

# Our Journey Together

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*God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.*

- 1 Peter 4:10-11



Have you seen the new Disney film, Encanto, yet? I am a BIG Disney fan, have been all of my life, and this may very well be my favorite Disney film, ever! Encanto tells the story of the Madrigal family in Columbia. At first look, this family seems perfect. There is Alma, the grandmother, and her three children who escaped some terror when the children were babies (although her husband did not survive). And now, there is an enchantment in the family that protects them and the town around them. Each member of the Madrigal family, Alma's three children and their children, have a unique magical gift that serves the entire community and upholds the reputation of the family.

That is, except for Mirabel, who seemingly has no special gift. Yet, in the end, it is Mirabel who brings healing to her family when she helps them all to see that it is not their special powers that make them who they are, it is their connection as family that is really important.

The church has often spent a lot of time focusing on Spiritual gifts, and yet many of us have felt as though God forgot to gift us with anything. What Encanto can help us all to realize is that there is not special value on one gift or another, what is really important is our connection as the Body of Christ. We ARE better together, we strengthen each other, we build one another up, we care for and love one another, even when we cannot care for or love ourselves.

Before Scriptures ever mentioned gifts of the Spirit, it pointed us to the everlasting truth that community is what is truly important in our walk of faith. God called an entire PEOPLE to be his children, not select individuals. We are a part of that people. We need one another, just as truly as we need Jesus.

Let us not place unattainable expectations on one another, let's just love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, not valuing only some for what they bring to the table, but cherishing each and every one for exactly who and what they are, just as God cherishes us.

## Financial Update from Administrative Council



### Financial Update as of December 31, 2021:

2021 General Fund Income Year to Date:	\$132,164.32
2021 General Fund Expenses Year to Date:	\$150,571.81
General Fund Difference:	<b>-\$ 18,407.49</b>



### Pray and Work

As we have been learning in our series on The Lord's Prayer, there is a call for us to open ourselves to allow the Holy Spirit to work within us to transform us as we pray. That transformation often leads us to doing the work that brings about answers to people's prayers.

Tuning ourselves to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit requires discipline and practice. Listening for the will of God is a skill that can be developed. I encourage you all to spend time with God each day. Enclosed in this newsletter is our Bible readings for this month. That is a great place to start. Perhaps you finish your reading and pray The Lord's Prayer, and then spend some time in silence, listening for God's voice. Start with a minute or two, but see if you can work up to 5 or even 10 minutes of listening. Let's see what work God will put before us, if we only open ourselves to listen.

### Birthdays:



Feb 01 Journey Palmer	Feb 24 Glenda Bertsch
Feb 03 Seth Greenough	Feb 25 Emma Fritzsche
Feb 05 Dennis Fawcett	Feb 25 Jim Keeter
Feb 10 Robert Steptoe	Feb 25 Amber VanDerWerff
Feb 12 Doug Testerman	Feb 26 Bev Yost
Feb 12 Jett Wharton	Feb 27 Sara Gates
Feb 14 Gordon Slunecka	
Feb 18 Taya VanDerWerff	
Feb 20 Darlene Cox	
Feb 20 Emily Rodgers	
Feb 22 Nathan Bertsch	
Feb 22 Edward Fritzsche	
Feb 23 Melanie Lampert	
Feb 23 Eugene Moncur	
Feb 23 Collin Otteson	

### Anniversaries:

**No Anniversaries**

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - FEBRUARY READINGS

Day	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms & Proverbs
1	Job 22, Job 23, Job 24	Matthew 21:18-32	Proverbs 3:21-35
2	Job 25, Job 26, Job 27, Job 28, Job 29	Matthew 21:33-46, Matthew 22:1-14	Psalms 18:7-15
3	Job 30, Job 31, Job 32	Matthew 22:15-46	Psalms 18:16-24
4	Job 33, Job 34	Matthew 23:1-39	Psalms 18:25-36
5	Job 35, Job 36, Job 37	Matthew 24:1-31	Proverbs 4:1-9
6	Job 38, Job 39, Job 40:1-2	Matthew 24:32-51, Matthew 25:1-13	Psalms 18:37-42
7	Job 40:3-24, Job 41, Job 42	Matthew 25:14-46	Psalms 18:43-50
8	Exodus 1, Exodus 2, Exodus 3	Matthew 26:1-30	Psalms 19:1-6
9	Exodus 4, Exodus 5, Exodus 6:1-12	Matthew 26:31-46	Proverbs 4:10-19
10	Exodus 6:13-30, Exodus 7, Exodus 8	Matthew 26:47-68	Psalms 19:7-14
11	Exodus 9, Exodus 10	Matthew 26:69-75, Matthew 27:1-10	Psalms 20:1-9
12	Exodus 11, Exodus 12	Matthew 27:11-44	Psalms 21:1-7
13	Exodus 13, Exodus 14	Matthew 27:45-66	Proverbs 4:20-27
14	Exodus 15, Exodus 16	Matthew 28:1-20	Psalms 21:8-13
15	Exodus 17, Exodus 18	Mark 1:1-28	Psalms 22:1-11
16	Exodus 19, Exodus 20	Mark 1:29-45, Mark 2:1-17	Psalms 22:12-21
17	Exodus 21, Exodus 22	Mark 2:18-27, Mark 3:1-30	Proverbs 5:1-14
18	Exodus 23, Exodus 24	Mark 3:31-35, Mark 4:1-29	Psalms 22:22-31
19	Exodus 25, Exodus 26	Mark 4:30-41, Mark 5:1-20	Psalms 23:1-6
20	Exodus 27, Exodus 28	Mark 5:21-43, Mark 6:1-6	Psalms 24:1-10
21	Exodus 29, Exodus 30	Mark 6:7-29	Proverbs 5:15-23
22	Exodus 31, Exodus 32, Exodus 33:1-6	Mark 6:30-56	Psalms 25:1-7
23	Exodus 33:7-23, Exodus 34	Mark 7:1-30	Psalms 25:8-15
24	Exodus 35, Exodus 36	Mark 7:31-37, Mark 8:1-13	Psalms 25:16-22
25	Exodus 37, Exodus 38	Mark 8:14-38, Mark 9:1	Proverbs 6:1-11
26	Exodus 39, Exodus 40	Mark 9:2-32	Psalms 26:1-12
27	Leviticus 1, Leviticus 2, Leviticus 3	Mark 9:33 - 10:12	Psalms 27:1-6
28	Leviticus 4, Leviticus 5:1-13	Mark 10:13-31	Psalms 27:7-14

## Content Due

Do you have items you would like included in next month's news-letter? If so, please have them into the church office no later than Feb. 21.



## God of love — for, with and in us

An ancient heresy — that the God of the Old Testament was a God of judgment and wrath, while the God of the New Testament is a God of grace and love — still persists a bit. Yet God is the same God, with the same characteristics, throughout time. Way back in Genesis 3, God graciously sewed garments to clothe humans, although they had disobeyed him. And even in the Gospels, God's anger was evident through Jesus' response to temple moneychangers cheating the poor.

God always works for life and goodness in all things. Sometimes people misunderstand God's ways; sometimes God, like a human parent, uses "tough love." Mick Brooks writes: "The Old Testament is God for us, the time of Christ is God with us, and the age of the Holy Spirit is God in us" (Every Day With Jesus, Sept/Oct 2020). That may be a bit simplistic, but it's a good reminder that while God's ways of interacting with us vary, the God of Love does not.



### ?? Bible Quiz ??

All four Gospels tell of a woman anointing Jesus. Details vary; clearly, she isn't the same person in all accounts. In John, who is she?

- A. Jesus' mother, Mary
- B. Mary Magdalene
- C. Mary of Bethany (sister of Martha and Lazarus)
- D. None of the above



Answer: C (See Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-39; John 12:1-8.)

# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  Pastor Out of Office	2	3	4	5
6	7	8  UMMW 2pm	9	10	11	12
13	14 Pastor gone to Leadership Academy Feb 14-16	15 Pastor gone to Leadership Academy Feb 14-16	16  UMMW Work Day 10-2pm	17  Leadership Team 7pm	18	19  Master Gardeners 9 – 11:30
20	21 Meals on Wheels — Feb 14-18	22	23  Every Wed. 6pm	24  Food Truck Noon-1pm	25	26
27	28					

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## Faith's role in love

In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27, ESV).



But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. "I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more." That "more," she explains, involves these paradoxes: "We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand."

Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: "When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart."