

# keep in touch

February 8, 2024



## Bears Love Mean Kids

Allow me to share with you two of the most perplexing verses in the Bible for me. They come from 2 Kings 2:23-24. In these two short verses, the prophet Elisha is taunted by some young lads who mock him by calling him “bald-head.” In response, Elisha curses the boys in the name of the Lord; at which two female bears come out of the forest and maul forty-two of them! This is why I will never trust a bear!

In all seriousness though, what is going on here? This seems like a gross overreaction to children acting childish, doesn't it? Well, to be perfectly honest, most scholars and theologians aren't 100% sure why this is the response God gave at Elisha's request for a curse. But we may get a little bit of a hint if we go back four verses. This takes place after Elisha inherits the position of prophet from his predecessor, Elijah. In 2 Kings 2:19-22, Elisha demonstrates the power God has given him by purifying the water in a spring around Jericho. The water was bad, and causing many in the area to die. But, with God's blessings, the water is purified, and the people are saved from death!

The bad water story is followed by our bear story where we see the opposite. God in his judgement decides upon death. When read together, we see that these stories demonstrate that it is from God that both life and death, both salvation and punishment, come from. He is the master of both, and it is only with him that this judgement resides, not with us! We don't know the reason that God chose death for these children, but we do know that God is not so trigger-happy. Remember the gospels, where the disciples wanted Jesus to rain fire down upon Samaria for their rejection and insults toward Jesus; but instead, Jesus rebukes his disciples for their lust for death! We may not know why God chose this punishment with the bears, but we can see that it is with God and God alone that judgement resides, and God is slow to anger, and quick to forgive.

*Blessings*

*Pastor Andrew*



HE TURNED AROUND, LOOKED AT THEM AND CALLED DOWN A CURSE ON THEM IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

*Then the bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys.*

2 KINGS 2:23-25



*Sunday February 11, 2024*

- ♦ Sunday Services on facebook page: Caldwell UMC Ohio.
- ♦ This Sunday's sermon based on Mark 9:2-9 "Up on the Mountain"
- ♦ Accompanying scripture 2 Kings 2:1-12



## The Transfiguration

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 17:1-9



D Q E A A R J Z X Y V T H D M  
G P Y C S L P P J O H N E Y Y  
X P O J A F X B D Y Y C M R D  
J T K F H E H F M U I I I Q K  
T S V G W A W J U O C Y U C R  
U V I J J H E N V M M G E G N  
D H D I A V I J B O O L O T T  
G X L A O M O T Y U S A W O Z  
S E S L Y X E V E N E U D F D  
Q M Y G J S Z S O T S I I R M  
A P P E A R E D D A S G E X S  
Q Q Q Z V O R S G I K T X C C  
B R V W H T Q V L N E D B X H  
R O S I X K D L Q P I G R K V  
N U L W I T P G C L O T H E S

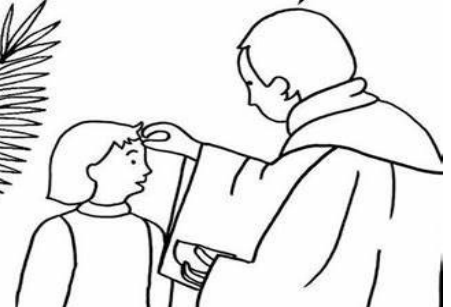
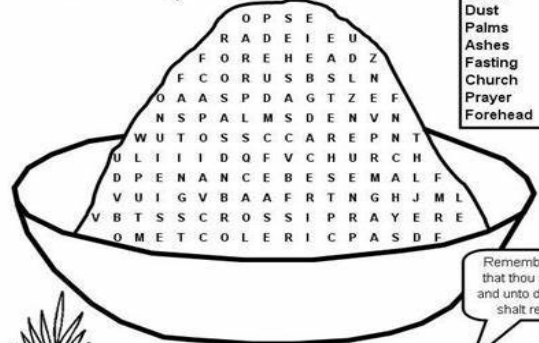
SIX	PETER	CLOTHES	VOICE	JOHN
LOVE	MOSES	GOOD	WHITE	ELIJAH
JAMES	DAYS	APPEARED	MOUNTAIN	HIGH

## Ash Wednesday



Find these hidden words and circle them in the puzzle below.

Cross  
Lent  
Rite  
Penance  
Easter  
Dust  
Palms  
Ashes  
Fasting  
Church  
Prayer  
Forehead





02/10 Darlene Cantor    02/15 Ramona Barnes    02/13 David & Lana Anderson  
 02/11 Jason Feldner    02/15 Irene Clift  
 02/12 Mikayla Lowers    02/15 Konner Hummel  
 02/13 Lisa Hrinko



## What is Transfiguration Sunday?

The final Sunday following Epiphany, and before Lent, is Transfiguration Sunday. All three of the synoptic gospels tell a story of Peter, James, and John accompanying Jesus to the top of a holy mountain. There, before their eyes, Jesus is transfigured or transformed into a dazzling brightness.

Symbolically, the appearance of Moses and Elijah represented the Law and the Prophets. But God's voice from heaven – "Listen to Him!" - clearly showed that the Law and the Prophets must give way to Jesus. The One who is the new and living way is replacing the old – He is the fulfillment of the Law and the countless prophecies in the Old Testament. Also, in His glorified form they saw a preview of His coming glorification and enthronement as King of kings and Lord of lords.



Monday morning Bible study

9AM

Study on Job



## Lost in Love maze



Love is never easy!

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# Lent Begins

February 14<sup>th</sup> to  
March 28<sup>th</sup>

I STILL THINK IT'S  
**WEIRD** HOW  
MOSES AND ELIJAH  
JUST **SHOW UP** AND  
(THEN **LEAVE!**)



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THEY ARE THE **LAW** AND THE **PROPHETS**  
AND THEIR WORK IS **DONE!**  
THE VOICE FROM THE CLOUD SAYS SO,  
THEN THEY'RE **GONE!**



PROBABLY HAD AN  
EARLY TEE TIME.



MARK 9:2-9

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Church Service at Caldwell UMC  
10:00 AM Service  
9:00 AM Sunday School

IF HARD WORK IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS, MAN Y  
FOLKS WOULD RATHER PICK THE LOCK.





*An Important Message from  
Bishop Tracy S. Malone*



February marks the annual observance of Black History Month, a time dedicated to recognizing and honoring the rich cultural heritage and significant contributions of African Americans. This month presents a unique and important opportunity for all congregations, particularly predominantly white churches, to engage in meaningful reflection, celebration, and action.

Observing Black History Month is not just about acknowledging the past; it's a commitment to a future of inclusivity, understanding, and unity in Christ.

Read and use the Resources for Celebrating Black History Month offered by Discipleship Ministries. ([eocumc.com](http://eocumc.com))



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It is 40 days long, excluding Sundays because the lent season is one of fasting and repentance but Sundays are always celebration days of Christ.

Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. It is commonly observed with the distribution of ashes and with fasting.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

February 12, 1809—April 15, 1865

Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, died at the age of 34 when he was only nine. Lincoln's parents were nearly illiterate, including his step-mother — who encouraged young Abraham to learn to read — which he largely accomplished on his own. He later taught himself the law and passed the Illinois state bar exam.

As a Lawyer, legislator and vocal opponent of slavery, was elected 16th president of the United States in November 1860, shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War. His Emancipation Proclamation paved the way for slavery's abolition, while his Gettysburg Address stands as one of the most famous pieces of oratory in American history.



**February 11, 1990** - In South Africa, Nelson Mandela, at age 71, was released from prison after serving 27 years of a life sentence on charges of attempting to overthrow the apartheid government. In April 1994, he was elected president in the first all-race elections.

**February 14, 1929** - The St. Valentine's Day massacre occurred in Chicago as seven members of the Bugs Moran gang were gunned down by five of Al Capone's mobsters posing as police.

**February 15, 1898** - In Havana, the U.S. Battleship Maine was blown up while at anchor and quickly sank with 260 crew members lost. The incident inflamed public opinion in the U.S., resulting in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25, 1898, amid cries of "Remember the Maine!"

**February 15, 1933** - An assassination attempt on newly elected U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt occurred in Miami, Florida. A spectator deflected the gunman's aim. As a result, Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak was shot and killed instead. The gunman, an Italian immigrant, was captured and later sentenced to death.

## Super Bowl Sunday – February 11, 2024



Over the past 57 years, the Super Bowl has evolved into much more than a championship football game. It is a cultural phenomenon that nearly a third of Americans anticipate the whole year round, each for his or her own reasons: the spicy chicken wings, the hearty chili, the ice cold beer, the rowdy friends, the big -budget commercials, the spectacular halftime show, and last but not least, the football.

The first Super Bowl, was played on January 15, 1967, at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. You'd think that the first Super Bowl would have been an instant sell-out, but it was not. The game was broadcast on a couple of television networks and ended with the NFL's Green Bay Packers defeating the AFL's Kansas City Chiefs by 35-10.

Reba McEntire will perform the national anthem, and Andra Day will perform "Lift Every Voice and Sing" ahead of the game. Post Malone will perform "America the Beautiful," and Usher will perform the halftime show.

Whether you are a football fan or not, or just enjoy the halftime performance or the great commercials, the rich traditions of making the Super Bowl an 'experience' every year is definitely worth it!

CBS at 6:30 p.m. ET.

Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas

Tickets for the event currently start at \$6,059 each



Kansas City Chiefs vs. San Francisco 49ers



### History



Valentine's Day, refers the day of Saint Valentine or the Feast of Saint Valentine, celebrated by most of countries around the world. It is expressed in a record of Saint Valentine of Rome that he was detained for performing weddings for warriors who were not allowed to marry. When he was imprisoned, he wrote a letter to the daughter of jailer marked, "Your Valentine".

In the remembrance of Saint Valentine, February 14 is celebrated every year.

### True Love

For God so lo **V**ed the world,  
That He g **A**ve  
his on **L**y  
Begott **E**n  
So **N**  
**T**hat whosoever  
Believeth **I**n Him  
Should **N**ot perish,  
But have **E**verlasting life."  
John 3:16



Happy  
Valentine's Day!



## A Scripture a day...



FEBRUARY 9 - PROMISE #40

**Trust in Me with all your heart and I will guide you.**

[Proverbs 3:5-6](#)

FEBRUARY 10 - PROMISE #41

**I will give you peace at all times and in every situation.**

[2 Thessalonians 3:16](#)

FEBRUARY 11 - PROMISE #42

**Call on Me when you are in trouble and I will rescue you.**

[Psalm 91:15](#)

FEBRUARY 12 - PROMISE #43

**I am your shelter and a place of safety from your enemies.**

[Psalm 61:3](#)

FEBRUARY 13 - PROMISE #44

**If you wait for Me, I will work on your behalf.**

[Isaiah 64:4](#)

FEBRUARY 14 - PROMISE #45

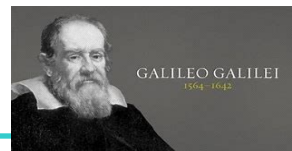
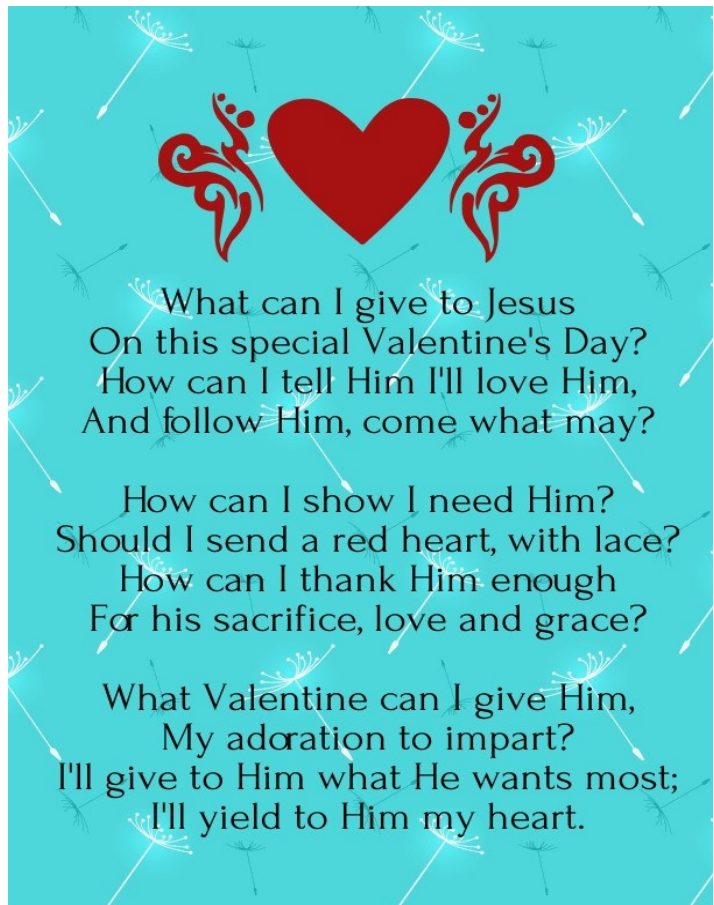
**My love will never fail you.**

[1 Corinthians 13:8](#)

FEBRUARY 15 - PROMISE #46

**I am your Shepherd and I will meet all your needs.**

[Psalm 23:1](#)



## Galileo: happy 460th birthday!

Galileo was born in Pisa on **February 15, 1564**. By the time he died on January 8, 1642 he was as famous as any person in Europe. Moreover, when he was born there was no such thing as 'science'; yet by the time he died, science was well on its way to becoming a discipline, and its concepts and method a complete philosophical system.

His inventions, from compasses and balances to improved telescopes and microscopes, revolutionized astronomy and biology. Galileo discovered craters and mountains on the moon, the phases of Venus, Jupiter's moons and the stars of the Milky Way.

Galileo's advocacy of a heliocentric universe (the universe does not revolve around the earth) brought him before religious authorities in 1616 and again in 1633, when he was forced to recant and placed under house arrest for the rest of his life.

After being forced during his trial to admit (falsely) that the Earth was the stationary center of the universe, Galileo allegedly muttered, "Eppur si muove!" ("Yet it moves!").



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