



February 2025

## Tyner United Methodist Church

### “February: Time for Valentine’s Day!”

Dear Church,

Heads up to anyone who has a sweetheart or wants to have one: it’s February! Time to get ready for Valentine’s Day, February 14. Since I was raised Catholic, I know Valentine’s Day is celebrated on that day each year because it’s the feast day of a 3rd Century Christian martyr named St. Valentine. (Little known fact, Valentine is the patron saint of beekeepers.) Valentine was a priest or bishop beaten with clubs and beheaded because he would not deny his faith in Jesus. Pastor Cathy thought this sounded very romantic!

There are many stories about St. Valentine, but the story most associated with American Valentine’s Day celebrations has St. Valentine marrying, even secretly, Christian couples. Allegedly, Roman Emperor Claudius was angry with Valentine because newly married men were given a deferment from being conscripted into the Roman military. One account mentioned Valentine cutting hearts from parchment to remind those he married of their vows and God’s love. I found nothing about St. Valentine and roses, candy, or cards!

What does love mean to you? In today’s English, love can mean just about anything. It certainly includes romantic love. I sincerely wish everyone a happy Valentine’s Day this year. I hope it is a wonderful day. Loving someone can include taking them out for a meal or giving them roses, candy, or a card.

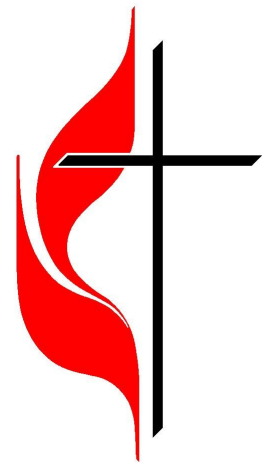
But the Christian spirit and meaning of the word love goes much deeper. Whether you have a sweetheart or not, Jesus loves you. We do not have a specific word for it, but the Greek word *agape* is used to describe the kind of love Jesus has for all people. Agape love is not based on a feeling, but on a willingness to do whatever is best for others, whether we like them or not. Jesus didn’t just suggest His followers love like that, He commanded it. (See John 13:34-35.)

The reason the early church grew so quickly was because people like St. Valentine were willing to love God and others even if it cost them their lives. The church of Jesus was not identified by denomination, dogma, skin color, political party, or any other human characteristic. The true church of Jesus was and is defined by those who accept Jesus’ love and share it with others.

This Valentine’s Day let’s make an effort to love the people who are easy to love. Let’s treat our family, friends, and sweethearts right! Christianity does not demand we treat everyone the same. We shouldn’t treat people we don’t like as if they were sweethearts! But Jesus wants us to decide, even when we don’t feel like it, to be willing to treat them with good will—with the same love that we have received from Him.

As we celebrate love this February, a line from Oswald Chambers’ *My Utmost for His Highest* devotion came to mind. “The spirit of our Lord is described in His followers as found in 1 Corinthians 13.” 1 Corinthians 13 is the Christian guide to love. The Apostle Paul cautions us, even if we do great things in this world, without love, they amount to nothing. Paul didn’t write “love is patient, love is kind” when the other person is patient and kind. Paul didn’t write “love does not dishonor others” as long as they don’t dishonor us. For Paul, Christlike love is the willingness to love as Jesus does, even when it isn’t easy. This month let’s strive to love those we love the best we can. But let’s also look to Jesus to help us with those who are harder to love.

Blessings! Pastor Jeff



### BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

**Gracious  
God,  
open our  
hearts, eyes,  
and minds  
to You.  
Plant Your  
love in our  
hearts,  
Cultivate joy  
within us,  
Prepare us to  
be faithful  
disciples for  
work in Your  
harvest.  
Amen.**

The spirit of our Lord in His followers is described in 1 Corinthians 13." Oswald Chambers

Please keep Marti Lundy, our District Superintendent and your board members in your prayers as we start the search for a new pastor

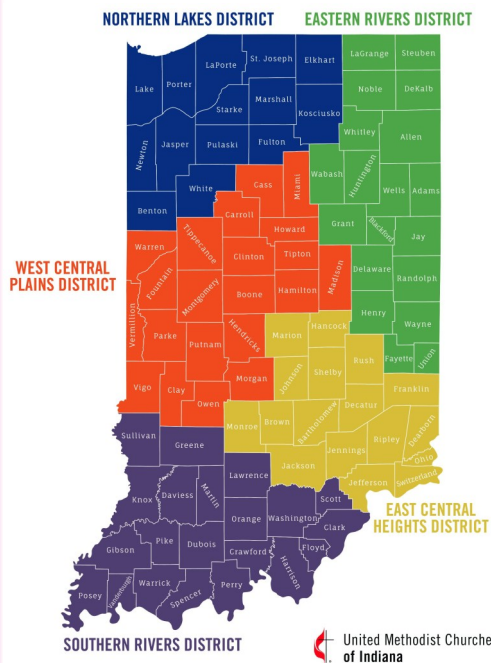
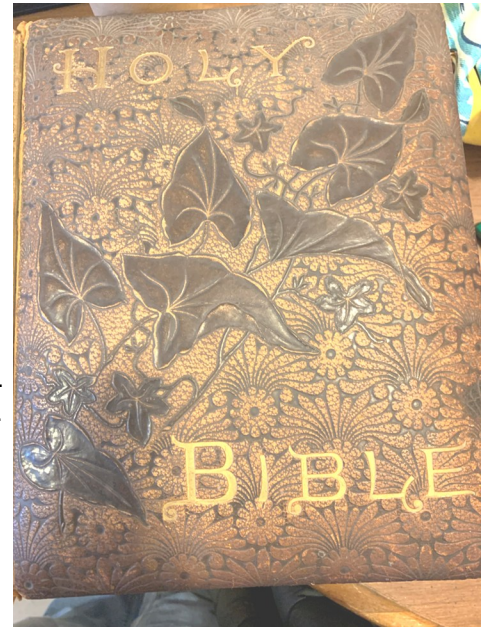
If you have added someone to the family altar and want to provide an update Please contact Pastor Cathy, Kay or Carla. Thank you!



Gene & Ginny Morris are in charge of our prayer chain. You can reach them at 574-586-9777 or 989-948-6366

### Calling Tyner UMC History Buffs & Long-Time Members!

There are several stacks of photos, notebooks, Bibles, and other historical memorabilia in the church office just waiting to be sorted and properly labeled! So far Cindy Martin Milner, Paul Rupel, Kay Hagenbush, and Sally Bottorff have volunteered to work on this task. If you're interested in helping (as well as reminiscing), please let one of them know as soon as possible. We hope the group will begin meeting in early February. Once everything is sorted and labeled, we can begin organizing it in a way that people can access and enjoy.



### Conference News

Pending approval at this year's annual conference session in June, this is the proposed map for consolidating the districts in the Indiana Conference into five rather than seven. Rev. Dr. Marti Lundy will remain our conference superintendent in the new Northern Lakes District.

Below is a banner approved for us in INUMC churches for the coming months. Here at Tyner we'll kick off this campaign in February—the month of love—but it will continue on throughout the coming months.

Finally, prayerfully consider if you might be called to help with a clean up day UMC camp Epworth Forest on March 27. Details will follow with times but we've been told there will be outside and inside work. Lunch will be provided, and Pastor Cathy hopes to attend.



### Holy Habits

In his message on January 26, Jeff challenged us to follow Jesus’ model for staying focused and energized on our faith walk by adding a “Holy Habit” to our daily or weekly routine. We have the Upper Room devotional booklets and our 2025 Lectionary challenge reading list available at church. There are numerous online resources—two Pastor Cathy recommends are Bible.com with a verse of the day, video devotional, and guided prayer as well as numerous Bible studies and devotionals. Pastor Cathy also enjoys the “Pray as You Go” app with daily meditation sessions using music, scripture and short reflective questions. It’s a Jesuit-based program—and produced in the UK so all the readers have wonderful British accents.



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♥ **Miller’s Ministries!** ♥  
♥ Our next time to lead worship ♥  
♥ at Miller’s Merry Manor in ♥  
♥ Walkerton is Monday, Febru- ♥  
♥ ary 3 at 6:00 p.m. Join us to ♥  
♥ help share God’s love with the ♥  
♥ residents & their families! ♥  
♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

### Retirement—Pastor Cathy

At the end of each year, pastors in the United Methodist Church are asked to decide on their plans for their ministry status for the coming year by Dec. 1. If a pastors says he or she would like to stay in a current assignment, it means a commitment of around 18 months because pastoral appointment contracts run from July 1 to the following June 30. Jeff and I did a lot of soul-searching after the results of the presidential election in November on our two-day drive to Texas for our son’s wedding. We talked about our concerns for the direction of our country and how many individuals we love and groups of people we care about could be negatively affected. We talked about our parents, all around 90 years old, needing more help. We talked about our desire to travel more and see our sons more often. We talked about God calling us to be bolder in our calling to make disciples and encourage Christians to live out the teachings of Jesus. Although I had not thought seriously about retiring for a few more years, our discussion made me realize that it was time. I could not make an 18-month commitment to stay at Tyner UMC. Tyner UMC has restored Jeff and my faith in church to a great extent. The congregation contains people from all points on the political spectrum and yet people work together. People here do not complain and argue over trivial matters (like paint color). We stay focused on the teachings of Jesus and the wisdom found in scripture. We respond to the call to be God’s light to the community rather than keeping His light for ourselves and focusing inward. I have no desire to serve any other church as a pastor, so retirement made more sense. My current contract goes through the end of June 2025 and, God willing, I will be able to serve that long.

The INUMC did not ask me to move to another church; in fact, our conference superintendent would have been happy to leave me here as long as you wanted me. Stepping away from a caring church that has encouraged and supported us so faithfully for almost six years isn’t easy. Stepping away from the security of a job and comfortable housing like we have here isn’t easy. But God doesn’t always call us to take the safe and easy roads in life.

## ATTENDANCE

### AND

## OFFERING

### WEEKLY

### BUDGET:

\$1063



### January 5

\$2380 (+1317)

### January 12

\$450 (-\$613)

### January 19

\$712 (-\$351)

### January 26

\$500 (-\$563)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR  
OUR CHURCH**







IF:TABLE

We'll meet next on **Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 6:00 p.m.** —all women are invited to join us for food, fellowship and meaningful conversation!



### Celebrations for February

- 8 – Kale Buckner
- 21 – Sharri Shively
- 25 - Eric Burch
- 28 – Jim Stull

### Celebrations for March

- 4 – June Wiegand
- 6 - Bryan Grossman
- 7 – Scott Schuster
- 8 – Joe Bottorff
- 16 - Daniel Burch
- 27 – Ellen Hummel
- 28 – Tim Kazanecki
- 31 – Rosemary Wolff

**IF YOU'RE NEW TO TYNER UMC, WE'D LOVE TO ADD YOUR CELEBRATIONS TO OUR LIST!**

We began “Embracing the Familiar” during Ordinary Time by taking time to look at where we are and how we might serve God locally. We continue the series by exploring “Far Horizons” or places outside our community where we may be called to give, serve, and minister. The “Far Horizons” worship series begins February 9 and continues through the month.



### God Moment

During worship on January 19, Pastor Cathy had the pleasure of baptizing Emmett Ross, the grandson of Jana Ross. Emmett expressed his desire to be baptized last fall, met with Pastor Cathy and Jeff to talk about his faith, and decided to be baptized in January. We're all very excited to welcome Emmett into the body of Christ!



### Mark your calendars!

- March 5 Ash Wednesday** Joint evening service with Plymouth Trinity, Hamlet, and Plymouth First to begin the season of Lent
- April 13 Palm Sunday** Join us in worship for Palm/Passion Sunday with a palm parade and stripping of the altar
- April 13 & 19 Walk to the Cross** Take a reflective walk through Jesus' last week
- April 19 Good Friday** Joint evening service with Plymouth Trinity, Hamlet, and Plymouth First UMCs
- April 20 Easter Sunday** Invite friends and family to join us for Easter breakfast and worship

## A Barber's Story: Does God Exist?

A man went to a barber shop to have his hair and his beard cut as always. He started to have a good conversation with the barber who attended him. They talked about so many things and various subjects. Suddenly, they touched the subject of God. The barber said: "Look man, I don't believe that God exists as you say."

"Why do you say that?" asked the client.

"Well, it's so easy, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God does not exist. Oh, tell me, if God existed, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be no suffering nor pain. I can't think of loving a God who permits all of these things."

The client stopped for a moment thinking, but he didn't want to respond as to cause an argument. The barber finished his job and the client went out of the shop. Just after he left the barber shop he saw a man in the street with a long hair and beard (it seems that it had been a long time since he had his cut and he looked so untidy).

Then the client again entered the barber shop and he said to the barber, "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say they don't exist?" asked the barber. "Well I am here and I am a barber."

"No!" the client exclaimed. "They don't exist because if they did there would be no people with long hair and a beard like that man who walks in the street."

"Ah, barbers do exist, what happens is that people do not come to me."

"Exactly!"- affirmed the client. "That's the point. God does exist, what happens is people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

For God  
SO LOVED THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE HIS  
ONLY  
BEGOTTEN  
SON SO  
THAT WHOEVER  
BELIEVES  
IN HIM SHALL  
HAVE EVERLASTING  
Life  
John 3:16

Always help someone.  
You might be the only  
one who does.



## Kindness

doesn't cost a thing,  
yet it's the richest gift  
you can give.

**LOVE** is patient  
is kind  
it does not envy  
it does not boast  
it is not proud  
it is not rude  
it is not self-seeking  
it is not easily angered  
keeps no record of wrongs  
does not delight in evil  
rejoices with the truth  
always protects  
always trusts  
always hopes  
always perseveres  
never fails

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE