Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

February has no “religious” holidays. The only official holiday in February is Presidents Day. I am not led to write about Presidents Day. But there is an unofficial holiday in February.... Valentines Day. For many it is a far more important holiday than Presidents Day. Therefore I have chosen the topic of love for this letter.

Love in English is very hard to define. We only have one word to express a broad range of meaning. When you say “I love liver,” I would hope you mean something very different than when you say, “I love my husband or wife.” Greek has four very distinct words that are translated into English by the word love.

I want to first share what I see as common misconceptions of love and then I will look at the Biblical definition of love. It is inaccurate to say love is primarily a feeling. When it is a feeling it can mean many different things. It could mean.... “I feel good when you are with me.” Or it could mean “I have a strong desire for you.” Or “I want to use you.” The danger is this, when love is primarily a feeling or a desire it inevitably fades. People then say, “I have fallen out of love with you.” They say this often to relieve themselves of responsibility for a broken relationship. Feelings are certainly a part of love. But feelings always come and go.

Biblically, the correct definition of love (for another person or for our Lord) would be a conscience decision of commitment. In the bible John 3:16 says **“God so loved the world that he gave His one and only son.”** This is not saying God has positive feelings for the world. Scripture is clear... He does not. He hates sin. He hates the hurt that He sees in this world. John 3:16 says that regardless of His feelings.... He is committed to us.... to the point of sending His Son to die on the cross for us. That is love!

1 Corinthians 13 (the “Love Chapter” in the Bible) states **“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails”**

Notice that none of these words express a feeling. These words express a decision of commitment.

When I tell Kim that I love her I am expressing my absolute commitment to her no matter what I happen to be feeling at the time. When I tell the Lord that I love Him I am stating my commitment to Him and I am resting in His commitment of love to me.

This Valentines Day season I encourage you to renew your love and commitment for the people in your life.... but I also invite you to renew your love and commitment to our Lord Jesus.

In Christ,
Doug

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Glenda Fulkman was re-elected as the Clerk of Session.
- Diane Bell and Collin Fulkman were elected as Elders to the Nominating Committee.
- Glenda Fulkman and Bob Bell were elected as Elders to the Personnel Committee.
- Members of the congregation were elected to staff the Committees of the church.
- The Financial Report was reviewed.
- Administration Committee is forming a Cemetery sub-committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee contact Bob Bell.
- Administration Committee reports that the blueprints for the remodeling of the existing bathrooms to make them handicap accessible have been received from the architect. Committee discussed additions and upgrades to the bathrooms to improve lighting and appearance.
- Savings were reinvested in a new C.D. to receive more interest.
- Communion dates for 2019 were approved.
- Approved a "Youth Sunday" to take place the first Sunday in June. The youth will not lead the early service on Easter.
- A new computer was purchased and installed in the Sound Room.
- Mission Committee reported that a total of $2,214 was received for the Christmas Offering. This money was sent to Samaritan's purse. 50% went to disaster relief in the USA and 50% was sent to disaster relief in Haiti.
- The youth had two wonderful retreats. One was for Junior High kids and the second was for Senior High kids.
- "This is my Story" has a number of volunteers and is in the process of recording the stories. They will begin to share the stories in February.
- The Senior Citizen ministry has been named EPICS (Experienced People In Christ's Service).

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SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Saturday, February 23, 2019
4:00-7:00 PM

Menu: Pasta, Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Dessert, & Drink
Ticket Prices: Large - $10 Small - $5 Kids under 3 – Free

All Proceeds will support the NBEPC Youth Mission Trip.
The Mission Trip is to The Pittsburgh Project in June.

Tickets will be sold Sunday Mornings before/after Services February 10th & 17th

Birthdays in February

2/02 – Paul Cummings
2/02 – Aleah Deal
2/02 – Nancy Phillis
2/03 – Megan Allison
2/03 – Dawn Harris
2/03 – Bobbie Morehead
2/04 – Harry Cornman
2/04 – Shirley Freeman
2/04 – Alexandra Lambert
2/04 – Austin Whiting
2/05 – Pam Liddell
2/07 – Marty Marshall
2/07 – Martha Miller
2/07 – Nancy Rudzik
2/08 – Len Halt
2/08 – Laura Harshbarger
2/09 – Barbara Sander
2/15 – Bowen Fulkman
2/15 – Sis Hartzell
2/15 – Shirley Snyder
2/22 – Lisa Magee
2/22 – Amanda Quinn
2/26 – Donald Pence
2/27 – Don Craig

Birthdays in March

3/03 – Gene Bicehouse
3/03 – Steve Fox
3/04 – Sally Withers
3/05 – Emily Withers
3/08 – Sue Bluedorn
3/12 – Mira Fulkman
3/13 – Doug Houk
3/15 – Larry Bluedorn
3/16 – Dakota Boyer
3/17 – James Allison
3/17 – Jake Emery
3/17 – Sandy Saulpaugh
3/19 – Dan Dieter
3/20 – Ed Rudzik
3/22 – Beth Kendall
3/24 – Jennifer Saulpaugh
3/25 – John Book
3/25 – Jackie Hall
3/26 – Jamie Phillips
3/27 – Robert Bretz
3/27 – Ryan Morse
3/29 – Judy Stuhlmann
3/30 – Helen Bicehouse



February Greeters

2/3 ~ Ray & Nicole Pence

2/10 ~ Deneen Greene

2/17 ~ Elaine Dawson

2/24 ~ Whiting Family

Head Usher ~ Sam Jones

Please remember in prayer the following persons who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have requested prayer.

Nancy Templeton----------Overlook Medical Clinic
Dot Jones----------Avalon Nursing Home
Gladys Barnhart----------Home
Jo Ruby----------Home
Pearl Reed----------Overlook Nursing Home
Art Spence----------Home
Lavon Rogers----------John XXIII Nursing Home
Larry Pence----------Shenango Home



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Paul and I would like to thank our church family for all of the kindness and caring ways that were shown to us doing my recent fall and recovery. Thank you for the cards, phone calls, visits, delicious meals, and most of all we want to say thank you for your prayers. Everything was so very much appreciated. We feel very blessed to be a part of NBEPC with such wonderful and caring friends.

In God's Love,
Nancy & Paul Cummings



You have touched our hearts with the many gifts, cards, prayers and thoughtful words for Bob and I at the passing of my mother. This church family is very special to us. We thank you all!

Love,
Cindy, Bob & family

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MAN CAMP at Seneca Hills will be on February 15-17. Registration fee is $125.00. Please register as soon as possible. For more information, please see Steve Fox, Harry Riethmiller or Pastor Doug. Guys, don't miss out on this opportunity to get away for a couple of days; all you can eat meals, fantastic fellowship with about 200 Christian men and of course, there will be gun fire!!!
Register at senecahills.org



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February Circle Meetings

Deborah **~ Tuesday 2/12 at 9:30AM**

Lydia **~ Tuesday 2/19 at 1:00PM**

Elizabeth **~ Thursday 2/21 at 6:30PM**

Rebecca **~ Saturday 2/16 at 9:00AM at Bedford Trails Restaurant**

Ruth **~ Monday 1/18 at 9:00AM**

Important Dates in 2019

March 9th – WA Meeting at 9:00AM
April 5-6 – Women's Retreat *please see info at bottom of this page*
May 18th – WA Meeting at 1:00PM
September 2019 – Ladies 'Love & Laughter' Breakfast – date TBA
September 14th – WA Meeting at 9:00AM
November 2nd – BAZAAR
November 9th – WA Meeting at 9:00AM
November 24th – Thank Offering Service
December 2019 – Women's Christmas Dinner – date TBA

Cozy Mountain Lodge Women's Retreat!

When: April 5-6, Friday evening 6:30pm to Saturday 4:30pm

Where: The Castle – Life Ministries in Franklin, PA

Cost: Rates range from $55 to $85, depending on the room occupancy you select. Details are below. If you have room questions, please see a member of the Retreat Lodging Committee: Shirley Janoski, Margie Matthews or Debbie Pogozelec. Total cost includes three delicious meals, fun activities, and comfortable lodging.

Registration: Registration begins Sunday, February 24 and ends Sunday, March 3. There will be opportunities to register before and after the early and late church services. Final Registration Date is March 3.

Please prayerfully consider attending this wonderful event. It is a retreat where women slow down and enjoy time with other women and God. It's an in-depth Bible study, an unforgettable workshop experience, and lots of fun, too! This is an open invitation for ALL WOMEN to draw closer together, to be still in God's presence, and to relax in His love! We hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

The Elizabeth Circle

Castle Lodging



Imagine arriving at the women's retreat without having to ask the question, "Where do I sleep?" That question will already be answered because we are using a "Hotel-Room Reservation System."

How will this system work?

1) **Rooms are available on a first come, first reserved basis.**
2) **We will be taking reservations before and after the early and late church services on <u>Sunday, Feb. 24 & Sunday? March 3</u>**

What do I need to complete a reservation?

1) **You will need your completed registration and lodging form along with full payment.**
2) **If you are booking as roommates, we must have all roommate forms and payments to reserve a room.**

How much will my room cost?

1) **Room rates will vary depending on the type of room you reserve.**
2) **If you are mailing your reservation form and payment, please contact Margie Matthews at 724-699-7736 to make sure your selection is still available before sending your payment. Registration form and payment may be mailed to:**

Women's Retreat
N.B.E.P.C.
151 Woodland Drive
Pulaski, PA 16143

***Mailed registration forms and payment will be addressed after Sunday, Feb. 24.**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Payments are non-refundable.

The final day to reserve your spot at the women's retreat is <u>Sunday, March 3</u>.

Registration: The final day to register for the retreat is Sun., March 3.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code_____

Email: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ (Circle: Cell Home)

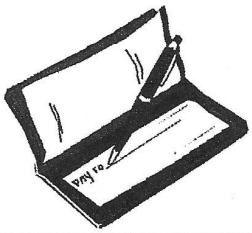
Roommate Requests: (Please confirm with roommates before completing this section.)

1. _____ 5. _____
2. _____ 6. _____
3. _____ 7. _____
4. _____ 8. _____

Payments are non-refundable.

Checks are to be written to:

N.B.E.P.C. Women's Association



Suggestion: Do not complete check amount until room choice is confirmed.

Lodging Choices:

No. in a Room	Room Options	Retreat Fee
1	Double Bed	$85.00
2	Double Bed Bunk Bed Queen Bed Queen Bed (1st floor)	$65.00
3	Double & Bunk Bed Queen & Single Bed Queen & Bunk Bed	$60.00
4 or more	Queen & Bunk Beds Basement Dorm Second Floor Dorm	$55.00

Payment:

Retreat Fee (Includes meals & lodging) _____

Optional Thursday Evening Lodging ($12.00 a person) _____

Optional: Scholarship Fund _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

Awana Clubs-----Wednesdays
Age 2 - Grades 6 5:00-7:00

Dawn Harris, Awana Commander
dawnhnbpc@aol.com 330-881-8110

AWANA Schedule for February

February 6th – Double, Double Point Night

Clubbers will get double the points for attendance, bringing their Bible & Handbook, wearing Awana shirt, and completing sections

February 13th - Love, Love, Love the Lord Night

Clubbers will get a guess at the Heart Jar for every section completed. Closest guess without going over wins.

February 20th – Regular Club Night

February 27th – Let Your Light Shine for Jesus Night!

Awana CAN make a difference for the CITY RESCUE MISSION

For the remainder of the year we will continue to collect food for **The New Castle City Rescue Mission**.

Our goal is to collect 300 pounds of food!

Needed Items:

Canned Soup	Cereal	Canned Fruit	Syrup
Boxed Rice	Pancake Mix	Crackers	Jelly

Any of the above items can be donated at any time. However, there is a 'Most Wanted Item of the Month'.

MOST WANTED ITEM FOR FEBRUARY – PEANUT BUTTER

Thank you for helping to provide this ministry with food for families in need.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS—

Just a reminder, if you volunteer with any of the Children or Youth Ministries then you need to review the Child Protection Policy and get the required background checks. The Policy and Forms are available on the wall next to Dawn's office. Please help yourself to this information. If you have any questions please see Dawn.

J.A.M. Kids (Jesus Me Kids) meet every Sunday during the 2nd worship service. Children will be dismissed after the second hymn and can be picked up in the Sunday School room after service.

Leaders J.A.M. Kids (Grades K-3)

3-Dawn Harris
10-Erika Taylor
17-Dawn Harris
24-Jane Eppinger

If you are able to help with this ministry please see Dawn or sign up on the calendar in the vestibule.

God Squad (Grades 4-6) meet 2 Sundays a month, February 10 & 24, during the 2nd worship service. On the Sundays The God Squad does not meet kids are encouraged to complete a Sermon Notes form found on the back table in the Sanctuary.



Puppet Practice - Sunday Feb. 10, 17, & 24 – 5:30-6:15

Performances - Wednesday, February 27th – 5:00 @ Awana

Contact Info: Dawn Harris Call/Text: 330-881-8110 Email: Dawnhnbpc@aol.com

NEW Ministry Program: The Senior Citizen group called, E.P.I.C. (Experienced Person In Christ), will meet at 11:00 AM the 1st and 3rd Thursdays for the Months of February, March, and April. We will have a time of Bible Study, Lunch, and Fellowship. We will also discuss the vision and what your needs are for this group. I look forward to seeing you on Feb. 7th for the first E.P.I.C. Gathering.
Lee Harris

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 **Super Bowl Party** 6pm- end of the game Sr high will have study from 5-6. Jr high please join us at 6 for the party.	4	5	6	7 E.P.I.C. Meeting 11am	8	9
10 Jr high 4-5:30 Sr high 5-7 Parent meetings at 3:30 And 7:00. Please attend one **Puppets 5:30-6:15**	11	12	13	14	15 **Winter Jam** Van leaves the church at 3pm. Bring $ for dinner. Will text arrival time when we leave Pittsburgh.	16
17 Jr high 4-5:30 Sr high 5-7 **Puppets 5:30-6:15**	18	19	20	21 E.P.I.C. Meeting 11am	22	23 **Spaghetti Dinner** 4-7pm helper arrival time TBD
24 Jr high 4-5:30 Sr high 5-7 **Puppets 5:30-6:15**	25	26	27	28		

NEW BEDFORD EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
151 Woodland Drive
Pulaski, PA 16143
Phone: 724-964-8055



Redeeming Times Newsletter
FEBRUARY 2019

Church website: www.newbedfordepchurch.org
Church e-mail: newbedfordchurch@verizon.net



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Sunday Schedule:

8:30a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service

9:30a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:40a.m. – Traditional Worship Service