

# TIDINGS

church office phone 315-635-9964 church office hours Monday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm  
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## A Valentine for Jesus

Well, it seems we've only just celebrated Christmas, and soon Lent will be upon us! And this year, in a fairly uncommon circumstance, Ash Wednesday - the day that begins the Lenten season - will fall on Valentine's Day.

Perhaps the happenstance of those two observances happening on the same day is a good thing, because it reminds us how tempting it can be to put our earthly delights ahead of taking the time to examine our relationship with God.

If our first thought is a list of reasons why we shouldn't let Ash Wednesday interfere with Valentines Day instead of a list of reasons why we shouldn't let Valentines Day interfere with Ash Wednesday, then perhaps the Lord is trying to tell us something.

After all, as much as we celebrate love on Valentine's Day, we ought not forget that God showed us the greatest love us all by sending us his Son to redeem us. And Jesus struggled in many ways because of his love for us. For beginners, Lent reminds us of the 40 days that Jesus was in the desert wilderness, being tempted by Satan.

For we Christians, Lent is meant to focus our hearts on confession and prayer as we move towards the celebration of Easter. It includes Holy Week during which Christ was crucified, dead and buried, descended into hell, and on the third day rose again from the dead and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty (sound familiar?)

There is no commandment about eating not eating chocolate during Lent, that's not the message. But as we approach this Holy observance of Ash Wednesday, we are called to begin resist earthly pleasures; repent of the many ways that we have indulged in the world and not in the ways of God; and meditate on the Word. Perhaps Ash Wednesday falling on the same day as Valentine's, it is a good reminder that we are approaching a time where we lessen our attraction to the ways of the world, and turn back towards our Savior and redeemer. And if we are sending messages of love on Valentines' Day, let us remember to put God on the top of the list.

### An Ash Wednesday Prayer

O Lord, I experience my "dustiness" in so many different ways. Usually I try to ignore it, or I complain about it. But, today, I am letting the fact of my mortality sink in. I am reminded of how much I need to be saved and set free. I am reminded of how much I need you!

As we begin the season of Lent, may this be, indeed, a time for me to grow in my relationship with you. May I be unafraid to look at myself honestly, especially those parts of my life that are all too "dusty." May I turn to you in this season in a special way, so that I might be prepared to celebrate the amazing news of Good Friday and Easter.

All praise be to you, O God, because you have not abandoned me in my mortality. All praise be to you for the hope that you give. *Amen.*

(Source: <https://www.theologyofwork.org/the-high-calling/daily-reflection/reflection-ash-wednesday>)

*"From dust you were made, and to dust you will return."* (Genesis 3:19)

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

A congregational meeting was held on January 21, 2024. It was voted to install new Deacons and Elders as proposed by the Nominating Committee. Bible Study is continuing discussing the Book of John on Monday afternoons at 4:30. Everyone is welcome to join in the lively discussions and presentation.

A "Souper Bowl" Sunday luncheon is being held on February 11, 2024. Please bring your favorite soup and a dessert to share.

We will be advertising for a part time, approximately 15 hours per week, **Christian Education Coordinator** early this year. Please share this information with any interested candidates and/or contact the main church office if interested.

The church is attempting to update the membership rolls to follow the categories of membership as outlined by Presbytery Leadership. A letter is being sent to members so corrections can be made on the information reported to the local Presbytery.

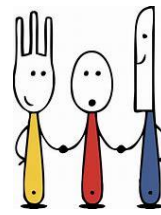
**The Terms of Call**, (annual contractual agreement) for Pastor Kirsty Dickson-Maret has been renewed for another year with minor changes. Thank you Pastor Kirsty for all you have done this past year.

**The 2024 proposed budget** was presented to the congregation for their review and information.

### 2024 Session Elders

Tricia Adams	Harry Boak	Kathy Bowen
Andy Brussel	Mark Chamberlin	Matt Ducharme
Jamie Gruppe	Victor Jenkins	Matt McGivney
Doug Russell	Stephanie Stine*	

\*Clerk of Session



## Community Dinner Follow-Up

Although it was in the low 20's on January 18, it was nice and warm in our dining room where 100 people enjoyed a "mid-winter picnic". With our red and white checked tablecloths, plastic ants, watermelon, lemonade and picnic fare, people enjoyed the meal while visiting with others. In addition to the 100 eat-ins, we had 80 take-outs and deliveries. Many thanks to everyone who pitched in to make this Community Dinner a big success. Thank you also to Stewart's for the donation of ice cream for our brownie hot fudge sundaes.

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!



We will have our annual "Souper Bowl" luncheon on February 11 following worship. Come and enjoy as many bowls of assorted hot homemade soups as you can eat. Please bring a pot of soup or a dessert to share. Grilled cheese sandwiches will be provided!



## February Birthdays

05 – Mimi Dundon	22 – Jeffrey Pond
06 – Joyce Ferranto	23 – Johanna Russell
13 – Marion Roloff	23 – Pastor Kirsty
15 – Patricia Benedetti	25 – Wendy Vanderveer
16 – Lee Johnston	26 – Alanna Adams

## February Anniversaries

05 – Bob & Kelly Pelcher  
 18 – Matt & Christine McGivney  
 23 – Doug & Johanna Russell

Add your or a loved one's birthday or anniversary date to our list by contacting the church office.

## Collecting Items for PEACE

The Mission Committee is collecting items for PEACE. Please return items to either the box in the back of the church or in the church office by February 11, 2024.

With February being the time of increased cold, flu and stomach viruses, their wish list includes items to help their clients keep a healthier environment.

Please consider donating items like:

- Tissues
- Cleaning/Disinfectant wipes
- Toilet Paper (one of their greatest needs)
- Dish soap
- Clorox
- Sponges
- Antibacterial hand soap
- Pine-sol or surface cleaners
- Hard candies
- Cough drops
- Small boxes of chocolate

Thank you for all who have taken a heart from the heart from the tree.

-Mission Committee

## The February Calendar

### Sundays

- 9:15 – Choir practice in the Choir Room
- 10:00 – Worship in the Sanctuary

### Mondays

- 6:30 - Bell practice in the Choir Room (no practice on Mon., Feb. 19)

### Sunday, February 4

- 10:00 – Worship & Communion
- 2:00 – Worship & Communion at Buckley Landing

### Mon., February 5

- 10:00 – Worship & Music, Media Center

### Tues., February 6

- 1:00 – Book Club, Media Center

### Sun., February 11

- Souper Bowl Sunday following Worship.

### Tues., February 13

- 7:00 – Session, Media Center

### Weds., February 14

- Ash Wednesday & Valentines’ Day

### Weds., February 18

- First Sunday in Lent

### Mon., February 19

- Presidents’ Day – the church office is closed.

### Tues., February 20

- 7:00 – Deacons, Media Center

## 2024 Board of Deacons

Shane Adams*	Bea Boak	Peg Brussel
Marge Calkins	Andrea Ducharme	Tom Eckrote
Heidi Henderson	Joanne Rodrigues	Nancy Runyans
Matha Stevens	Barb Winegard	
	*Moderator	

## It's a girl!

Congratulations to Barb Winegard on the arrival of her sixth grandchild! Hazel Hope was born on January 2nd and Barb was able to be there to welcome her!



**Remember in Your Prayers  
& Correspondence,**

♡ HEALTH CHALLENGES

Mimi Dundon  
Carol Hovey  
Sandy Smith  
Anthonia Todd

♡ GRIEVING

Rick & Jackie Smith and family upon the loss of Jackie's mother, Mildred Mahady

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*Generally, names remain on the prayer list for one month. Please let the church office know if you wish otherwise.*

**February 4 – Mark 1:29-39**  
**February 11 – Mark 9:2-9**  
**February 18 – Mark 1:9-15**  
**February 25 – Mark 8:31-38**

The Link to the Revised Common Lectionary is [https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2024/2/4/Presbyterian Mission Agency](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2024/2/4/Presbyterian_Mission_Agency)



January 8 marked one year for Pastor Kirsty leading our Church. We had a celebration at coffee hour with delicious cakes made by Marty Pond.



**Nursery School News!**

February is a short month at preschool, with a whole week off for winter break. Despite this, we still manage to do lots of fun activities and learning. Arctic animals and hibernation are on the agenda!

We celebrate Valentine's Day with a valentine exchange and special snack. The kids love bringing in and "mailing" valentines to their friends. Valentines offer a natural opportunity for children to practice name-writing when they "sign" them.

*-Jessica Newcomb, Director, PNS*

**From the Mailbox**

To the Presbyterian Church:

Once again, due to the overwhelming generosity of groups and individuals, the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau was able to help 121 families, 284 children and 433 total individuals in Baldwinsville have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season! Because of you, these families received a Christmas dinner complete with a turkey as well as extra food, clothing, coats, boots, hats and mittens, household items, books and toiletries. Most importantly, the Christmas Bureau was able to "assist" Santa Claus by providing toys and a filled stocking for every child! Children under age 3 received a baby bag filled with items such as blankets, diapers, clothes and toys.

We could never accomplish any of this without you. The entire Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau committee and our parent organization, the Baldwinsville Volunteer Center, would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks. Every year we are so amazed at the generosity and compassion of donors such as yourself. We also hope you will think of us again next year.

We hope you have a happy, healthy and blessed 2024!

*Lauri Bernstein, Coordinator  
Janet Therrien, Chairperson  
Stephanie Pelcher, Co-Chair*