



THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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NUMBER 02

Dear Congregation,

February is Black History month, it is the month in which St. Valentines and Ash Wednesday are celebrated for the Catholics and it is President's month for the nation, yet more than these, February is most commonly identified as Love month.

Love is complicated. It means many things to every person as we all struggle with the complexities of defining what kind of love we feel, to what degree we each experience love and with whom it should be shared. Even those who seem wholly unaware of God often times have at least once heard that God is love or that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, even though the ramifications of these statements may have been lost on them.

As I said, love is a complicated matter. Thankfully, our Lord has given us, through His Word, specifics so that we may rightly identify His views and expectations where love is concerned. He says;

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." (Colossians 3: 12-14).

The first thing that we can be assured of is that we are indeed dearly loved by God. He then invites us to be intentional on choosing to "put on" loving attributes that reflect that love, such as kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. With our minds set to display the love in which we have been freely given, we are encouraged to use that love, in which we have been outfitted, to forgive and bear with others, even in times when they do not share loving behaviors, not because we feel we should, or that they are in anyway deserving, but then, we are reminded, neither were we deserving of the forgiveness or love which we received. Lastly, the scripture parts with a reminder of the strength of love, which binds all these things together in perfect unity (v.14), leaving us fully equipped for the task at hand, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and in so doing, love our God (*Mark 12:31*).

May you share love this month, and in every month that follow. Happy Love month!

Regards,
Pastor Meredith

A poster for an arts and crafts event. The background is light gray with various colorful illustrations of art supplies: a paintbrush, pencils, a button, and paint splatters. The text is centered and reads: Grotonwood Invites You To: **AN AFTERNOON OF ARTS AND CRAFTS**. Come join us for a jam packed afternoon of all thing's arts and crafts. Refreshments and supplies included! Sunday February 21st 2021 1:00-4:00PM Suggested Donation : \$25 per person Grades K-5 & 6-12 REGISTER AT : bit.ly/grotonwoodart Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center 167 Prescott Street Groton MA 01450. At the bottom center is the Grotonwood logo, which consists of the word "GROTONWOOD" above a circular emblem containing a cross and the letters "GTC".

Grotonwood Invites You To:

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Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center
167 Prescott Street Groton MA 01450

GROTONWOOD
GTC

A poster for a board game night event. The background is blue with various board game-related illustrations: a Monopoly board, a Uno card, a chess knight, a Life board, dice, and word tiles. The text is centered and reads: **BOARD GAME NIGHT**. Friday February 26th 2021 5:00-9:00 PM Suggested Donation : \$30 per person Grades K-5 & 6-12 Join us for a night of board game fun! Games include old-fashioned card games, simple luck-based games, and deep strategy games that can last all night! Themed Refreshments and dinner included. REGISTER AT : bit.ly/grotonwoodgamenight Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center 167 Prescott Street Groton MA 01450. At the bottom center is the Grotonwood logo, which consists of the word "GROTONWOOD" above a circular emblem containing a cross and the letters "GTC".

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the Game of **LIFE** GROTONWOOD
GTC

ON THE SIDE OF LOVE

For the last three nights I hadn't slept too well. I would wake up over an hour earlier than normal and then be unable to get back to sleep. I was a bit tired then when I went into my bedroom to watch a little television this evening. The nightly news was its usual horror show of hatred, rancor, prejudice, and division. I turned it off and put on some music instead. I picked up a book and tried to read but could feel my eyelids getting heavier and heavier. Finally, I closed them and laid my book on my chest. A nap would be just what I needed.

After a while I felt something rousing me from my slumber. It was warm breath hitting me right in the face. I slowly opened my eyes and saw a long, sweet looking face covered in white and gold fur. Its pink nose was breathing on me and its big, brown eyes were looking at me with love. I smiled and said, "Hello Fluffy". Suddenly my face was covered in dog kisses while his curled tail wagged, joyfully banging against the night stand. I hugged his neck, petted his head, scratched his belly, and laughed as he continued to shower me with his love. I soaked it all in and thought to myself: "If only we humans could love each other as purely and unconditionally as our dogs love us, what a wonderful world this would be."

God gave us dogs to be our best friends and greatest teachers of love. We should not ignore the lessons they teach. We should give our hearts freely, our love joyfully, and our kindness unconditionally. We should live our lives on the side of love. We should spend our days creating happiness and making this world a better place. We should see everyone no matter how they look or what they believe as our brothers and sisters. We should love ourselves and everyone else as God loves us. And we should say each day, "Thank you dear God for dogs."

Recipe of the Month

VEGETARIAN TAMALE PIE



- 1 tablespoon Canola Oil
- 3/4 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped yellow onion
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 can (15 oz each) Whole Pinto Beans, drained, rinsed
- 1-1/2 cups Hunt's® Tomato Sauce
- 1 can (10 oz each) Diced Tomatoes & Green Chilies, undrained
- 1 cup frozen whole kernel corn
- 2/3 cup sliced green onions, divided
- 1 pkg (8.5 oz each) corn muffin mix
- 1/3 cup reduced fat (2%) milk
- 1 egg

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 400°F. Heat oil in large cast iron skillet or ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Add pepper and onion; cook 4 minutes or until tender, stirring occasionally. Stir in chili powder, cumin, oregano and paprika; cook 1 minute more or until fragrant.

Stir in beans, tomato sauce, undrained tomatoes, corn and 1/3 cup green onions. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes or until mixture has thickened slightly, stirring occasionally.

Meanwhile, stir together corn muffin mix, milk, remaining 1/3 cup green onions and egg in medium bowl. Pour and spread evenly over hot bean mixture. Cornbread mixture may not cover completely. Bake 15 minutes or until golden brown and set.

Local News

February 7, 2021- Communion Sunday

February 14, 2021 – Transfiguration Sunday

February 21, 2021 – 1st Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2021- Musical guest
Dan Kirouac

Please Help Defray the cost of
your Offering Envelopes...

Each box cost \$5.00

Careful Planning Makes a Difference

ANTHONY V. FEROCI, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Leominster, MA 01453
978-466-5011

Elder and Disability Law
Medicaid Planning
Estate Planning

How Cold Is It?

- +70 Californians put on sweaters.
- +60 Miami residents turn on the heat.
- +50 Vermont residents go to outdoor concert.
- +40 You can see your breath. Californians shiver uncontrollably.
- +35 Italian cars don't start.
- +32 Water freezes.
- +25 Canadians go swimming.
- +15 Cat insists on sleeping with you.
- +10 You need jumper cables to get the car going.
- 0 Alaskans put on T-shirts.
- 10 Eyes freeze shut when you blink.
- 15 Arkansans stick tongues on metal objects.
- 25 Too cold to think.
- 40 Minnesotans button top button. Canadians put on sweater.
- 50 Alaskans close the bathroom window.
- 80 Polar bears move south. Green Bay Packer fans order hot cocoa at the game.
- 100 Canadian buildings turn off air conditioning.



637 Lancaster Street (Route 117) - Leominster, MA 01453 - Phone: 978-227-5556
Email: restore@ncmhabitat.org

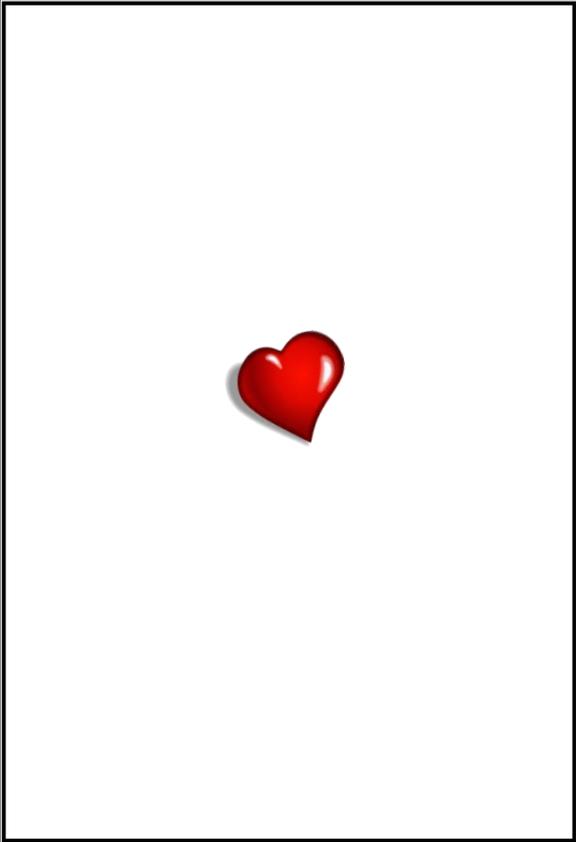


February Birthdays

- 03. Barack Labah
- 03. Jeff Poole
- 03. Humphrey Mutindwa
- 06. Debi Cross
- 06. Hazel Mutindwa
- 08. Roberta Poole
- 08. Glenn Dawson
- 16. May Goff
- 17. James Hope, Jr.
- 18. Cyprian Labah
- 20. Amanda Blake
- 25. Bette Adams
- 26. Erica Irfan



February Anniversaries



IF YOU'RE BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS NOT HERE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN THE BEACONLIGHT! REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO YOUR ADDRESS OR TO OUR MONTHLY LISTING OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
 CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
 978-345-5622
 E-MAIL: FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET

PRAYER LIST

*Anoura Rose Angelin
Annie De Martino
Bette Adams
Claire Budroe
John Mim
Cindy Beck
Susan Force (Bette Adams daughter)
Kathy Gosselin
Kathy Young (coworker of Diane Bigelow)
Kim & Katie (Bette Adams daughter & granddaughter)
Linda Gosselin
Mark & Diane Bigelow
Marsha – return of lung cancer
Nancy Peters
Roberta Poole
Ed Guerard
Tom and Karen Adams
Karen Simpson
Elaine Corzine
The Blake Family
Atera Mbunwe
Family of Connie Gariepy
Roger Abel
Family of John Kacmarcik
Steward family*

Our Missionaries

*Light A Candle Ministries
Rovaungha Richardson, William Seo
mission trip to Afganistan*

*Daniel Auguste and the Haitian
Missionary Team*

Other Concerns

*The Lutheran Church
1200 John Fitch Hwy, Fitchburg*

*Baptist Church of Grafton
First Baptist Church of Gardner*

First Baptist Church of Gardner

*For those under persecution for their
faith.*

*Prayers for those suffering from acts of
violence around the world*



**IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, PLEASE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN
THE BEACONLIGHT!**

REMEMBER TO NOTIFY US WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THESE LISTINGS.

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