

# connect.

Tuscola  
United  
Methodist  
Church

February  
2021



## From Pastor Terri Haas

Dear Church Family:  
Happy Valentine's Month! I love that this shortest (and coldest!) month of the year celebrates one of humanity's greatest joys and needs: love. The Bible helps us to understand that all human beings crave love from the moment that they are born, and there are several different types of love that we use to fulfill those cravings.

The first type of love that the Bible speaks of is *storge* (STOR-jay) love which talks about the love we feel for our families – the love that's developed between children and parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents and grandchildren. For most of us, this is the first love we experience, and for many of us, this is the easiest of all loves to show consistently throughout our lives. Think of how you feel when you hold your sweet grandchild – that is *storge* love, and God created that love to provide us joy, company, and belonging. We see this in the scripture when we see Sarah's love for Isaac, Jacob's love for his twelve sons, and Mary, Martha, and Lazarus's tight sibling bond.

The second type of love that many of experience is *philia* (FILL-ee-uh) love. This is

the love of deep friendship, also known as brotherly love. The word *philia* comes from the Greek *philos* which means "beloved, dear... a friend; someone dearly loved (prized) in a personal, intimate way; a trusted confidant held dear in a close bond of personal affection." *Philia* is the most general love in the scripture, and it encompasses love, care, and empathy for fellow humans. We saw this in Jesus' relationship with his disciples. The Bible uses *philia* in John 13:35 which says: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love (*philia*) one another."

The third type of love that many experience is *eros* (AIR-ohs) love, and this is the type of love we tend to think about on Valentine's Day. *Eros* means sensual or romantic love, and it's a term that originates from the mythological Greek god of love, Eros, whose Roman counterpoint was Cupid. This is the love of hearts and flowers and romance and weddings. To read about *eros* in the Bible, read the Song of Solomon which is a poem about two lovers separated from each other.

Finally, there is the love that is specific to the Christian community – the love called

*agape* (uh-GAH-pay) love. *Agape* is a very special kind of love. It is the divine love from God that is perfectly selfless, unconditional, sacrificial, and pure. This is the love we see in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." This is the love that we are called to emulate daily for our neighbor.

After Jesus' resurrection, he has a conversation with Peter in which he asks Peter if he loves (*agape*) him. Peter responds three times that he loves (*philia*) Jesus, but it isn't enough. What Peter doesn't realize at that moment, is that he is incapable of *agape* love until he receives the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We too, are incapable of *agape* love with the Holy Spirit. Today, I invite you to examine your life. Are you showing *agape* love to others? If not, then the month of February is a great month to work on that.

Happy Valentine's Day,  
Pastor Terri



## February Sermons

### **Jesus, Man of Mystery Sermon Series**

As Jesus' public ministry begins, he remains a somewhat mysterious figure. Like a good spy, magician, or stealthy detective, Jesus plays things close to the vest and reveals things only when he is ready.

**February 7<sup>th</sup>** – Mark 1:29-39 – Jesus, Man of Mystery: Secrets, Secrets, Secrets!

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Mark 9:2-9 – Jesus, Man of Mystery: Exposed

### **The Power of Sacrifice Series**

Lent has become a vain ritual where Christians give up small, often insignificant vices as they prepare themselves to contemplate the passion and resurrection of Christ. But what if Lent was meant to be much more

radical and transformative than that? The fundamental call of Jesus to all who follow him is to sacrifice themselves and their lives for the good of their friends, neighbors, and even enemies. However, this call is far more easily preached than practiced! In this Lenten series, we will examine the tangible ways that Jesus demonstrated sacrificial living in his day and age, and the powerful world-shaking ramifications that his sacrificial life had on his society in his day, while preparing ourselves to imitate Jesus in our day.

**February 21<sup>st</sup>** – Mark 1:9-15 – The Power of Sacrifice: Expand Your Mind

**February 28<sup>th</sup>** – Mark 8:31-38 – The Power of Sacrifice: What Matters Most



## Women's Bible Study: Beth Moore's *Breaking Free*

Please join us IN PERSON (or on Zoom if you'd prefer) starting Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 for Beth Moore's bible study of Isaiah called Breaking Free. Lifeway writes:

*"This in-depth women's Bible study draws parallels between the captive Israelites of the Old Testament and New Testament believers in Jesus as the Promised Messiah. Beth looks at the Book of Isaiah through the lives of the kings who ruled during the prophet's ministry. These kings exemplify many of the obstacles to freedom with which we must deal. Using Scripture to help identify spiritual strongholds in your life, no matter how big or small, Beth explains that anything that hinders us from the benefits of knowing God is bondage."*

*"Join Beth Moore on a Bible journey unlike any other. God intends for you to know and believe Him, glorify Him, experience His peace, and enjoy His presence. Breaking Free is Beth's life message that she wants to share with you. Taped live at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, this study includes testimonies of how women like you have found freedom and have been delivered from personal captivity."*

The cost of the book is \$16. Please contact the church office to sign up and reserve a book, or you can purchase *Breaking Free* Updated Edition: The Journey, the Stories Bible Study Book on Amazon, Lifeway, or Christianbook.com. Please join us for this lifechanging series that Beth Moore calls her very favorite of the dozens she has written.

## December Finance at a Glance:

Balance as of  
11/30/20: \$3,222.94

December Income:  
\$18,654.08

December Expense:  
\$16,299.69

Balance as of  
12/31/20: \$5,577.33

Did you know? TUMC offers electronic giving which is fast, easy, and safe!

Contact Lora Zimmer in the church office for more details at [lzimmer@tuscolaumc.org](mailto:lzimmer@tuscolaumc.org) or leave a message at 253-4232.

## Ash Wednesday

Join us on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for an Ash Wednesday service in the Fellowship Hall.

## Children's Ministry

- Every Sunday this month after the children's moment.
- February Theme - Discipleship

## Middle School Youth Group

- 2/14 @ 10:00-11:00
- 2/28 @ 10:00-11:00

## High School Youth Group

- 2/14 @ 11:00-12:00
- 2/28 @ 11:00-12:00

Both Youth Groups will be doing service projects helping Nurses and going

over the February Theme Discipleship.

## Parents and Congregation

### SUPER BOWL YOUTH FUNDRAISER

February 7<sup>th</sup>  
All the proceeds go toward the kids doing service projects



## Parent Zoom Meeting

**February 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm**

Kids and Youth Open Zoom with Taylor

Starting Thursday Night, 2/11 @ 6:00pm

This is giving the kids a chance to meet with Taylor and talk – vent- ask questions. Anything that is on their heart.

(Zoom Links will be posted on the Facebook Group Page)



## Church Meetings

The church is now able to host church meetings in person again. All official meetings (Finance, Trustees, Staff Parish, Church Council) will be held in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to hold a small group meeting at the church, please contact Lora to schedule your meeting. Masks and social distancing are still required!

## Vaccine Updates

Douglas County Health Department will be receiving 300 doses of vaccine for the next few weeks. In order to schedule an appointment to receive your vaccination, you will need to register online and print out your ticket or save it to your smart phone. If you are unable to do this, please contact the church, and we take care of this for you. If you are willing to volunteer your time to help register those who are unable to register themselves, please contact Pastor Terri at [thaas@tuscolaumc.org](mailto:thaas@tuscolaumc.org).

## Book Club

Ingrid Minger will be holding the next book club meeting on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM IN PERSON at the church. February's book will be *The Fifth Avenue Society Story* by Rachel Hauck. Join us for a fun, no stress conversation about a great book.

## Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all their thoughts and prayers at this difficult time of losing my father. I am blessed to have such a wonderful church family.  
~Jody Patton and Patrick

# connect.

Tuscola United Methodist Church  
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## Our Staff

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## Feb. 2021

### What's

**2**  
Staff Meeting— 4:30 pm

**8**  
Finance—6:00 pm  
Trustees—7:00 pm

**9**  
Staff Parish —7:00 pm

### Happening

**11**  
Bell Choir—6:00 pm

**16**  
Bible Study—6:00 pm

**17**  
Ash Wednesday Worship—  
6:00 pm

### Here

**18**  
Book Club—6:30 pm

**23**  
Bible Study—6:00 pm

**25**  
NAMI—7:00 pm

**28**  
Newsletter Deadline