

FEBRUARY 2025

GOOD NEWS OF SHARON

*A Letter
From
The
Pastor*

JIM PEGAN

Let's Talk About Love



Hello Sharon Church Family,

February is a cold month, but our hearts are warm because of the Valentine's Day celebration in the middle of it. Many of our retail outlets began selling Valentine's cards, candy, and decorations before we even celebrated Christmas! We love the idea of love in February. Susi and I even got married on Valentine's Day back in 1987. During the month of February, and into March, we will be going through a Sunday morning message series that I am calling "**True Love.**" These messages will look at Old and New Testament scriptures that address different aspects of love and how it is experienced in the lives of Christian Disciples.

February 2nd we will consider the Apostle Paul's words to the church at Corinth as we look at the often-quoted "Love is . . ." passage in I Corinthians Chapter 13.

February 9th we will consider the Christian imperative of loving one another within the family of God.

February 16th, we will consider Jesus' teaching through the Parable of the Good Samaritan as we are challenged to sacrificially love our neighbors.

(Cont. on next page)

(Cont. from previous page)

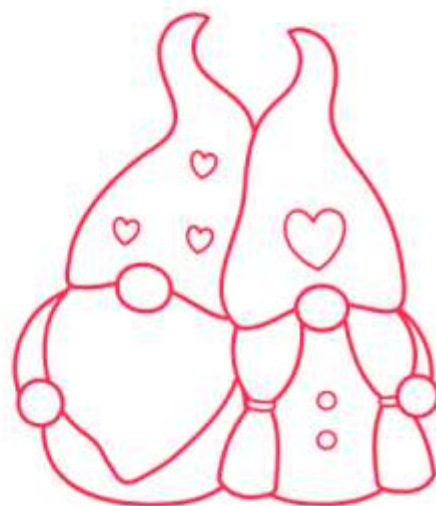
February 23rd, we will consider the apostle Paul's instruction to Timothy, his young disciple, about loving from a position of having a pure heart.

March 2nd, we will consider different types of love as we examine the conversation between Jesus and Peter after Peter had denied him on the night before Jesus' crucifixion.

I pray that you will commit to joining us at Sharon Methodist Church for worship in February, in person if possible, or online if you can't be among us physically. The more we know about and experience authentic Christian love together, the more likely it is that we will be successful in living out God's call on our church family to be a source of life in our community.

In the Love of Jesus,

Pastor Jim



Will be February 8, 2025 - 6pm - at The Parsonage

Please RSVP to Pastor Jim or Susi Pegan



JEREMIAH PROJECT

This Year's Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia for the Jeremiah Project will take place July 6-12, 2025. We have reserved space for up to five youths and two adults. Now is the time to commit to this trip and mark your calendars. It is a wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord and make some new friends while serving people in need. Please see Karen Bedsaul, Ryan Johnson, or Pastor Jim to sign up right away.

Tidbits from The Crossing

DID YOU KNOW.....

The Crossing Network, through Sharon Methodist Church, partners with many organizations within our community.

Brunswick Family Assistance is one of our community partners providing help to residents locally.

During the coldest time of the year along the North Carolina coastline, Brunswick Family Assistance is here to help! Some folks need extra help with the cost of electricity to heat their homes, and some folks need extra food to fuel their bodies in a healthy way.

In case you didn't know, Brunswick Family Assistance utilizes The Crossing as a satellite office on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. BFA is on our campus with their Mobile Food Pantry, along with staff that can help folks to register for the many programs of assistance that they offer. Recipients of services must be a Brunswick County resident. All programs require an application with personal income and expense comparison. Some of the Emergency Assistance Services offered are listed below:

- Mobile Food Pantry (including pet food) – eligible clients may visit twice a month while BFA is on the Sharon campus, or at any other satellite location, as well as the main office in Bolivia.
- Utility Assistance – for monthly utility bills, a Final Notice must be brought in for verification. This service is offered once every 6 months (2 times per year). For Power Stat customers, the service may be utilized once per quarter (4 times per year).
- Rental Assistance – eligible clients may utilize this program one time every 6 months for past due rent (2 times per year).
- Prescription Assistance – this service is case based. Eligible clients may utilize this program one time per quarter (up to 4 times per year). No narcotics or other controlled substances allowed.
- Disaster Relief – Available on a limited, as needed basis.

There are several other services available thru Brunswick Family Assistance. If you would like to sign up for the benefits of either program, or if you would like to become a donor, please contact Brunswick Family Assistance Bolivia office at (910) 754-4766, or the Leland office at (910) 408-1700.

Feel free to see me in the church office for more information!



Blessings to you all,
Jackie Leonard
The Crossing Network Coordinator



MEET OUR NEW LAY LEADER

Greetings Sharon church family,

I was born in Charlotte and have spent my sixty -years in this state, I graduated from Central Cabarrus High School in Concord and attended both Rowen- Cabarrus Community College and Stanly Community College.

I have resided in Supply as a full-time resident since 2022 with my wife of 37 years Judy and our seven-year-old German Shepherd Drager.

I received Jesus as I made my profession of faith and asked him into my life at the age of 13 and was baptized at Midland First Baptist Church along with my younger brother and dad. Judy and I were members of United Love Baptist Church for over 45 years when we joined the Methodist Church. We have been members of Sharon Church since 2021, and are excited to see what God has in-store as I serve our church as Lay Leader.

I am retired after a 30-year career as a public safety professional where I was a Paramedic, Fire Investigator, Fire Marshal , Emergency Manager and Sheriff's office Special Deputy, to name a few. I now enjoy gardening, feeding wild birds, blue-water offshore fishing and photography as an amateur wildlife photographer.

God has richly blessed us as a family and we are waiting to see what God has planned for us in 2025.

I challenge each of you to join us as we make God the focus as we face the unknown in our lives as well as our Christian walk.

In Christ,

David Montague Jr.

Lay Leader



The Lay Person's Corner

Sharon Shouts: Notes from David Montague



As we enter February, we reflect on 2024 as we focus on “The New Year” ahead.

The gifts we received at Christmas have been put away as we integrate them into our wardrobe or homes.

I want to challenge you to reflect on another type of gift. The gift or ability that God has entrusted you with. Do you use this gift to the glory of God and the advancement of his kingdom? I challenge you to pick an area or task where your gift can be used in service to your church. The rewards of finding your niche and serving our God through service are life changing.

Let’s make 2025 the year we review our commitment to serving Jesus. The gift of salvation and eternal life is given to everyone if we only ask him to come into our heart and life. That one gift from God that started as a child born in a less than glamorous venue and ended thirty-three years later as he died on a cross as a sacrifice offered to atone for the sin of all people. My friends, this is a gift we all have access to if we only ask.

I am excited to serve our church and our pastor as your Lay Leader in 2025 and beyond. Let’s use the gifts God has blessed us with and share our love for God as we serve his church together here at Sharon.

In Christ,

David Montague Jr.

Lay Leader



Missions & Outreach

Team Lead: Paulette Harland

Many thanks to the Sunday School class for making it possible for us to send gifts to the Fundación Red de Misericordia. The children were very excited and happy to receive their gifts this Christmas. Here is the letter of thanks and some pictures of the children. May our Lord continue to bless the children at Fundación Red de Misericordia.

Hello dear Sharon Methodist!

Happy New Year !!

We are truly blessed and grateful for your generous gifts to the children of Red Misericordia

**Thank you so much for supporting us,
They loved their gifts!!**

May the Lord continue blessing you abundantly for your love and support. Your generosity is a beautiful reminder of His love in action.



Missions & Outreach

Team Lead: Paulette Harland



Thank you

Devin Taylor founded Campers Care, a Virginia-based disaster-relief ministry, with his wife Julie, following the devastation of Hurricane Helene. They created Cabins 4 Christ to offer temporary shelter through 8 x 16 foot mini homes, which lack running water, kitchens, or electricity but include composting toilets, storage, water, a small cooking stove, mattresses, and sometimes solar panels. These insulated cabins help keep residents warm as winter approaches. The organization regularly checks on recipients to ensure they have adequate supplies, including propane, blankets, and food.



A Team of Sharonites went West to help the week of January 20th included: Dave Keech, Brian Simmons, Jeaux Simmons, Mark Minor, and Gene Leagon



Men's Ministry

Don Bolinger, President

Sharon Methodist Men (SMM) January report:

Our men have entered the new year on a busy note, just as we ended a very busy Christmas season. **Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.** Our men strive to do good, living into their faith as they love mercy and act justly helping those in need.

- Our SMM completed several service projects serving both our congregation as well as assisting our Family Life partners in cleaning the kitchen and fellowship building.
- Our SMM organized to join "Cabins for Christ" in constructing "little" homes in support of the WNC Helene recovery effort working two days to construct a turn-key home that is needed to get those displaced and currently living in tents into a structure. This was done at a partner church in Forest City, North Carolina.
- Our SMM had a presentation from Mr. Jimmy Hailey who presented the Trail Life mentoring program where our men have the opportunity to reach elementary, Middle School and High School age boys and adolescents . Our SMM are challenged to prayerfully consider how we can grow our group, mentor, and nurture the next generation.
- Our SMM cook team 1 presented two excellent meals serving barbeque, yams, green beans, and bread and a breakfast consisting of pancakes, sausage, bacon and eggs.
- We set an attendance record Thursday morning with 25 men present and a total of 44 men in attendance for the month.
- Our SMM organized a committee to discuss a service project for Valentines day.

Come join our SMM, if you love God and strive to love others through action.

In Christ,

David

David Montague

SMM Vice President



TREASURY NOTES

From Your Finance Team

One topic that has been on the minds of your finance team has been the finalization of the refinance of the sanctuary/crossing loan. Although the original loan was with BB&T, we have now moved everything finance to First Bank. The refinancing of the loan was signed by the president and vice-president of the Sharon Methodist Inc. on January 17th. Once the final budget is filed in the church office, the loan papers can also be found there.

The second loan, construction loan, was signed for The Rose of Sharon expansion. As mentioned in an earlier article, this loan will be paid from Rose profits and fund raisers. The initial loan period is for 7 years. Once the final budget is on file, the loan papers will also be filed in the church office.

Our December financial statement listed the current balances (\$107,556.47 and \$53,103.57) on our Money Market and CD accounts at First Bank. Annual 2024 earnings are \$3,281.22 Money Market and \$2,047.60 for the CD. The monies for these investments came from our previous investment in "The United Methodist Foundation" and additional bequeaths since the two accounts were opened during the second quarter of 2023. These 2 accounts are a parachute fund should Sharon need them for emergency purposes.

Again, thank you all for your faithful giving in keeping Sharon being able to move forward with our mission of making disciples. We all do what we can toward living out the spirit gifts God has given each of us. As the apostle Paul indicated while building churches, "what you bring to the table is not as important as bringing something" may God continue to bless each of you.

In Christ,

Don Bolinger



RECREATION TEAM NEWS



Bingo will be on Friday, February 21st, at 6:00pm in The Fellowship Hall



Bowling will be on Thursday, February 27th, at 7:00PM at Planet Fun in Shallotte

We are still taking donations & gift cards for prizes if you have anything you would like to contribute.

Any ideas that someone may have for a Recreation outing please feel free to share it with us. Also if anyone would like to be a part of the Recreation team please let us know. We will be glad to have you join us.

We enjoy the fun & fellowship that we always have and we hope you do too.

Many Blessings to you all in the New Year:

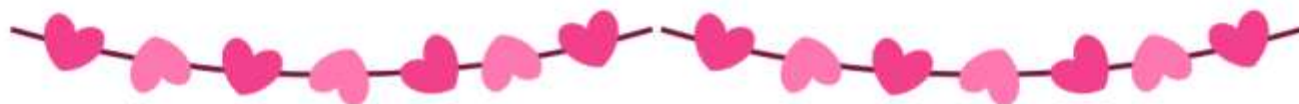
Lance, Gretchen & Audree



Sisters In Christ prayer retreat was postponed due to winter storm in January. The good news is that our speaker Phyllis Ellington is available and Hobbs Realty has donated the same house "Heaven Sent" for Feb 28-Mar 1. So be praying for great weather!! Schedule will remain the same and with the change hopefully new ladies that could not sign up for previous dates will be able to attend.

Information will be on table near exit to The Crossing.

Contact Kim Todd, Gail Beck or Debbie Kirby with any questions.



The Admin Corner

by Mel Sellers



In the stillness of dawn, as the world stirs from slumber, a whirlwind of thoughts may dance through your mind - the to-do lists, the looming deadlines, the echoes of yesterday's words. Perhaps you've felt the heavy burden of self-doubt, your inner voice shrouded in darkness, eroding your sense of worth. Or maybe you find yourself fixating on the lives of others, each comparison sapping your happiness and leaving behind a trail of longing and discontent.

Our minds, fertile soil for every thought that takes root, hold the power to shape our days. They are the architects of our choices, the creators of our destinies. But when we relinquish control of our thoughts, we veer off course, straying from the divine plan set out for us.

To live the life ordained by our Creator in the heavens is to guard the gates of our minds with unwavering vigilance. It requires a constant rebirth, an inner transformation that rejects the temptations of the material world. It entails embodying a new self, one that breaks away from harmful patterns and moves in harmony with divine intent. In this hallowed realm of mental purification, we blossom not into mere imitations of passing fads or the silhouettes of others, but into the complete realization of our inherent, God-given capabilities.

Peace & Grace,

Mel Sellers





NEWS FROM THE ROSE

It's a NEW YEAR at The Rose

As always, The Rose is committed to serving our community with love and kindness. This year, started like a whirlwind! We had hoped to ease into the new year, but we were bombarded with customers and donations as soon as we reopened the doors after our holiday closure. Our dedicated volunteers have been working diligently to sort and organize our inventory, ensuring that you will find high-quality items at unbeatable prices.

Our expansion project is still on track, and we are hoping to get good news, in the way of permit approvals from the county soon.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our store thrives thanks to the generosity and hard work of our volunteers. If you are looking for a meaningful way to give back to our church and the community, consider joining our team. Whether you have a few hours to spare each week or can commit to a regular schedule, we welcome your support. Volunteering at The Rose is a rewarding experience that allows you to connect with others, learn new skills, and make a positive impact.

Donations Needed

As we continue to grow, we are always in need of donations. Your contributions help us provide valuable resources to those in need and support the various ministries of our church. We accept a wide range of items, including clothing, shoes, books, toys, kitchenware, and more. Please ensure that all donations are clean and in good condition. Donation drop off hours are: Tuesday through Friday 10:00 am – 2:00pm. **Please DO NOT bring donations** on Saturdays unless you have prearranged a time with Tina. Call the store at 910-842-9130 to schedule a drop off.

Thank you for your continued support and patronage. We look forward to seeing you at The Rose and wish you a blessed and prosperous new year!

Kathy Rudnicki

The Rose of Sharon Board Chairperson

