

Love Love Love

That's what it's all about
(Pat's Pondering from the Pews)

February came around mighty quick or perhaps the years are passing by in a swirl of activities for most people. However, Feb is also a time of continuing darkness as winter has not loosened its grip on the earth.



Some of us will wait for that Marmota Monax (ground hog) to pop his head out of the earth to see his shadow or not. Many believe we will have an additional 6 weeks of winter weather if he goes back underground to snooze longer.

For some, Feb is a time for love as we celebrate Valentines Day on the 14th in memory of Saint Valentine, a 3rd century priest and physician in Rome who was martyred for his faith. He was associated with the higher court on his day.



However the greater love stories are found in scripture in the stories of

Abram & Sari (Gen 15-17),
Isaac & Rebecca (Gen 24),
Ruth & Boaz (Ruth II Sam 11-12) and
Samson & Delilah (Judges 16).

Each of these stories tell both the good as well as the mistakes made in each relationship.

Another beautiful love story, rarely discussed and is not quoted in the New Testament is believed to be written by King Solomon. The beloved speaks to and about his loved one with an intimacy usually found in wedded bliss. She in turn responds to her beloved in like manner. This love story is found in the Song of Songs.



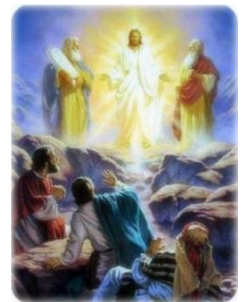
The story is thought by some theologians to be an allegory telling of the love that King Solomon had for his first love as well as the story of love that God has for his bride (his church). Regardless of which, it is a story worth reading and embracing.

The greatest love story of all is that of God, who loved his creation and creatures (us) so much that he gave us free will to choose to have a relationship with him or to reject him. Then we have Jesus' love for all of humanity that kept him nailed to that rugged cross so that we could be reconciled to Father God and be assured a seat in eternity with Him. Lest we not forget, the love that the Holy Spirit has for believers as He comforts, guides, supports us on our faith journey is also our love gift from the Father.



Wow, such Amazing Love!

Feb is also the month we celebrate the transfiguration whereby God displayed His love for his only Son, when Jesus was changed and brought into His glorious self. We will celebrate this event Feb 7, 2016.



Yes February is a month to celebrate love, whether it be love of family, a sibling, a child, a spouse or mate, a friend, our nation or many other loves.

Here at Grace, we are ordinary people celebrating an extraordinary God who loves us beyond measure, regardless and in spite of our faults.

Let's fall in love all over again in this season by re-discovering God's love for all of humanity as found recorded in the bible.

Churchie Words galore

Marantha- a transliteration from Aramaic =Our Lord come regardless of man's enmity. (found only 1 time in I Cor16:22)

Theology is a study about God and/ or others' religious beliefs

Edification is a word given for guidance or encouragement to another

Consecrate- to declare or make sacred for a divine purpose

Sanctify- to set apart and declare holy or becoming freed from sin.

Confirmation- is to affirm ones belief in a rite of a church



Valentines Dinner will be held Feb 14 at 6PM – TRI-TIP dinner

Diners are asked to bring a side dish and/or a desert to share.

Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday Vesper Services— Feb 10 at 7PM.



Soup suppers start each Weds, at 6PM
Soup & bread providers are as follows:

Feb 17 members with last names A-K

Feb 24 members with last names L- Z

Mar 2 members with last names A-K

Mar 16 members with last names L-Z

Mar 23 All

Please bring soup enough to serve 8-10 people .Please bring your own bowl and utensils with you.

Holden Village Vespers at 6:45PM following supper-----

--

- Ash Wednesday –

***Thought by some to mirror the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert being tempted as well as a time of his fasting.**

*** The marking of ashes go back in time to the Old Testament for those who were mourning a death or were sorrowful for some grievous event.**

***Ashes used in current year are made from the burned palm branches from the previous year and mixed with a little water (and sometimes little olive oil)**

*** The 40 days of Lent do NOT include Sundays as they were and are a day of Resurrection celebration.**

Going Deeper into Lent

Winter in the north country calls for hibernation and stillness yet we push our bodies up against the darkness. Lent is a season of the body, a time of preparation of plumbing the darkness. It echoes how the body of the earth prepares for the coming of light and life of the distant growing season toward the explosion of new beginnings. The story and our faith revolve around one of flesh steeped in divinity, of body named Holy, in its hunger and frailty, loving and joys.

(an excerpt of Regina Laroche as found in Weavings)

Other National Celebrations

Citizens of our country will also celebrate President's Day in honor of all our nations leadership.

February is also Black History month and American Heart Month

Your council at work in Feb

Treasurer—General giving for 2015 is up by 1.06%

Pastor's report—donation of toys arrived after Christmas and asking for place to send them

Call Team—nothing to report

Proposed 2016 budget approved for submission to congregational meeting for vote

Christian Ed--- Need Sun School teachers beginning in Feb---

Jeannie & Janet thanked for filing in the gap

Worship & Music--- Will assign soup supper days and have printed in bulletin

New council to be installed Sunday 1/31 at both services.

Annual Congregational Meeting Results



Continuing for another 3 yr term on council is : Bill Yoder and Lynn Edwards and new comer, Joanne Lanz with Carol Mordhorst to complete J Dunn's one yr remaining term.

Elected to endowment Team is: Gwen Rasmussen & Bill Dabbs

Nominating Team to be: Raisa Lindsteadt, May Ann Michaelson, Jeanne Yttreness, & Cindy Johns

2016 Budget was approved as presented.

Complete minutes will be posted in the fellowship hall when completed.

God is with us as we progress through 2016--

This and that

Congratulations to Chris & Bill Dabbs on their successful bass fishing trip to Brazil. They caught some very big ones that did not get away. Amazing sizes!



Congratulations to Holly & Bear Conormon who will be 1st time grandparents later this year. Daughter Jenn shared her good news this past Christmas.

Glen & Jan Steliga's daughter Jodi and her hubby and baby have arrived in the USA and will make their home in Texas.

Prayers of praise going out for a quick healing for Tyler B's ankle injury and Tom K's allergic reaction to a new med. Prayers also to Carol Fisher and family on the death of Dr Bill this past Dec.

GLC welcomes Mr. Leroy Glass as a new member on Jan 17. He attends the 1st service . Give him a big hello!

Prayers and words of encouragement needed for Mari Heinrich as she has knee surgery mid Feb and will be in Re-hab for a bit before she can return to walking and to church.

Prayers also for Dianne Pauli as she gives up driving and having mobility issues.

Call team thanks all for their patience and prayers as they continue to seek out the pastor that the Holy Spirit desires for our congregation.



Yep!!! It is empty again and needs to be re-filled this month to help feed those who don't have sufficient to carry them through the month. HOWEVER, we should be proud of this congregation for the over **109 pounds** of food staples that you all donated and were taken to the food bank in Jan. Lets try to top those numbers every month this year.

Don Bettencourt delivered a 2nd box of sock, gloves, scarves, and blankets to Plowshares in Jan on our behalf. Thanks to all who donated and to Don for seeing to the delivery.

Repeat—A 12 step group will be meeting on the 1st Thurs of each month at 7PM. .. Call Office for further details if you or a loved one needs support through a 12 step process.

2nd Service--- Pat Boesel will be seeking out new faces and names to assist with communion as well as readers for the contemporary service.

Eric Stolpe looking for additional people to clean the sanctuary, every week or so. Give him a call.

Same Story , Same Dance

Many years have passed but it's the' same ole, same ole' or ' "you have to do something different to get different results'.

I am referring to information here!
Unless the information is passed along what your team is doing, you will not see great results with your project or events. One must question why people complain when the event is not well attended. Guess what? Information is not forthcoming from those who spearhead the event. ...Seems as though it has to be pried out of folks with a pry bar. " Information is Power!" and should be shared. Let's start to do things differently in 2016 and watch the great results we achieve. Enough said!



Our Pennies for the K-9 units of both Ukiah Police Dep't and Mendocino County Sheriff's Office are put to good use. Every penny offered helps our law enforcement . Our Sunday School youth are doing their part with their penny donations. Lets all help them over the top with our pennies too!



Pearls of Wisdom from the Pastor's Pen

Feb , 2016

Grace and peace,

Easter is early this year – March 27. That means Lent is early. In fact Lent starts with Ash Wednesday February 10, 2016. I thought we just had Christmas and we are already talking about Lent and Easter. Can't we just slow down a little bit and have a break before the solemnity of Lent? I'm not ready to face it yet!

That's the problem for so many of us. We think we have to be ready. After all, Lent is 40 days of solemn worship and hymns. It is 40 days of bitter wine at communion and no halleluiahs. For some it is 40 days of giving up something we enjoy to see how well we resist temptation.

In Matthew 6:1-21 Jesus gives us what has been called the three disciplines of Lent. We are called at this time to increase our almsgiving, increase prayer and to fast. In more modern terms this means we are to increase our giving to the poor, increase our focus on prayer and to decrease our focus on ourselves. This isn't something we need to prepare ourselves for. This is how we are called each day to live as Disciples of Christ.

I guess I am as ready for Lent as I am for whatever happens tomorrow. It is just another 40 days of a journey that I need to walk with my God. I pray that your Lentin journey is filled with meaningful conversations with God as you focus of the needs of others.

Lentin peace,

Pastor Martha

Please submit your **original** prayer, poem, prose or thoughts before the 20th of the month for inclusion in Gracelines. If you wish to submit a quote or portions of another's writings , please include the original authors name and where you got it so we do not have issues with copy write/royalty/ plagiarizing issues to contend with.

Visit our Web site at: www.gracelutheranukiah.com and social media on Facebook.