

THE CARILLON



SCRIPTURE LESSONS

- Feb 1 Mark 9: 38-50
"Are You Salty?"
- Feb 8 Luke 16: 1-13
"The Tool or the Treasure"
- Feb 15 Luke 15: 1-10
"Lostness Leading to Completeness"
- Feb 22 Luke 16: 9-31
"Selective Hearing"



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CLARIDON

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FEBRUARY 2026

- 1 Annual meeting and pot luck lunch
- 8 Installation of Officers
New Members Introduced
11:30 am Deacons meeting
- 9 7:00 pm Trustees meeting
- 15 Pancake breakfast after worship
- 17 5:00 pm Claridon Community Helps dinner



Each Sunday: Worship 10:00 am

Each Wednesday:
Bible Study & Book Discussion 1:00 pm
Choir Practice 5:30 pm
Bell Choir 6:30 pm

Each Thursday: Bible Study 6:30 pm

“Love Is In the Air”

So many of us search for love in so many different ways. The path to finding lasting love is as individual as the fingerprints we were born with. We all need love, not just for pleasure’s sake, but we need love to survive. Studies have shown for decades now that if an infant doesn’t receive “enough” love then they will fail to mature and thrive psychologically, physically, emotionally and physically to some degree. This is quite interesting since love is not a physical commodity to label, box up and put on a shelf for capitalism to make profit from. At least directly. There are ways we disguise love’s sake for the mighty dollar gain as you all are aware.

I bring this topic up this month because it is February, the month of Valentine’s Day. The month for romance. The month to celebrate the Heart Association. The month to buy roses, chocolates, engagement rings, whatever expresses love to a significant other. A month to remind us to fill our hearts. How we go about filling our hearts depicts the quality of life we choose to live. If we seek mere tangible pleasures to accumulate, then we might find our baggage too heavy to carry at some point. If we seek fleeting emotional moments, then we might find emptiness when we get tired of the chase to fill up. No matter, in both instances the common denominator is that we each are created to give and receive love with or without America’s capitalistic stamp of approval. Love is in the Bible. It is the Way of Jesus and it is meant to be a life support available to all who breathe. Love is in the air.

It is interesting that like everything in life there is a balancing of yin and yang that must be met. It is the circle of life. Love’s cost is found in the acceptance of Jesus Christ for the sustaining edification and quality of healing and belonging we each need. Whether we are an infant in body or in spirit, we each need the care and love within God for the sustaining and celebration of life. Our hearts depend on it.

This February may we seek ways we can celebrate the love of Jesus Christ in our daily lives for the building up of God’s kin-dom for which we are a part of. May we each realize that love is as accessible as the air we breathe. And in this realization, may we accept the gift of God through Jesus Christ for the spreading of God’s love with others, ourselves and our special people we are thankful to have in our lives living and breathing the air we breathe this day and in our time ahead. Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let us begin loving ourselves through the teachings of Christ for the continued growth God has created us to do. In this endeavor may we find the peace and love we each need for the healing of ourselves, our world and all that is in it.

Blessings to you all,
Your Pastor, Julie ☺☺





PRAYER LIST

Doris Wilson
Bree Ellis Banks
June Webb Hunt
Joyce Vargo
Dale Baptie
Rick Juhasz
Connie & Wayne Streble
Kelly Wagner
Ed Ward
Joe Berninger
Lee McCurry
Scott Pricer
Sandra Trotten
Don and Marilyn Hornak
Laura Vokoun
Karen Baptie

August Speziale
Norm Zepp
Sharon Hunter
Beth Christian Sharp
Kevin Playman
Denny Bihary
Thomas Woods
Rheta Crowley
Gary Branstein
Jeffery Przybysz
Ben Armstrong
Kevin Reed
Sara Mellott
Ellen Bonner
Ted Ogle

AWARDS

The 2026 Awards Application Season has begun!! Area high schools received their email notice and can print applications for interested students. Next week the Good News and Middlefield Post will be asked to advertise our Awards soon. This year ALL applications need to be submitted to: Awards.ccc@gmail.com . Thank you for helping to spread the word about this opportunity and of course for any prayers offered for the applicants.

The purpose of these awards is to encourage people to further their education through a traditional college, trade school, or the equivalent. Graduating high school seniors, college students, or high school graduates are encouraged to apply. Candidates should be prepared to briefly write about: church involvement; school, and community involvement; work (paid, unpaid or home); financial need; and future goals.

Application forms are available through the guidance offices at: Berkshire, Cardinal, Chardon Schools; and Agape Christian Academy. They will also be available here at church on the table in the “gathering space” after February 7th and by request at Awards.ccc@gmail.com. Applications must be submitted by email to: Awards.ccc@gmail.com no later than Monday, **March 23, 2026** Preference will be given to applicants affiliated with the First Congregational Church of Claridon. Awardees must be present at our church service for the Awards Presentations and Reception on **May 3, 2026**.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are excited to be with kids in our Sunday School classes, Faith Sprouts (up to 6yrs old) and Faith Explorers (7yrs and older), each week this month. If you're interested and willing to teach or help with a class, please reach out to Samantha Dye or Jamie Peck. Thanks!

MISSIONS

Missions will be collecting soup during the month of February in recognition of the “Souper Bowl”. You will have an opportunity to vote for your favorite team with your cans of soup.

MUSIC

On February 15th the music committee will be hosting a pancake breakfast after service. It is a perfect opportunity to invite friends to share a great time of worship, fellowship, and a delicious breakfast. Donations appreciated.