 2026 Newsletter*



### **From the Pen of Bro. Len:**

This month we celebrate two important dates, **Valentine's Day** and **Ash Wednesday**. Oddly enough, they both have a connection in Jesus.

Valentine's Day, celebrated on February 14, originated as Saint Valentine's Day established by Pope Gelasius I to honor the "spirit" and/or the historical influence of a couple of servants of the Catholic Church who were martyred on this particular date in history. The one who has the "best" claim to Valentine's Day was a priest killed by Emperor Claudius II because he was performing secret marriages between the Roman soldiers and the women of the territory where they were stationed. The Claudius II thought it disloyal and a "tainting" of the Roman bloodline to allow these marriages. Valentine thought it his duty to marry these couples because he understood his duty to Christ and the Church as a duty to the LOVE of God and the LOVE of Christ who accepts everyone. Valentine's love of his people and love of Christ and the Church led to his death. After his death, on the anniversary of his martyrdom (Feb 14), the couples he married began to celebrate the LOVE of this servant of God for his people.

From a Christian perspective, Valentine's Day transcends romantic love, encompassing friendship, family and community. The Bible emphasizes love as a fundamental aspect of Faith with passages like 1 Corinthians 13 which describes the characteristics of "True" love as opposed to the "love" of the world. Celebrating Valentine's Day as a follower of Christ offers a couple of possible actions: 1) **Spiritual Reflection.** We could use this day to reflect on God's love and how to embody that love in daily interactions. We could also use this day to Pray and Meditate on the Scriptures.

2) **Acts of Kindness.** Inspired by Saint Valentine, his church and community engaged in acts of selfless kindness through service and through demonstrating the LOVE of Christ in actions and attitudes honoring the sacrifice of both Christ and Valentine. This encouraged/encourages building relationships and building a sense of community and connectedness.

Here are a couple of Scriptures to consider as you reflect upon the Love of Christ and our love towards one another. They show at least 3 characteristics of "true" love which is...

**Unconditional Self-Sacrifice & Enduring.** No matter the circumstances or behavior, "true" love remains steadfast. Romans 5:8 emphasizes this by showing that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This unconditional love serves as a model for how you can express love towards others, especially on Valentine's Day. This love persists through challenges, as seen in Romans 8:38-39, emphasizing that nothing can separate you from God's love. It prioritizes others' needs above your own. In Mark 12:30-31, Jesus states the greatest commandments: love God and love your neighbor. This dual commandment lays the foundation not just for romantic love, but also for all relationships. By embodying this love, you reflect the essence of Valentine's Day as it promotes compassionate connections.

May the Lord bless us as we live out His LOVE for us and others not just on Valentine's Day, but throughout this season of Lent and Easter.





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## CORNERSTONE

Hello from Cornerstone. Welcome to February! We hope you all have a wonderful Valentine's Day and enter prayerfully into the season of Lent beginning on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all so much for your food orders during our fundraiser in January. Food items will be ready for pick up on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> directly following the worship service. We will have a total amount raised after pick up is complete.

In the book **Before We Gather**, Zac Hicks writes this: [ Have you ever seen Chick-fil-A's customer training video? Fast-food training shouldn't make you cry, but this video kind of does. It pans through a restaurant in slow motion, pausing briefly over people who are ordering food or sitting at tables. Hovering next to these people are statements like, "Lost his job this week," "Years of fighting cancer," and "Single mom trying to make ends meet." The message is clear: everyone who walks through the door has a story. The purpose of the video is to foster in Chick-fil-A's employees an others-centered empathy so strong that it affects the way they treat the people they serve..... One of the unfortunate lies that the modern church has inadvertently spun for the watching world is that everyone who goes to church is happy all the time....Even if our church has a "come as you are" approach, we're still fairly put together. I wonder if Christians struggling with depression, doubt, and anxiety feel like worship isn't a context where that stuff gets addressed...or worse, that to struggle with those things shows that you aren't a real Christian? God's original Book of Common Prayer...the book of Psalms...doesn't buy into that kind of emotional exclusion. It's shocking just how often depression and anxiety fill the language of worship in the Psalms. ....The good news about worship is that God's objective for this gathering is to offer the very presence of the one who, because of his life, death, and resurrection, has the power to get under every worshiper's burden in a tangible way and say, "Let me carry that with you."...Of course, we're one community. But the truth is that each worshiper has a unique burden requiring Jesus to be present to them in a specific way. So let us be mindful of each other's burdens and pray that God would speak through the elements of worship with so much power and specificity that each person would find God speaking clearly and directly to them. ]

Psalm 42:1-2, NIV As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?



## Brothers and Sisters

We are God's children & what a blessing to be in His family! When we attend family gatherings, we experience love, fellowship, and joy. Do you look around the group and see someone is missing? A sense of sadness comes over us momentarily. We know they are missing out on connecting with family, love and encouragement they need. Love is not just a word. Love is an action word with meaning.

Brothers and Sisters, the same is true with our church family. Every week someone is missing from the group and would benefit greatly from hearing from their church family. There are many other empty seats also.

Our world is full of the '**lost**' who God wants to be part of His family. Someone cared enough to lead us to Christ. We should intentionally ask God to use us to do the same for others.

As we read and pray these scriptures this month let us insert someone's name for the Holy Spirit to reach out and touch their lives. ☺

**February - 1st - 7th:** Show kindness when witnessing. 2 Tim. 2:25-26

**February - 8th - 14th:** God desires all to be saved. 2 Peter 3:9

**February - 15th - 21st:** Lord, open their eyes. Acts 26:18

**February - 22nd - 28th** Ask the Holy Spirit to lead them to confess & believe.

Rom. 10:9-10

**With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. Mark 10:27**

## ~~~~~YOUTH~~~~~

The youth are working on their 2026 calendar. We have a couple of fund raisers coming up in the next few months so please stay tuned for those. We have a Super Bowl party on the 8th (with an alternative half-time show).

We want to thank *Cornerstone* for providing and sharing a meal for the youth and the leaders on January 25th. We appreciate them!

## !VBS SAVE THE DATE!

**VBS Will be June 24th-28<sup>th</sup>**

This year's theme is Stompers and Chompers Building Dino-Sized Faith in God's Big Plan

## SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Ms Carolyn asks that you please donate any leftover Mardi Gras beads to Shoeboxes. Just leave them in the shoebox room in the Fellowship Hall.  
**THANK YOU**

**While completing the statistic reports for the Mississippi Conference for 2025, we were so excited to report under missions that we touched about 1,239 lives with our mission work. Mission projects were: Backpack Blessings, Shoeboxes, Thanksgiving Bags, Birthday Party for Jesus and Rise with the Son (both for Seashore Mission), Nursing Home Gift Bags. 59 church members helped with 1 or more of these missions and made this all possible. In addition, there were many members who gave monetary donations and/or items. GREAT JOB CHURCH!!**

**1 John 3:17-18 NIV *If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.***

**Bro Len is pleased to announce that Karen Gardner has accepted the position of lay leader! We welcome her in this role and praise God for the answered prayer!**

**\*If you have any events to be placed on the 2026 church calendar, please e-mail or call the office. [Coalvilleumc@outlook.com](mailto:Coalvilleumc@outlook.com) 228-392-5970**

### **Women's Resource Center Conference Reproductive Loss Care and Advocacy Conference**

We invite you to build partnerships to help support those impacted by reproductive loss  
on

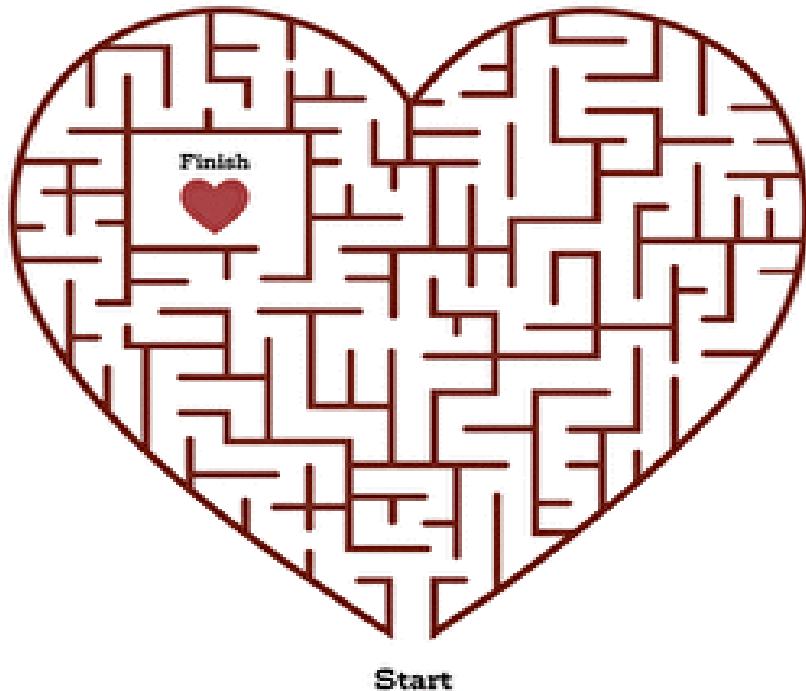
Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 5:00 pm  
at

Northwood Church Building 3  
14281 O'Neal Rd Gulfport, MS 39503

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Heart Maze

Help Cupid Cat get to the heart inside the maze!  
Draw a line from start to finish.



Start



**Anniversaries**  
**Birthday**  
**Monthly Events**  
**Scheduled Meetings**  
**Weekly Events**  
**CLC – Christian Life Center**  
**FH – Fellowship Hall**

**S – Sanctuary**  
**CW – Contemporary Worship**  
**TW – Traditional Worship**  
**AB – Administrative Board**  
**BG – BUNCO Group**  
**CB – Cornerstone Band**  
**CC – Cemetery Committee**

**DT – Daisy Troop**  
**FISH – Young Adults**  
**JAM – Children’s Ministry**  
**MT – Mission Team**  
**SL – Senior Luncheon**  
**UMYF - Youth**

**Backpack Blessings: 02/01 Ramen Noodles, 02/08 Ravioli, 02/15 Tuna, 02/22 Mac and Cheese**

February 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S  Terri Crawford, BD  <b>CORNERSTONE</b> Food orders Ready in the CLC  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	<b>2</b>  <b>Groundhog Day</b>	<b>3</b> 11:30 AM, SL High School Students at Cemetery for Research  Jean Shields, BD Wes Householder, BD 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	<b>4</b>  Bruce Bleil, BD Jacob McGrew, BD	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  May Nell Holland, BD  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S  Devry Cothren, BD  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  6 PM, AB, FH  5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6 PM, DT, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  12 – 3 PM, BG, FH	<b>13</b>  Cole Foretich, BD  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>14</b> <b>FELLOWSHIP</b> <b>HALL RESERVED</b> All Day  <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>
<b>15</b> 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	<b>16</b>  <b>Presidents' Day</b>	<b>17</b>  Gregory Rushing, II, BD  5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	<b>18</b>  ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 6 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Beverly Jones, BD Ginger Trochesset, BD Wayne Taylor, BD  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S  Michelle Winsor, BD  <b>FELLOWSHIP HALL</b> <b>RESERVED 12 to 5</b>  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Jimmy Wendling, BD Timothy Ludlow, BD  5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6 PM, DT, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Emily Ramsey, BD  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>28</b>  <b>CLC RESERVED</b> <b>YOUTH COOKING</b>

**February is Black History Month**