



Morattico Baptist Church
MBC2028
Celebrating 250 Years 1778-2028

FEBRUARY 2025

MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH

THE HILL



**FROM THE
PASTOR**

Valentine's Day dominates the month of February. In the winter doldrums there is this holiday that is wonderful if you are married or in a relationship. It's not so great if you don't have a significant love in your life and will spend Valentine's Day alone.

Isn't it wonderful to know that all of us, married, single, in a relationship or not, are loved by our Heavenly Father? It is the ability to seek Him and be complete in Christ that allows us to navigate and find joy in days that remind us of what we don't have.

Proverbs 12: 25 says, "Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a good word cheers it up." How true this is. All of us are in possession of a good word - it is called the New Testament. Throughout the twenty-seven books of the New Testament, words of encouragement and hope can be found. Within the New Testament, our God has granted us a covenant of salvation and grace

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Stewardship of Loving Relationships

Jesus said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." – Mark 12:31b

Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." -- Matthew 5:43b

Red hearts, roses and chocolates are everywhere, so it must be February – the month of love! There's certainly nothing wrong with celebrating romance between you and a special someone, or love among family members, or best friends who are always there for one another.

But our inner-circle folks represent only a sliver of the people Jesus calls us to love. And let's face it: they're the *easy* ones to love. Jesus calls us to a higher plane of love; to love everyone. This means not just the people about whom we are ambivalent, but our actual enemies and those who persecute us.

Such love is a tall order, especially today, when hatred and demonization is rampant. Our political, media and social cultures encourage us to demean everybody with whom we disagree or who is different from us. Though it may be impossible to reach Jesus' ideal,

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Margaret Ambrose
Family of Pam Brent
Page Carlson
Eddie Dawson
Family of Eleanor Delano
Ralph Doth
Charlotte Evans
Wilson and Sandra Evans
Bill and Mary Fletcher
Douglas Garrett
Brenda Gilbert
Johnny Gilbert
Terri Groh
Suzanne Henry
Mary Herndon
Greg Howell
James Jackson
Cathy Kellum
Donald Morgan
Richard, Rosie and Rich Pruett
Sylvia Saunders
Ira Shelton
Paul Stone
Fran Stout
William and Patricia Taylor
Clint "Scooby" Walker
Lynn Keane Walls
Dennis Whitcomb
Service Men and Women
United States of America

*Please give us updates. Do we keep
 praying or rejoice in being able to
 remove someone from this list?
 When adding someone, please
 provide an address so we can send a
 card.*

Mae Shelton ~ 804-366-3817



3 Peyton Smith
7 Brenda Gilbert
7 Jo Ann Fickling
8 Rachel Barnes
8 Dixie Wood
8 Sean Stout
15 Beth Gay
15 Eddie Gay
20 Joshua Abbott
20 Linda Cornwell
20 Richard Fickling
20 James Kendrick
22 Abby Souders
22 Carol Kratt
23 Susan Humphreys

February 3, 1980
Wayne and Belinda Starling

February 28
Ray and Amy Britt



**On December 30th, MBC hosted a breakfast
 for the members of the Remo Hunt Club.**

Stewardship of Loving Relationships

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as stewards and disciples of Jesus, we can do better.

Turn from hate. It may be too much to love our enemies, but we can start by turning from hatred. When negative feelings arise, refuse to marinate in them. Pray for guidance and strength.

Remember that loving your enemy doesn't mean approving of who they are, what they do, or letting them escape responsibility for their actions. It also does not mean you cannot protect yourself or others from harm. Imagine them as a broken, imperfect child of God (just like you!), who needs God's love and mercy.

Pray for them. Ask God to lead them, guide them, fill their lives with healing. Ask God to give them the kind of loving heart that you are hoping to develop in yourself.

If you do these things consistently, with God's help you will have transformed your heart, your life and our world.

--Rob Blezard

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Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and works as content editor for

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FROM THE PASTOR

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that can be received only through faith in Jesus Christ. In that faith we are granted joy that greatly exceeds Valentine's Day or any other man-made holiday. It is by faith that we are saved and by grace that we have faith. These are good words, encouraging words and most importantly, true words.

Whether you do or don't have a special someone to spend Valentine's Day with, you are loved and you are special. God loves you every moment of every day and if you live in this knowledge, you will know peace and joy through Christ who loves you so much that He died for you. So, buy a box of chocolates and spend a little while with Jesus during the month of February. Read the Gospel of John because it is the Gospel of Love. And the love of Christ far exceeds any Hallmark movie!

Blessings!
Richard





Sunday: 8:45 am Sunday School (adult)
10 am Sunday Service

Calendar events:

February 2 nd	Groundhog Day
February 14 th	Valentine's Day
February 16th	MBC Band
February 17 th	Presidents' Day
March 20th	Business Meeting

Bold = MBC event

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