



# Dillsboro United Methodist Church



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One evening just before the great Broadway musical star, Mary Martin, was to go on stage in South Pacific, a note was handed to her. It was from Oscar Hammerstein, who at that moment was on his deathbed. The short note simply said:

Dear Mary,

A bell is not a bell till you ring it. A song's not a song till you sing it. Love in your heart is not put there to stay. Love is not love till you give it away."

Our gracious God fills our heart with love...but he doesn't put it there wanting it to stay there.

He gives us his unconditional love not to keep...but to give away to others. My prayer is that this St. Valentine's Day will be a true celebration of the love that God has for us...and may we all pass that love on to one another. Happy Valentine's Day!

*Love, Pastor Deb*



- Black History Month – February 1-28, 2025
- Groundhog Day – February 2, 2025
- Valentine's Day – February 14, 2025
- President's Day – February 17, 2025



February

# Bingo 2024



This is a continuation of the Bingo in Newsletter January. We didn't have the picture of the cake that was served and thought it definitely needed mentioned, along with the Antler horns!

To say the least we all have a wonderful time playing bingo, winning some great prizes but I think the best of each month is seeing our friends. But the root beer floats this month were very tasty also!!

Please consider coming to the Community Room at Village Apts every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. It is a great time for all!!



## Love makes us worthy

Unlike God, who loves unconditionally, humans often make choices and set limits when doling out affection. But Thomas Merton reminds us, "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy."

As for how to develop and maintain that type of love? Merton shares, "It is in deep solitude that I find the gentleness with which I can truly love my [neighbors]."





“Time”

Time is  
too slow for those who wait,  
too swift for those who fear,  
too long for those who grieve,  
too short for those who rejoice.  
But for those who love, time is eternity.



## Prayer for Presidents Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.



Remind us of the psalmist’s teaching: “Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled “from sea to shining sea.” Amen.

## The work of racial reconciliation

Racial reconciliation isn’t a new concept. Some 2,000 years ago, the apostle Philip recognized that a man from Ethiopia was just as worthy of baptism into the body of Christ as were the natives of Judea and Galilee.

In *Color-Courageous Discipleship*, Michelle T. Sanchez views racial reconciliation as a personal journey for the greater good. “Jesus seeks to bring about the kind of inner transformation we need to transform our world God’s way,” she writes. That echoes Martin Luther King Jr.’s statement: “Only through an inner spiritual transformation do we gain the strength to fight vigorously the evils of the world in a humble and loving spirit” (*Strength to Love*).



On Racial Reconciliation Sunday, observed the second Sunday of February, consider how you can address racial issues. Sanchez suggests simple steps such as starting a conversation with someone of another ethnicity or advocating for a friend. Consider how other people’s lives and challenges are different from yours. Pray for people of different races and cultures. Ponder how you can come alongside and walk with them — and they with you.

In God’s creative and thorough plan, he might transform your own life as you try to transform the world.

## True love



Many of us celebrate Valentine's Day in both fun and serious ways. Children exchange treats and humorous cards with classmates and friends; some bring home handmade cards for the adults in their lives. Romantic partners may go out to eat and present each other flowers, chocolate, a fancy card — maybe even an engagement ring!

As playful as Valentine's Day can be, it's also a great time to remember the serious side of love, as indicated by these quotes:

- "When you love someone, you love the whole person as he or she is, and not as you would like them to be." —Leo Tolstoy
- "You don't love someone because they're perfect; you love them in spite of the fact that they're not." —Jodi Picoult
- "Love ... is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. ... It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses." —Ann Landers

We can do the difficult work of true love — actions, not just feelings — only because God loved us first. He did (and does) so despite our imperfection, and in Jesus, God shows us how to share true love with others. This Valentine's Day, if you don't remember any other profound quotes, hold this one in your heart:

- "We love because God first loved us." —1 John 4:19 (NCV)

## Blue Christmas Service

A Very heart touching and powerful service – Passages received by Keith Alhands from St. Peters Church, Dorie Martz from Hopewell Presbyterian Church and our Pastor Deb Beason. Each one had their very own and they were from the heart and soul as well as scriptures. God's presence was surely there as they each spoke – Very Moving. One could feel the support of the Holy Spirit that would be with each of us though out the Holidays to remind us that we are not alone and we are only separated for a while from our loved ones.– Following the service there were refreshments, homemade cookies, hot chocolate, tea and coffee along with much fellowship, we were all blessed.



A special thanks to Teri Sweet, Pastor's sister, for giving us the beautiful white Christmas tree with hundreds of white lights. I must say it was beautiful. Each person was given a blue star to write what was most difficult in our lives that was creating a Blue Christmas for each of us. We then placed the star on the white Christmas tree, it was so moving, so spiritual. Then prayer was given over the blue stars. After the service we took our star home.

*Sincere thanks to everyone that made this special service! XOXOXO*



4 – Vicki Hon  
5 – Derek Rump  
8 - Mark Monroe  
10 – Jeffrey Eller  
10 – Maysn Norris  
11 -Charles Watson  
14 – George Betancourt  
(son)  
14 - Savannah  
Betancourt  
14 – Marion VanCleave  
17 - Kay Holtegel  
19 – Adam Dreihaus  
19 – Blake Dreihaus  
19 – Ken Grove  
22 – Ken Price  
24 – John Hughes  
27 – Ray Dozier  
28 – Daren Norris



*A lifetime of  
loving, caring, and sharing...*

14 – John & Marie Utter  
15 – Michael & Ginger Meyers



*Pray*  
You Never Stand  
Taller Than When You  
Are On Your Knees

Ted Thurber  
Amanda Van  
Jeff Taylor  
Joe Ryan  
Jaime Maltbie –  
Baby Hudson  
Marty and Vickie Hon  
Ray Kuebel  
Josh Vaisman



Remember the ones that are doing without

- **Proverbs 19:17:** "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed"



Valentine's Day isn't just for schoolchildren and sweethearts. Loving parents should strive to give their children these life-changing gifts during February and beyond.

- **Acceptance:** Say and show that you love children for who they are. Give this gift with a kiss.
- **Self-confidence:** Help boost kids' trust in themselves. Give this gift with a hug.
- **Peace:** Model how to give your worries to God. Offer this present with laughter.
- **Gratitude:** Help children be genuinely thankful for each new day and for all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.
- **Faith:** Introduce children to Jesus, the best friend they'll ever have. Do this by taking them to church and Sunday school regularly.

[illegible]

Note: A completed puzzle is in a file called puzzleb\_0622 on this month's CD and on the website, [www.NewsletterNewsletter.com](http://www.NewsletterNewsletter.com).

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

A place to live      

--	--	--	--	--

  
1   2   3   4   5

Opposite of dark      

--	--	--	--	--

  
6   7   8   9   10

Companion      

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
11 12 13 14 15 16

Hand greeting      


--	--	--	--

  
17 18 19 20

Male adult      

--	--	--

  
21 22 23



8   2   16   13   4   6   2   19   5

17   9   2   5   19   5   12   6   7   19   5   4

13   15   6   2   19   20   6   7   19   14   4

13   15   8   2   16   18   15   16

8   2   16   13   23   10   1   14   21

1 John 4:16, NIV

God, and God in them, is John 4:16, NIV

