

HEART



SOUL



MIND



STRENGTH

THE TIE

FEBRUARY 2023

Valentine Date Night Fundraiser
February 14 - 5-8 PM in the Gym
\$20 per child or \$50 per Household

Scan the QR code to sign up! Your support helps offset Diverge Students' summer camp expenses!



FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Wednesday Night Activities See Below Randy Garrett Leigh Little	2 Meredith Sims	3 Alex Rogers Lillie Ann Jones Jake Cooper	4
5 Melanie Kennemore Garrett Addy	6 4pm Martha Franks Fellowship Furman Ott Lillian Spears	7 7am Men's Group Ashley Jenkins	8 Wednesday Night Activities See Below Brooke England	9 Betty Ann Walsh Rodney Stevenson Ryan Bolding	10	11 Addison Mitchum Sylvia Power
12 FBC Kindergarten 60 th Anniversary Celebration during Worship Youth Super Bowl Party	13 Brian Allen	14 3:15pm Music,Missions & Rec for 1 st -5 th Grade 7am Men's Group 5-8pm Valentine Date Night Kevin Bragg	15 Wednesday Night Activities See Below David Burroughs	16 2pm Knitting Group Fonda Bryant Blakely Prescott	17 Bob Oliver	18 Byron Brown Ross Jacks Marlene Owings Anna Ottosen
19	20 7pm Deacon's Meeting Bob Kesler Carolyn Lindley Don Wessel Katherine Braswell	21 3:15pm Music,Missions & Rec for 1 st -5 th Grade 7am Men's Group Laura Red Debbie Price Marion Lynch	22 Wednesday Night Activities See Below Jamie Field	23 Debbie Marchman David Munden	24 Bailey Hair	25
26	27 Eddie West Kathy Hardy Emily Parks	28 3:15pm Music,Missions & Rec for 1 st -5 th Grade 7am Men's Group Bryan Mahon				

Sundays

9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship
5:00-7:30pm Youth Study,Music,
Supper, Handbells

6pm Men's Group
6pm Women's Group
6pm Adult Study

Wednesdays

5-7pm Canteen area open for BYO
supper
6-7pm Pre-School Kids on Mission
& Choir, 1st-5th Grade Children's
Choir

6pm Adult Bible Studies
6pm Youth Worship
7pm Adult Choir

From Our Pastor...

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39, NIV)

Just a reminder to you all, Valentine's Day is on a Tuesday this year, and it is right around the corner! What are your plans for the special day?

According to Forbes, Americans spent \$23.9 Billion on Valentine's Day in 2022, up from \$21.8 Billion in 2021. Editor's Choice shared that people may spend an average of \$164.76 per person on Valentine's Day, with men spending \$231, while women came in at \$101. Spending included cards, roses, candy, gifts, and perhaps a romantic dinner or getaway. However, we also include our kids, family and other special people in our lives with a nice surprise.

While Valentine's Day is the day that we celebrate romantic love, it did not begin as such. During the early centuries of Christianity, many followers of Christ were imprisoned and even killed on account of their faith. They were martyrs. Among those was a monk named Valentinus. Records indicate that many Christian martyrs of the second and third centuries carried the name Valentinus. Nevertheless, as legend has it, Valentinus was imprisoned and sentenced to death. As an act of encouragement, fellow Christians slipped notes of love, prayers and encouragement to Valentinus on scraps of papyrus.

What's amazing is that Valentine's Day, though it is a day that we celebrate romance, friendship, and surprises for special someone's, is that celebration of the day began with Christians reminding the imprisoned, the isolated and the lonely that God's love is strong and His presence is real. Valentine's Day, I imagine, if we celebrated the way early Christians did, would look less like chocolates, flowers and romance. Instead, it would appear more like sending cards and flowers to the sick, to the homebound, to the lonely, the imprisoned and to the bereaved. It would be a day of *unconditional* love and encouragement.

We have many on our prayer list. Some have suffered loss, are recovering from surgery, dealing with illness or other uncertainties. We have many in our church who are homebound.

Yet, when I minister in each of these situations, I love to hear just how many people have sent cards or called to offer their prayers and support. When I visit nursing homes, I see bulletin boards or window seals filled with cards. When I visit homes, mantles over the fireplace covered with cards. That is Valentine's Day love!

Paul reminds us that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God. Not one thing – good or bad, life or death – can remove us from the presence of God and separate us from the love. Nevertheless, when facing the isolation of sickness, tragedy, difficult times, we need reminders that God is with us. May I suggest that we never lose the practice of sending cards or notes of encouragement on nicely designed stationary? May I suggest that we never lose the art of the hand-written word? Who is God leading you to mail a note of encouragement, to remind them that God's love is real, ever-present and eternal?

Thank you for being a church that reminds others of this special truth: God's love never leaves us, especially in the difficult times.

Grace and peace,

Tim

For more words about God's love, join us each Sunday in February to hear a series of sermons on love!

- Sunday, February 5: "The Greatest Thing in the World" from 1 Corinthians 13. Credit for the title goes to Henry Drummond and his magnificent essay on this passage.
- Sunday, February 12: "The Simplest Thing in the World" from 1 John 4:7-21. Credit for the title goes to Fisher Humphreys, who taught Theology at Beeson Divinity School. This was the title of his last sermon at Beeson before retirement.
- Sunday, February 19: "The Most Durable Power in the World" from Luke 6:27-36. Credit for the title goes to Martin Luther King, Jr, and a line from his sermon titles "Loving Your Enemies" published in *Strength to Love*.

Adult Discipleship Opportunities At-A-Glance

Wednesday Evening

- *Exodus: Israel's Story and Our Story* - Led by Tim Marsh at 6:00pm in Bobo Hall
- *The Book of James* - Led by Tommy Cox at 6:00pm in the Craft Room.

Sunday Evening

- Women's Group: Meets at 5:00pm in Cooper A-13 (Pairs and Spares Room). Sunday Night Discipleship Training - Led by Tim Marsh, John Topping, Phillip Dean, and David Corley at 6:00pm in Bobo Hall
- Men's Group: *A Study of 1 Corinthians* - Meets at 6:00pm in Classroom A. **Tuesday Morning**

Men's Group: *A Study of 1 Corinthians* - Meets at 7:00am in Classroom A.

Our first GriefShare Group will begin very soon!

GriefShare is a support group designed to help and encourage those who are dealing with the loss of a loved one. Watch your TIE and Worship bulletin for further details. If you have questions, please contact Tommy Cox.

Attention Golfers!

Our Golf Fellowships will resume in March 2023. Watch your TIE and Worship Bulletin for more specific details coming soon!

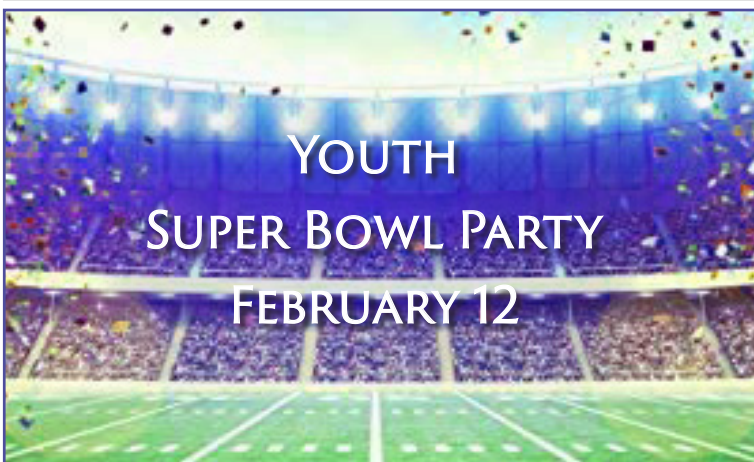


Student Ministry News

Thank you to everyone who supported our Winter Retreat through financial gifts, snack donations, and especially prayers! We're grateful for a church family that supports and invests so heavily in the lives of our students.

Student Ministry Events

- February 12 - Super Bowl Party
- March 3-5 - Festival by the Sea



Youth Festival by the Sea March 3-5, 2023



MINISTER ON CALL

One of our ministers will be on call every weekend, so if you have a need, please don't hesitate to call us! The minister on call schedule is:

Jan 30-Feb 5	Adair Rogers	864-923-1631
February 6-12	Tim Marsh	828-755-1616
February 13-19	Andrew Corley	864-923-5841
February 20-26	Tommy Cox	864-684-7424
Feb 27-Mar 5	Elizabeth Franklin	803-960-9099

THE TIE

First Baptist Church
300 West Main St
Laurens, SC 29360

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Financial Record - January 2023

January Needs:	\$110,096.15
January Giving:	\$60,941.12
2023 Giving to Date:	\$110,096.15
2023 Needs to Date	\$60,941.12

RECREATION MINISTRY

Walking Track Access Update - The walking track is open Mon.-Thurs. from 7-4 and Friday from 7-12. Please call (864) 681-3207 (after 8:30) or (864) 984-7500 (prior to 8:30 or if there is no answer on the 1st number) for access. Thank you for working with us on these changes.