

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

February 3, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 2

Pastor's Word

The word for February is "Love".

You may feel this is a good word for February because of the 14th of February being Valentine's Day. However, the reason I have chosen the word "Love" is because we need a reminder of the love God has for us.

There are so many wonderful verses that tell us of God's love. Here are a few:

- **Love is the essence of His character.** We find this truth in the middle of 1 John 4:16 where we read *"...God is love..."* 1 John 4:7-21 is a great study on love; God's love and the believers love (our love).
- **God's love makes our salvation possible.**
"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 NIV
"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:10 NIV
"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17 NIV
- **God's love is our security.** In Christ, nothing can separate us from God's love (see Romans 8:28-39)
"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:37-39 NIV
- **God's love is our hope.** In light of what we have and are going through these may be the verses we need to hold on to.
"I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning." Lamentations 3:20-23 NLT

These verses from Lamentations remind us of this truth: **when things seem hopeless, you can hope in God because He loves you.**

Pastor Jerry



2020 Giving Reports

The 2020 Financial Giving Reports are in the process of being mailed. If you do not receive yours in a timely manner, please contact the church office. Also, you are encouraged to verify the church's record to your own personal records and notify us if there is any discrepancy.

February Verse of the Month

²⁰ But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, ²¹ and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.

Jude 20-21 NLT

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Office Hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Psalm 68:1-20 (NLT)

- ¹ Rise up, O God, and scatter your enemies.
Let those who hate God run for their lives.
- ² Blow them away like smoke.
Melt them like wax in a fire.
Let the wicked perish in the presence of God.
- ³ But let the godly rejoice.
Let them be glad in God's presence.
Let them be filled with joy.
- ⁴ Sing praises to God and to his name!
Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds.
His name is the LORD—
rejoice in his presence!
- ⁵ Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—
this is God, whose dwelling is holy.
- ⁶ God places the lonely in families;
he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.
But he makes the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.
- ⁷ O God, when you led your people out from Egypt,
when you marched through the dry wasteland, Interlude
- ⁸ the earth trembled, and the heavens poured down rain
before you, the God of Sinai,
before God, the God of Israel.
- ⁹ You sent abundant rain, O God,
to refresh the weary land.
- ¹⁰ There your people finally settled,
and with a bountiful harvest, O God,
you provided for your needy people.
- ¹¹ The Lord gives the word,
and a great army brings the good news.
- ¹² Enemy kings and their armies flee,
while the women of Israel divide the plunder.
- ¹³ Even those who lived among the sheepfolds found treasures—
doves with wings of silver
and feathers of gold.
- ¹⁴ The Almighty scattered the enemy kings
like a blowing snowstorm on Mount Zalmon.
- ¹⁵ The mountains of Bashan are majestic,
with many peaks stretching high into the sky.
- ¹⁶ Why do you look with envy, O rugged mountains,
at Mount Zion, where God has chosen to live,
where the Lord himself will live forever?
- ¹⁷ Surrounded by unnumbered thousands of chariots,
the Lord came from Mount Sinai into his sanctuary.
- ¹⁸ When you ascended to the heights,
you led a crowd of captives.
You received gifts from the people,
even from those who rebelled against you.
Now the Lord God will live among us there.
- ¹⁹ Praise the Lord; praise God our savior!
For each day he carries us in his arms. Interlude
- ²⁰ Our God is a God who saves!
The Sovereign Lord rescues us from death.

25 Attributes of God

from Psalm 68

Think on these 25 attributes of God seen in Psalm 68, outlined by David Platt.

God is awesome.

God is active.

He subdues all who rebel against Him.

He satisfies all who trust in Him.

He is the One True God.

He is the covenant-keeping Lord.

God is father of the fatherless.

He is protector of the widow.

God loves the lonely.

He rescues the captive.

He provides for the needy.

God is sovereign over all nature.

He is sovereign over nations.

God is powerful above us.

God is present with us.

He commands a heavenly army.

He conquers an earthly victory.

God daily bears our burdens.

He ultimately saves our souls.

He is my God and King.

He is our God and King.

He draws people to Himself.

He deserves praise throughout the earth.

He is the divine warrior.

God speaks a dependable word.

For us, there are two implications, Platt said. Give glory to this God. And give your life to His mission.

North American Mission Board

Prayer Calendar – February 2021

W. Seth and Hannah Martin

Church Planter

**The Brook Community Church
Minneapolis, MN**



Pray that the Brook Community will be a light of Christ in the Twin Cities area. Pray that our church will be a place where people get connected to Jesus, others and their purpose and are refreshed!

Larry and Debra Epps

Chaplain

**Perry Correctional Institution
Easley, SC**



Pray for balance between ministry and home life. We want to honor God with our lives and decisions.

Simon and Popia Sim

Church Planter

**Above the Hills Church
Beverly, MA**



Pray as the Lord continues His work in Boston. Pray that we let go of our own personal preferences and follow His call – full surrender and sacrificially.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS



Each year, churches and individuals give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This offering accounts for 50% of NAMB's budget, with 100% of offering gifts going directly to the field for missionaries and their ministries. None is kept for administrative purposes. Pray for people to be generous in giving to the offering this year, so missionaries are equipped to share the gospel throughout the United States and Canada.

Follow us on the church's Facebook page at **First Southern Baptist Church:**

- "Worship and Word" broadcast at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays by Pastor Jerry; upon viewing you are encouraged to **Share** and **Like** so that it will be available to your friends on FB

Livestreaming of Wednesday's Bible study at 6:00 p.m. led by Pastor Jerry and/or Janice Lanford.

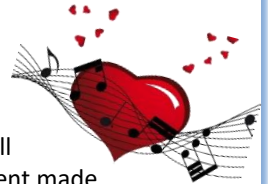
The church family is encouraged to continue to mail in their tithes and offerings, or drop them off at the church office during the hours listed. Thank you so much for your faithfulness in giving.

*A Penned Note from
the Pastor's Wife*



Pastor Jerry's article is about the love of God. I can't help but think about the words to "**The Love of God**" shown below:

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell
The guilty pair, bowed down with care
God gave His Son to win
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin



Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky

Chorus

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song



Janice