



# St. Marys Methodist Church Family News

February 2024 Volume 50 Issue 2

**SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 8:45AM ADULT CLASS  
9:00 AM CHILDREN/YOUTH  
FALL/WINTER WORSHIP @ 10:15 AM**

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

7:00 PM FEBRUARY 14



**POT LUCK LUNCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**Sunday, February 18**

Beef/Rolls & Beverages provided

**PLEASE BRING A DISH OF YOUR CHOICE TO SHARE  
ENJOY LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER**



**LIVER DUMPLING AND BAKE SALE**

**SATURDAY MARCH 2**

**9—NOON**

**PRE ORDER LIVER DUMPLINGS BY TUESDAY FEB. 27<sup>TH</sup>**

**CALL LINDA @ 814-594-4550 OR**

**CHURCH OFFICE@ 814-834-3016**

**IF YOU LEAVE A MESSAGE PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER**

**\*\*\*\*\*DONATIONS OF BAKED GOODS NEEDED\*\*\*\*\***

# February Message

Written by Paul Morelli

I was asked by Shawna if I would like to do the newsletter article for February and I said I was excited to do so. As February 14 is Valentine's Day and is a celebration that honors St Valentine who, when the government forbid marrying (because it exempted the young men from being a soldier), he did marriages in secret. But our culture has made it about love, mainly eros (erotic) love, the love of a man for a woman. The reason this subject interests me so much is that love is a term that has been hijacked in our culture and its meaning has been destroyed by cultural redefinition. To some, love means we must always affirm a person's behavior no matter what or we do not love them. The other definition that is prevalent is that of emotional or physical attraction as being the most important part of a relationship. This plays out often in our society and a "commitment" is good until the emotion goes away! Then, we "fall out of love" and since it is all about me being "happy" I need to find another emotional attraction to make me happy again. This is not love in the traditional or biblical sense. True love is a sacrificial care for another person that looks out for what is best for them. Paul explains this in Ephesians 5: 25-30: ***25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her<sup>26</sup> to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.<sup>[a]</sup> 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. 30 And we are members of his body.***

This is "agape" or a sacrificial love. One of the strongest human stories of this love I have ever heard was about Sandra Day O'Connor. She was the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court. Her husband, John, had developed Alzheimer's and as the disease progressed, had to be put in an assisted living facility. As his memory of his former life disappeared, he developed a romantic relationship with another resident. Justice O'Connor would visit her husband and sit on a bench opposite him while he held hands with his girlfriend. She stated that she was happy that he could find some joy in the midst of the dreaded disease. This kind of love is a sacrificial love that few understand. To love in the biblical "agape" type love is sacrificing what may make us happy so that the one we "love" can be better for it.

One of our favorite verses is John 3:16 and states: "For this is how God loved the world: He gave[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

This example of love that is one we too often gloss over as we are the beneficiaries of it, but in context, the Apostle Paul is explaining that this is the sacrificial type of love that a husband (and wife) should have for each other!!! This concept of love would revolutionize marriages. This kind of love in the church would make the world stop and take notice of our spiritual gatherings and this kind of love exhibited by us in the world would make us identifiable as Christ's disciples. Not a love that gives a person approval for whatever they want (if we love our children, we don't let them eat the entire cake! because we know it would not be good for them) but a love that looks out for the other person even at personal sacrifice to ourselves! This is God's love, Agape love, the love a disciple should exhibit in their interactions with those around them, especially their families (both genetic and spiritual). Read it again and put your name in it with appropriate wording to match. Put it inside the cover of your Bible or post it on your refrigerator.

*For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. **He gave up his life for her<sup>26</sup> to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.***

David Gates of Bread (a band from my day) had a song titled "Diary" that captures just a bit of this kind of love. In the song, a guy finds the diary of his girlfriend and it tells how she has found her true love. He is surprised as she doesn't show it but that is like her. He then reads the words again and starts to realize she means someone else but again, she doesn't show it. In an unusual expression of care for her happiness he says: "And as I go through my life, I will wish for her his wife, All the sweet things that she can find, All the sweet things they can find"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24IfD-0VUu4>

**MEMORIAL  
IN MEMORY OF  
BARBARA PATTERSON**

**Given by  
Vicki Anderson**

**THANK YOU  
TO EVERYONE FOR THE GET  
WELL & CHRISTMAS CARDS .  
I HAVE ENJOYED READING  
EACH OF THEM.**

**PAT JOHNSON**

**February Meeting**

Mon., Feb. 5 @ 7:00 pm SPPRC Meeting

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
Sunday following Worship  
New Members Welcome!**

**Bell Choir Rehearsal  
Thursday 6:00 PM  
New Members Welcome!**

For God  
So loved the world  
that He gave His  
only  
begotten  
Son so  
that whoever  
believes  
in Him shall  
have everlasting  
life.



John 3:16

**Worship Schedule**

Paul Morelli

January 28-March 17

Rev. Paul Fields Ash Wednesday

February 14—7:00 pm

## 2024 Methodist Women Looking Ahead

Rummage Sale—Friday & Saturday, June 7 & 8 ( Note this is a week earlier than usual.)

**\*Please remember as you are spring cleaning to save items for the sale!**

Annual Holiday Bizarre Saturday, November 23  
Women's Christmas Party Monday, December 2

Sharon Herzing—President  
Melinda Gasbarre—Vice President  
Marci Rogers—Secretary  
Deanne McAfoose—Treasurer  
Lesa Lamb—Public Relations

### CURRENT ST. MARYS METHODIST CHURCH CHAIRS

Ad Board Chair Dave Fitzgerald  
PPRC Chair Joyce Fledderman  
Finance Chair Laura Horchen  
Christian Ed Chair Shawna Grim  
Trustee Chair Bob Buerk  
Worship Chair Carolyn Hockman  
Lay Leader Cathy Nesbitt  
Methodist Women President Sharon Herzing





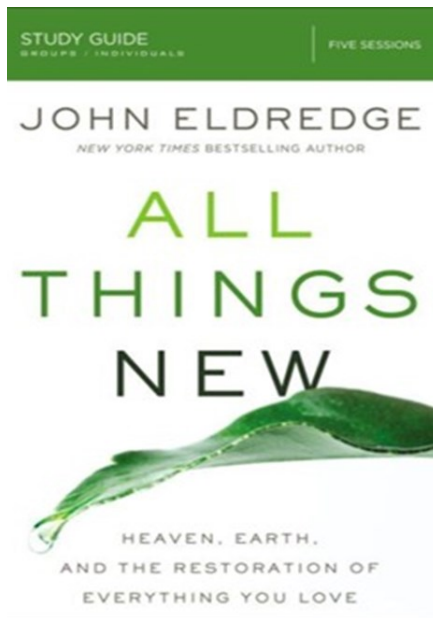
# Bowls of Love

Every Wednesday 4 PM-4:30 PM

DONATIONS OF DESSERTS APPRECIATED

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**  
**LEADER: SHAWNA GRIM**

**BEGINNING February 25, 2024**  
**ASBURY HALL 8:45 a.m.**



### *All Things New*

*All Things New: Heaven, Earth, and the Restoration of Everything You Love* by, John Eldredge, offers a simple, but life-changing study on the topic on heaven. It's built on a simple idea: heaven is *not* the eternal church service in the sky. In fact, "the renewal of all things" (Matthew 19:28) means that all we hold dear shall be renewed - music, art, food, laughter...yes, everything you love so much here on earth.

Sessions include:

- The Hope of Renewal
- Creation Made New
- Your Story Told Rightly
- What We'll Do in the New Earth
- The Power of Our Hope

## Exercise Class with Cindy

Cindy Schuster is currently having an exercise class each Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 am in Asbury Hall. Each class will begin with a devotion, then some warm up stretches. If you are new to exercise class you don't have to be intimidated. Everyone can work at his or her own level and she will make modifications for those who are unable to get down on the ground by doing chair exercises. (Please bring a mat or beach towel.) Everyone is welcome, all ages, male or female. You do not need to be a church member to attend, find a friend to attend with you or make a new friend!

Come join in!!





## Send a Note to Our Shut-Ins



Patricia Johnson	Johnsonburg Rd.	St. Marys PA 15857	Pinecrest Manor
Thressa Brock	185 Center Street	St. Marys PA 15857	Elk Towers, Apt. 404
Gary Wonderly	185 Center Street	St. Marys PA 15857	Elk Towers, Apt. 608
Anita Vollmer	Sunrise Road	St. Marys PA 15857	



### REMINDER

Food Donations for the Christian Food Bank can be put in the box in the old kitchen or brought into the church office.

### February Meeting

Mon., Feb. 5 @ 7:00 pm SPPRC Meeting



### Man to Man

The men meet on Wednesday 7:30 PM In Conference Room

**All Men Welcome!**



**CHRISTIAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATES OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

*The mission of Christian Counseling Associates (CCA) is to provide excellent, accessible, and comprehensive counseling from a Biblical worldview. Our counselors are experts in the field of clinical mental health and highly trained from accredited institutions.*

*They are active in their local faith communities, have a heart for God, and are gifted in serving those who struggle with cognitive, emotional, and spiritual issues. Ready to make an appointment?*

Call **724-396-1510** or [CCAWPA@gmail.com](mailto:CCAWPA@gmail.com)

**SMALL GROUP MEETINGS**

9:00 AM—MONDAY IN Asbury Hall  
 6:30 PM— MONDAY IN Asbury Hall  
 4:00 PM— THURSDAY IN Conference Room  
 CONTACT Carol Cunningham or Joyce Fledderman

**St. Marys Methodist Church**  
140 N. Saint Marys Street  
Saint Marys, PA 15857-1236

*Please let us know if your address changes.*



### Contact Information

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Web: [www.stmarysmethodistchurch.com](http://www.stmarysmethodistchurch.com)  
[facebook.com/FUMC15857](https://facebook.com/FUMC15857)



FALL/WINTER WORSHIP TIME  
@ 10:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES FOR  
ADULTS @ 8:45 AM  
CHILDREN/YOUTH @ 9:00 AM