

## From Pastor Anne

### What Kind of Love Does the Lord Require?

Every February, Valentine's Day arrives wrapped in pink paper and tied with red bows. Store shelves overflow with cards, flowers, and chocolates. The day celebrates romance, affection, and the warm feelings we associate with being "in love." These are fun and beautiful expressions of care and are reminders that love is meant to be shared. But for people of faith, Valentine's Day can also invite us to reflect more deeply on what love really looks like in the life of a disciple.

The prophet Micah offers us a simple but challenging vision of faithful living: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8). This verse does not speak about grand romantic gestures or fleeting emotions. Instead, it points to a love that is active, durable, and rooted in daily choices.

Doing justice means more than having good intentions. It calls us to notice where people are hurting or excluded, and to work toward the dignity for all. Love, in this sense, is not only about who we feel affection for, but about how we use our voices, our resources, and our influence to lift up those who are vulnerable. On Valentine's Day, when we focus on giving gifts to those closest to us, Micah reminds us to widen the circle of our concern and to ask how our love might reach neighbors we have not yet met.

To "love kindness" invites us into the small, ordinary practices of compassion. Kindness can be simple: a listening ear, a gentle word, patience when we are tired, forgiveness when we would rather hold a grudge. Yet these small acts carry great power. They reflect the steadfast love of God, a love that does not give up on us even when we fall short. In a culture that often equates love with excitement, kindness teaches us that love is also steady, tender, and persistent.

Finally, Micah says to "walk humbly with your God." Humility reminds us that love is not something we generate on our own. It is a gift we receive and then pass along. When we walk humbly, we acknowledge our need for God's guidance and grace. We make room for prayer, for listening, and for being shaped by the Spirit. Humility keeps love from becoming self-centered. It turns our attention outward and upward, anchoring our relationships in something deeper than our own desires. *Continued on next page*

## Ladies Bible Study

CT and Calvary ladies meet for an hour of Bible study led by Pr. Anne in the fellowship hall. We'll meet on Thurs, February 12 at 2 pm. Call Pr. Anne at 2 pm that day to participate by conference call. Copies of the Bible study will be available.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

We are collecting canned soups for the Souper Bowl of Caring through February 8. All soup will be donated to Open Door. You may place cans of soup in the shopping cart by the coat rack.

## Wednesday Bible Study

Our Bible study will continue through February 11<sup>th</sup>. We meet via Zoom for an hour beginning at 6:30 pm and all are welcome. Copies of the study are available in the fellowship hall or in email.

## Canceling In-Person Worship for Dangerous Weather

The council and Pastor Anne will decide about canceling **in-person** worship when the weather presents dangerous travel conditions. The roads will be assessed after 7:00 am and the decision about continuing with worship or canceling for the day will be made by 9:00 am. The announcement will be made by email, by changing the phone message at Church, and through our Facebook page. Most importantly, don't travel for Church if it does not seem safe to you.

We will hold morning prayer via Facebook and Zoom if in-person worship is canceled. The zoom link information appears at the top of this page.

## Scout Sunday – February 22<sup>nd</sup>

Scout Sunday is usually observed on the first Sunday of February. This observance, also called Scout Sabbath, is meant to remind us that Scouting is an organization that values not only the physical and intellectual development of participants, but the spiritual side as well. We look forward to welcoming our scouts to worship with us on Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stay for cookies and coffee following worship.

Please know that Troop 61 and Pack 61 are grateful for the care and support shown by this congregation. ~Pastor Anne

## News from the Church Council

Council met on January 18<sup>th</sup>. A report from Foundation Recovery Systems was shared - the foundation has not changed in the past year. Ash Wednesday worship will be at Calvary, Maundy Thursday will be at Christ-Trinity. A soup supper and Bible study will be held here on Wednesdays during Lent. Betty Barnes and Elda Bryson will conduct the annual audit.

## Announcements

- Pastor Anne is offering Facebook Live Prayer and Devotions Monday-Thursday at 8 am on her Facebook page.
- The 2026 address/phone directory is available in the fellowship hall. If you would like a copy sent to you electronically, contact Kay in the office.
- The church office will be closed Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> for the President's Day holiday.
- March newsletter items are due to the secretary by Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## From Pastor Anne *Continued*

Valentine's Day gives us an opportunity to practice this kind of love in tangible ways. We can write notes not only to spouses or partners, but to people who may feel overlooked. We can reach out to someone who is lonely, volunteer our time, or offer forgiveness where there has been tension. We can let our celebrations of love extend beyond romance and into the shared life of our community.

As we come near to Valentine's Day, may we take Micah's words to heart. May we be a people known not just for warm feelings, but for faithful action. May our love be visible in justice, expressed in kindness, and grounded in humble walking with God. That is the kind of love that reflects the heart of Christ and brings life to the world.

*Pastor Anne*

Attention Church Committees:  
Please submit your end-of-the-year reports to the secretary for the Annual Report – deadline April 1.

## **Shrove Tuesday Pancakes at Calvary**

Head on over to Calvary Episcopal on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 6:30 pm for the annual Shrove Tuesday Celebration. There will be plenty of pancakes, sausage, Mardi Gras beads, and good music! We will collect a free will offering with profits going to outreach. Bring a friend!

## **Ash Wednesday**

Join us for a shared Ash Wednesday service on February 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 pm. The service will be held at Calvary Episcopal Church, 713 S Ohio. The service will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter.

## **2026 Altar Flowers**

The sign-up sheet for altar flowers is posted in the fellowship hall. Altar flowers are \$20 for two arrangements. On the day of your donation, take your flowers after worship and enjoy them in your home, or give them to someone special.

Please fill out an altar flower form, located just below the sign-up sheet, to ensure that your flower donation is acknowledged in the bulletin. Forms and payments may be placed in the secretary's mailbox. Note: Make checks payable to Christ and Trinity.

## **Lenten Devotionals Available**

Watch for Lenten devotional books *Living Well Through Lent: Cultivating Healing and Wholeness in Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind* in the fellowship hall. There are also a number of good devotional options available online including <https://d365.org/> and <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/>.

## **Mardi Gras Pancake Luncheon**

Plan to stay after worship on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> for pancakes and sausage! Lent begins on February 18<sup>th</sup> so let's meet together to celebrate. There will be plenty of pancakes and sausage for everyone, so bring your friends and family.

## **Wednesday Lenten Soup and Study**

Wednesday Bible study will transition to in-person meetings during Lent, from February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup>. We will have soup at 6 pm, then begin our study at 6:30. We will be studying the foundations of our faith based on Luther's Small Catechism covering the Ten Commandments and the creeds. We will try to set up Zoom for video conference call participation.

A sign-up sheet to provide soups, bread, and desserts each week is available in the church fellowship hall. We hope to see you there!

## **Synod Assembly June 6 via Zoom**

The Central States Synod Assembly will be held on June 6 and will be online only. Our congregation is eligible to have two lay participants. Pr. Anne will be in Europe at that time and will not attend. Please talk to Pr. Anne if you are interested in participating in the assembly.

## **Travel Plans for June**

Pastor Anne will be traveling with Julie Willadsen and Andrea Eppenuer at the start of June. Our tour includes sites in Italy and Greece. Her calendar is blocked from May 28<sup>th</sup> through June 12<sup>th</sup>. Travel dates will be for 10 days during that time frame. The exact dates of travel will likely be announced in April. We will experience Vatican City, St. Peter's Basilica, and so much more.

## Prayer Requests

Mike Kyle, Floyd Hatfield, Mel Satnan, Marlyn Kern, Ryan Peters, Amanda, Betty, Connie Shoemaker, Lavern, Scott Arnold, Rick Morrison, Gerald Hunton, Carol Benner, Gwen Eppenauer.

Continue to pray for our home-bound members: Sandra Graf and Val Hoon.

Let us also remember Getayawckal Ariaya from Ethiopia, and Mouniratou from Burkina Faso; and those who serve our country in the armed services, peace corps and missions.

### Happy Birthday!

- 3 Brandon Harrison
- 7 Angela Robinson
- 11 Andrea Eppenauer
- 16 Karen Randall
- 24 Mike Kyle

### No Anniversaries in February

## A Single Thought

Before we can pray, "Lord, Thy kingdom come," we must be willing to pray, "My Kingdom go."

--Alan Redpath

## Worship Volunteers

Have you considered serving during worship on Sunday mornings? Would you like to learn how? We need folks to read the prayers, read the scriptures, light the candles, serve communion, and usher. Sign up in the fellowship hall. For more information, speak to Andrea or Pr. Anne.

## Readings for Sundays in February

### February 1 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

- Micah 6: 1-8
- Psalm 15
- 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31
- Matthew 5: 1-12

### February 8 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

- Isaiah 58: 1-9a [9b-12]
- Psalm 112: 1-9 [10]
- 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 [13-16]
- Matthew 5: 13-20

### February 15 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

- Exodus 24: 12-18
- Psalm 99
- 2 Peter 1: 16-21
- Matthew 17: 1-9

### February 22 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

- Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7
- Psalm 32
- Romans 5: 12-19
- Matthew 4: 1-11

## Praying Our Way Forward

As we discern together our best way forward as a congregation, I ask for all of us to be in prayer for God's hand in all that is before us and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. *O God, you have drawn us together into this community of faithful disciples. Help us to keep following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever we are. We ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for the wisdom and strength to follow where the Spirit guides us. In Jesus' name. Amen!*