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If you would like to be added to either our email or postal mailing list, please contact the church office to leave your name and preferred contact information.
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LE ROY FIRST UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
309-962-5011
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Website: leroypresbyterian.info

Vol. XXV No. 2

Salt Creek Savorings

February, 2022



reflections

Dana Miller,
Director of Student Ministries



Happy Valentine's Day, everyone! (I know, it's the beginning of February—I just wanted to beat the rush). I was amazed at the impact this holiday has. According to the most recent statistics, 55% of Americans plan to celebrate Valentine's Day in some form, and when they do, they celebrate in style. In 2020, the most recent year such statistics are available, an astounding 27.4 billion dollars were spent on Valentine's Day gifts and festivities, with the average person spending almost \$200 on impressing their mates during this day. But the statistic that shocked me the most was that, of those actively celebrating Valentine's Day, nearly 33 million Americans, or just under 13% of the U.S. population, were planning on buying gifts for more than one partner. Who knew that we were a country so intent on playing the field? In case you were wondering, the vast majority of those buying Valentine's Day gifts for more than one partner were far more likely to be men than women, and far more likely to be younger (20-35) than older.

When did it become socially acceptable to, for lack of a better metaphor, cast so many nets looking for that one (or more?) fish in the sea? It comes down to a simple truth—we were created to love. The trouble is, we've forgotten our first love. We are God's creation, and we have a purpose. Colossians 1:16 tells us, "For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him." Simply put, we were made to love, praise, and glorify our Creator. But because of our sin nature, we go forth, well, looking for love in all the wrong places. Ecclesiastes 7:29 confirms what we already know deep in our hearts—"This only I have found: God created mankind upright, but they have gone in search of many schemes." It turns out we've got a God shaped hole in our souls that can only be filled by relationship with Him, but we try to fill it with other things, and other people. We try to replace the love of God with other, less perfect and permanent loves. And when we try to fill that hole with anything but God, we will always fail. Maybe that's why so many people out there are casting so many nets, looking for their one true love. I'm sure you've memorized John 3:16, the verse

that reminds us, "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." In a way, it's the greatest unrequited love story in history! A (not so) secret admirer loves you from afar—if only you would notice them, you could live happily ever after! In the end, it comes down to us. Will we notice our true love and run to Him? Or will we reject Him and keep trying to fill that God shaped hole our own, inadequate way? Just a few verses later, John writes in 3:19-21, "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God."

Don't wait for Valentine's Day—run to your true love! Jesus is waiting for you. He loves you, He died for you to prove His love for you, and He desires a relationship and fellowship with you. I invite you to stop your search for the things of the world that won't fill that God shaped hole, and seek out Jesus, the only one who can truly provide perfect love for you.

All you can eat

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

Bring your family, friends and neighbors to a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast on
February 26th from 7 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Ticket Information:

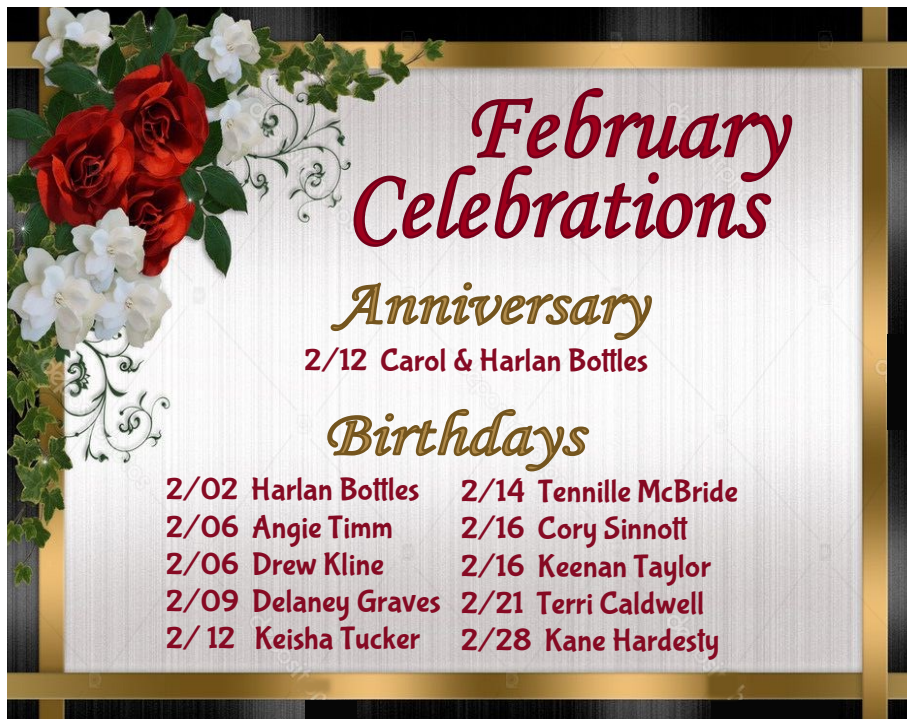
Adults: \$7.00

Kids 5-12: \$4.00

Kids 4 and under: Free



Proceeds go for our 2022 youth summer and mission camps.
Thank you for your support!



February Celebrations

Anniversary

2/12 Carol & Harlan Bottles

Birthdays

2/02 Harlan Bottles	2/14 Tennille McBride
2/06 Angie Timm	2/16 Cory Sinnott
2/06 Drew Kline	2/16 Keenan Taylor
2/09 Delaney Graves	2/21 Terri Caldwell
2/12 Keisha Tucker	2/28 Kane Hardesty



Ash Wednesday falls on March 2nd this year. The Worship & Music Committee is determining if we will be able to hold a service that evening.

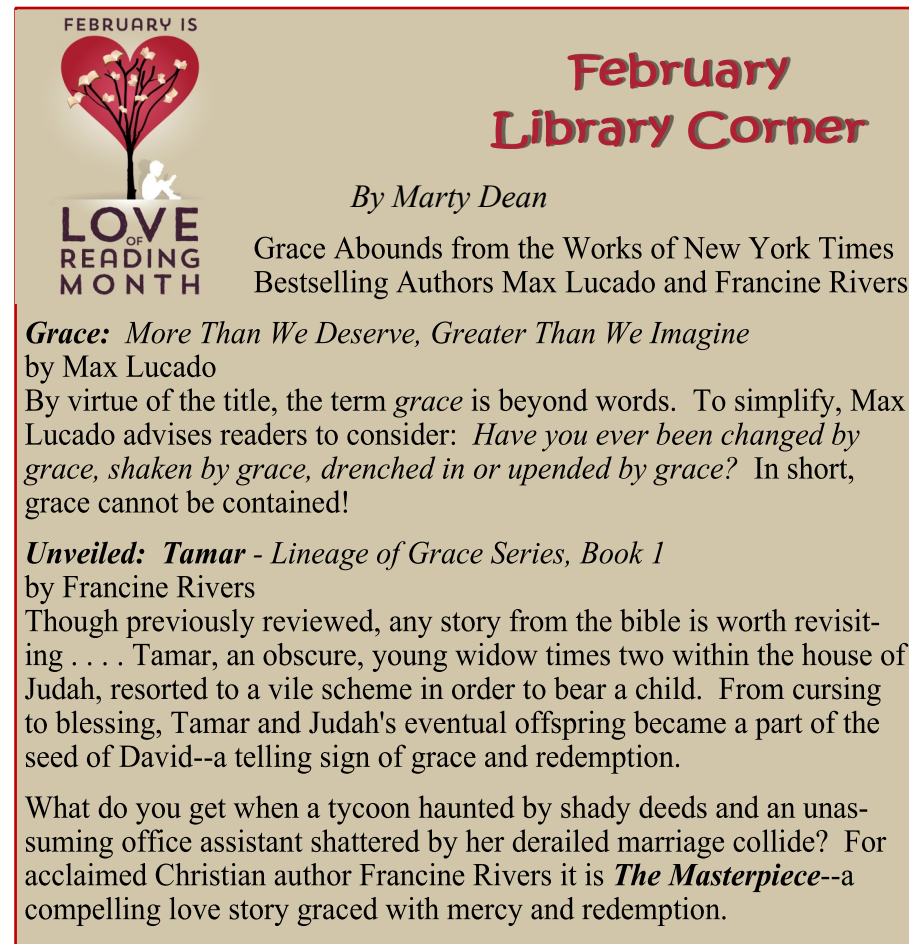
This Holy Day marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately



Thank you ADMIN committee for the Christmas gift. It's nice to be appreciated.

Mary Sigler

As winter weather has arrived, it is a good time to be aware that in the event of severe weather during the week, the church office may be closed without notification.

February Library Corner

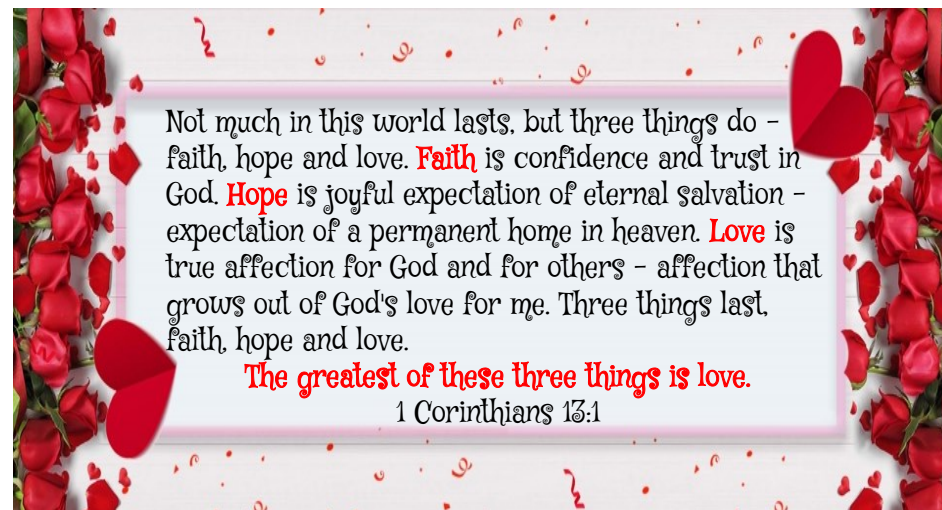
By Marty Dean

Grace Abounds from the Works of New York Times Bestselling Authors Max Lucado and Francine Rivers

Grace: *More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine* by Max Lucado
By virtue of the title, the term *grace* is beyond words. To simplify, Max Lucado advises readers to consider: *Have you ever been changed by grace, shaken by grace, drenched in or upended by grace?* In short, grace cannot be contained!

Unveiled: *Tamar - Lineage of Grace Series, Book 1* by Francine Rivers
Though previously reviewed, any story from the bible is worth revisiting . . . Tamar, an obscure, young widow times two within the house of Judah, resorted to a vile scheme in order to bear a child. From cursing to blessing, Tamar and Judah's eventual offspring became a part of the seed of David--a telling sign of grace and redemption.

What do you get when a tycoon haunted by shady deeds and an unassuming office assistant shattered by her derailed marriage collide? For acclaimed Christian author Francine Rivers it is ***The Masterpiece***--a compelling love story graced with mercy and redemption.



Not much in this world lasts, but three things do - faith, hope and love. **Faith** is confidence and trust in God. **Hope** is joyful expectation of eternal salvation - expectation of a permanent home in heaven. **Love** is true affection for God and for others - affection that grows out of God's love for me. Three things last, faith, hope and love.

The greatest of these three things is love.
1 Corinthians 13:1

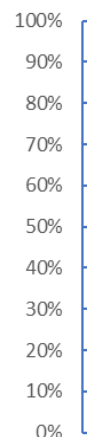
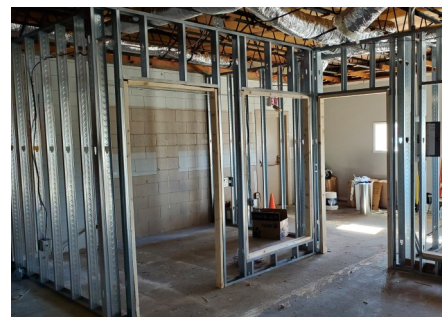
Living Well United Senior Center

LeRoy, Illinois

If you haven't yet experienced all the Living Well Senior Center has to offer, here are a just a few you might be interest in this month!

(Check out their [current calendar for specific dates at www.livingwellunited.org](http://www.livingwellunited.org).)

- **OSF Presentation Eat Like A Mediterranean** - February is the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" heart health month. Join Registered Dietitian Kim McClintic as she discusses this amazing way of eating and provides you with strategies to follow it. Wear RED-FREE
- **Renee Fehr, author-** Renee wrote the book *The Wheels of Justice*. It is a true story of a 27-year battle to convict her sister's killer. *The Wheels of Justice* is equal parts the story of a monstrous killer, a harrowing look at domestic violence and an inspirational story of a family that wouldn't quit until justice prevailed.
- **Abe Lincoln Presentation-** Join us as Tim Gnagey will present about the interesting life of Abraham Lincoln. This will be a great time of learning, sharing and asking questions. -FREE
- **Genealogy 101 with Susan Chancellor-** Susan Chancellor, started her quest to learn her family's history in 1995. She spent 2 years of full time research and has continued to add to it as the years pass. Learn from Susan how to find your long lost uncle and many more! -FREE
- **What is financial exploitation?**- We will be talking about the legal definition of financial exploitation, how to spot it, and what can be done about it. This program is not just to prepare you to safeguard your own finances, but to know who to call if a friend or family member is in trouble. -FREE
- **Blueberry Pie Night-** Join Lindsay Pray for Blueberry Pie Class, limit 12, register fast! -\$25
- **LeRoy Preparatory Academy Presentation-** Everything you always wanted to know about the LeRoy Preparatory Academy.
- **CCSI presentation & Lunch-** Find out the services that CCSI has to offer seniors-there are lots! You must pre register so lunch can be ordered for you. Sign up at center or call or text 309-830-2722.
- **Share your Valentine's Day** with Living Well United and a **free movie**. "The Awful Truth" will be on the big screen with free popcorn and soda. See you at the Princess Theater at 5pm. Donations accepted.
- **Matter of Balance** - A MATTER OF BALANCE classes are twice a week for 4 weeks with 2-hour sessions. Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A MATTER OF BALANCE is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. To register please call or email Carol Pfoff at (309) 825-6316, capfoff@hotmail.com. Class number is limited to 12, so call today! The last day to register is February 1, 2022. - FREE
- **Make Jelly!** Limit 10 people. In this class you will make delicious jelly and take a jar home!
- **Sing Along** With Mitch Miller-Come sing or listen to others sing along with Mitch Miller!
- **Nicor** presents-Safety in how to respond when smelling gas; How to identify a utility worker;



BUILDING RENOVATION PROGRESS UPDATES:

This "thermometer" graph is a visual aide to watch our contributions grow to pay towards the \$300,000 that we intend to borrow towards the project. We have received **\$80,665** since the project was approved at the end of February. Our thanks to all who are helping to achieve our goal!

Drywall has been delivered for the new office and nursery area and along with insulation on the south wall, will be installed soon.

Updated LED "can" type lights have been purchased for the downstairs fellowship hall and then the ceiling is ready to be finished.

Worship Schedule - January 2022

9:00 a.m. Sunday WORSHIP	February 6 (Communion)	February 13	February 20	February 27
ACCOMPANIST	Mary Sigler Londa Holoch	Mary Sigler	Mary Sigler	Mary Sigler
LAY READER	Marty Dean	Terri Caldwell	Anna Rayburn	Marty Dean
USHER/ GREETERS	Dennis & Judy McCormick	Mindy & Haley Cox	Bobbi & John Murfin	Barb Monical; Beverly Burcham
COMMUNION SERVERS	Bobbi Murfin; Tracey Holoch, Barb Monical			
TECH BOOTH	Steve Sinnott; Tanner Holoch	Steve Sinnott; Sarah Hill	Steve Sinnott Tate Sigler	Steve Sinnott Tracey Holoch

JANUARY ATTENDANCE

<i>Sunday Dates</i>	<i>Sunday Attendance</i>
January 2	44
January 9	33
January 16	27
January 23	42
January 30	38
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	37

CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders:

Martha Dean
Tracey Holoch
Dennis McCormick
Mary Ella Mennenga
Anna Rayburn
Ashley Sigler
Randy Sigler
Steve Sinnott
Dixie Weinheimer

Committee

Committees not yet assigned

**Session is currently scheduled to next meet on
Wednesday, February 9th at 6 p.m.**

Minutes will be available, after approval, in the office.

Deacons:

Teresha Bossingham
Beverly Burcham
Jack Burcham
Scott Graves
Amanda Hill
Sarah Hill
Londa Holoch
Vonette Miller
Barb Monical
Bobbi Murfin

Deacon of the Month:

October
June
May
November
August
July
February
April
March
September



Church Phone: (309) 962-5011
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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Dana Miller, Director of Student Ministries	dmillbhawk@gmail.com (309) 660-6907
Rita Vollmer, Secretary/Treasurer	leroypresbyterian@gmail.com rmhvollmer@gmail.com

Deacon of the Month

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 7:00 AM Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM K-5th Sunday School Class 10:00 AM Annual Congregation Meeting 10:00 AM Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class	31	1	2 6:00 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC	3 10:00 AM MISSION & OUTREACH 8:00 PM Serenity Circle (AA)	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 7:00 AM Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM K-5th Sunday School Class 10:00 AM Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class	7	8	9 6:00 PM SESSION	10 8:00 PM Serenity Circle (AA)	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 7:00 AM Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM K-5th Sunday School Class 10:00 AM Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class	14	15	16 6:30 PM DEACONS	17 8:00 PM Serenity Circle (AA)	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19
20 7:00 AM Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM K-5th Sunday School Class 10:00 AM Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class	21	22 6:00 PM ADMINISTRATION	23	24 8:00 PM Serenity Circle (AA)	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 7 - 10 a.m. Pancake & Sausage Camp Youth Fundraiser
27 7:00 AM Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM K-5th Sunday School Class 10:00 AM Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class	28	1	2	3 8:00 PM Serenity Circle (AA)	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5

