


A M A Z I N G G R A C E

F E B R U A R Y

N E W S L E T T E R

2 0 2 2

A photograph of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, holding each other to form a heart shape. The hands are silhouetted against a bright, warm sunset sky with soft, glowing clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and loving.

“...we believe that God is love.

So, if God is love and God is omnipresent (everywhere),
then love is truly all around at any given time and place....

Love, then, is life.” PAGE 2

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"A holiday that is not really a holiday and love that is really life."

February is a month dominated by Valentine's Day, a "not-really-a-holiday" in the middle of the month. The origins of the holiday, like its namesake, are shrouded in mystery. Legends surround the existence of at least two men named "Valentine" who were martyred. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize Valentine's appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

According to another legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today.

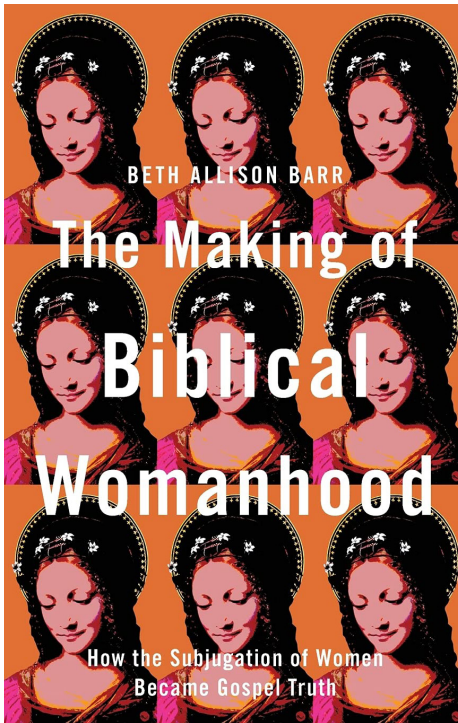
A month dedicated to "love" is not a bad thing, sort of like a month dedicated to "gratitude" is not a bad thing either. It is perplexing to me, however, that so much emphasis is put on this one day, this one day to celebrate love, romantic love specifically.

We talk a lot about love in the church too - love of God, love of neighbor, love of enemy, love of self. In fact, we believe that God is love. So, if God is love and God is omnipresent (everywhere), then love is truly all around at any given time and place. Love, then, is more than just a day. Love, then, is life.

Rev. Frederick Buechner explains the intersection between life and love best: "Your life and my life flow into each other as wave flows into wave, and unless there is peace and joy and freedom for you, there can be no real peace or joy or freedom for me. To see reality - not as we expect it to be but as it is - is to see that unless we live for each other and in and through each other, we do not really live very satisfactorily; that there can really be life only where there really is, in just this sense, love."

Let us love *for* and *in* and *through* each other this year, all year, not just one day.

Your pastor for the journey,
Rev. Stacey



BOOK STUDY | MONDAYS | 11:30-1PM | ROOM 104
ALL are invited! Bring your lunch, your book and your questions!

WAYS TO GET THE BOOK:

- Purchase it yourself or the audio book on Amazon
- Contact Trisha at discipleship@gracemethodist.org and she will order it for you and you can pay the church once they arrive.
- Check it out from the local library

Biblical womanhood--the belief that God designed women to be submissive wives, virtuous mothers, and joyful homemakers--pervades North American Christianity. From choices about careers to roles in local churches to relationship dynamics, this belief shapes the everyday lives of evangelical women. Yet biblical womanhood isn't biblical, says Baylor University historian Beth Allison Barr. It arose from a series of clearly definable historical moments.

This book moves the conversation about biblical womanhood beyond Greek grammar and into the realm of church history to show that this belief is not divinely ordained but a product of human civilization. Barr's historical insights provide context for contemporary teachings about women's roles in the church and help move the conversation forward.

SUNDAY WORSHIP THEMES

JANUARY 30

SCRIPTURE | Jeremiah 1:4-10 (CEB)

THEME | The Word of the Lord:

"I am putting my words in your mouth."

PREACHER | Rev. Stacey

FEBRUARY 6 | HOLY COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE | Luke 5:1-11 (CEB)

THEME | Jesus says, "Fish for People."

PREACHER | Rev. Stacey

FEBRUARY 13

SCRIPTURE | Luke 6:17-26 (CEB)

THEME | Jesus says, "Happy are you who are poor."

PREACHER | Rev. Stacey

FEBRUARY 20

SCRIPTURE | Luke 6:27-38 (CEB)

THEME | Jesus says, "Love your enemies."

PREACHER | Rev. Stacey

FEBRUARY 27 | TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE | Luke 9:28-43a (CEB)

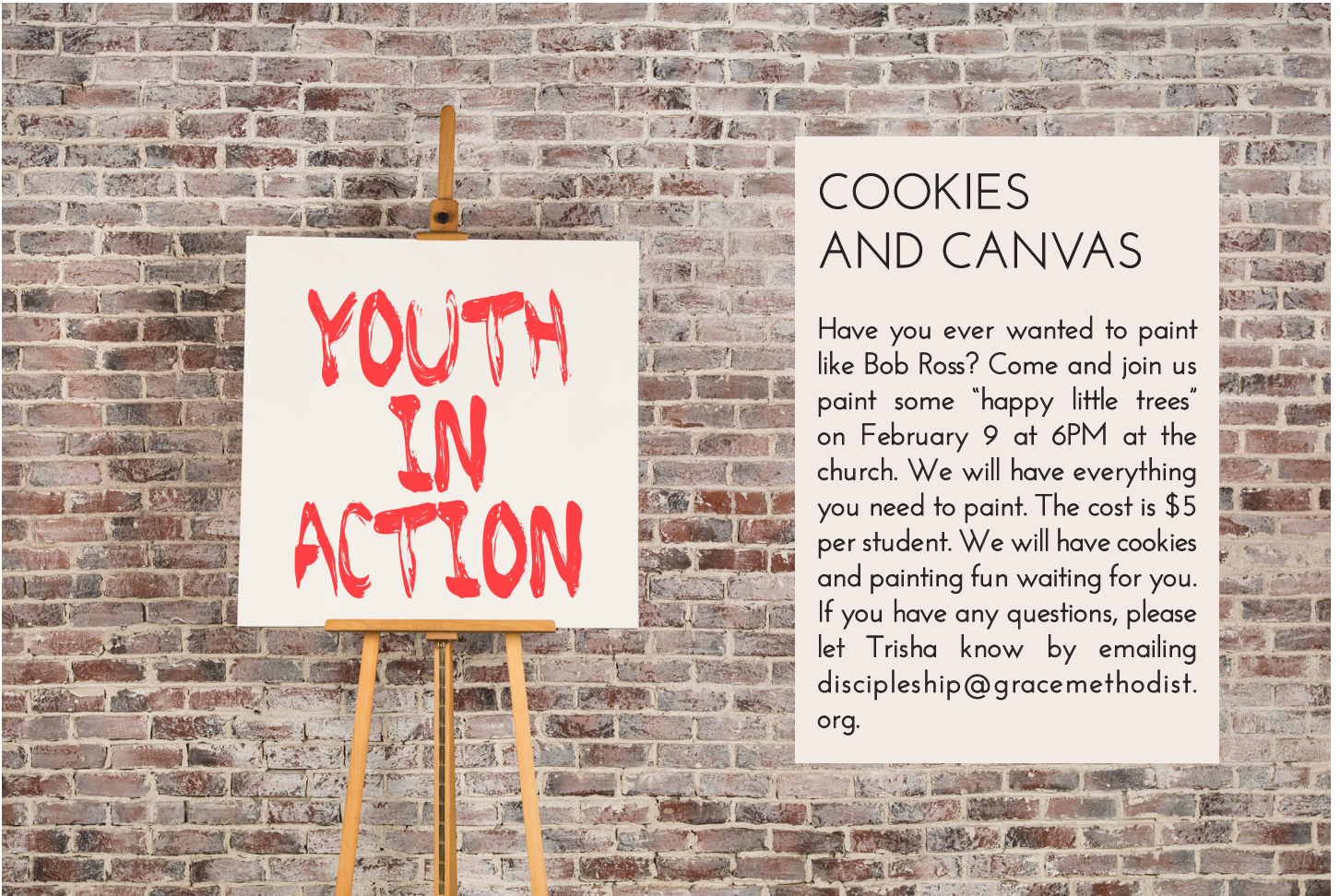
THEME | Jesus says, "How long will I put up with you?"

PREACHER | Rev. Stacey



THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The Children's Winter Retreat is scheduled for February 26-27, 2022 at Camp Tecumseh. This is a fun weekend for our 1st-5th graders as they build relationships with friends and have fun exploring the great outdoors! Pick up your registration packet in the Welcome Center. The cost is \$50 per child, with scholarships available. Parent Chaperones are needed and are FREE!!!! Any questions, contact Melodie Ringer by emailing children@gracemethodist.org. All forms need to be turned in by February 20!



COOKIES AND CANVAS

Have you ever wanted to paint like Bob Ross? Come and join us paint some "happy little trees" on February 9 at 6PM at the church. We will have everything you need to paint. The cost is \$5 per student. We will have cookies and painting fun waiting for you. If you have any questions, please let Trisha know by emailing discipleship@gracemethodist.org.

FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	01	02	03	04	05
06 COMMUNION SUNDAY No Sunday School YOUTH GROUP 11:45 am-1:30 pm in Youth Room	07	08	09 COOKIES AND CANVAS 6:00-8:00 pm in Youth Room	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 YOUTH GROUP 11:45 am-1:30 pm in Youth Room	21	22	23 Miss TRISHA's BIRTHDAY!	24	25	26
27	28	March 01	02	03	04	05
06 COMMUNION SUNDAY No Sunday School MISSION PROJECT 11:45 am-1:30 pm in Youth Room	07	08	09	10	11	12

ANGEL TREE THANK YOU

Thank you Grace Church for supporting the Angel Tree Prison Ministry by calling families, purchasing gifts, sorting the gifts, and delivering the gifts to these local children and families. We served 28 families and 63 children.

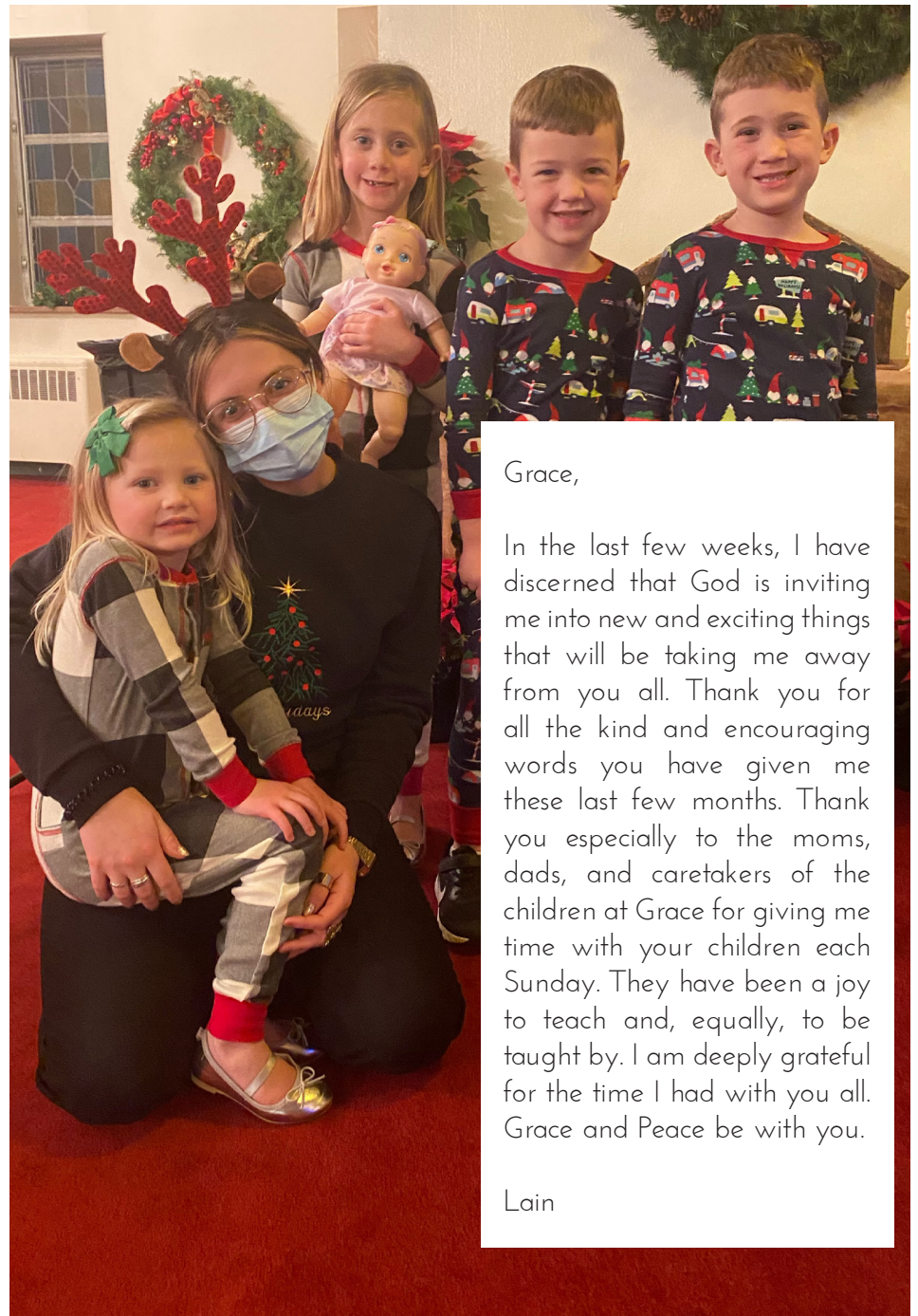
A big Thank You to the Angel Tree Committee and Volunteers: Linda Clauson, Meg Csenar, Scott Dunham, Holly Easterbrook, Lexi Foster, Cheri Kucela, Joyce Kuehl, Mike Kummeth, Karen Messersmith, Steve & Joan Ross, The Serendipity Sunday School Class, Kara & Tom Strang, Joe & Sharon Venema, Neal Burd and the Boy Scouts Troop, Jennifer Robinett, Dave Neibar, and Pastor Stacey. We could not have done this without all of your support and willingness to share Jesus's love with others. Thank You so much for supporting this ministry!

Many blessings for
the New Year!
Teresa Jodway,
Angel Tree Coordinator

THANK YOU!

How do I begin to Thank my Grace Church Family for all your love and support you gave to me and my family while I was in the hospital and recovering. The amazing generosity of meals, cards, and prayers that we received was such a gift, and knowing that we were being lifted up by all of you made my recovery so much easier. We are truly blessed to be a member of such a caring church family.

With all my thanks, Melodie



Grace,

In the last few weeks, I have discerned that God is inviting me into new and exciting things that will be taking me away from you all. Thank you for all the kind and encouraging words you have given me these last few months. Thank you especially to the moms, dads, and caretakers of the children at Grace for giving me time with your children each Sunday. They have been a joy to teach and, equally, to be taught by. I am deeply grateful for the time I had with you all. Grace and Peace be with you.

Lain

BLOOD DRIVE

FEBRUARY 27
10AM-1PM
GREAT HALL

Register at
givebloodnow.com

PAPER PANTRY UPDATE AND NEEDS

We continue to serve our Paper Pantry guests through our drive-through service on the second Saturday of each month from 10AM-Noon. We are in need of donations and volunteers for:

- Supply pick-up from Dollar Tree and transport / delivery to the church.
- Helping with the drive-through Paper Pantry service on the second Saturday of each month.
- Donations of 64 oz. bottles of laundry detergent (these can be purchased at Dollar Tree for \$1 per bottle)

Contact Karen Messersmith (karenmessers@gmail.com or 574-298-7853) if interested or with questions. Thank you for the church's continued support of this important ministry!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAYS

9AM | Virtual & In-Person
Worship Service

10:30AM | In-Person Worship Service

10:30AM | Sunday School for all ages

MONDAYS

11:30AM | Book Study

1PM | Pilgrimage Healing Appointments

7PM | A.A.

WEDNESDAYS

7:30AM | Bible Study

THURSDAYS

5PM-7PM | Baller Opportunities

7PM | Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAYS

5PM-7PM | Baller Opportunities

7:30PM | A.A.

FEBRUARY 5

8AM | Men's Breakfast

FEBRUARY 6

11:45AM | Youth Group

FEBRUARY 9

6PM-8PM | Youth Cookies & Canvas

FEBRUARY 12

10AM-12PM | Paper Pantry

FEBRUARY 17

9AM | UMW

FEBRUARY 20

11:45AM | Youth Group

FEBRUARY 26-27

Children's Winter Retreat

FEBRUARY 27

10AM-1PM | Blood Drive

We are making changes to our online giving options. If you currently contribute to Grace UMC through eGiving or Tithely, please note that we plan to do away with these platforms. We are encouraging everyone to visit Breeze at <http://sbgrace.breezechms.com/give/online> to set up a giving plan. There is also a texting option. You can text 574-444-3044 and follow the prompts. If you have any questions, or need assistance, please call the church office at 574-288-4789.

AMAZING GRACE NEWSLETTER



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DISTURB US, O LORD...

when we are too well-pleased with ourselves
when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,
because we sailed too close to the shore.

DISTURB US, O LORD...

when with the abundance of things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for the water of life
when, having fallen in love with time, we have ceased to dream of eternity
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.

STIR US, O LORD...

to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas
where storms show Thy mastery,
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes
and invited the brave to follow. Amen.

(Prayer by Archbishop Desmond Tutu)