



A Word From the Pastor

If I am honest, February has never been my favorite month. Between the cold weather, cedar, and the height of flu season, it was often a time of illness in my youth. Then as I grew older, it became painfully obvious that while others had found a girlfriend, I was alone for Valentines. When I finally did have a Valentine, the financial cost of February seemed to increase every year as the gifts became smaller and the price tag became larger. No, February was just a month to get through until warmth, health, and less costly holidays finally came.

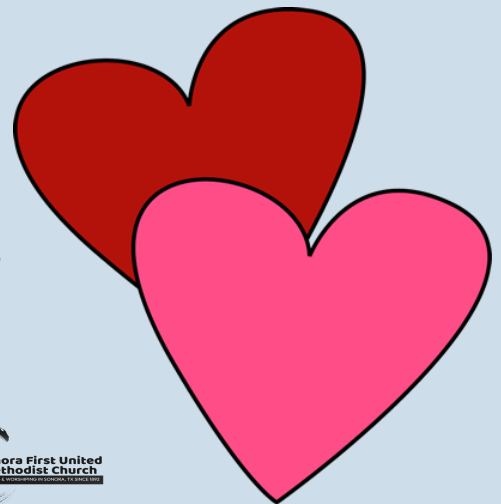
I am beginning to think that Valentines Day is a very under rated Christian holiday. I am not talking about the legend of Saint Valentinus. The widespread modern legend that the feast of St. Valentine on February 14 was first established in 496 by Pope Gelasius I. One legend is that the priest Valentinus defied the order of the emperor and secretly performed Christian weddings for couples, allowing the husbands involved to escape conscription into the Roman army. The account mentions that in order to remind these men of their vows and God's love, Saint Valentine is said to have cut hearts from parchment, giving them to these persecuted Christians. Another legend is that a judge put Valentinus to the test by bringing him the judges blind daughter, Asterius who Valentinus healed in the name of Jesus. Before his execution, Valentinus supposedly wrote a note to Asterius's daughter signed "from your Valentine". These legends hold about as much authority as the website article that this information came from.

While the deeds of saints like Valentine should be remembered because of how they held on to their faith in the midst of extreme persecution and how they creatively passed along that faith, Valentine's Day can also be a reminder of something even more important. Valentine's Day comes roughly halfway between Christmas and Easter. At Christmas, the church celebrates the love of God incarnate in the child Jesus. At Easter, the church rejoices that not even death can hold God's love.



1 Peter 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

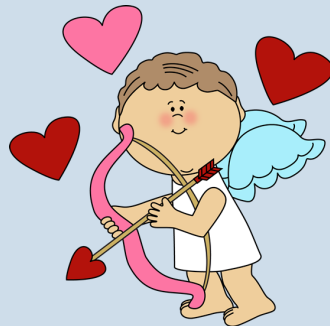


A Word From the Pastor Continue

It is therefore appropriate that the church remember God's love that Jesus showed through his healing, miracles, and teaching. As the Word of God, Jesus is the Father's love letter to all God's children. A love that would give up power to live among us. A love that would proclaim forgiveness even during a crucifixion. In fact, the most powerful message on a Valentine's card would be John 3:16.

If Valentine's Day can be more than a time of candy, flowers, and romantic dates, then how else can we celebrate Valentine's Day. A good rule of thumb would probably come from Paul's description of the Holy Spirit's gift of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." What if we give this gift of love at Valentine's Day. A day when the mistakes of our past are forgiven. A day when we are a little more patient with each other's faults and a little more humble about our own. A day when instead of seeking our own pleasure and desire, we seek what is best for the other person and maybe do it their way instead of ours. A day when all the prodigals can come home without judgment and those who have been injured by the world can find a safe place to rest. What would it look like if we actually embodied the teachings of love and forgiveness that Jesus showed during his ministry? Maybe we would find the day of peace on Earth that the angels promised at Jesus' birth.

February is still cold and illnesses are still in full swing but maybe it is during a month like February that we need to be reminded of God's love the most. We also need to be reminded that the second commandment is to love our neighbor as our self. This Valentine's Day, show a little love and forgiveness to yourself. Then try to show that same level of love to those we proclaim are special in our lives. And maybe, while doing that, show a little love to the neighbors you encounter at the stores, restaurants, and on the road. I have a feeling that if you share that much love in the name and manner of Christ, you will find that this was the best Valentine's Day of all. Happy Valentine's Day.



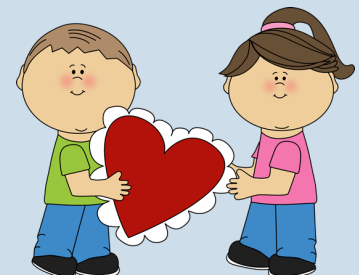
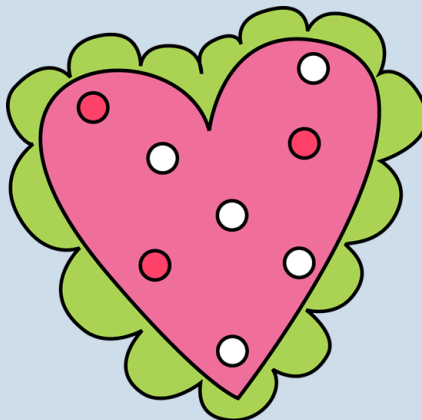
*Blessings,
Pastor Mark*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<i>Hazel Kent</i>	<i>2/1</i>	<i>Janey Dillard</i>	<i>2/4</i>	<i>Macie Smith</i>	<i>2/5</i>
<i>Chacho Cahill</i>	<i>2/6</i>	<i>Debbie Thompson</i>	<i>2/8</i>	<i>Koda Davis</i>	<i>2/14</i>
<i>Mitzi Friend</i>	<i>2/14</i>	<i>Sarah Wade</i>	<i>2/20</i>	<i>Judy McDonald</i>	<i>2/24</i>
<i>Trey Rushing</i>	<i>2/26</i>				

METHODIST DAY SCHOOL EVENTS

After a busy December things have finally settled back down a bit, and we are into our regular routine. We rang in the New Year and started off with a bang. The four and five year olds kicked off the year with sparkly sensory bottles. Then we studied all about animals that live in the snow, hibernation and winter games at the library. We had polar bear rice cake snacks, penguin paintings and crafts. We even made igloos out of marshmallows. Everyone is happy to be back and can't wait for February.



"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "

John 3:16

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY!

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2 <i>SMS Bball @ Reagan Co.</i> <i>SHS Girls Golf @ Kerrville</i>	3 <i>SHS Bball @ Sterling City</i>	4 <i>SHS Boys Golf @ Kerrville</i>	5 <i>FFA - San Angelo Ag Mech Show</i> <i>SHS Powerlifting @ Brady</i>	6 <i>SISD - No School</i> <i>Teacher Workday</i> <i>FFA - San Angelo Ag Mech Show</i> <i>SHS Bball @ Sonora vs. Reagan Co</i> <i>SHS Baseball @ McCamey</i>	7 <i>FFA - San Angelo Ag Mech Show - Lamb/Goat Show</i> <i>SMS Bball @ Dist. Toruney</i> <i>Girls /Forsan Boys/ Ozona</i>
8 One Board Meeting @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 <i>FFA - San Angelo Lamb/Goat Show</i>	9 <i>FFA - San Angelo Lamb/Goat Show</i> <i>SHS Girls Golf @ LLano</i>	10 <i>FFA - San Angelo Lamb/Goat Show</i> <i>SHS Bball @ Christoval</i>	11 MDS <i>SISD - Begins</i> Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm <i>SHS Boys Golf @ LLano</i>	12 <i>FFA - Texas Elite Gilts/ Breeding Gilts</i> <i>SHS Softball @ Kerrville</i> <i>SHS JV Tennis @ Reagan Co.</i> <i>SHS Powerlifting @ Brady</i>	13 <i>SISD - 3 PM</i> <i>FFA - Texas Elite Gilts/ Breeding Gilts</i> <i>SHS Softball @ Kerrville</i> <i>SHS Baseball @ Grape Creek</i> <i>SHS Varsity Tennis @ Reagan Co</i>	14 Happy Valentines Day! <i>FFA - Texas Elite Gilts/ Breeding Gilts</i> <i>SHS Softball @ Kerrville</i>
15 Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 <i>FFA - Texas Elite Breeding Gilts- San Angelo</i>	16 MDS <i>FFA - Market Barrows - San Angelo</i> <i>San Antonio - Lambs/Goats</i> <i>SHS Baseball @ SAHS</i>	17 <i>FFA - Market Barrows - San Angelo</i> <i>San Antonio - Lambs/Goats</i> <i>SHS Bball @ Eldorado</i> <i>SHS Softball @ Crane</i> <i>SHS Baseball @ Reagan Co.</i>	18 Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm MDS <i>FFA - Market Barrows</i> <i>San Antonio - Lambs/Goats</i>	19 <i>SHS Softball @ San Angelo</i> <i>SHS JV Tennis @ Llano</i>	20 <i>SISD - 3 PM</i> <i>SHS Bball @ Sonora vs. Christoval</i> <i>FFA - Market Barrows - San Antonio</i> <i>SHS Softball @ San Angelo</i> <i>SHS Varsity Tennis @ Llano</i>	21 <i>FFA - Market Barrows - San Antonio</i> <i>SHS Softball @ San Angelo</i> <i>SHS Baseball @ Ozona</i>
22 Open Door Study @ 9:45AM Worship @ 11 <i>FFA - Market Barrows - San Antonio</i>	23 MDS <i>National FFA Week</i> <i>SHS Baseball @ McCamey</i> <i>SHS - Girls Golf @ Sonora</i> Pastor Out	24 <i>National FFA Week</i> <i>FFA - Market Barrows - San Antonio</i> <i>SHS Softball @ Ozona</i> <i>SHS - Boys @ Sonora</i> Pastor Out	25 MDS Pastor's Bible Study @ 5pm Lenten Lunch <i>National FFA Week</i> <i>FFA - Market Barrows - San Antonio</i>	26 <i>National FFA Week</i> <i>FFA - Market Barrows - San Antonio</i> <i>SHS Softball @ Llano</i> <i>SHS Baseball @ Monahans</i> <i>SHS JV Tennis @ Sonora</i> <i>SMS - Colt Ribbon Relay</i>	27 <i>SISD - 3 PM</i> <i>SHS Bball @ Sonora vs. Eldorado</i> <i>National FFA Week</i> <i>FFA - San Antonio Ag Mech Show</i> <i>SHS Softball @ Llano</i> <i>SHS Baseball @ Monahans</i> <i>SHS Varsity Tennis @ Sonora</i>	28 <i>FFA - San Antonio Ag Mech Show</i> <i>SHS Softball @ Llano</i> Pastor Out

CIRCUIT RIDER IS PUBLISHED BY :

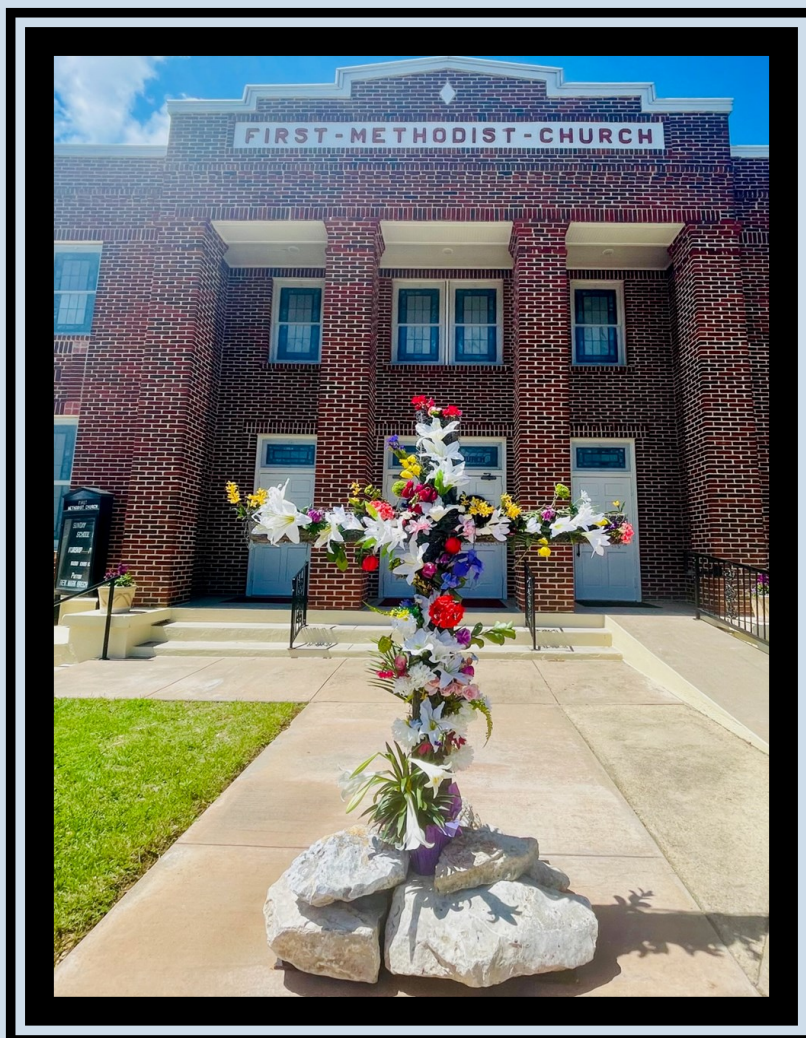
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

CHILDREN'S NURSERY	9:30 AM
OPEN DOOR SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:45AM
WORSHIP SERVICE	11:00 AM

*WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICE IS BROADCAST AT 11:00 A.M.
SUNDAYS ON KHOS 92.1 AND KYXX 94.3*

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