

# FEBRUARY

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

## Happy Birthday

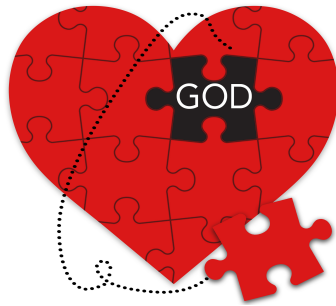
February 2 ~ Julie Patress  
 February 6 ~ Nancy Lonich  
 February 7 ~ Joe Patress  
 February 8 ~ Susan Biber  
 February 10 ~ Thomas Tennant  
 February 11 ~ Christianna Burney  
 February 12 ~ Bernadette Amos  
 February 13 ~ Jodi Gatts  
 February 15 ~ Craig Amos  
 February 16 ~ Mary Bruno  
 February 16 ~ Gary Gatts  
 February 16 ~ Sam Lonich  
 February 17 ~ Brayden Bozovich  
 February 17 ~ Holly Elish  
 February 19 ~ Tony Burney  
 February 22 ~ Christine Herko  
 February 24 ~ Malory Little  
 February 25 ~ George Burcin

## Happy Anniversary

February 5 ~ Paul and Elizabeth Bellicini  
 February 14 ~ Lamar and Rachel Russell  
 February 19 ~ Hal and Marie Hollis  
 February 25 ~ Jim and Dolly Davis  
 February 26 ~ Bud and Rene Allen

## February 18 First Sunday in Lent

Set Up: Misty Kevech  
 Bread: Terri Seeley  
 Captain : Joyce Myers  
 Team:  
 Loni King, Linda Sprowls,  
 Dan Biber and Eric Dreyer



Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God.

Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ." Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings. "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

## Schedule

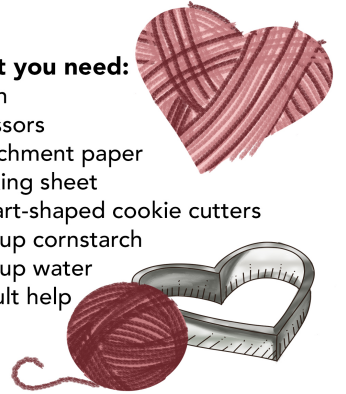
Friday, February 2		Ground Hog Day
Sunday, February 4	10:00AM	Sunday School
	11:00AM	Worship
	12:15PM	Congregational Meeting
	6:00PM	The Chosen
Monday, February 5	7:00PM	Women's Connection
Tuesday, February 6	12:00PM	Bible Release Time
Wednesday, February 7	7:00PM	Bible Study
Thursday, February 8	6:30PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, February 11		Transfiguration or Our Lord
	10:00AM	Sunday School
	11:00AM	Worship
	12:30PM	Pysanky Egg Class
Monday, February 13	6:00PM	Property Meeting
Wednesday, February 14		Ash Wednesday
		Valentine's Day
	7:00PM	Bible Study
Thursday, February 15	6:30PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 18		First Sunday in Lent
	9:30AM	Stewardship Meeting
	10:00AM	Sunday School
	11:00AM	Worship
Monday, February 19		Presidents Day
Tuesday, February 20	12:00PM	Bible Release Time
Wednesday, February 21	7:00PM	Bible Study
Thursday, February 22	6:30PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, February 25		Second Sunday in Lent
	10:00AM	Sunday School
	11:00AM	Worship
	12:15PM	Deacon's Meeting
	7:00PM	Session
Wednesday, February 28	7:00PM	Bible Study
Thursday, February 29		Leap Day
	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal

# HEART strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

### What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

# We Love Our Volunteers

Date	Greeters	Scripture Readers	Offering Counters	Children in Worship
February 4	Lisa Vippermn	Joyce Myers	Dan Biver	Dan Biver
February 11	Lorraine Shrader	Jim Shrader	Joyce Meyers	Linda Sprowls
February 18	Jessica Allen	Michell Little	Loni King	Michelle Douglas
February 25	The Hays Family	Michelle Douglas	Curt Sprowls	Linda Sprowls



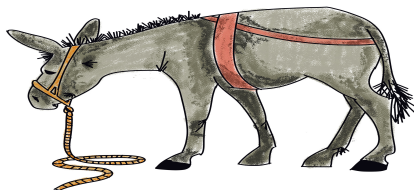
If you would like to volunteer to be a Greeter or Scripture Reader, please contact the church secretary, Anita Campbell, 724-207-3151 or email at [office@fpcbent.org](mailto:office@fpcbent.org).

If you would like to be part of the Children in Worship team, please contact Linda Sprowls, 724-579-2713 or email at [clemes239@gmail.com](mailto:clemes239@gmail.com)

## Be the donkey

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor.” Jesus told his followers they’d need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?



## Learning to forgive

Forgiveness is great in theory, and it’s a wonderful blessing to receive. But granting forgiveness can be another story. As C.S. Lewis said, “Everybody says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive.” Likewise, forgiveness doesn’t simply happen over time, as forgetting often does. Instead, it’s “an act of volition,” said Simon Wiesenthal, “and only the sufferer is qualified to make the decision.”

Because forgiveness has many spiritual, emotional and even physical benefits, the secular world is taking notice. Colleges now offer classes about forgiveness skills and strategies. “You practically never hear sermons on forgiveness that are practical and give clear instructions on how to approach it,” Professor Robert Enright tells the Washington Post.

Graduate student Shyanne Sporrer says a forgiveness class helped her realize the danger of holding grudges. “Forgiving does not mean you are giving up power,” she says. “On the contrary, when you forgive, you are the person who is in control. By forgiving, you can empower yourself to move forward

## The realm of the impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God’s realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.

## Prayer for Lent

Dear Christ, hasten to me. Release me from my sins. Free my arms from the chains of evil, that I may embrace you. Lift the scales of ignorance from my eyes that I may see you. Why do you delay? What are you waiting for? You are my God and my Lord, you are my refuge and strength, you are my glory and my hope. In you I put my trust. Dear Christ, hasten to me. ~ Aelred of Rievaulx (12th century)

