

The Linfield UCC Buzz February 2025



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CAROLINE...

February is a month that often calls us to reflect on love. Valentine's Day, with its hearts, cards, and chocolates, reminds us to express our affection for those we hold dear. But did you know that the history of St. Valentine points to a love far greater than romance? Tradition tells us St. Valentine showed selfless love through acts of kindness, healing, and sacrifice—serving others even at great personal cost.

This connection brings to mind the concept of the "Five Love Languages," introduced by Dr. Gary Chapman. These love languages—words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, acts of service, and physical touch—are ways we give and receive love. As a church, we express love in many ways, but in February, I want to highlight acts of service, which aligns beautifully with Random Acts of Kindness Month.

Jesus himself taught us that love is active. He said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another" (John 13:35). Love in action is at the heart of who we are as followers of Christ. Acts of service, no matter how small, have a unique way of spreading God's love—whether it's offering a helping hand, brightening someone's day with a kind gesture, or simply being present for those who need support.

Thinking of love as service reminds me of the beloved children's book *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. In the story, the tree continually gives of itself—its fruit, branches, and trunk—to support the boy it loves. It's a profound illustration of selfless love and service, though it also challenges us to reflect on how we love in return. Are we showing gratitude? Are we learning to give as freely as we receive?

As we move through February, let's take a lesson from *The Giving Tree*. What does it look like to serve one another with joy? Maybe it's reaching out to someone who's lonely, sharing a meal, or simply listening with an open heart. Like the tree, we are called to give—but unlike the story, our giving isn't meant to deplete us. When we serve out of love, we find our spirits renewed, our relationships deepened, and God's presence more fully known.

May our acts of kindness and service reflect the abundant love God has shown us.

Wishing you a February filled with love,
Pastor Caroline

CALENDAR – Note: The list of worship participants is posted on the website & in Fellowship Hall.

Feb. 2nd 9:00am Worship

Greeter: Karen Bolonski
Liturgist: Rich Lintott
Ushers: Ellen Goodman & Ron Vickers
Coffee Hour: Smith/Cibulsky

Feb. 9th 9:00am Worship

Greeter: Ellen Goodman
Liturgist: Nancy Detterline
Ushers: Becky & Micky McDaniel
Coffee Hour: Muhlacks

Feb. 16th 9:00am Worship – Communion

Greeter: Cora Smith
Liturgist: Bob Smith
Ushers: Adrien & Pete Cibulski
Communion: Teresa Diena & Carol Vickers
Coffee Hour: Special Luncheon

Feb. 23rd 9:00am Worship

Greeter: Judy Landis
Liturgist: Susan Ross
Ushers: Michael & Carter Ross
Annual Congregation Meeting
Coffee Hour: Vickers

February Altar Guild: Susan Ross

If you would like to serve as a worship participant, liturgist, greeter, usher, or altar guild, please contact Susan Ross after worship or email at sross10@comcast.net.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING SCHEDULE

Feb. 5 th	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast at Urban's
Feb. 5 th	10:30am – 11:30am	Bible Study
Feb. 5 th	6:30pm – 7:00pm	Spiritual Council Meeting
Feb. 5 th	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Christian Ed Team Meeting
Feb. 12 th	10:30am – 11:30am	Bible Study
Feb. 12 th	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Worship Team Meeting
Feb. 16 th	10:00am – 12:00pm	Teacher's Closet
Feb. 19 th	10:30am – 11:30am	Bible Study
Feb. 20 th	6:30pm – 8:00pm	Faith and Fellowship
Feb. 23rd	Following Worship	Annual Congregation Meeting
Feb. 25 th	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Consistory Meeting
Feb. 26 th	10:30am – 11:30am	Bible Study



COFFEE HOUR – If you would like to help supply refreshments for Coffee Hour, please check out the sign-up sheets on the board in Fellowship Hall. Coffee will be provided. All monetary donations are used to purchase paper supplies and coffee. Thank you for your generosity!

REMINDER

Elders are available to visit and bring home communion to those who are unable to come to worship.

PRAYER CHAIN

Please refer your prayer chain requests to Karen Bolonski at 610-639-0416 or email at karenbolonski@gmail.com. Remember due to HIPAA regulations, the disclosure of sensitive health information is prohibited without the specific knowledge and consent of the individual.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Faith and Fellowship gatherings will resume on Feb. 20th from 6:30 to 8:00pm. There will be some Mardi Gras crafts, and the spiritual focus will be about Esther and Purim, and don't forget the snacks. Bible study is back to "The Screwtape Letters" at 10:30 every Wednesday. All are welcome.

THE TEACHER'S CLOSET

The Teacher's Closet continues to draw teachers from the area who come to take advantage of the opportunity to gather supplies for their classrooms and students. Their expressions of gratitude are heartwarming. Restocking needs currently are tissues, play dough, and Clorox wipes.

FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Team has come up with some great fundraising ideas for this year. Starting on Sunday, Feb. 9th after worship there will be a soup extravaganza! The team members are making their favorite soups ranging from mild chili to vegetarian vegetable. Pick up some good soup to add to your Souper Bowl spread! The soup will be on sale until the supply runs out at \$12.00 per quart. In April there will be a carrot salad sale and a fudge sale return for Easter. Advance orders will be taken for the fudge so keep an eye out for the order forms. In spring we think of tea! The Ladies Tea will be on May 3rd. More information will be coming soon. The group is open to suggestions and will welcome everyone who wishes to help in their efforts. Please contact Karen Bolonski or Cookie Shearer for more information.

MISSION

The mission team has been donating the surplus food donations for Project Outreach to Mission First. Following a successful event last year, Bob Smith is working with Miller Keystone to schedule one or more Blood Drives for this year. Donations to the cash jar in the sanctuary will be designated to disaster relief. The funds will be sent to the PSEC for distribution through their relief centers.

On February 22nd from 4:00 to 7:00pm the Coldest Night of the Year Walk will take place. There will be a 2km and a 5km walk depending on your inclination. This event is to help raise awareness of the needs of homeless people, especially during the cold months. If you would like to participate, please contact Jon Detterline. We have received an update of requested items from Project Outreach; it includes jelly, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, pasta sauce, baked beans, boxed potatoes, and paper towels. Your ongoing generosity is much appreciated.

PROPERTY

Please contact Don Bolonski if you are able to help with sidewalk maintenance during the winter months.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The social activities group has planned a special lunch event in honor of Spring Training. It will include the usual ballpark fare and snacks, baseball related games, wear your favorite team gear, and plan to stay after worship on Feb. 16th. A sign up sheet will be out soon, so look out for that. If you have ideas for future activities and would like to join the group please contact Cora Smith @ coopchick@verizon.net or Adrien Cibulsky@yoadrien225@gmail.com.