

# Encouragement from the Pastor



**The Spiral - "Keeping the people informed"**

## "The Pursuit of Peace"

Dear Church Family,

On January 22-23, 2026, approximately 19-24 Buddhist monks and a rescue dog named Aloka journeyed through Chatham County as a part of a 2,300 mile "Walk for Peace" that began in Fort Worth, Texas and will end in Washington, D.C. to raise awareness for "peace, loving-kindness, and compassion." When they reach Washington, D.C., they plan to share a final message of healing and unity while petitioning Congress



to officially recognize Vesak (a Buddhist holiday celebrating the Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death) as a federal observance in the United States. As they make this journey across the United States, they have been received by towns, cities, and states with overwhelming interest and support. As they quietly walk the streets and highways, they stop at state capitols, historic landmarks, and local communities to share messages of peace, invite reflection, and engage in prayer. In a press conference with the Huong Dao Vipassana Bhavana Center in Fort Worth Texas, the temple's vice president declared that their pilgrimage is not a protest or demonstration, but *"a journey to bring blessings to countless lives in a world filled with uncertainty and restlessness. The Buddha taught that true peace arises when the mind is free from greed, anger, and delusion. But this truth belongs to all humanity,"* (Fort Worth Report, Buddhist Door Global).

I must admit, their walk in silence has generated a lot of traction in the world with over 2.2 million global followers on Facebook & Instagram, while news stations across the country are capturing their progress on their feeds as well. When I arrived home Thursday evening, every street in downtown Pittsboro was filled with cars as people lined the streets to watch them journey to their conference at the Fair Grounds. Their presence has stated something very important that we do not need to turn a blind eye towards: **people are desperate for peace.** I have read the comments and heard the interviews of how people were blessed by their walk, their presence and the calmness they brought over their life in the moment. While I will not question what they felt, my heart hurts for those who do not know the perfect and indescribable peace and joy that comes from knowing our Savior. My heart is grieved for how many are lost, weary, and hurting in the brokenness of this world, desperately needing the Good Shepherd who will lead them to salvation if they would hear His voice.

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## Encouragement from the Pastor (*continued*)

We are living in uncertain, turbulent, highly sensitive, easily offended, anxiety-filled and sadly, inwardly focused times. People are restless, desperate, panicked, overwhelmed, and, at times, violent and reckless. Communities are fractured, people appear angry and frustrated with one another, and government seems greatly conflicted on the way circumstances are handled on both sides of the spectrum. The call for peace is appropriate because I think deep down, it's something that humanity is looking for insomuch that they will turn to many sources to receive relief from those troubled feelings.

The message of the Peace Monks, and many other like-minded movements, suggest that peace can be found by looking within, detaching from the hardships, pain, and strife that we face in the world, and by mastering our mind. By adhering to a specific code of conduct or by finding purpose in our very existence, we reach peace.

I assure you, the point of my article is not to argue with the Buddhists. My point is to declare that the Bible proclaims a much different message. Jesus never said, "Look within and you will have peace." He said, "In Me you will have peace." On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus was surrounded by violence, chaos, confusion, and imminent death. He said these words to His troubled disciples: "*Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Your heart must not be troubled or fearful*" (John 14:27, HCSB). Jesus acknowledges that the world attempts to give you a version of peace that will not last. The world's version of peace is fragile, earth-driven, and largely dependent on circumstances. The peace that Jesus gives and promises is different. His peace in this world does not promise the removal of trouble, suffering, or hardship, rather, His peace is found in His presence, power, and faithfulness. Peace in Christ does not come from escaping reality with our minds, but from trusting in the Lord during it all. Jesus said, "In this world you will have tribulation, but take heart, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Biblical peace is not merely calm emotions, but it rests in our Savior. This is where faith in Christ stands apart from every other offer of peace. Christianity does not deny the troubles of this world, but confronts it head on. The beauty of the Gospel is that God entered a world filled with violence, suffering, injustice, persecution, sickness and death and overcame it through His sacrificial death and resurrection. Because Christ conquered sin and death, we can have peace that comes from knowing He has everything and everyone under His sovereign watch and care. Peace is not found by escaping the world, but by allowing Christ to change your life, your heart, your mind, and your purpose. Peace places our focus on Christ and not on our circumstances. Peace is firmly rooted in the truth of Who Christ is and what He has done, and not on what we can do.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Encouragement from the Pastor (*continued*)

I will say, the Buddhist's walk across the country is notably inspiring. They have a mission in mind, they are dedicated to their purpose, and they are committed to their version of truth. But I must ask: *What if believers in Christ would anchor themselves firmly to the truth of the Gospel, Christ's promise of peace, and declare complete dependence, joy, and certainty in the sovereign plan of God in the midst of all the chaos that our world is in? Would that be a message that you would get behind? If I called upon Pittsboro Baptist Church to join me in a walk and witness to declare the peace that the world could find in Christ, would you join me on the journey?* Be careful about how soon you would answer that... you already know where eternal, real, and faithful peace comes from. Maybe it's beyond time that we begin to share Him (Christ, who is the Prince of Peace and the Hope of all humanity) with the world with our worship, witness, and our walk.



You are loved!

Peter



Join us for this 10-session study of Hebrews!

Starting February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Morning Session at 9:30-11:00 am

Evening Session at 6:30-8:00 pm

in Fellowship Hall

Contact Rachel Cain 940-395-6785 to register

LifeWay | Women

**NEW DATE**



**SAME EVENT**

# No Other Name

## Youth Night of Worship

Message by PJ Cuba (Conway, SC)



Worship Led By:

*The Carlson Family*

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**5:30pm**

**Pittsboro Baptist Church**

**121 West Salisbury Street Pittsboro**

We invite you to Pittsboro Baptist Church on March 15<sup>th</sup> for an evening of worship with area youth groups called "No Other Name." Our vision is to invite students to worship the unmatched name of Jesus—our Savior and Lord—who alone is worthy of our praise and our lives. Event is FREE. Please join us!

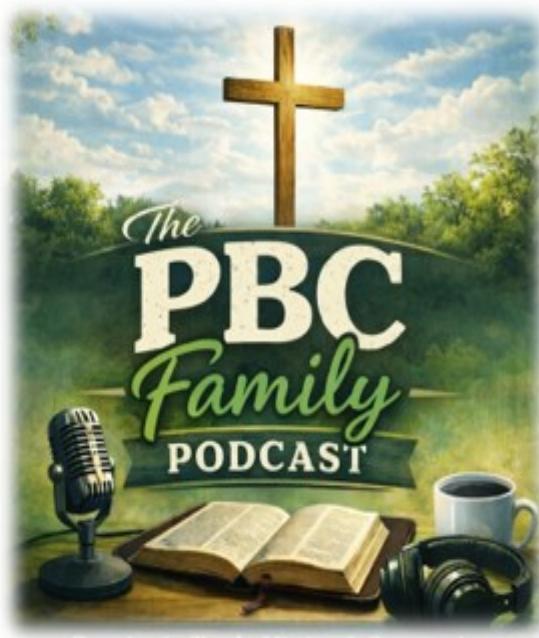
More info? Contact Peter McDonald / 336.504.4887 or [pastorpeterpbc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpeterpbc@gmail.com)

For more event details and registration (not required), scan here:



**Coming In February: The PBC Family Podcast**

*The PBC Family Podcast is a space for our church family to go deeper together. Each episode dives beyond Sunday's message to explore sermons, ministries, and life on mission at Pittsboro Baptist Church. Rooted in God's unchanging truth, we're learning how to reach the lost, disciple the church, and love others in the way of Christ so that all may know and follow Him. A new episode of the podcast will be available every Tuesday of the month! You can listen on our church App (Subsplash), YouTube, and Spotify.*

**Are You Interested in a Trip of a Lifetime to the Holy Land?**

Join Pastor Peter McDonald & Dr. Stan Welch for a week in Israel  
October 11-21, 2026

Please let Pastor Peter know if you plan to attend by February 8<sup>th</sup>  
Deposit due upon sign up.



## **Ignite Your Purpose Bible Study**

### **Ignite Your Purpose Bible Study**

**Wednesdays, February 11<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>**

**7:00pm in Fellowship Hall**

**\* We are diving deeper from our “Ignite Your Purpose Workshop” to discover our unique God-given and designed purpose! Join us as we study Scripture, pray, and discuss where and how God is leading us in discovering His purpose for your life.**

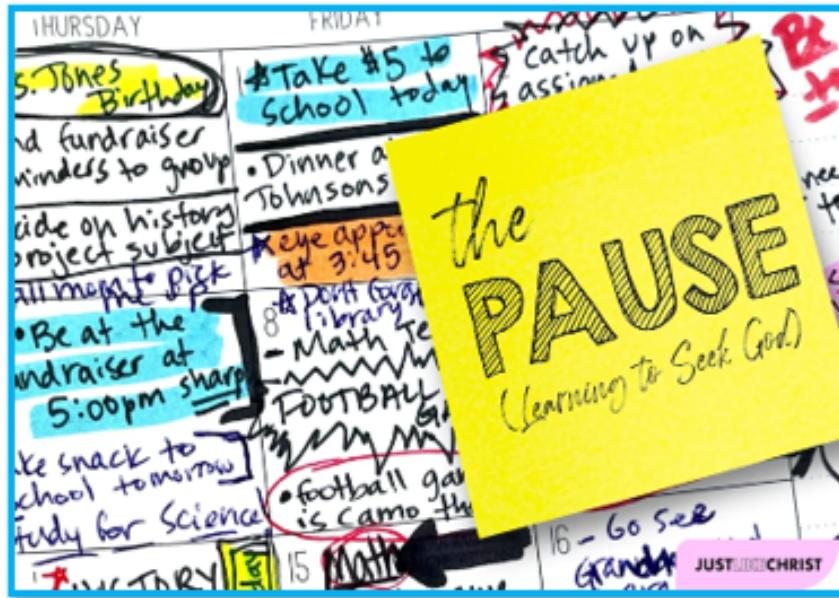
**\*Workshop not a prerequisite to attend. Join us!**

### **January Conference Highlights**

*God blessed PBC members with multiple opportunities for learning and growth in leadership & purpose-filled training. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, PBC welcomed Todd Unzicker, the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to come and encourage and equip our ministry leaders to “Live Sent.” In his teaching, Todd challenged us to judge our success by our ‘sending’ capacity over our ‘seating’ capacity; to believe that everyone is called to ministry; and to connect what we do and who we are to the mission of God for the church. Thank you to everyone who took the time to come. Our Next Church Leadership Meeting is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.*

*On January 24<sup>th</sup>, PBC welcomed Isaac Wood of the Woodpile Co. to come and share with members of our church about “Igniting Our Purpose.” Why am I here? & Why do I do what I do? were two pivotal questions that we considered through the morning of training. The reality is most people do not spend time living on purpose. The “Ignite Your Purpose” workshop began a conversation with many of our church family members that we hope to continue throughout 2026. A HUGE THANK YOU to Our Discipleship Council for organizing a great morning of training!*





### "The Pause" Youth Winter Retreat

**Who:** PBC Youth, PBC Youth Leaders, and Invited Friends

**When:** Friday evening, February 20th - Sunday morning, February 22nd, 2026

**Where:** Moore's Keep Christian Camp  
(1200 Benchmark Court, Robbins, NC 27325)

**How Much?** \$50 per student covers food, lodging, and lesson materials

**What are we going to do?** Worship, Spend time together, Press \*Pause\* and discover what it means to prioritize God during our chaos. We'll also eat great food, enjoy great games, fireside conversations, and recreational challenges.

**Why:** "WITH MY WHOLE HEART I SEEK YOU; LET ME NOT WANDER FROM YOUR COMMANDMENTS! I HAVE STORED UP YOUR WORD IN MY HEART, THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST YOU." —PSALM 119:10-11

Every day, students wake up with an enormous amount of things to do in their day. It's a never-ending cycle of school, sports, clubs, work, friends, family, church...and not to mention all of the everyday tasks like brushing their teeth or combing their hair. All of these things take time and energy, so it is no wonder that students may end up sacrificing their quiet time with God to knock out some of the immediate stressors in their life.

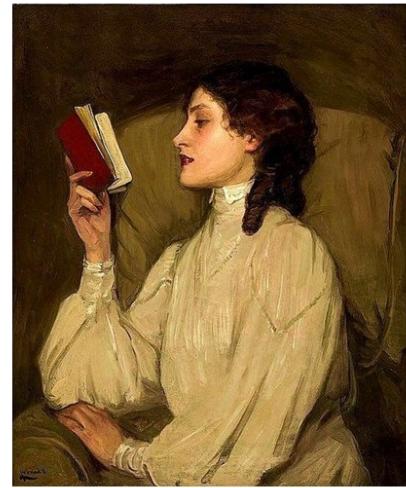
It can be a challenge for students to find time to "press pause" and when they do, a lot of them aren't sure how to invest their time with the Lord. Do your students know how to seek God? In The Pause, they'll learn how to pray, how to memorize Scripture, and how to study specific passages of the Bible. In all of these practices, students will become closer to God, and ultimately see the value in prioritizing their spiritual growth.



## Book Club



**Next meeting:  
February 23, 7:00p.m.  
Church Fellowship Hall  
All ladies invited to join us.**



**We will be discussing  
*Leota's Garden*  
by Francine Rivers**



Our pastor and wife—  
was spotted shoveling  
snow this weekend—  
proving once and for  
all that even divine  
intervention can't  
stop winter in  
Pittsboro! Rumor has  
it, the heavenly  
hotline was busy, so  
he had to handle it  
himself.



**Pittsboro Baptist Preschool**  
**2026-2027 Enrollment**  
**February 16-17, 2026**

At Pittsboro Baptist Preschool, we seek to support the home and extend the ministry of the church by providing biblically based, age-appropriate education for preschoolers that addresses their development cognitively, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is open  
for all returning students, siblings, and  
PBC church members on  
February 16th at 8:00 am online.  
Enrollment opens for all new families on  
February 17th at 8:00am online.

<http://pittsborobaptistpreschool.org/register-now/>

Please contact the preschool office if you have any  
questions or to request a tour at  
919-545-9268 or  
via email at [jennifer@pittsborobaptistpreschool.org](mailto:jennifer@pittsborobaptistpreschool.org).





**Have a *BLAST* with singles, age 25+,  
looking for fun in a Christian environment.**

**Join us second and fourth Saturdays each month**

**Pittsboro Baptist Church, 121 West Salisbury Street, Pittsboro**

February 14—Pal-n-tine's Party

February 28—Mad Splatter or Bowling and Dinner (TBD)

A graphic for the 2026 Children's Ministry Training. It features a colorful, abstract background with a central cross. The text "2026 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING" is prominently displayed in large, white, sans-serif letters across the center. Below this, the date "March 22, 2026" and time "12pm-2pm" are listed, along with the location "PBC Fellowship Hall". To the right, there are three sections of text: "WHO: All current volunteers and interested volunteers in Children's Ministry", "WHAT: A tune up for seasoned volunteers and indepth training for new volunteers", and "WHY: 'Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.' 1 Corinthians 15:58".



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1	Reagan Kilpatrick	19	Sherry Dodson
4	Ashlyn Phillips	24	Larry & Carolyn Johnson ♥
6	Dennis May		Judah Jurius
	Danette Baker		Ethan Truesdale
7	Darren & Maria Powers ♥	25	Kelsie Houston
9	Brooke Smith	27	Cooper Kivette
10	Dwight Tyndall		
12	Alex Parker		
16	Henry Cain		
17	Christian Batcheller (CB1)		

# February

**Thank you to those Serving!**



***Ushers***

*Charlie Hudgins, Bill Griffin  
Munro Parker & Jimmy Davis*

***Greeters***

*Jason & Susan Pintuff*

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**Infant**



**February 1**

Jessica Vrvilo & Brooke Smith

**February 8**

Ashley Batcheller & Sunny Allen

**February 15**

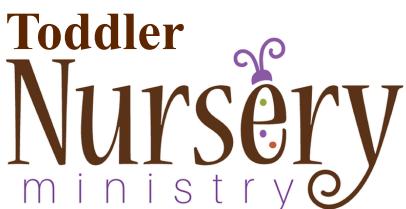
Jon & Melissa Harshman

**February 22**

Tara & Jenna Smith

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**Toddler**



**February 1**

Tara, Micah & Mali McDonald

**February 8**

Kelly Smith & Meredith Tetterton

**February 15**

Amber Kilpatrick & Darby Powers

**February 22**

Hunter & Hannah Brown

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**February 1**

Jennifer & Caroline Cashion

**February 8**

Jennifer & Caroline Cashion

**February 15**

Jennifer & Caroline Cashion

**February 22**

Jennifer & Caroline Cashion



# checkitout

News from the Pearle Johnson Memorial Library

## Sunday Library Schedule

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

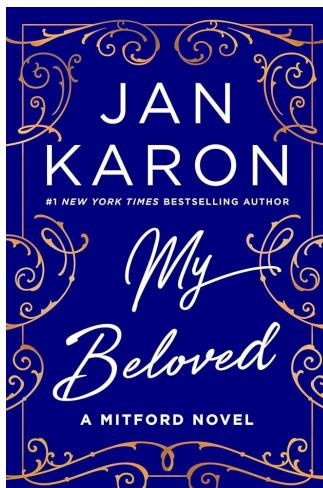
10:00 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.

Love is in the air in the Pittsboro Baptist Church Library. These are three of the many romantic novels found on the shelves. Stop by next Sunday and check-out one.

*For those of us who love Karon's Mitford Series, we were thrilled she decided to write one more book about those wonderful characters from the small North Carolina town of Mitford.*

### ***My Beloved*** by Jan Karon

When Father Tim's wife, Cynthia, asks what



he wants for Christmas, he pens the answer in a love letter that bares his most private feelings. Then the letter goes missing and circulates among his astonished neighbors. So much for private.

Can a letter change a life? Ask Helene, the piano teacher who has avoided her

feelings for a lifetime. Ask Hope, the village bookseller who desperately needs something that's impossibly out of reach. Or, if you'd like to know how a brush with death can be the portal to a happy marriage, Cynthia will tell you all about it.

In *My Beloved*, Harley gets an important letter of his own; a broken heart teaches the Old Mayor, Esther Cunningham, a lesson long in coming; and thanks to Lace and Dooley, readers get what they've been waiting for: Sadie.

Poignant, hilarious, and life-affirming, *My Beloved* sets a generous table for millions of readers who love these characters like family. With Karon's signature humanity shining through on every page, this is a season of life in Mitford you won't want to miss.

### ***Silent Songbird*** by Melanie Dickerson

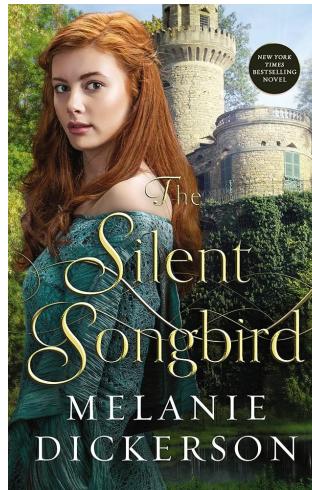
Evangeline is gifted with a heavenly voice, but she is trapped in a sinister betrothal until she embarks on a daring escape and meets brave Westley le Wyse. Can he help her discover the freedom to sing again?

Desperate to flee a political marriage to her cousin King Richard II's closest advisor, Lord Shiveley—a man twice her age with shadowy mo-

tives—Evangeline runs away and joins a small band of servants journeying back to Glynval, their home village.

Pretending to be mute, she gets to know Westley le Wyse, their handsome young leader, who is intrigued by the beautiful servant girl. But when the truth comes out, it may shatter any hope that love could grow between them.

More than Evangeline's future is at stake as she finds herself entangled in a web of intrigue that threatens England's monarchy. Should she give herself up to protect the only person who cares about her? If she does, who will save the king from a plot to steal his throne?



*(Continued on next page)*

**Date Night Jar**  
**by Joey Jones**

An unlikely friendship. An unforgettable love story. When workaholic physician Ansley Stone writes a letter to the estranged son of a patient asking him to send the family's heirloom date night jar, she only intended to bring a little happiness to a lonely old man during his final days. But before long, she finds herself increasingly drawn to Cleve Fields' bedside, eager to hear the stories of his courtship with his beloved late wife, Violet, that were inspired by the yellowed slivers of paper in the old jar. When Cleve asks her to return



the jar to his son, Ansley spontaneously decides to deliver it in person, if only to find out why no one, including his own son, visits the patient she's grown inexplicably fond of. Mason Fields is happily single, content to spend his days running the family strawberry farm and his evenings in the company of his best friend, a seventeen-year-old collie named Callie. Then Ansley shows up at his door with the date night jar and nowhere to stay. Suddenly, she's turning his carefully ordered world upside down, upsetting his routine and forcing him to remember things best left in the past. When she suggests they pull a slip of paper from the jar, their own love story begins to develop. Before long, their newfound love will be tested in ways they never imagined, as the startling truth about Mason's past is revealed...and Ansley's future is threatened.

## Library Schedule

**9-9:30a.m.****10-10:30a.m.****February 1****Judy Beaver****Sue Devinney****February 8****Cindy Springle****Susie Griffin****February 15****Deborah Dismuke****Roderick Parker****February 22****Ann Mills****Kathy Shaffer**

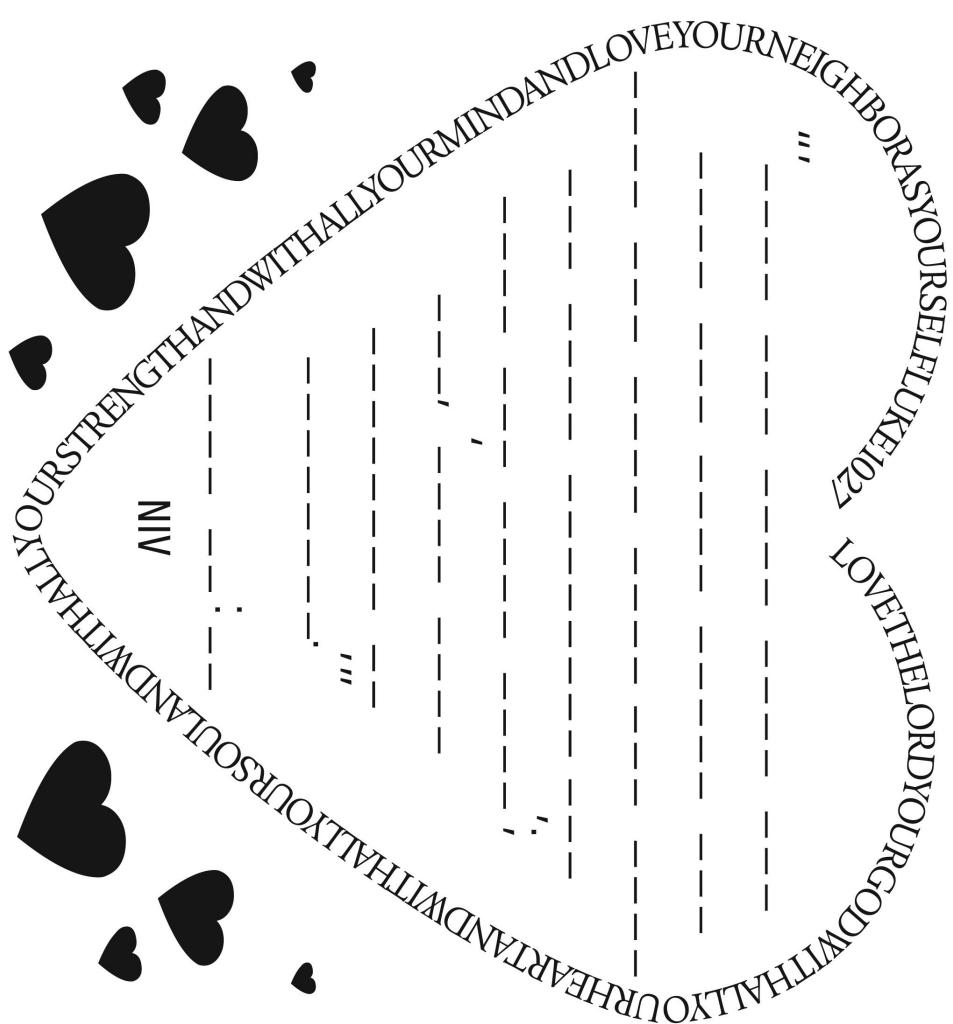
# February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Service  2:30pm - Griefshare  5:30pm—"No Other Name" Youth Praise & Worship Night (RESCHEDULED FOR 3/15/26)	2 9:30am-Staff Meeting  10:00am-Monday School (CANCELED)	3 9:30am-Women's Bible Study  10:30am-3L's Covered dish luncheon (CANCELED)  6:30pm-Women's Bible Study  7:00pm - Property Management	4 8:00am-Men's Bible Study at Bojangles  10:00am - Prayer Quilters  5:30pm—"The Table"	5	6	7
8 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Service  2:30pm - Griefshare	9 9:30am-Staff Meeting  10:00am-Monday School  6:30pm - Deacon's Meeting	10 9:30am-Women's Bible Study  6:30pm-Women's Bible STudy  8:00pm-Finance meeting via zoom	11 8:00am-Men's Bible Study at Bojangles  10:00am - Prayer Quilters  6:30pm - Dinner, Parent Connect, JD's & Youth	12	13	14 5:30pm-BLAST
15 9:30am - Sunday School - 10:30am - Worship Service  2:30pm - Griefshare	16 9:30am-Staff Meeting  10:00am-Monday School	17 9:30am-Women's Bible Study  6:30pm-Women's Bible Study	18 8:00am-Men's Bible Study at Bojangles  10:00am - Prayer Quilters  6:30pm - Dinner, Parent Connect, JD's & Youth	19	20 "The Pause" Youth Winter Retreat	21 "The Pause" Youth Winter Retreat
22 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Service  2:30pm - Griefshare  "The Pause" Youth Winter Retreat	23 9:30am-Staff Meeting  10:00am-Monday School  7:00pm-Women's Book Club	24 9:30am-Women's Bible Study  6:30pm-Women's Bible Study	25 8:00am-Men's Bible Study at Bojangles  10:00am - Prayer Quilters  6:30pm - Dinner, Parent Connect, JD's & Youth	26	27	28 5:30pm-BLAST

# Puzz[e]!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27, NIV