

CALVIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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# Calvin Connection



February 2023



## St Valentine's Day



February, thankfully, is the shortest month of the year. In a way, it's a very boring month – not a lot of holidays or special days in it, except for Valentine's. And the month is usually cold and it has been so cold for so long that people are. Just. Sick. Of. It.

But, Valentine's day is like a beacon in it. It's a day for romantic love. For fabulous dinners and desserts – and chocolate. Who can forget the chocolate?! It's a day when kids give each other little notes and (admittedly horribly) candies saying "Be Mine" and other such things. It's a sweet day. I generally like it.

Unfortunately, it doesn't have much to do with Valentinus, the martyr that it's named after. Or rather, it does tangentially. You see, Valentine was a Roman priest (or perhaps a bishop, we're not sure) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. He was by all accounts a wonderful priest and a wonderful man who loved his Lord with abandon and dedication. There are a great many stories about Valentinus – some may or may not be true – but they come down to us to help us love God and love each other better, so I'll just tell a couple.

Valentine was arrested and during his prison sentence, he was so polite and loving that he ended up converting the jailer and his daughter. It was illegal to be a Christian, so they had to learn how to be Christian in secret. The jailer couldn't read, but his daughter could, so Valentine would write notes about how much God loved them and how God wanted them to be the people who would love Him as well. And he always signed them, "Your Valentine."

In another version of this same story, the judge who was condemning Valentine to death was named Asterius, and his daughter was blind. Asterius said that he would convert if Valentine prayed to his God and cured his daughter. Of course, he did – and Asterius was good to his word and his whole household was catechized and baptized.

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### DEADLINES:

**Calvin Connection**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

**Sunday Bulletin**  
Thursdays at 10am

*Email articles and/or  
announcements for the Calvin  
Connection & Sunday bulletins to  
the church office.*

**PASTORAL CARE**  
Along with Pastor Dave,  
Calvin's Parish Associate, Rev.  
Dwight Chamberlain, is availa-  
ble for any pastoral care  
needs that may arise

He can be reached by calling  
the church and leaving a mes-  
sage, or by calling him directly  
at (952) 937-6160



**Class of 2023:**  
Stephanie Coe  
Arlo VandeVegte

**Class of 2024:**  
Sharon Keller  
Amy Feldkemp

**Class of 2025:**  
Kate Boylan  
Joel Settles



**Class of 2023:**  
Bonnie Boylan  
Sharon Corl  
Ken and Wanda  
Pratt

**Class of 2024:**  
Donna Fike  
Bob Kvale

Men's Breakfast will be the first Wednesday of the month, March 1st at 8:30am at Perkins off Highway 394

### **ADULT ADUCATION CLASS Led by Rev. Dwight Chamberlain**

We will resume our lessons on the Psalms on Sundays in the fellowship hall at 9:00am.

The lessons are on special Psalms in the Bible.

The Lessons for today and next Sunday are on Psalm 16, "Beautiful Promises and Prophecies fulfilled in Christ. You are invited and welcome to come.

You are welcome to come and study God's Word with us.

*The Calvin Women's Association is pleased to announce the Spring Rummage and Bake Sale will run from May 3rd - May 6th. Church members can bring rummage weekdays starting April 27th - May 1st & baked goods will be accepted Monday & Tuesday, May 1st & 2nd. Volunteers will be needed for organizing, pricing & working at the sale Thursday April 27th - Saturday May 6th, with clean-up on May 6th starting at Noon. Call Tammy at 612-384-9520 with any questions, or to find out more about volunteer opportunities.*

Note: We can not accept electronics or large items unless you make special arrangements to pick up the item on Saturday, May 6th if it has not sold.

**Ruth/M&M Circle** will meet Hybrid on **Thursday, Feb 9th at 1:30p** All are welcome, including people of any faith, gender and age. For further information, please feel free to contact Kate Boylan by text or phone: 612-247-7024.



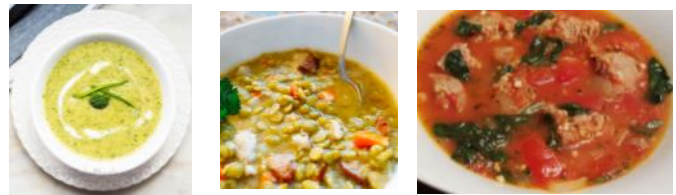
The month of Feb, we will be taking the time to review our directory. Will you please check the table in the hallway and update addresses, emails, phone numbers, names, etc. If you want a new picture, please either send to [stephcoe@yahoo.com](mailto:stephcoe@yahoo.com) or if you'd like, we can retake a family photo after church service before/during fellowship. Please note which option (if any) you'd like next to your names. If you are not in there at all, please add to it! Excited to keep this up-to-date for everyone.



During lent we will be having Wednesday soup and worship with First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain. We will alternate hosting services.

Ash Wednesday—Maple Plain  
 March 1—Long Lake  
 March 8—Maple Plain  
 March 15—Long Lake  
 March 22—Maple Plain  
 March 29—Long Lake  
 April 5— Maple Plain  
 April 6— Maundy Thursday Maple Plain  
 April 7—Good Friday here at Calvin.

There will be sign ups in the hallway to bring soup as we get closer.



Calvin will be hosting the community meal on February 23rd from 5:30-6:30pm  
 If you are interested in helping please reach out to Martha Brown

### Birthdays



February 2	Henry Funk
February 3	Bob Hagan Judy Rogosheske
February 4	Dwight Chamberlain
February 5	Jake Goman
February 12	Sharon Corl
February 23	Joyce Anderson
February 28	Belinda Breit



**The 2023 flower chart** is available, with open Sundays in February, and all of March. Sign up for flowers on/near your loved one's birthday or to celebrate a special anniversary. The cost of the standard arrangement is \$35. Flower questions? See Tammy Wenz.

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Asterius set Valentine free – as well as all the other Christians in jail. Eventually, Valentine was again arrested (for evangelizing!) and brought before Emperor Claudius Gothicus, who refused to be converted and had Valentine beaten by clubs and then beheaded on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Another story has him being arrested not because he was evangelizing, but rather because he was performing the marriage rites for Christian couples. There are certainly reasons why it became a day of romantic love! In fact, Valentine's Day became synonymous with courtly (and then romantic) love during the High Middle Ages in Europe.

My point is, of course, that what Valentine DID was to please his God, not just because he "loved love." Rather, it was because he knew that God loves us and we grow closer to God when we truly love other people.

It is my hope and prayer that this St. Valentine's Day you have a wonderful time, and say a prayer to the Lord your God, who loves you more than you can possibly comprehend. And maybe a raise a glass in honor of the real St. Valentine who risked his life and died to show God's love to people. May you truly be someone's Valentine this year! (just without the jail and so on!)

In Christ,  
Pastor John

## Children's Message Prayers

