

THE MESSENGER

February 2023



LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

Dear Ramsey Saints,

"God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." (1 John 4:9-10). February is the month of hearts, lace and Valentines. It is the month in which items related to hearts and love and warm, fuzzy sentiments are abundant. Red and pink are everywhere. All of this is a good thing. For those of us of wanting to live like Jesus did, it is a wonderful reminder of what we are to do and how we are to act. The verses from 1 John above continue with these words, "Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us." (1 John 4:11-12)

Is God's love being brought to full expression in us by us loving one another? Although cute Valentine cards, heart shaped mugs and flower vases, delicious chocolates and adorable stuffed animals are wonderful to give and to receive, true love is not the tangible things but are more the intangibles – acceptance, forgiveness, support, encouragement, forgiveness, kindness, mercy, forgiveness and compassion. In case you think I forgot to proof-read my letter, forgiveness shows up in the list 3 times because it is so core to true love. 1 John chapter 4 told us that in the verses with which I opened this letter; Jesus the sacrifice to take away our sin – the sacrifice to forgive us of our sins. This is the foundation for the forgiveness in love that we offer each other. Love can be hard at times.

Forgiveness can be hard at times. Support and encouragement can be hard sometimes. But we have received such love from God, and offer it in return to others. In February and all year long.

With transforming hope,

Claudia

From a Pastoral Corner

Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Ephesians 5:17

Most Christians seek to know what God's will is for our lives, especially when we have important decisions to make. Personally, I can say that it is not easy. But nevertheless, what does help me find the peace of God is:

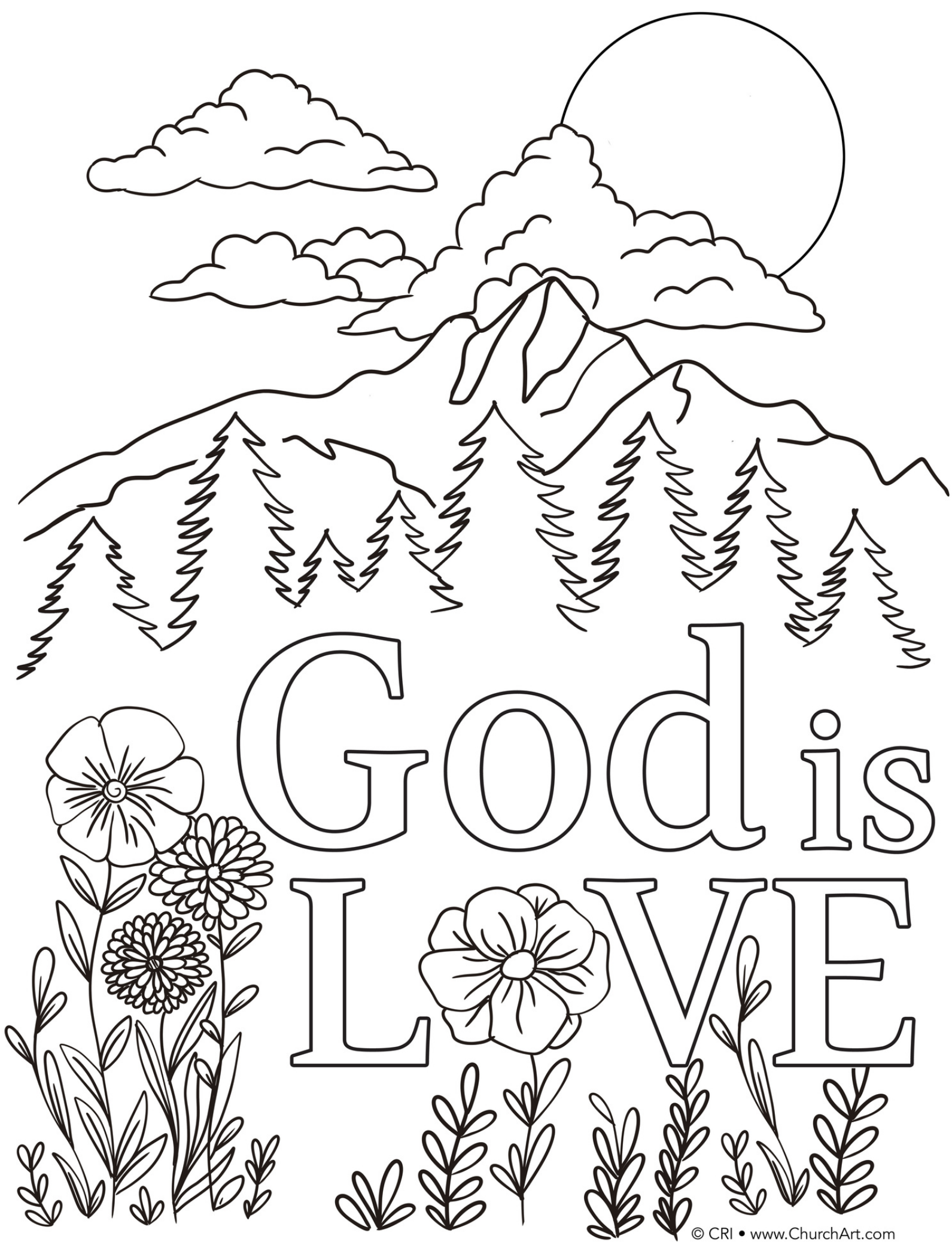
- Prayer
- Reading his word
- Meditate and reflect on the request that I have placed before the Lord.

James 5:16 "The fervent prayer of a righteous person has great power and gives wonderful results." The believer's prayer, as well as the reading of the Scriptures, are two of the most powerful weapons that every follower of Jesus Christ must always carry. Praying is talking to God. It is to tell Him the desires of our hearts, it is to plead our cause before Him and share with God our desires, and worries, joys, and frustrations. When we pray fervently, we touch the heart of God - not for our will to be done - but for his. Fervent, faith-filled prayer gives us the comfort, peace, and love of the Father as we wait patiently in his will. And when we read the Scriptures, we hear the voice of God. I tell you that in my experience as a believer in the Gospel, my prayer does not stop mentioning biblical verses or biblical stories that remind me that the God of Daniel (as well as the God of the woman who dared to touch the edge of Jesus' tunic) is the same yesterday, today and always, and he is the same God to whom I raise my prayer in search of his will. It is important that we also meditate/reflect on each request that we put before the Lord because it is my belief that God already gave us the ability to distinguish between what brings glory to God and what does not fulfill this purpose.

It is my prayer that this year, as the church of Christ perseveres in seeking and doing the will of God, we remember these two things, first, that everything that is contrary to love, compassion, grace and forgiveness, is not God's will. That God's will is to do every work, word and behavior that glorifies his name and invites our neighbors to want to do the same.

Together once again on this journey of faith and search,
Your companion on the way,

Pastor Norma.





LENTEN STUDY

During Lent, Ramsey Church is studying together

"He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado.

Sundays, February 26-April 2 9:00AM

Study Guides are available. To receive a copy, call or email the church office at
804-276-4628 / admin@ramseymemorial.org.

A donation of \$10 is appreciated but not required.



UWF ADVENT SERVICE

Ramsey's UWF was in charge of Hosting the District's Advent Service in December.
Our ladies made

cookies and we had coffee, juice, and water. Our ladies stepped up to bring Hospitality to all that came that day. We had ladies greeting as they came in the doors, greeters at the steps to the sanctuary, greeters at the elevators. The service also was live-streamed for those who didn't want to come out in the rain. There were many comments on the service as well as how lovely our sanctuary was with Christmas Decorations. There were many that took pictures at the end of the service as well as telling us how lovely the choir and altar area was, and how spacious.

It was nice to receive a special note from one of the ladies from the UWF in Providence-Quinton. She stated as an attendee of the District Advent Service, I want to thank you for hosting and compliment the outstanding hospitality your members offered us all.

This was a special day for Advent Celebration.



MISSION TEAM FUND RAISER

The Mission team is working with Journey UMC in Amelia to convert an old motel into transitional housing. Jan 14, nineteen people worked 88 hours to gut three rooms. While this is an ongoing project for day trip mission projects, the Mission Team would like to raise funds to purchase new windows for these three rooms. On Feb 12, the Mission Team will host a soup and baked potato lunch to raise money for these windows. Lunch, following worship, will be in the Fellowship Hall.

events

2/22

7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday

4/2

Palm Sunday

Cantata

4/6

7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday
Service

4/9

7:00 am

Easter Sunrise Service

10:00 am

Easter Sunday
Worship Service





FeedMore and JL Francis food bags

We would like to invite any church member to join the team of folks who pick up and deliver bags of food to JL Francis.

- Pick Up- 25 bags of food (6 meals) on Thursdays from 8-11 am at 16012 Rhoadmiller St Richmond Building 21 (Turn by the white gazebo) – go behind the building to door with the ramp. Go up the ramp and enter the building. Jessica (the coordinator) will greet you. The bags are in a grocery cart ready to be placed in your car. Each bag is light weight and at this time we are picking up 25 bags

Contact: Jessica Smith 804-539-3906

- Deliver to JL Francis Thursday morning - 5146 Snead Road Richmond VA 23224 (front driveway- first doorway) Contact: Henry Jimenez via cell (to be provided).

Someone at the school will assist in getting the bags onto a cart.

- The pickup and delivery takes about 1 hour.



RAMSEY REFRESH 2023

The new year is a traditional time for "cleaning out" and removing old unused items. There are several areas scheduled for a refresh. After many years of use and a few years of neglect, Classroom 101 (formerly Miss Pat's room) is in need of organization as we embark on a new children's ministry. A team will go through the cabinets and supplies to weed out old/ broken/ unusable items. Natalie Aguilar- Vega will be working on this project as she begins this ministry.

The second area for a refresh is the Fellowship kitchen cupboards. Ladies from the 55+ group will be working on this project. Any items deemed unnecessary will be set out in the CLC lobby to be claimed by owners or taken to new homes.

Future projects include the two fire escape areas- beside the pulpit and in the tower.

If you have a specific area where you would like to help, please let me know.
Joan McGowan/804-513-8540



A NOTE OF THANKS

Curtis and I would like to thank the members of Women United in Faith for the beautiful Poinsettia that Pat Beville delivered to us.

We also want to thank all for the cards, phone calls, prayers and visits we received while Curtis was in the hospital. They meant so much to us.

Ramsey Church is the best around for caring for each other.

Love you all.
Joyce and Curtis

"I have loved you
even as the
Father has loved
me. Remain in my
love....This is my
commandment:
Love each other
in the same way I
have loved you.

John 15:9 & 12



GIVING QR
CODE

Scan the QR code
above to be
directed to our
online giving
resource!



ASH WEDNESDAY

On Ash Wednesday, February 22, Ramsey will offer two opportunities for you to receive the imposition of ashes:

Noon-1pm Ashes To Go -- drive-by imposition of ashes in the church rear parking lot by the awning area. Drive-by to receive your ashes in your vehicle.
7pm In-Person Worship Service -- in the Ramsey sanctuary



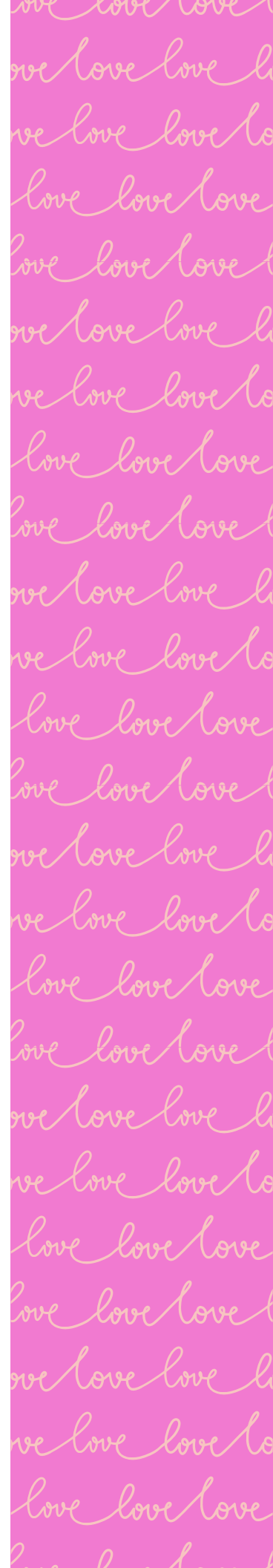
LENTEN OFFERING

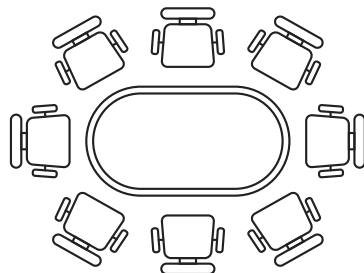
Our 2023 Lenten Offering will run from February 26 through Easter Sunday, April 9. We have set a goal of \$6,000 and the money we raise will go toward improvement projects at Ramsey. Whether you give online through Vanco or in the offering plate, please include the designation "Lenten Offering" in the note or memo section.



IGNITE & RAMSEY KIDS

As we begin the new year, the Children and Youth Ministry continue to embark on a fun and fruitful journey to discovering more about God. As we jam out in worship, learn and pray for one another and others, our children and youth work to strive internally in fellowship as well as in outreach. In mid-January, we had the privilege of having two families join us. Isaiah, Eric, Nathan, Rosa and Melanie as well as Zaiden and Zaileena. A total of 19 children and youth combined. As we discuss everyday issues with our youth and children, our children engage in fun activities while also learning how God will continue to guide and protect them through biblical scripture. We have also begun Themed Sundays as our own youth prepare to give the lessons each Sunday and participate in our Fun-filled theme for that Sunday. This upcoming Sunday, we will be hosting a Sleepy Sunday with the lesson being taught by our own, Gabriel Aguilar, and we invite all children and youth to come and join us! **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR FAVORITE SET OF PJs** while we share breakfast and fellowship with one another at 11:00AM in the Ignite Tower. We hope to see you there!





LEADERSHIP BOARD UPDATE

Ramsey's newly formed Leadership Board met on Wednesday, January 25. We are now under the new one board governance called Simplified Accountable Structure based on the book, "Mission Possible." The nine member board includes: Linda Gilmore, Scotty Dole, Melanie Hewes, Joan McGowan, Tammy Howe, Bayo Ogungbade, Rick Hallinan, Craig Lane and Will Flynn. Our senior pastor, Claudia Stallings is an active, but non-voting member.

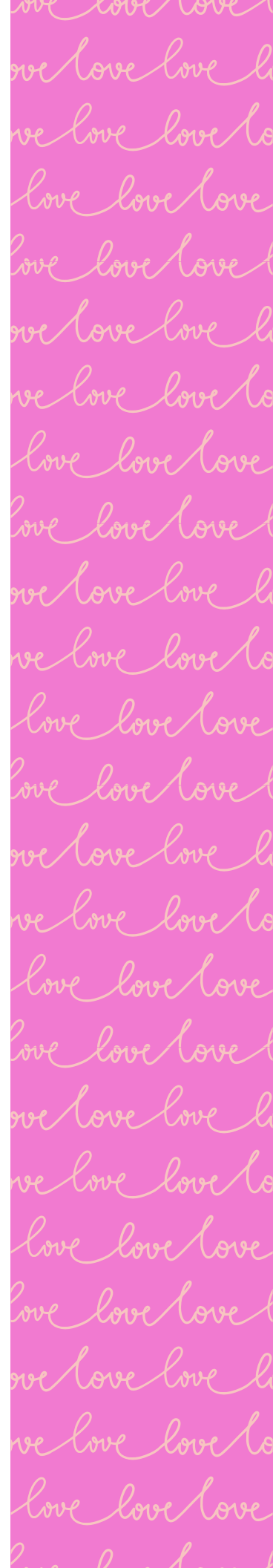
Leadership voted to incorporate the church along with the election of the following officers: Chairperson—Will Flynn, Vice Chairperson—Craig Lane, Secretary—Joan McGowan, and Co-Treasurers—Phillis Woodfin and Roger Hoover.

All are invited to attend board meetings in person, or virtually online using ZOOM software. Please call the church office for the link. Leadership Board will meet on the following dates/times:

Wednesday, February 15, 7-8:30 PM
Wednesday, March 15, 7-8:30 PM
Wednesday, April 19, 7-8:30 PM
Tuesday, May 16, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, June 20, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, July 18, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, August 15, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, September 19, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, October 17, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, November 21, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, December 19, 6-7:30 PM

If anyone wishes to receive a copy of the meeting notes, please contact the church office at 804-276-4628.

Please pray for your leaders that God will provide a vision, wisdom and patience as we work through this transition year.





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

MIRIAM BONILLA	FEBRUARY 1
HUNTER FLYNN	FEBRUARY 1
BONNIE BYRNES	FEBRUARY 2
JAMES JUMP	FEBRUARY 2
SHERRY PRICE	FEBRUARY 3
BERK WILEY	FEBRUARY 4
MICHAEL ALVARADO	FEBRUARY 5
JEFFREY MUNOZ	FEBRUARY 5
TAMMY HOWE	FEBRUARY 7
DOROTHY DAVIS	FEBRUARY 9
MARSHA HALLINAN	FEBRUARY 9
MARTHA GILLIAM	FEBRUARY 10
ELIANA AGUILAR	FEBRUARY 16
MATT AMASON	FEBRUARY 17
NICOLE AGUILAR	FEBRUARY 18
CLAUDIA STALLINGS	FEBRUARY 18
TAMMY HELLER	FEBRUARY 22
JASON AGUILAR	FEBRUARY 25
BENJAMIN HOOVER	FEBRUARY 25
STEPHANIE CHING	FEBRUARY 27

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

DONALD & BRENDA	FEBRUARY 14
CAMERON	



February 2023

February 2023							March 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4
10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	7:00am Care-a-Van	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	8:00am CPR New (Room 105)
10:30am Escuela Biblica	9:00am Pickleball (CLQ)	9:30am Pickleball Training (CLQ)	9:00am Pickleball (CLQ)	11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLQ)	8:00am TOVA Recertification (fellowship Hall)
11:00am Ignite (CLQ)	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	1:00pm Commonwealth Christian	12:00pm Pickleball Training (CLQ)	6:00pm James River Home School (c/c)	12:00pm Pickleball Training (CLQ)	
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary)	12:00pm Pickleball Training (CLQ)	2:00pm McGuire Park Circle	6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship Hall)	6:00pm James River Home School (c/c)	4:00pm Cap City (CLQ)	
	6:00pm James River Home	4:00pm Cap City (CLQ)	7:00pm YA8S (Together rm)		6:00pm James River Home School (c/c)	
12	13	14	8	9	10	11
8:00am Mission Team (Fellowship Hall)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	7:00am Care-a-Van	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	8:00am TOVA New (Fellowship Hall)
10:00am Worship Service	9:00am Pickleball (CLQ)	9:30am Pickleball Training (CLQ)	9:00am Pickleball (CLQ)	11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLQ)	9:00am Mission Team (CLC Kitchen)
10:30am Escuela Biblica	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	1:00pm Commonwealth Christian	12:00pm Pickleball Training (CLQ)	6:00pm James River Home School (c/c)	12:00pm Pickleball Training (CLQ)	2:00pm Early Service (Sanctuary)
11:00am Ignite (CLQ)	12:00pm Pickleball Training (CLQ)	4:00pm Cap City (CLQ)	2:00pm Nina Woodfin Circle (Rm 105)	6:00pm James River Home School (c/c)	4:00pm Cap City (CLQ)	3:00pm Reception for Early (CLQ)
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	6:00pm James River Home	5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)	15	16	17	18
	School (c/c)	6:00pm Pickleball Training (CLQ)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	7:00am Care-a-Van	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	8:00am CPR Recertification (fellowship Hall)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	7:00am Care-a-Van	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	9:00am Time of Learning (Rm 203)
10:30am Escuela Biblica	9:00am Pickleball (CLQ)	9:30am Pickleball Training (CLQ)	9:00am Pickleball (CLQ)	11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLQ)	
11:00am Ignite (CLQ)	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	1:00pm Commonwealth Christian	12:00pm Ashes To-Go (CLC awning)	6:00pm James River Home School (c/c)	12:00pm Pickleball Training (CLQ)	
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary)	6:00pm James River Home	5:30pm Cap City (CLQ)	7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)	6:00pm James River Home School (c/c)	4:00pm Cap City (CLQ)	
	School (c/c)	5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)			6:00pm James River Home School (c/c)	
26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4
10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Mar 1	7:00am Care-a-Van	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	
10:30am Escuela Biblica	9:00am Pickleball (CLQ)	9:30am Pickleball Training (CLQ)		11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLQ)	
11:00am Ignite (CLQ)	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	1:00pm Commonwealth Christian		6:00pm James River Home School (c/c)	12:00pm Pickleball Training (CLQ)	
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary)	6:00pm James River Home	4:00pm Cap City (CLQ)			4:00pm Cap City (CLQ)	
	School (c/c)	5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)			6:00pm James River Home School (c/c)	