

NORTH BENTON CHURCH

NEWS



North Benton Presbyterian Church

Web Site: www.northbentonchurch.org
www.facebook.com/northbenton.church.1

February 2026
Vol. 52, Issue 2

Good February greetings to all of you,

Here we are in February which means Valentine's Day draws near. (The stores have been reminding us since Thanksgiving!) It is a time when we send cards, dinners, candy, flowers and expressions of love to our loved ones and others. This kind of love can sometimes be fleeting or dependent on circumstance. I will never forget then I was teaching, we had a Valentine's party in class saying how much we "loved" each other and then two girls getting in an argument during recess!

It is easy to get swept up into the Valentine season. They have their place because it is just part of our culture. It is another way of demonstrating our love for each other. But it is after all human love. Human love can also bring about misunderstandings, expectations and disappointments. And as the candy get eaten and the flowers fade, sometimes we put our "love" feelings on the back burner and go on about our lives.

In contrast, God's love is so much different. God's love is different and deeper. Unlike Valentine's love, we know that God's love is unconditional, unwavering and eternal. It does not depend on how we feel or what we do or don't do. God's love is constant, never fading and is offered freely to all people.

God's love remains steadfast.

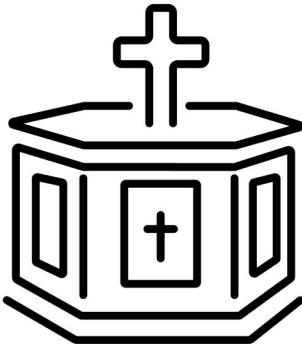
In the scriptures, we see throughout the Bible how God's love is not based on our worthiness but on God's nature. First John 4:19 tells us, "We love because God first loved us." It is not dependent on good deeds or lost when we fail. God's love remains steadfast no matter what. God's love gives us an example as to how we should love. First Corinthians 13 gives us a check list to see how to love as it shows us the depth of God's love for us.

One of the prudent ways for us to get through this Valentine season is to go along with the culture. But may really take hold of the love God has for us and daily show acts of kindness, patience, and understanding. Let us be instruments of God's love in this world. Let God's love work in us and through us and make an effort to grow into a greater relationship with the ONE Who really loves us so much that we can't keep it in but to share it with others.

May you have a blessed February!

Pastor Herb





It's
Celebrate

For February, our sermons will continue to be based on the people of Israel entering the Promised Land. We can see parallels to them as we move into the Promised Life" Here are the scriptures, themes and titles of our February sermons:

February 1, 2026. The fifth chapter of Joshua is the basis of the sermon: "Getting Ready to Renew>>>" No longer is the promise of God on hold. They are ready! We can be ready also. We will also be having our mid-winter communion on this day.

February 8. 2026. The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. Here we go! The sermon title, "Getting Ready to Triumph>>>" shows us the glories when THE plan comes to fruition. Joshua 6 is the basis for the sermon. It shows us what is in store for us also.

February 15, 2026. The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany. All right, everything is set! Wow! But something goes wrong. The sermon title is "Getting Ready toWHOOPS!" We see that in the lives of the people of Israel and in our own lives. We will be looking at Joshua 7 and 8 for this sermon.

February 22, 2026. The First Sunday in Lent. We come to the end of this series on Joshua with the sermon "Getting Ready to Keep On!" based on chapters 23 and 24. Good things happen when we keep on keeping on. This sermon will help us do that as we enter the season of Lent.

February 2026

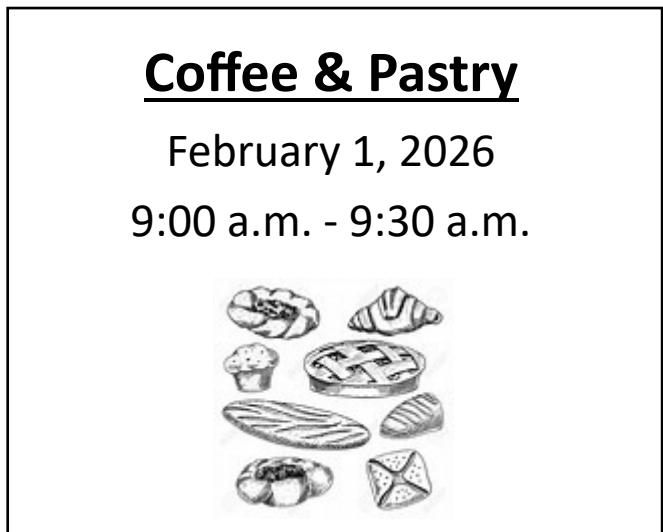
Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2/2 Sarah Gossiaux
- 2/4 Denton Herron
- 2/4 Zac Baldwin
- 2/6 Jean Buchs
- 2/11 Barb Ramage
- 2/13 Margaret Moore
- 2/14 Madison Fay
- 2/14 Makayla Randlett
- 2/15 James Hilles
- 2/15 Ryan Myers
- 2/16 Cheri Martin
- 2/18 Lila Turner (Shields)
- 2/22 Dale Fay
- 2/23 Lydia Bates
- 2/26 Tim Wilmoth
- 2/27 Josh & Lauren Gaines
- 2/28 Jamie Aebi

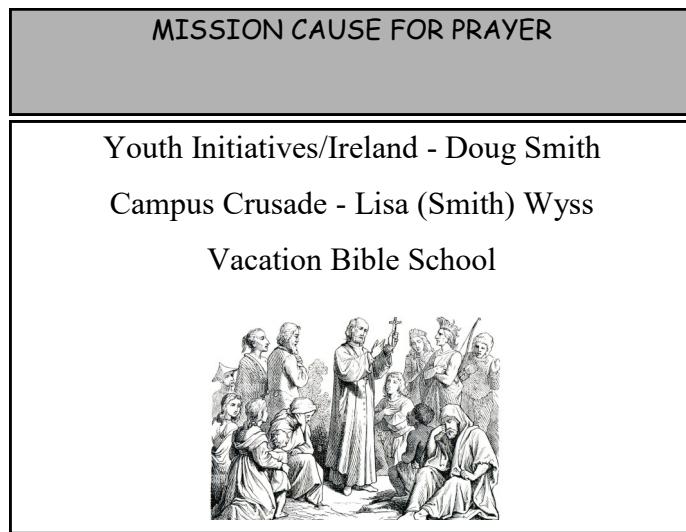
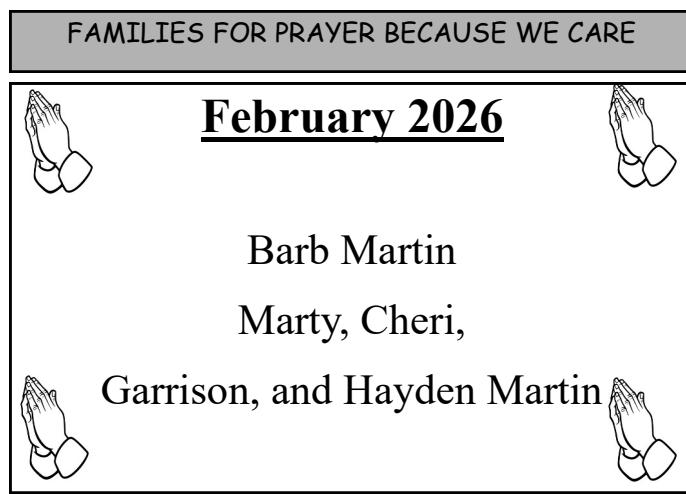


OFFERING/ATTENDANCE		
December 2025		
	Offering	Attendance
12/7/25	1834.00	42
12/14/25	3102.02	26
12/21/25	1955.02	50
12/24/25	186.00	76
12/28/25	885.00	28

DEACON GREETERS
February 2026
Karen Fay Barb Franklin

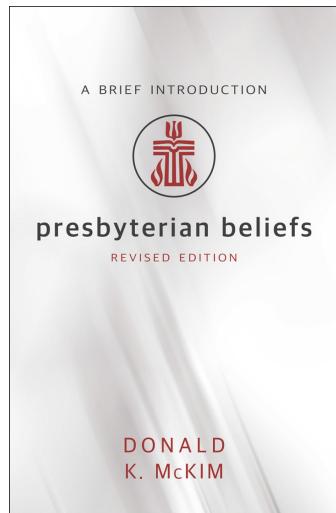


CONTINUED PRAYER
<u>Nursing Home/Homebound</u>
Dan Rowe (Essex #1 Salem, Rm. # 210, Salem, OH 44460)
<u>Ongoing Health Concerns</u> Denton Herron, Jim Hilles, Stan Jozwiakowski, Sandy Jozwiakowski, and Paul Bates



<u>Special Dates for February 2026</u>
Black History Month, February 1-28, 2026
Groundhog Day, February 2, 2026
Valentine's Day, February 14, 2026
Presidents Day, February 16, 2026
Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Book Review



This book is a clear introduction to the major beliefs of Presbyterians. Donald McKim describes in easy-to-understand language what Presbyterians believe about key Reformed theological topics. The revised edition has been updated to include recent changes in the new Form of Government and the Confession of Belhar, among others. Ideal for personal and group study in churches, Presbyterian Beliefs includes ten unique case studies and questions for considering how to apply Presbyterian beliefs to church and daily life.



CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

CORNERSTONE — The cornerstone is a symbol for Christ. It has Old Testament roots in Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 28:16). In the New Testament, Christ is called the cornerstone in Ephesians 2:20. The IHC and XP on the stone's sides are abbreviations for "Jesus" and "Christ" in Greek.

Favorite Recipes of Old

Recipes are chosen at random from the North Benton Church "Favorite Recipes" cookbook.

REAL GOOD POTATO SOUP

Sylvia Townsend

6 medium potatoes	1 large onion
1 10-oz. can cream of celery soup	
1 small pkg. dried beef or 1 cup chunked ham	
	or 1 cup chunked turkey-ham

Peel and cut the potatoes into chunks. Cut up onion fine. Use enough water to cover potatoes and onions and cook until soft; add cream of celery soup; mix until smooth. You can add your choice of meat. Let heat to boil and serve. Serves 4 to 6.



Engage Your Mind

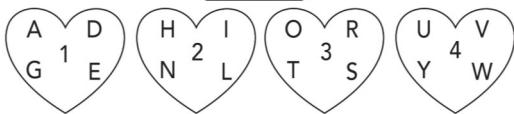


Puzzle!

We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

CODE:



"

2* *2 *1 4* 1*

2* *3 4* 1* 1* *4 *3 *4

4* 2* *3 *2 *1 *2

1* 4* 1* 3* 2* *1 3* *3 2* *2 1*



Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

News from the Pews

We are going to try doing "News from the Pews" again. Please submit your news with one photo to secretary@northbentonchurch.org



LOVE CODE BREAKER

Change some of the letters below to reveal this verse!

C's to L	Z's to H	P's to R	
Change:	J's to A	Q's to T	X's to E
K's to O			

(The other letters stay the same.)

" L C K V X Q Z X C K P D Y K U P

— G K D — W I Q Z — J C C — Y K U P —

— Z X J P Q — J N D — W I Q Z — J C C —

— Y K U P — S K U C — J N D — W I Q Z —

— J C C — Y K U P — M I N D — J N D —

— W I Q Z — J C C — Y K U P —

— S Q P X N G Q Z . "

Mark 12:30

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

BIBLE QUIZ

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the selfless, sacrificial love that God shows to humanity?

- A. Eros
- B. Phileo
- C. Agape
- D. Storge

Answer: C (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)

The King No One Expected



Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That's exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday.

Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, "*Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*" They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king.

Was He a king? Jesus didn't deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, "*I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.*"

Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, "*Here is your king.*" The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, "*We have no king but Caesar!*"

When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared:

"Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. "*What I have written, I have written,*" he said.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of "saying there is another king, Jesus." And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth:

"The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings." — *Revelation 17:14*

The Love God Desires

God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Birthday Sunday Communion 9:00 Coffee & Pastry 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Deacon's Mtg 10:45 Searcher's Class	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Searcher's Class	9	10	11	12 7:30 Session Mtg	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Searcher's Class	16 President's Day	17	18 Ash Wednesday	19	20	21
22 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Searcher's Class	23	24	25	26	27	28 2-3 p.m. Secret Sister & Siblings Reveal Party Fellowship Hall

NBC News

North Benton Presbyterian Church
19070 North Benton West Road
North Benton, OH 44449



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Sunday Service: 9:30 am Worship Service

“A church where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord”

FOLLOWING JESUS IN HUMILITY

Near our home is a famous garden where we often take walks with a young boy our family cares for. His favorite area is the Children's Garden, which has a small door large enough for him to run through but small enough to force me to crouch. He laughs as I drop to my knees and wiggle through the small opening to chase him.

The small garden gate reminds me of Jesus' object lesson in Matthew 18, where He calls a little child to His side to explain the type of person who will enter the kingdom of heaven (V.2). It was a bold example, for in Christ's day to be a child was to be inconsequential and overlooked. Unlike today, their opinions and desires didn't matter. Jesus uses this description to highlight our human tendency to be noticed

and seek power and influence.

Of course, Jesus wasn't asking His disciples to become children again but rather pointing to the traits that mark those who serve him. The biggest marker is humility - the person who "takes the lowly position: (V.4) and serves others.

The small garden door is a reminder that humility doesn't come naturally to us. Believers in Jesus, however, are to be this way. We're to follow our Savior, who modeled this way of living by making "himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant" (Philippians 2:7).

In what areas of your life do you thrust yourself to the forefront and seek to be noticed? How can you learn to live more like Jesus?

Dear Father, please forgive me for my pride and self-interest. Help me to be a little child who runs to you.

Reprinted from "Our Daily Bread"

February 1, 2026

Our Daily Bread is provided FREE of charge can be found on the information counter in the lobby.