*FEBRUARY 2024 Newsletter Forestburg United Methodist Church*



Hello friends, I pray in the name of the Risen Christ that you are all safe and healthy as we are now beginning the month of February. The last few Februarys’ haven’t been too great. I remember, and its February 2021. Snow, ice, extreme cold. No electricity. Remember?

Here we are now, ending this month of January with warm Spring like weather but yet it is still winter. Winter gives us time to reflect. As we sit in our comfortable chairs watching the tv, wrapped in a blanket; we have time to think on what has happened in the past. We remember the good times, and sadly the not so good times. We think of what’s been lost. This time last year I was reflecting up my mother and niece who had passed away and this year I am reflecting upon the death of my father on New Year’s Eve.

As difficult as the past couple of years has been, I am truly excited about what is to come. We are moving forward and doing the things that our church has always done and that is sharing the love of Christ with whomever we can. So, as we hunker down in our homes during this winter, let us think not of what we have lost but of what we have to gain. God is working for us and guiding us along the path he has chosen for us. It’s so important that we look towards the light of Christ to lead us as a church to help share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As we go through this last part of winter, waiting on spring to get here. Let us take advantage of the time we have to reflect and just be still and listen for the Holy Spirit. Let us not dwell on what has transpired in the past but let us lift our eyes upward and focus on the goal of the church. That is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

February is a month in which we show love towards one another so let us show others the love of Christ so that they too may have a relationship with him. That is our calling, to love whoever God puts in front of us, and share his gospel with them. Focus on this love and let it guide your hearts until we are all renewed with the start of spring.

Please take care of yourselves and stay safe.

I pray that the Lord blesses you and keeps you, that his face shines upon you and gives you peace. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings,

Pastor Greg

*February Birthdays & Anniversaries*

Tony & Dawna Vann 2-4

Raven Young 2-5

Gerald & Margaret O’Brien 2-8 FEBRUARY USHERS

John & Emily Ronken 2-11 Carroll Dill & Tony Vann

Taylor Young 2-12

Rosemary Reynolds 2-14

Jack Martin 2-16

Doyle & Virginia Lynch 2-22

JOYS

**New visitors, healings, answered prayers**

FEBRUARY READERS 2-4 Lily Cook

2-11 Daniel Young

 2-18 Josie Parr

 2-25 Saundra Young

***ANNOUNCEMENTS* WEEKLY SCHEDULE** Laity Training FUMC Gainesville 2-4 Sunday School 9:30am

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 2-4 Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am

Church council/potluck meeting 2-6 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am Transfiguration Sunday 2-11 Tuesday Evening Bible Study 6:00pm

Ash Wednesday Service 2-14 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:00am

First Sunday in Lent 2-18 Kids’ Klub Wednesday’s 5:30pm-7:00pm

“Bring a Can” Sunday 2-18

Second Sunday in Lent 2-25

*PRAYER CONCERNS*

Carolyn Wood, Carroll Dill, Mike Miller’s mother. Dick & Pat Hennings, Kim & Charlie French, Mike Cox, Bobby Griffith, Mike Miller, Ed McCormick, Virginia & Doyle Lynch, David Lawson, Lily Cooks grandmother, Brian Griffith, Jackson Van Hoose, Kyle Gober, Mark Reeves, Jack Smith, Jewell’s sister Shirley. Richard Smith, Linda Hudspeth. Paul Neaurt, Jimmy Clayford Kimbrough, Cody Moore. Polly Tucker, Hayley Bernard, Terry Neighbors, Judy Farrell, Kane Houston, Carmen Villa,Norma Moore, Hazel Turner, Lester Boyd, Emily Hilliard, Jaquita Cochran, Reese & Bernice Landers, Casey Parr, Mildred Moore, Randy Moore, Veronica Greanead. **Shut-ins/Homebound:** Don & Judy Farrell, Rosemary Reynolds. Mary Whatley, Doyle Lynch.

**Prayers for:** Our nation. Our church and conference. Our military men and women, Our law enforcement & First responders, Our World, Our Public School, Our youth. The people of Ukraine. The people of Israel/Gaza. Rain.

*HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY!!!!*