

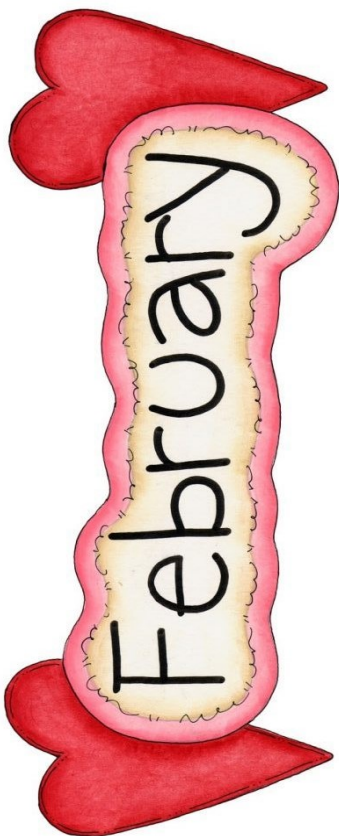


## A Simple Hug

### ATTENTION

#### ALL Elders and Deacons:

One person is needed for each Drive Up service for the month of February. Please call the office to let us know if you are interested in serving at the 8:00 or the 10:30 service.



Most of us, during this pandemic, have been doing our part to help keep Covid from spreading. We wear the masks. We wash hands. We skip family and friend get-togethers. We do all the things we know to do...yet somehow it still enters our lives. Up until January 25 my home had avoided this dreaded sickness. Then it happened.

My husband got sick late one night. I tried to down play it, thinking maybe it was a stomach bug, or the start of a head cold. But when he received a call from one of his co-workers, informing him that he had tested positive...we got a little concerned. My husband, Brad, immedi-

ately made an appointment to get tested himself. One phone call and 30 minute later, he was positive.

Almost a year ago, when this pandemic started, Brad and I had made "sickness plans" on how we would divide the house up for quarantine. We hoped the plans we made would never come to fruition...but they did.

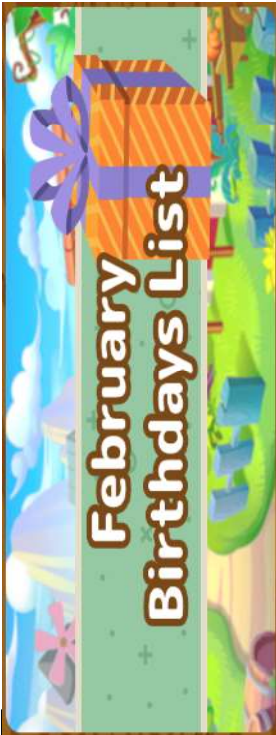
Talking with the Saline County Health Dept., I was told that our household would have to quarantine for 10 days. Ten days!!! Who has time to lose 10 days? Faced with no choice, we began our sentence.

My mother lives with us, so her exposure to Brad, although slight, was

still a concerning factor. We all closed ourselves up in separate living quarters. Being in a house with two other people, yet only seeing each other at a distance for a few seconds a day, is one of the loneliest feelings in the world. Seeing my husband across the room, sick, suffering and alone....was almost too much to take. I lived for the few moments that I would take food and leave on a designated table for him; we would talk for a few minutes each time, mostly me asking him how he felt and what he needed. Him...being brave and saying he was OK and more worried about infecting us.

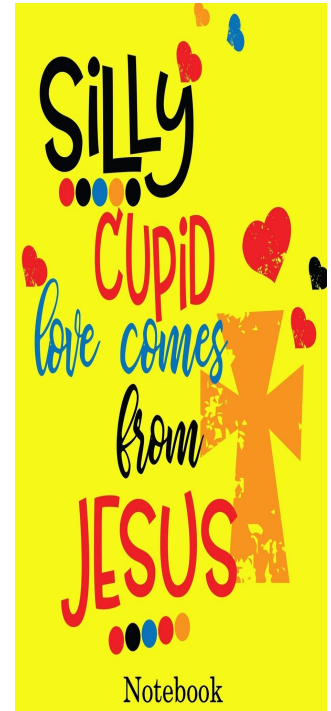
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## February Birthdays and Anniversaries



3- Greg Schultz  
Shirley Schultz  
4- Sidney Ehrhardt  
8- Chloe Venable  
10- Jarid Wise  
11- Barb Utlaut  
13- Shala Smith  
14- Bailee Ann Merchant  
Michelle Porter  
Taylor Scarff  
15- Trish Fletcher  
Bennett Kueker  
16- Jordan Bishop  
18- Mary Anderson  
19- Grace Miles

22- Alexander VanDyke  
23- Maggie Hoffelmeyer  
23- Jillian Pointer  
Melisa Shannon  
25- Crete Coslet  
Garrett Green  
26- Kirby Rugen  
27- Zach Crews  
28- Eric Arnett



We are organizing Valentine Day gift packages to our shut-ins, and other members who having to stay home during these difficult times. If you would like to donate non-parishable items, please bring them into the Church office by February 10<sup>th</sup>. Ideas would include, but not limited to: Valentine candy, Little Debbie Snack cakes, chap stick, hand lotions, paperback books, puzzle books, small packages of tissue (they are charged for these at nursing homes), cards, nuts, etc. We will be looking into our shut-ins and any restrictions they may have in their dietary needs so that we can accommodate each person individually. Thank you in advance for helping with this project.



The December Board Meeting will be December 9 at 6:00 PM via Zoom. The meeting ID is 826 5072 3317 . The passcode is 418179. Please contact the Church office if you have any questions on how to attend.



### Guest Ministers

February 7- Rev. Randal DeMasters  
February 14- Rev. Randal DeMasters



( A Simple hug cont'd)

Slowly, his symptoms diminished. His one lingering effect was the feeling of exhaustion.

The days seemed never-ending. As the time got closer to our “ release”, all I could think about was being able to touch him again...to hug him. The thought of getting to finally be in the same room together brought tears to my eyes. And finally it was here...the tenth day. As he finally walked out from behind the walls that had held him captive...we hugged. It was indescribable. Love, comfort, care, compassion, joy! Nope...not enough feelings in ANY of those words. I felt....whole again.

It could have been so much worse for him...for us. We, unlike so many others, had made it through victoriously. The 10 days apart were just that...10 days apart. He didn't have to go to a hospital. He was never fully alone.

Sitting in my room one night, during this time, I remember a complete feeling of sadness consume me. Our days apart/separated were

only 10, a week and a half. Not too tragic in the grand scheme of things. But what about those in nursing homes, who had been more or less shut into a small room since last March? How were they handling it? How did they handle knowing each day would be the same as the one before, with no visitors, no family...and no end to it in sight? When was the last time one of them had a hug? A touch? Or even a face-to-face conversation with a loved one?

Philippians 2:4 tells us “do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” Maybe we can't visit those who have no one right now...but we can call. Maybe we can't share a meal...but we can send a card. If we could all take a few moments out of our lives to let someone know they are thought of , and loved, just MAYBE their world might be a little bit brighter. I know for my Mom, Brad , and I, we were so very grateful for each and every card, text and call we received during this

time. And Roberta....MAN that was a good pie! Our days isolated were very few in comparison to those who have been kept “safe” for almost a year. I pray daily that we are heading in a direction that can turn this pandemic around.

If there is one thing I learned while going through the quarantine it is that we ALL need the touch of others to make us whole. Whether it be a hand shake, a gentle




touch on the shoulder or hand, or the biggest hug you can get from a grandchild, these are the things that

make us feel peaceful, content...and loved. We have so many committees at our Church. I personally think we need a committee that will send “hug coupons” to nursing home residents .Then, when this pandemic is over, we storm the doors and let them redeem them! And I don't know about you, but I can always use an extra hug.

Learning and Leaning,

Hope





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Church Staff

Custodians– Ron & Carol Schupp

Chris Layton

Financial Secretary– Ken Bryant

Office Admin.– Hope Richards

Music Director– Hope Richards

Youth Director– Kris Milliron

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