

**FEBRUARY 2017**

**Worshiping God With Joy.**

**Serving Others.**

**Embracing All.**



Well, we made it through the first month of the New Year 2017. (Still keeping those resolutions??) January is not and has never been my favorite month. Following after all the hype and hoopla of the holidays, for me at least, it's just a plain, boring old month. But February ... now that's another matter! Who doesn't love February – the month of love!! February is the month when some of us celebrate Valentine's Day by the giving of candy, flowers, and much more. It's the time when American's observe Black History Month. It's also Library Lovers' Month. (I love libraries!!) And maybe you didn't know this – I didn't until recently – February is the month when we celebrate diversity and the cultures of all people.

There's one other thing I just found out about February. During this month we celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Week, February 12-18. Kindness is certainly one way we can show love. Now, don't get me wrong ... I'm still all about flowers, candy and gifts. But I'll admit that's just superficial stuff. There are aspects of love that go so much deeper. And as Ogden Christians that's what I'd like us to focus on.

It's easy to get caught up in all the stuff of life – and lately there's been a lot more nasty stuff than usual in our lives. In the heat of differences of opinion and ideologies and politics, it's hard not to get caught up in the 'us vs. them' mentality. But putting all differences aside, what is simple, though not necessarily easy, is showing the love of Christ by doing acts of kindness.

So here's a challenge for us all – a “Test Your Love and Kindness Quotient” (Virginia Lieto, *Embracing the Virtues to Live a Happier Life*). It's just a little quiz to see how much love and kindness flows from you on a regular basis (you didn't think it was only for the month of February, did you??)

1. Do you remember to tell the people you love “I love you” every morning?
2. Can you recall doing anything nice for a stranger yesterday? (Maybe you held a door open, or complimented a check-out clerk, or allowed some car to pull in front of you while in traffic)
3. Did you help someone in need yesterday? (Maybe you took on additional work to ease a co-worker's burden, or ran an errand for someone, or took the time to listen to someone's problems)
4. Do you consistently say 'please' and 'thank you' to those you interact with throughout any given day?
5. Do you try to make life easier for others? (Maybe you pick-up after yourself, put your own dirty dishes in the sink/dishwasher, meet your commitments)

Virginia Lieto says if you can “answer yes to all five questions then love and kindness bursts forth from you, day-in and day-out. If on the other hand, you answered ‘no’ to any of the questions, well then, you know what you need to do during February, the month of love and kindness. Get busy!”

Seriously though, it is all well and good that we highlight these virtues during February – it is a noble thing. Yet we must not lose sight that Christians are called to express these virtues of love and kindness all of the time, not just sporadically according to a timetable or when we’re in the mood.

Ogdenites have an opportunity this month to show love and do acts of kindness by participating in our Mission-of-the-Month for Bridges. There is more information on that below. I thank you for your kindness in advance as you minister through the simple gifts of underwear and socks - things we most likely take for granted - to those most in need.

Happy February! Happy Valentine’s Day! May your days be filled with happiness, kindness and love – and may you help to fill the lives of others in the same way.

Ephesians 4:32: “Be kind and compassionate to one another...”

Proverbs 14:31: “...whoever is kind to the needy honors God.”

1 Corinthians 13:4: “Love is patient, love is kind...”

Pastor Kathi

## **Worship at Ogden – February**

### **Sunday, February 5**

9:20 a.m.	Chimes Ensemble
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship/Mini Craft Sale
11:15 a.m.	Deacons
11:15 a.m.	Youth Music

### **Sunday, February 12**

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
9:20 a.m.	Youth Music Warm-up
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship
11:30 a.m.	Worship & Music Committee

### **Sunday, February 19**

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship

### **Sunday, February 26**

9:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Youth Music



## *Ash Wednesday Service – March 1 – 7:30 p.m.*

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. However you choose to observe Lent, begin it with your church community on March 1, 7:30 p.m., at our Ash Wednesday service, which includes the imposition of ashes. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kathi.



While it's only February, it's still time to be thinking ahead to Lent, which begins on March 1, Ash Wednesday. Throughout the month of March, a Lenten Bible Study/Discussion Group will be held at 10:30 a.m. on the Tuesdays of March 7, 14, 21 and 28 in the Library. Come as you are able - there is no need to commit to attend all of the discussions. **IF** there are three or more people desiring to meet in the evening, which I know is more convenient to those who work, we can try to schedule a group for then too. Contact Pastor Kathi if you have any questions.



## **Emergency Weather Closings**

We have a procedure in place for emergency closings of this type. The decision to close will be made by Balcom Parcels and Pastor Kathi sometime mid Saturday afternoon. Kathi will then contact the Clerk, Marcia Casais, Casey Molino Dunn and Sandy Roos. Sandy will contact the heads of the Deacon groups who will make calls to each person/family. In addition, the information will be posted on our Facebook page and Casey will send an blast email to everyone. Whenever possible, a message will be left on our phone. And finally, if in doubt, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Kathi on her cell (732-740-2224). This should cover every base. Hopefully we will have no reason to implement our emergency procedure this winter due to bad weather!



## **Per Capita Offering...**

Every church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly based on church membership. The Per Capita apportionment for 2017 is \$35 per member (or confirmed member, not per family). The Per Capita cost for Ogden for 2017 is approximately \$4,000. Last year we collected about \$1,200 towards per capita. If you have not already done so, please prayerfully consider contributing your portion so that it does not come out of our Current Expense Budget. If you have done so, our sincere thanks for your support in this way. Our church pays Per Capita for each of our members, regardless of whether or not you give. Please make checks payable to Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church, clearly marked "Per Capita" on the memo line. If you need one, there are envelopes for Per Capita on the table in the Narthex.

Mark  
Your  
Calendar

## Community Dinner – February 10

Tired of the same old, same old for dinner? Ready to add some creativity to your plain, boring baked potato and green salad? Here in the middle of winter, looking to add a touch of summer to your life? Well, we've got a *bargain* – so to speak - to offer.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our next **Community Dinner being held on Friday, February 10 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Gym.** We're trying something different – a Baked Potato Bar, Salad Bar, and Ice Cream Bar. You will be provided with a baked potato and plain green salad and have the option of creating your own best version with your favorite toppings: things like chili, bacon bits, shredded cheese, croutons, veggies, etc. There will be an assortment of your favorite ice cream toppings too as you create the ultimate Sundae. And of course, hot and cold beverages will be provided. This is one Ogdén **Bargain** we hope you won't turn down.

A freewill donation will be accepted on behalf of our February Mission-of-the-Month: Bridges. Further details will be available at a later date. But if you have any questions, please contact Sophia at 973-635-0456 or on [soffmh@gmail.com](mailto:soffmh@gmail.com).



## **News From Session**

At its January meeting, the Session:

- Welcomed a guest, Elder Meg Richardson of the New Vernon Presbyterian Church, Ogden's liaison with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry;
- Discussed and approved the 2017 Budget;
- Approved a celebration of Bill Stusnick's 15 years as Ogden's Treasurer;
- Learned that Buildings and Grounds was exploring a possible water leak, which might explain the great increase in Ogden's water bills;
- Planned to meet with the engineer and our real-estate agent concerning the Coleman Avenue lot;
- Heard the Communications Committee's plans to make the narthex more attractive and informative;
- Discussed cleaning the church building when the Sexton is unavailable;
- Planned to revise the regulations on building use by outside groups.



## **Mission-of-the Month: Bridges**

(Bringing the housed and homeless together in community)

More than 2,000 volunteers each year deliver 65,000 brown bag meals, 10,000 pairs of socks and underwear, 7,500 toiletry kits, 49,000 cups of soup, and literally tons of donated clothing to over 21,000 people in New York City, Newark and Irvington, NJ.

In addition to their street outreach, they:

- Provide case management services at St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark.
- Open their doors to Summit Neighbors in Need every Friday.
- Provide new backpacks and school supplies for more than 1,000 children eligible for free and reduced lunch in Summit and to sheltered children in Newark and Irvington.

Here's how you can help this month at Ogden: Throughout February we are collecting new socks and underwear (male and female, all ages) that will be distributed to those in need through this worthwhile outreach.

In this month of love when we celebrate Valentine's Day, show some love by contributing new socks and underwear. There will be a box provided in the narthex in which to place your donations. Thank you for caring for the less fortunate.

If you have any questions, please contact Sophia Hannay at 973-635-0456 or [soffmh@gmail.com](mailto:soffmh@gmail.com).

## ♪ NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ♪

Many thanks to **Chancel (Adult) Choir** and our **Youth Musicians** for adding beautifully to services in January. February details are in the monthly calendar, but of special note:

- **Chimes Ensemble** adds to the first Sunday of this month, February 5.
- **Chancel Choir** will not sing that Sunday, but hopefully every other Sunday in February.
- **Youth Musicians** rehearse after *most* services and ideally – based on participants' schedules – will add to worship on February 12.
- And, looking ahead, please mark your calendars for our special **Ash Wednesday** evening service on March 1.



Ogden's free music series continues in January

[www.ConcertsOnMain.org](http://www.ConcertsOnMain.org)

**Please plan on attending and help to spread the word.**

In addition to the highlights here, additional details are available at [www.ConcertsOnMain.org](http://www.ConcertsOnMain.org).

Please mark your calendar for **Friday, March 24, 7:30 p.m.** when jazz vocalist **Kristen Lee Sergeant** returns with her jazz combo.

Thanks to all who attended January's performance by pianist Eunbi Kim and those who helped make it a fun day of music and fellowship, especially with our lunch.



## **YOUTH and KIDS GROUPS**

Fellowship events are in the works for our Middle & High School students as well as younger kids. More details will be shared soon.



Please take time out from your busy schedules to remember the February birthdays listed below. Send a card or make a phone call. Your greetings will be appreciated by all! If you have not seen your name on the lists, please call the church office so that we can update our files with your birth date. We promise not to print the year in the “Birthday Corner.”

Corey Laurenzi	5
Abigail Tivade	6
Kristin Jones	8
Colin Kidd	10
Kathy Havens	15
Alfonso Chia	21



## Let Us Pray...

Let us pray for our members...Marcia Casais, Becky Jarvis, Martha Kiff, Alice Loeser, Barbara Molitor

Let us pray for...

Kevin Boettger

Gina Cocchiaro-Hoang family

Kathy Dixon

Ed Dunn

Josh Fernandez

Auriel Gonzales

James Guishard

Paul Horgan

Marie LaPena

Darlene LaRue

Patricia Maher

Denny Mayer

Ron McBride

The Mears family

Charles Molino

Clark and Jean Paradise

Dennis Paradise

nephew of Pat Hammeke

friends of Cindy Parlavecchio

sister-in-law of Marcia Casais

great-uncle of Casey Molino Dunn

12 year old neighbor of the Roos family

mother of Sandy Roos

friend of Janice and Balcom Parcels

friend of the Crescas family

friend of Mariclaire Miller

friend of Allan and Gail Paradise

friend of Marcia Casais

friend of Marcia Casais

uncle of Cheryl Conklin

our missionaries in Haiti

uncle of Casey Molino Dunn

parents of Allan Paradise

brother of Allan Paradise

Steve Raas	friend of Bob and Colette Crescas
The Roche family	neighbors of Marcia Casais
Gloria Rodgers	cousin of Ginnie Trowbridge
Charlie Roussel	son-in-law of June Jeannette
Kathy Scotton and family	friends of the Knolls
Laurie Sheppard	friend of Cindy Parlavecchio
Frank Squindo	son of Janice Parcels
Mark Squindo	son of Janice Parcels
Joe Wallwork and family	father of Tom Paradise's fiancé Julie

Let us pray for those serving our Country...Scott Armstrong, James Glendening, Morgan Glendening, Robert Traver, Doug Verblaauw.