

EPWORTH METHODIST CHURCH



February 2025

TELEPHONE(334) 298-3186 WWW.EPWORTH-PC.ORG

“Love is...”

Well, here we are again—Valentine’s Day—February 14. A time for cards and chocolate candy, flowers and falling in love! It seems to me that most people have some idea of what love is, or perhaps what love *is not!*

A classic 1955 movie starring William Holden and Jennifer Jones is known by its Academy Award-winning title song, “Love is a Many Splendored Thing.” Then there was also a soap opera that aired from 1967 through 1973, entitled the very same theme song: “Love is a Many Splendored Thing.” Were your emotions stirred—if in fact you were born yet—by that inspiring song, written and composed (respectively) in 1967 by Andre Popp and Pierre Cour, which reminded us all that, “Love is Blue?” It can be said then, that love is defined and described in various ways.

That being said, there are at least two Bible-based characteristics about the gift of love that we should remember to put into practice.

First, genuine love must be shown—it must be demonstrated!

Paul reminds us about that principle in his letter to the Romans, “But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” (Romans 5:8, NLT) God *showed* His love for us, unconditionally. I’m convinced He expects the same from us! In essence, He tells us as much in that passage of the Holy Bible that we have come to know as “The Love Chapter,”¹ Corinthians 13, verses 4 – 6: “Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful;⁵ it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.” To put it simply, love has to be shown. It has to be demonstrated.

Secondly, genuine love must be shared!

It’s one thing to love someone “from a distance”—so to speak. But at some point, it’s imperative to tell them—to share with them—that we love them! It seemed important to Jesus, although Simon Peter had denied that he was actually one of Jesus’ *closest followers*—even denied that he *knew* Jesus—for Peter to profess his love for Him. John’s Gospel, in chapter 21 beginning with verse 15, records their conversation, in which Jesus reveals that He expects Simon



by Rev. Grant Parker

Peter to share, as well as to show, his love for Him.

“Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ Peter replied, ‘you know I love you.’ ‘Then feed My lambs,’ Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: ‘Simon son of John, do you love Me?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ Peter said, ‘you know I love you.’ ‘Then take care of My sheep,’ Jesus said. A third time He asked him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love Me?’ Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, ‘Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Then feed My sheep.’”

Oh, I know, sometimes it’s hard “to remember not to forget.” To say it another way, we “forget to remember!” I remember a story my friend, the Rev. Dr. George Mathison once shared with me. I think I remember the story because it reminds me so much of myself at times!

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It seems that a gentleman was walking down the street when he saw an old man sitting on a park bench just crying his eyes out. He said to the elderly man, 'Why are you so sad? What is the matter?' The old fellow said, 'I just got married to this beautiful young woman. She loves me, and I love her, and we have a wonderful life together. We live in a beautiful house with a little white fence around the yard, the yard is covered with beautiful green grass, and fragrant flowers adorn the area around the house—and I have anything and everything I want.' The gentlemen then said to the old man, 'Well, then why are you crying like that?' The old man said, 'I can't remember where I live!'

I know, sometimes we "forget to remember" the important things about life and love. But this St. Valentine's Day—in fact, every day—let's try to remember to show and to share our love for others!

Keep your hand in Jesus' hand, and your eyes on the Cross!

Brother Grant

A Time to Pray in the Chapel during the Sunday Morning Worship Services

- February 2, 2025 8:30 am - Doris Abbott
 9:45 am - Shirley Goode
 11:00 am Rich Coreno

- February 9, 2025 8:30 am - Gloria Griggs
 9:45 am - Meg Clark
 11:00 am - Penny Verner

- February 16, 2025 8:30 am - David Bain
 9:45 am -Terri Medina
 11:00 am - Pam Shores

- February 23, 2025 8:30 am - Gary Dillard
 9:45 am - Becky Coreno
 11:00 am - Jennifer Gatewood



You all are invited to attend the "For the Love of Jesus" banquet, February 13th at 6:30 PM. Come out and share your love and enjoy an evening of good food, fellowship, worship, entertainment and door prizes.

Cost for the evening is \$15.00 per person paid in advance. You can pay on-line or give Linda Findlater a check or cash. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the gathering room. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.... You will be truly blessed!



Anniversaries	
Feb 3	Bill & Ronnie Badowski
Feb 5	Robert & Marina Meacham
Feb 6	Mark & Mary Ensley
Feb 7	Eddie & Abby Supan
Feb 10	Bryce & Becky Gaunt Bubba & Caylin Tate
Feb 20	Scott & Judy Burkes
Feb 22	Ed & Regina Ridgley
Feb 24	Ralph & Pam O'Brien

On behalf of all the Angel Tree children you were able to provide a gift for in December 2024, I thank each individual, Sunday School class and group at Epworth who donated to this needy cause. You always give generously but this year was unmatched. It has been my honor to humbly be a part of Angel Tree through Prison Fellowship Ministry. I pray that next year even more children will be blessed.

Blessings to all, Pam Shores

Birthdays	
Feb 1	Gabriel Watson
Feb 2	Sylvia Curtiss Jimmy Mann Hank Baker
Feb 3	Kyle Page Ella Bell Delilah Kennedy
Feb 4	Liz Wise
Feb 5	Ron Hart Emma Cato
Feb 6	Adrianna Hartley
Feb 7	Andrew Head
Feb 9	Kinsley Riepe
Feb 10	Bonnie Wilgis David Head Jess Thomas
Feb 11	Abby Cook Adam Norden Sheri Nishimura
Feb 12	Sue Barnes Doris Abbott
Feb 13	Carol Cain
Feb 14	Eleonore Hall Seabo Griggs Pat Taylor
Feb 15	Amy Head
Feb 16	Mallie Rollo
Feb 18	Mary Barnette Emma Head
Feb 19	Ben Johnson
Feb 21	Ralph O'Brien
Feb 22	Wendy Sieck
Feb 23	Katie Collins
Feb 24	Ronnie Head
Feb 25	Betty Register Stephanie Baker Miranda Griggs
Feb 26	Rejean Lee Karen Cameron
Feb 28	Ray Hope



HELP US KEEP EPWORTH CHURCH SAFE

- You may not see them, but members of our security ministry team volunteer during every service and special church-wide event to help ensure the safety of our worshippers and the sanctity of our services.
- It's a shame we have to think about security while we are in God's House, but we do. Although we have received no specific threats against Epworth, the world around us is getting more violent: from the ongoing unrest and attacks in the Middle East, to the recent terrorist act in New Orleans, to a shooting in Eufaula, to a recent threat against Calvary Christian Academy in Columbus, GA, we need to keep our eyes open and be alert more than ever.
- Pick up the one-page security tips sheet on the Gathering Room Counter to see how you can help while you are at Epworth.
- Although we have approximately 50 members on our security ministry team, when we consider work and other activities that keep them from serving – and so we do not ask them to serve too frequently and miss their primary reason for attending church – we sometimes have difficulty meeting our security commitment on a given Sunday or during a special Epworth event. **WE COULD USE MORE SECURITY MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS.** If you are interested or know someone whom you believe would make a good addition to our team, please let Pastor Grant (grant.parker@epworth-pc.org, or 334-298-3186) or Ross Goode (rcgoode525@gmail.com), or 706-464-5089 know.

HELP US KNOW AND HONOR OUR VETERANS

- We appreciate the approximately 90 Veterans who attend or are connected to Epworth, including those men and women serving on active duty in any of our military services, those who retired from that service, and those who served honorably in any of our military services.
 - We want to honor them on their special days (Memorial Day, Veterans Day, etc.), pray for them, send them birthday and Christmas cards, invite them to our Veterans Day Dinner, and thank them for their service when we see them.
 - We need your help in ensuring we can include every Epworth-Connected Veteran by knowing who they are.
 - We have placed a book entitled "Epworth Military Connections" on the Gathering Room Counter. If you know a Veteran who is not in the book but whom we should include, or if you see updates we need to make, please let Pastor Grant or Ross Goode know.
- Please help us be able to honor ALL our Veterans. Thank You!**

A message from our Youth Minister Daniel Cook

This past month, the student ministry explored the story of Joseph and how, despite the many events in his life that seemed to indicate God was not working, we ultimately saw that God had His hand on Joseph's life the entire time.

Joseph's story begins with him as the favored son, wearing a coat of many colors that symbolizes his father's special love. Consumed by jealousy, his brothers plot to kill him but instead throw him into a pit. Eventually, they sell him as a slave to traders on their way to Egypt.

While in prison, Joseph encounters two of Pharaoh's officials, the cupbearer and the baker. After interpreting their dreams, Joseph asks the cupbearer to remember him when he is restored to his position. However, the cupbearer forgets about him for two full years.

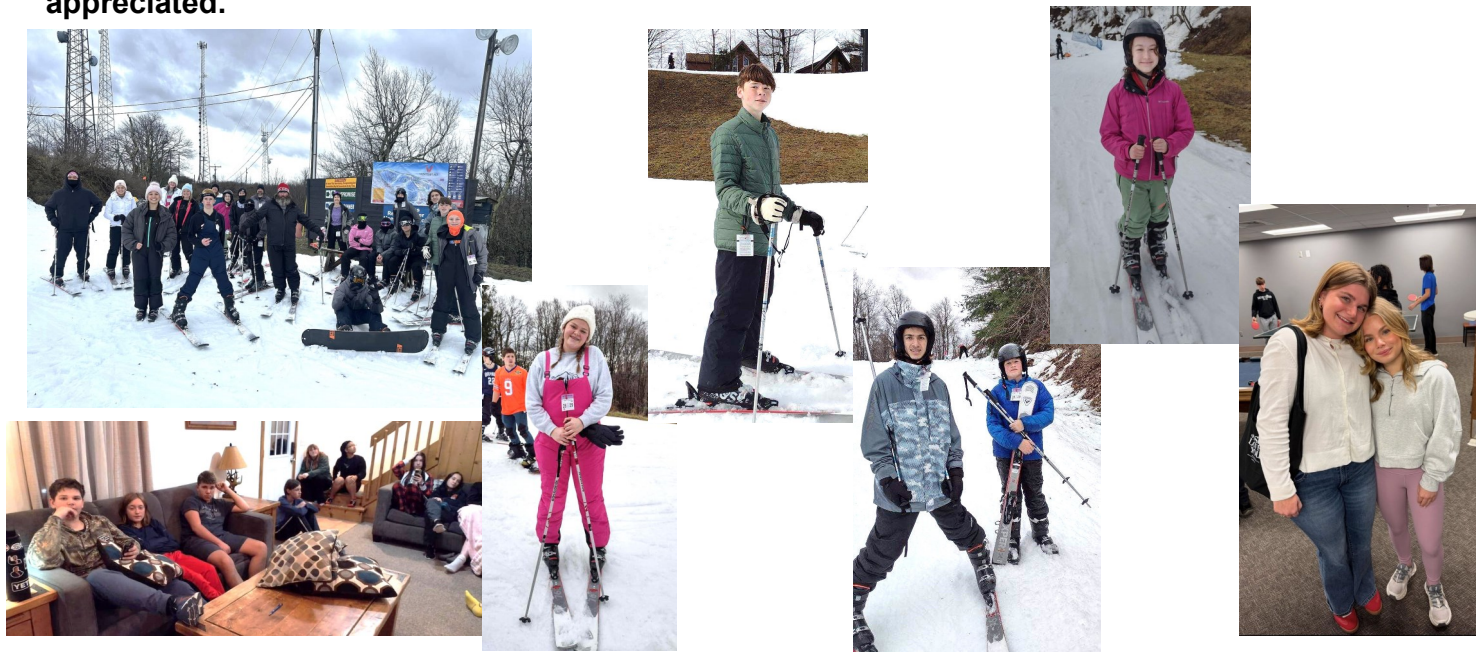
During this time, Joseph might have felt forgotten, abandoned, and perhaps even questioned God's timing. But in God's perfect moment, the cupbearer remembers Joseph when Pharaoh has troubling dreams. Joseph is brought before Pharaoh, and by God's wisdom, he interprets the dreams, foretelling seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine. It is at this moment that Joseph's purpose is revealed—he is placed in a position to save not only Egypt but also his own family from the impending famine.

In the final chapters of Genesis, Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to buy food during the famine. They do not recognize Joseph, but he recognizes them. Instead of seeking revenge, Joseph tests their hearts to see if they have changed. When they prove their repentance, Joseph reveals his identity to them.

Looking back on his life, Joseph sees that even the darkest moments were part of God's sovereign plan. He had been rejected, betrayed, falsely accused, imprisoned, and forgotten, yet in each of those moments, God was working.

Joseph's life serves as a reminder that even when we can't see or understand God's plan, He is at work. There are times when our circumstances may feel like they are falling apart, but God's hand is never far from us. He is shaping us, refining us, and positioning us for a purpose that is greater than we can imagine.

Epworth Students would like to thank everyone who helped the students and leaders attend our ski trip in December! Your continuous support and prayers are truly a blessing and greatly appreciated.



Events in February:

Wednesday Nights

February Series: Enough! When we feel weakest, God will give us strength to be more than enough.

“Enough!” is four weeks of stories from the Bible highlighting that students are enough

because God is enough. Enough will challenge students to say, “Enough is enough!”

Sometimes students feel weak, inadequate, shameful, and timid. In this series, you

will see how God has equipped, encouraged, cleansed, and blessed you to be

Enough.

Join us on Wednesday night from 6:00 - 6:30 as we hang out in the gym, game room, and snack bar. From 6:30 - 7:30 we have our youth service and then hang out for a few minutes after.

Sunday Mornings Worship

We invite all families and teenagers to attend a Sunday morning worship service. As you know there are three to choose from, with most teenagers attending the 9:45 service. We would love to see your family worship with us!

Tuesday Morning Breakfast and Devotion - All students are invited to join us every Tuesday morning for a quick breakfast and devotion at Chick-fil-a in Phenix City. Our first group meets at 7:00 am and the second group meets at 8:00 am. We eat breakfast together and dive into God’s word for about 20-25 minutes before heading off to school.

Small Group - Sunday Mornings at 11:00

Following the 9:45 service there is a class offered for all teenagers. Some may call it Sunday School and others call it a Small Group, but no matter what you call it, it is important. This is a place for teenagers to talk through the Bible and life with other teenagers and to grow together as they navigate what it means to follow Christ.

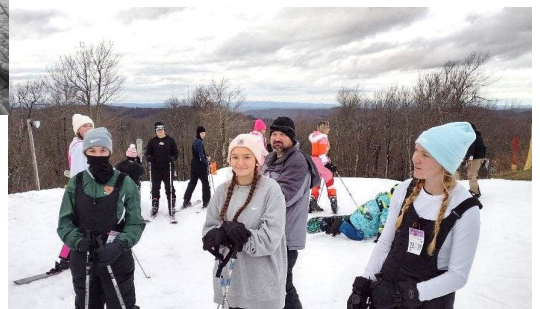
Registration for Merge Youth Camp is now open! Registration is now open for all students currently in 7th - 12th grade. If your child is interested in attending Merge Youth Camp with us this summer, please reach out to me @ daniel.cook@epworth-pc.org. The dates for camp are July 11-14 and the cost of camp is \$300.

Save the dates for 2025:

Summer Camp: July 11-14, 2025

DNOW: August 15-17, 2025

Ski Trip - December 27-30, 2025



EPWORTH KIDZ CREW

THE WINTER GAMES ARE COMING!!

DADS AND DAUGHTERS AND MOMS AND SONS!

Join us for **THE WINTER GAMES** where Dads and Daughters will team up against Moms and Sons for some winter fun!

WHEN: Sunday, February 23rd, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Epworth Gym

WHAT: Friendly family competition, ice cream bar, gaga ball!

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME!! Sign up with Amber

Kids through 5th grade bring your parents for some great winter games.

“Extra” parents can help referee! REGISTER your name and the number in your family group at amber.mccart@epworth-pc.org

GET YOUR GAME ON!

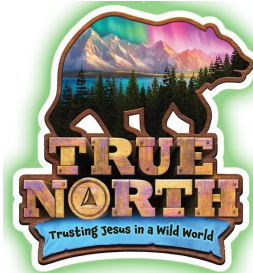
“Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” 1 Corinthians 9:25



VBS MATERIALS ARE HERE!

VBS PREPARATIONS

Gearing up for VBS! If you are available to help with decorations, please contact me at 334-298-3186 or email Amber.mccart@epworth-pc.org



UPCOMING DATES....

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA: Sunday, April 13, 4:00-5:30

KIDZ SUMMER CAMP:

Dates: Monday through Thursday, July 8-11

Camp: MERGE in Shocco Springs Camp

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” -Matthew 5:16

February 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2 3:00 pm— Council on Ministries Meeting 5:30 pm Cherubs Choir and Kidz Cruise	3 12:00 pm— Happy Days “Covered Dish” Luncheon	4 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm—Bible Study	5 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Cart workshop 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	6 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 6:0 pm EMW will meet in the Youth room 6:30 pm—Men’s Ministry—Family Dinner	7	8
9 5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	10 Newsletter Deadline	11 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm— Bible Study	12 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Cart workshop 6:00 pm Youth	13 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 6:00 pm Valentine Dinner “For the Love of Jesus”	14	15
16 9:45 & 11:00 am Service— Cherub will sing 5:30 pm Cherub Choir and Kidz Cruise	17 President’s Day Office Closed	18 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm— Prayer Vigil 6:30 pm— Bible Study	19 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	20 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool	21	22
23 5:00—6:30 pm The Kidz Winter Games Dads & Daughters and Moms & Sons	24	25 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm— Bible Study	26 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Cart workshop 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes & Kids Konnections	27 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool	28	

