



THE CIRCUIT RIDER



From the Desk of Pastor

February 14 is the commemoration of the patron saint of beekeepers. Also epilepsy. And also the modern town Terni in Italy, which was named Interamna in c.e. 269 when Valentine was martyred.

Today, the Feast of Saint Valentine is most commonly celebrated in relation to his identity as the patron saint of courtly love. Maybe that is because he is said to have secretly presided over Christian weddings for soldiers about to be conscripted into the Roman army, which excused them from service.

Is it because Valentine is both patron saint of beekeepers and courtly love that we teach our blooming children about “the birds and the bees?” Probably not. That phrase seems to surface somewhere between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries and is native to English-speaking culture.

Sometimes our favorite traditions lose their origin story deep in the mists of history. The legend of Saint Valentine is one of those enigmatic traditions. Maybe there was not, in fact, only one Valentine martyred in the third century. Stories have wafted through the centuries of possibly three different characters, two of whom are interred at different points along the Via Flaminia outside Rome.

The mystery is okay, though. In fact, it probably reflects the ambiguous and sometimes circuitous way that our emotions become entangled in our relationships. Love isn't a simple thing. It is complicated and messy and beautiful. Maybe it has as much to do with the physiology that drives our pollinating instinct as it does with the courtly adventure of flirting.

But maybe we are better served to remember that the most profound, most permanent love is that which “puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things” (1 Corinthians 13:7 CEB). Maybe that is the love toward which our flirtation aims, even if it starts in a place far more simple.

This year, let's celebrate the love that brings us together, however we experience it. Whoever Valentine was, whatever he (they?) did, let's celebrate the love that Jesus poured out through him and pours out into us today.

Happy Valentine's Day, y'all.

Peace, Brandon



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Lay Leader:
Colon McCarty

Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations Chair:
Jonnie Faye Ball



February Lectionary Scriptures

Sunday, February 2

Jer. 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6 or UMH 794
1 Cor. 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Sunday February 9

Isa. 6:1-8, 9-13
Psalm 138 or UMH 853
1 Cor. 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Sunday February 16

Jer 17:5-10
Psalm 1 or UMH 738
1 Cor. 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Sunday February 23

Gen. 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 or UMH 772
1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38



Happy Birthday!

5-Feb Gibson Mounger

6-Feb Sally Offutt

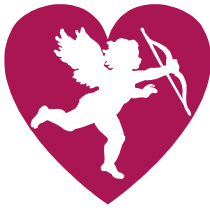
8-Feb John Copeland

14-Feb Andrea Forencei

18-Feb T.J. Luttrell

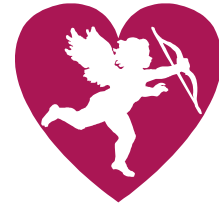
23-Feb Laura Giles McAfee
Ron Forrest

2-Feb Stephen & Leigh Ann Payne	Happy Anniversary
17-Feb- Margaret & Eddie Hewitt	



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025

11:15 a.m.



**NORRIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL
SPONSORED BY THE OUTREACH, NURTURE AND WITNESS
COMMITTEES of the
Norris United Methodist Church**

*A delicious variety of soups, breads, desserts
and drinks.*

Live entertainment will be provided.

**NOTE: Income from the Fundraiser will benefit disaster relief
for Hurricane Helene victims**



Food Pantry

February 27, 2025;

Toilet Paper

Open 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

**DONATION FOCUS
TOILET PAPER**

*****Social distancing
procedures will be in place*****



Another Year, Another Loss



Another year has ended. The pantry has another twelve months behind it. Another twelve months of ordering food, hauling food, distributing food, procuring hygiene items, raising funds, asking all of volunteers to step up to the plate one more time. Another year of beautiful warm spring days, incredible fall scenes, sweltering hot summer days, warm rain, cold rain, freezing cold. Another year.

What did we do...a lot.

We raised funds to buy a new, muchly needed trailer with twice the weight capacity.

With that trailer, we hauled approximately 135 tons of food. We unloaded, stored, later boxed, and loaded 135 tons of food into our client's vehicles.

This summer the pantry received a grant of a 100 square foot, walk-in freezer. This did many wonderful things. We were able to gift 6 of our existing chest freezers to smaller pantries in the area that lacked the ability to store frozen food. Due to our increased capacity to store food, we can store larger quantities of goods. We can store them in their original cases instead of dumping them into freezers in the back store-room, loading the goods back into grocery carts and hauling it out front only to load them into another freezer prior to distribution. A true Godsend.

The pantry operates in two locations, our facility in Norris and at the elementary school in Briceville when the school is in session. Your pantry fed 2761 families, 9,638 hungry people.

Many smiles...and a coming year with many more.

Another Loss

The father of the food pantry is gone. We lost Dick Doub on December 31. I was not affiliated with the pantry during its early days, but I've heard the tales. Many wonderful people have been deeply involved with this project since its inception. I don't mean to slight their accomplishments in any way. But Dick was there... he was there from the days of paper bags, head first into bins, developing the storerooms to their present configurations. He attended meetings, raised funds, assembled a coalition of churches and local businesses that would eventually ensure this mission would continue. He ordered food, developed issuing procedures and watched it grow. And grow it did.

We're the place holders now. We make minor adjustments, tweak minor items, but Dick laid the foundation. We will honor his legacy by serving those he strove to help. We won't let you down Dick, I promise. RIP, you did your job.

Tom Aldrich

Director, Norris Area Food Pantry



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United Women in Faith

Sinking Springs United Women of Faith are sponsoring a "Painting with a Twist" party on March 11, at 5.00 pm in the Church fellowship hall.

The price will be 34.00 per person which includes your canvas and paints the instructor will be from the Powell office.

Light refreshments will be furnished , please all women and men who would like a evening out to fellowship and paint a picture please come.

Please RSVP to Kathy Ayres by email billayres@comcast.net or 865-457-0698 by Mar. 2, 2025 to give an accurate head count for supplies. After we get a head count of who's coming I will let you know how to send in your money.



In the news

News of what's happening in UWF can be found digitally at: <https://www.uwfaith.org/news/latest-news/> .

ALL ACCESS MEMBERSHIP

Your generosity and faithful giving are very appreciated. If you are not able to attend worship services to give your tithe and offerings, there are other ways you can send in gifts to your church.

One Call, Facebook, and email

WAYS WE CONNECT:

We offer weekly online worship opportunities thru Zoom and our YouTube Channel.

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX4CBg>

Giving by Mail: tithes and offerings may be mailed to PO Box 209 ,Clinton, TN 37717 or 108 Bland Rd.



The Zoom account link for the bulletin is:

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)



SINKING SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 9 am-1 pm

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

*Contact the church office for the link

<http://www.facebook.com/sinkingsprings/>