

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

Friendship Baptist Church ▪ 3375 Church Lane ▪ Duluth, GA 30096
Ronald L. Bowens, Pastor

FEBRUARY 2024

Theme: LOVE

Vol. 11 Issue 1



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CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 3 Men's Ministry Meeting
- 10 Women's Ministry Meeting
- 10 FBC Creative Learning
- 12 Register to Vote
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 24 Senior's Ministry Fellowship

[For times and locations, go to:
fbcduluth.org]

FBC MISSION STATEMENT

"Exalt the Savior"
"Equip the Saint"
"Evangelize the Sinner"

Dear Members and Friends,

I greet you in the matchless name of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Lord has blessed us to enter into a brand new year. My sincere heart's desire and prayer to God for Friendship is that He would create in each of us a thirst and longing for Him like we have never experienced before. I want us to feel what King David felt when he wrote in Psalm 42:1-2 ***"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. ²My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"*** The Lord directed me to do a study of Psalm 42 for our first Bible study of the new year. I've discovered that many of us as believers do not desire or crave God as we should. We wonder why we don't feel close to the Lord. We wonder why we feel numb, powerless, spiritually cold, apathetic, empty, or tempted to quit and give up on living for God. These attitudes are the consequences from losing the thirst for God in your life.



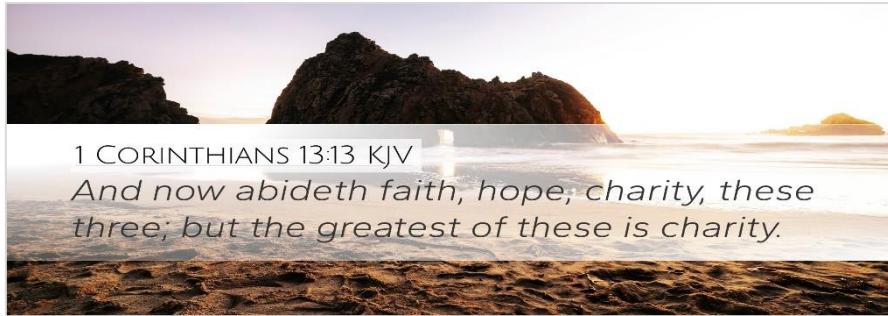
My brothers and sisters, a passion or thirst for God is the flame that keeps our heart burning and on fire for Him. A thirst for God keeps us focused on Him, for only the Living Water, the Lord Jesus Christ, can satisfy our soul. A thirst for God keeps us dependent upon Him. It's when we become independent of the Lord that we get into trouble. We think other things can fill and quench the thirst in our lives, only to find out later we were wrong. A thirst for God keeps us at His nail-scarred feet, praying for His power to serve, for patience to endure, for persistence when we fail, for purity when we are tempted, and for purpose when we are pulled by distractions or discouragement.

How do I get a craving thirst for God? What does the Lord use to get His people to this point in their lives? I've discovered through our study of Psalm 42 that God will use both pleasant and unpleasant things to create a thirst in us for Him. Now, if you are thirsty and you desire to know more, come to Bible study on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

In His Service,

Your Pastor and Friend,
Ronald Bowens

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH



1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 KJV
And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

HYMN OF THE MONTH



141
 JAMES ROWE

Love Lifted Me

HOWARD E. SMITH

1. I was sink-ing deep in sin, Far from the peace-ful shore, Ver-y deep-ly
 2. All my heart to Him I give, Ev-er to Him I'll cling, In His bless-ed
 3. Souls in dan-ger, look a-bove, Je-sus com-plete-ly saves; He will lift you

stained with-in, Sink-ing to rise no more; But the Mas-ter of the sea
 pres-ence live, Ev-er His prais-es sing. Love so might-y and so true
 by His love Out of the an-gry waves. He's the Mas-ter of the sea,

Heard my de-spair-ing cry, From the wa-ters lift-ed me—Now safe am I.
 Mer-its my soul's best songs; Faith-ful, lov-ing serv-ice too To Him be-longs.
 Bil-lows His will o-bey; He your Sav-ior wants to be—Be saved to-day.

CHORUS

Love lift-ed me, ——— Love lift-ed me, ——— When noth-ing
 e-ven me, e-ven me,

1 2
 else could help, Love lift-ed me; Love lift-ed me.

James Rowe was born in England in 1865. He served four years in the Government Survey Office, Dublin Ireland as a young man. He came to America in 1890 where he worked for ten years for the New York Central & Hudson R.R. Co., then served for twelve years as superintendent of the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society. He began writing songs and hymns about 1896 and was a prolific writer of gospel verse with more than 9,000 published hymns, poems, recitations, and other works.



Submitted by
 Hyacinth Chung
 Communications Ministry

Prayer LIST

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sis. Charre Armstrong | Bro. Dwayne Bynum | Sis. Virginia McLemore | Sis. Tonya Sellers |
| Sis. Pat Ashe | Sis. Ione Charles | Sis. Thelma Matthews | Bro. Xavier Stephens |
| Bro. Charles Bailey | Sis. Chastity Collier | Sis. Josephine May | Sis. Johnnie Stewart |
| Bro. Willie Benton | Sis. Sarah Collins | Bro. Will May | Sis. Mabel Thomas |
| Min. Karen Blacknell | Dea. Kevin Corbett | Miss Kaitlyn Miles | Rev. Dwight Wilkerson |
| Sis. Sheila Blackwell | Sis. Ruth Ellis | Sis. Alice Murphy | Sis. Valerie Williams |
| Dea. Willie Blake | Sis. Marion German | Sis. Teresa Rainey | Sis. Sadie Wilson |
| Bro. Don Bowens | Sis. Andrea Green | Sis. Carrie Rawls | Bro. Victor Winston Jr. |
| Sis. Liz Bowens | Sis. Ruth Griggs | Sis. Letitia Robinson | Sis. Priscilla Wise |
| Bro. Isaac Brown | Sis. Barbara Hall | Sis. Linda Rogers | Sis. Dorothy Woods |
| Sis. Barbara Williams Brown | Bro. Emanuel Hazell | Sis. Carrie Royals | Sis. Lola Wright |
| Sis. Alice Burnes | Bro. Patrick Jones | Bro. Rennie Samuels | |
| Sis. Wanda Burrell | Sis. Mabel Lawrence | Sis. Jacqueline Scott | |

**Please remember to
PRAY FOR OUR
SICK AND SHUT-IN**

as well as people who are
grieving the loss of a loved one.

**Send them a card, give them a
call, visit them. You never know
how much it could mean to them.**

SIGNS OF THE SEASON – VALENTINE'S DAY

Do you remember your first love?

Each one of us is Jesus' first love, **1 John 4:19**. We love him, because he first loved us. (KJV)

Although Valentine's Day is not mentioned in the Bible, it is a day to celebrate the love we have between us, our spouse, family and friends. The seven Bible references below encourage us to love and celebrate love:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it. (KJV)

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. (KJV) (charity is synonymous with love)

Proverbs 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. (KJV)

Song of Songs 4:9 Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck. (KJV)

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (KJV)

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, ⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. ⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. (KJV)

Everyone can celebrate love on Valentine's Day; even if you're not in a romantic relationship, you can and have the capacity to love because God lives in us and God is love.



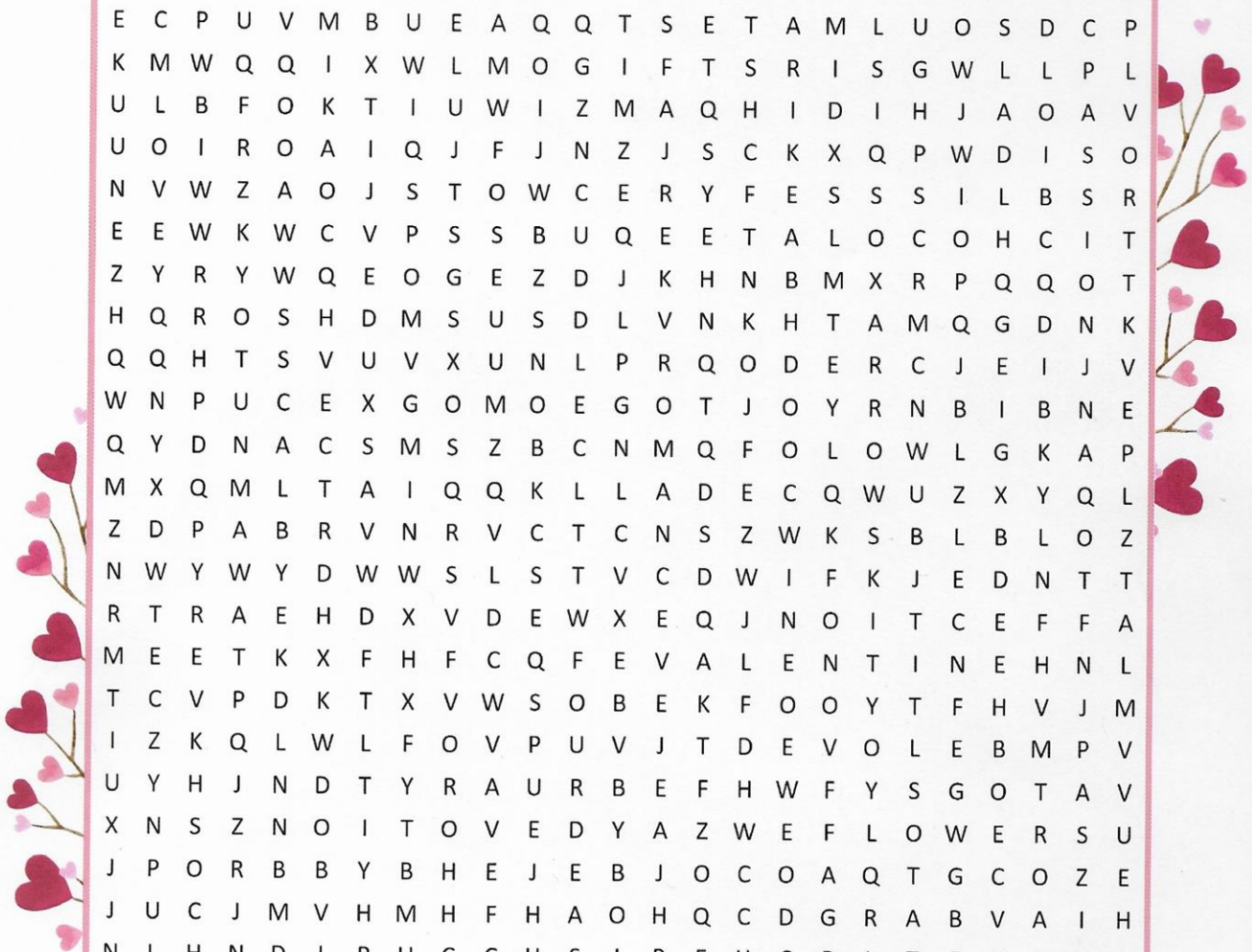
Submitted by
Christine Smith
Communications
Ministry



Valentine's Day Word Search



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| K | H | Z | V | W | X | W | B | S | X | U | B | T | R | E | V | E | R | O | F | Z | Q | E | J | W |
| E | C | P | U | V | M | B | U | E | A | Q | Q | T | S | E | T | A | M | L | U | O | S | D | C | P |
| K | M | W | Q | Q | I | X | W | L | M | O | G | I | F | T | S | R | I | S | G | W | L | L | P | L |
| U | L | B | F | O | K | T | I | U | W | I | Z | M | A | Q | H | I | D | I | H | J | A | O | A | V |
| U | O | I | R | O | A | I | Q | J | F | J | N | Z | J | S | C | K | X | Q | P | W | D | I | S | O |
| N | V | W | Z | A | O | J | S | T | O | W | C | E | R | Y | F | E | S | S | S | I | L | B | S | R |
| E | E | W | K | W | C | V | P | S | S | B | U | Q | E | E | T | A | L | O | C | O | H | C | I | T |
| Z | Y | R | Y | W | Q | E | O | G | E | Z | D | J | K | H | N | B | M | X | R | P | Q | Q | O | T |
| H | Q | R | O | S | H | D | M | S | U | S | D | L | V | N | K | H | T | A | M | Q | G | D | N | K |
| Q | Q | H | T | S | V | U | V | X | U | N | L | P | R | Q | O | D | E | R | C | J | E | I | J | V |
| W | N | P | U | C | E | X | G | O | M | O | E | G | O | T | J | O | Y | R | N | B | I | B | N | E |
| Q | Y | D | N | A | C | S | M | S | Z | B | C | N | M | Q | F | O | L | O | W | L | G | K | A | P |
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| Z | D | P | A | B | R | V | N | R | V | C | T | C | N | S | Z | W | K | S | B | L | B | L | O | Z |
| N | W | Y | W | Y | D | W | W | S | L | S | T | V | C | D | W | I | F | K | J | E | D | N | T | T |
| R | T | R | A | E | H | D | X | V | D | E | W | X | E | Q | J | N | O | I | T | C | E | F | F | A |
| M | E | E | T | K | X | F | H | F | C | Q | F | E | V | A | L | E | N | T | I | N | E | H | N | L |
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Love
Heart
Cupid
Kisses
Hugs
Sweetheart
Romance



Flowers
Chocolate
Passion
February
Adore
Affection
Be Mine



Devotion
Forever
Valentine
Soulmates
Beloved
Candy
Roses



Gifts
Embrace
Arrows
Joy
Cuddle
Bliss
Cherish



PANCAKES WITH PASTOR



We're so grateful for the parents that took the time to bring their children out for Pancakes with Pastor on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

Pastor Bowens was able to enjoy food and fellowship with the kids and teenagers. The children were all able to sign a custom-made banner just for Pastor.

Pastor was able to mingle with everyone who attended. It was a great day for pancakes and all the trimmings and the beginning of a milestone year – Pastor's 70th birthday!

Hosted by the Shepherd's Care Ministry led by Sis. Vickie Chambers.



PASTOR'S 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION "LOVE, PEACE AND BOWENS"

didn't stop the partygoers from showing up and showing out. On Friday, January 19th, we gathered in the Family Life Center at Friendship Baptist Church to honor Pastor Bowens' 70th birthday. With over 100 guests in attendance, the night was filled with laughter, music and funky fashions.

"It was a chilly night in the middle of January, but that



Pastor Bowens was dressed in his 70's best with a hippie-styled black and white striped top with denim bell bottoms, and alongside him was his beautiful wife, Sis. Debbie, also dressed in her 70's attire. There were high steppers in the building with patent leather platforms to perfectly picked afros. As we ate and fellowshiped, we couldn't help but be thankful to the Shepherd's Care Ministry for the strategic décor, the flavorful refreshments, and their dedication to serving.

The homemade, donated, birthday cakes were a sweet mixture of moist and dense, and you know it wouldn't be a 70's party without a Soul Train line. The partygoers laughed and socialized until the last song was played.

Before closing out the night, Pastor Bowens shared a few words of gratitude and appreciation for everyone's participation. He also thanked God for allowing him to see a remarkable milestone in age, reminding us that with age comes wisdom, and any additional years added is God's grace and icing on top. As the younger generation sat among the crowd, admiring the purity of fellowship with other believers, there was a sense of hope and a desire to carry on the traditions.



Written by:
Tori L. Edwards
Shepherd's Care
Ministry

Remembering 1954

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Famous People Born in 1954 Ron Howard, Director Howard Stern, Radio Personality Oprah Winfrey, TV Show Host John Travolta, Actor Jackie Chan, Actor Jerry Seinfeld, Comedian James Cameron, Director Dennis Quaid, Actor Annie Lennox, Pop Singer | World Population 2,691,979,339 | What Things Cost: A New House... \$8,650 A New Car... \$2,300 Movie Ticket... \$70 A Gallon of Milk... \$.92 A Gallon of Gas... \$.21 A Loaf of Bread... \$.17 U.S. Postage Stamp... \$.03 |
| U.S. Population 158,205,873 | U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hit Songs Rock Around The Clock... Bill Haley & His Comets That's All Right... Elvis Presley Shake, Rattle and Roll... Big Joe Turner (I'm Your) Hoochie Coochie Man... Muddy Waters I've Got a Woman... Ray Charles Earth Angel (Will You Be Mine)... The Penguins My Funny Valentine... Chef Baker Sh-Boom... The Chords Mr. Sandman... The Chordettes A Night in Tunisia... Art Blakey | Top Movies White Christmas 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea Demetrius and the Gladiators Rear Window The Caine Mutiny Gone with the Wind The Egyptian The High and the Mighty On the Waterfront Desiree Vera Cruz Garden of Evil | Big Events In a unanimous decision, The Supreme Court rules on Brown v. Board of Education, stating that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. Senator Joseph McCarthy is censured, bringing an end to his witch hunt of Communists. Ellis Island in New York closes as a point of Immigration. President Eisenhower signs into law the new social security bill funded by employers and employees. The words "under God" are added to the United States Pledge of Allegiance. Hydrogen bomb test conducted on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. This prompted international cries for a ban on atmospheric thermonuclear testing. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Popular Baby Names

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Michael | Mary |
| James | Linda |
| Robert | Deborah |
| John | Patricia |



PASTOR'S 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (Cont'd)



PASTOR'S 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (Cont'd)



PASTOR'S 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (Cont'd)



Shepherd's Care Ministry



Celebrating Our History

A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.

Attributed to Marcus Garvey

BLACK HISTORY

OUR VOICES. OUR STORIES.

*Diane Russell, Black History Coordinator
Communications Ministry*

The Origin of Black History Month. The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. As a Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed that truth could not be denied, and that reason would prevail over prejudice. His hopes to raise awareness of African American's contributions to civilization was realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln (12th) and Frederick Douglass (14th).



He envisioned the study and celebration of the Negro as a race, not simply as the producers of a great man. And Lincoln, however great, had not freed the slaves — the Union Army, including hundreds of thousands of Black soldiers and sailors, had done that. Instead of focusing on two men, the Black community, he believed, should focus on the countless Black men and women



who had contributed to the advance of human civilization.

In fact, Woodson never viewed black history as a one-week affair. He pressed for schools to use Negro History Week to demonstrate what students learned all year. Throughout the 1930s, Negro History Week countered the growing myth of the South's "lost cause", as epitomized in both the novel and the movie *Gone with The Wind*. That myth argued that slaves had been well-treated, that the Civil War was a war of "northern aggression", and that blacks had been better off under slavery. Woodson wrote in his book *The Miseducation of the American Negro*, "When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions", "You do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his 'proper place' and will stay in it.

In the 1940s, efforts began slowly within the black community to expand the study of black history in the schools and black history celebrations before the public. In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing "Negro History Week." By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of Black identity, "Negro History Week" had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses, but it was 50 years before Black History Week was expanded to Black History Month.

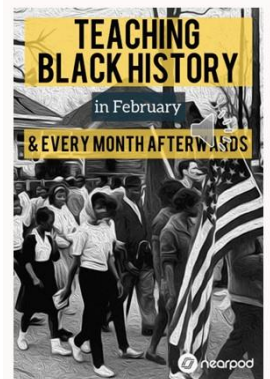


In 1976 the association that Woodson had founded (later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History) facilitated the widespread institutionalization of February as Black History Month, and U.S. President Gerald Ford urged Americans to participate in its observance. All subsequent presidents would do the same, sometimes referring to the event as National Afro-American (Black) History Month or National African American History Month.

Other countries started celebrating Black History Month sometime later, The United Kingdom in 1987, Canada in 1995. Since its inception, Black

History Month has expanded beyond its initial acceptance in educational establishments. In 2018, Instagram created its first-ever Black History Month hashtag. By 2020, Black History Month had become a focus beyond schools. The *Wall Street Journal* describes it as "a time when the culture and contributions of African Americans take center stage" in a variety of cultural institutions including theaters, libraries, and museums. It has also garnered attention from the U.S. business community. In February 2020 *Forbes* noted that "much of corporate America is commemorating" Black History Month, including The Coca-Cola Company and Wall Street.

On February 21, 2016, 106-year Washington D.C. resident and school volunteer Virginia McLaurin visited the White House as part of Black History Month. When asked by the president why she was there, McLaurin said, "**A Black president. A Black wife. And I'm here to celebrate Black history. That's what I'm here for.**"



HELP FRIENDSHIP FIGHT FOOD INSECURITY

DONATE NOW

WALK RUN MARCH 10TH

40 YEARS HUNGER WALK RUN

Donate: FBCDuluth.org or HungerWalkRun.org

Team Name: Friendship Baptist Church / Agency Code F8787

Charity to support: Atlanta Community Food Bank.

Your donation is tax deductible and you are thanked and much appreciated in advance!

The Outreach Ministry would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the support and dedication you have shown in our fight against food insecurity in and around Gwinnett County. Your individual, as well as team-spirited donations have been instrumental in bringing us closer to our goal, and we are grateful for your efforts.

We would like to remind you that your tax-deductible donation will go a long way in ensuring that we can purchase food from the Atlanta Community Food Bank at a reduced cost. With every dollar raised, we receive 100% credit towards our goal. Though the HungerWalkRun is still a few weeks away, we urge you not to delay in contributing to our cause. We encourage you to visit our website at fbcduluth.org or www.HungerWalkRun.org to donate today. And don't forget to share this worthy endeavor with your family, friends, and co-hearts!

Once again, we appreciate your unwavering support in our mission to eliminate food insecurity in our community. **"Together, we are making a difference!"**



OUTREACH MINISTRY – *"ONE BODY SAVED TO SERVE"*

Diana McGhee, Ministry Leader



Church News & Other Important Information

Volunteers needed for the following ministries:

- The **Gatekeeper's Ministry** is looking for new members. The purpose of this ministry is to establish an environment that is safe so that those in attendance at Friendship Baptist Church can enjoy the worship experience. If you're interested in joining this ministry, please contact Randel Carr at 305-967-5950 or Victor Jones at 470-248-8772.
- The **Greeter's Ministry** is looking for volunteers, especially a few good men. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Edward Johnson at 678-910-5069.
- The **Music Ministry** is looking for new members 18 years or older. If interested in the Gospel Choir, please contact our Minister of Music, Bryan Bowens at 678-200-9443. If interested in the Male Chorus, please contact Deacon Derick Chambers at 678-863-4046.
- **Sunday School** is in full force and is looking for a few dedicated and called teachers. If this is you, please contact Bro. Dorian Rogers, Sunday School Superintendent at 770-309-6245. Please join us every Sunday morning at 9:45am in person or on Zoom.
- The **Transportation Ministry** plans to start operating again and need drivers (no CDL required). For those who need transportation to church, please contact the church office. If you are interested in becoming a driver, please contact Deacon Michael Patterson at 770-367-9583. Luke 14:23 *"And the Lord said unto the servant, go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."*
- The **Usher's Ministry** - FBC Doorkeepers of the Lord, welcomes you to serve with gladness by helping our congregation experience the sacredness and joy of worshipping God. If you have a desire to become a Doorkeeper for the Lord, please contact: JoAnne Williams at diamondj313@yahoo.com.

MasterLife Series - MasterLife is a developmental, small-group discipleship process, comprised of four books. Each book will be taught over a period of six weeks by a different instructor. Please register for this class on the church website at fcduluth.org.

The Outreach Ministry. "ONE BODY SAVED TO SERVE" is the Mission Statement for the Outreach Ministry at Friendship Baptist Church and SERVE is what we do by sharing God's bounty and blessings with our neighbors and the greater Community. The Friendship Market offers a variety of healthy food options, including meat and vegetable protein, produce, fruit and more, and it is open and available to all who can USE it. **Current hours are: Fridays 3:00pm-5:00pm.** Items will be distributed at the Fellowship Hall; just drive through and we'll be there waiting for you!

Please join the **Mother's Ministry** in a project to collect used eyeglasses (prescribed or non-prescribed) from August 2023 until May 2024. A container will be placed in the vestibule for collection weekly. The glasses will be donated to support a deaf and mute orphanage in Jamaica. For more information, contact Mother Gerald Baker at geraldcbaker64@gmail.com or Mother Dorothy Blagmon at dblag@bellsouth.net.

The **Seniors Ministry** meeting will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 11:00am in the Family Life Center. All ages 55 and over are welcome. Come for fellowship, to be encouraged through prayer, scripture reading, to plan senior activities, as well as to learn about senior benefits and discounts (AARP, etc.). We look forward to seeing you! Psalm 92:12-15. For more information, contact Rev. Eugene Graves at 770-710-5016 or Mother Brenda Graves at 770-710-5128.

Health Ministry- American Heart Awareness Month

You have the power to take action to protect yourself against heart disease. Small heart-healthy actions like adding more movement to our day or choosing healthy foods can have a big impact on protecting #OurHearts.

Your health is a life long journey. 1) Take care of your body and mind; 2) Get and stay active; 3) Manage a healthy weight; 4) Practice good sleep habits. To help stop the spread of COVID-19, please remember to wash your hands before you eat, after coughing/sneezing in your hands and after using the restroom. Also, please stay home if you are sick.

2023 Contribution Statements have all been mailed out. If you have not received it by Friday, February 9th, please contact the Church office.

AROUND GWINNETT

GWINNETT HOSTING SEVERAL POLL OFFICIAL HIRING EVENTS

Citizens who want to be involved in the electoral process are invited to attend one of the following meetings:

- Monday, February 5th from 4pm–7pm at Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Rd., Buford
- Monday, February 12th from 4pm – 7pm at the Lilburn Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, 2817 Church St., Lilburn

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

As the election season kicks in, it's important to register to vote now. To be eligible, Georgia residents need to be U.S. citizens, legal residents of their voting county, and at least 18 years of age by Election Day. The deadline to register to vote and be eligible to cast a ballot in the March 12th Presidential Preference Primary is Monday, February 12th.

Check your registration status, download a voter registration application, view sample ballots, and locate your polling location at [MVP.SOS.GA.gov](https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov).

GET AFFORDABLE INTERNET ACCESS FOR YOUR HOME

You may qualify for a \$30 monthly discount on your home or mobile internet service through the Federal Communications Commission Affordable Connectivity Program. Gwinnett is encouraging eligible residents to claim this new benefit and start saving on internet service. Visit [AffordableConnectivity.gov](https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov) or call 877-384-2575 to learn about eligibility and apply. Then, contact a participating broadband provider to start receiving your monthly discount.

REVITALIZE YOUR HOME

Gwinnett's offering up to \$20,000 in housing rehabilitation assistance to income-qualified homeowners in Gwinnett County. The Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation Program offers funding to make essential repairs to their homes. The goal of the program is to address health and safety issues for qualifying homeowners, focusing on vital life systems of a home such as electrical, roof, and plumbing.

To qualify for the program, homeowners must be current on mortgage and tax payments, maintain the residence as their primary owner-occupied property, and earn below 80 percent of Area Median Income.

For a full list of eligibility requirements and to apply, visit [GwinnettCounty.com/HomeRehabProgram](https://www.GwinnettCounty.com/HomeRehabProgram).

Word search answers from page 5

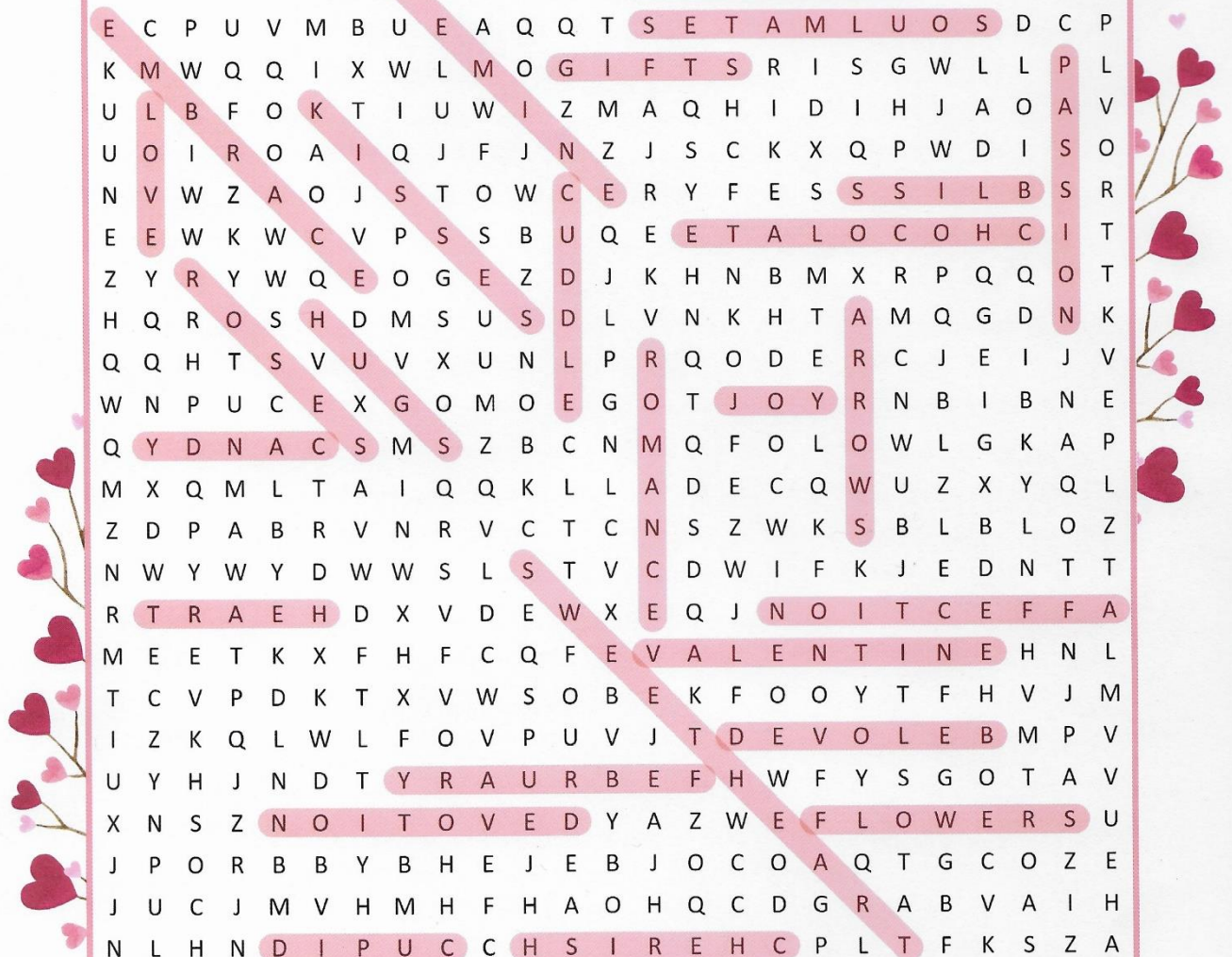


Valentine's Day Word Search



A 15x15 word search grid with the following words highlighted in pink:

- REVEROF
- SETAMLUOS
- GIFTS
- SSILB
- ETALOCOHCIT
- JOY
- NOITCEFFA
- VALENTINE
- DEVOLEB
- YRAURBEFHWFYSGOTAV
- NOITOVEDYAZWEFLOWERSU
- DIPUCCHSIREHCPLTFKSA
- ADORE



Love
Heart
Cupid
Kisses
Hugs
Sweetheart
Romance



Flowers
Chocolate
Passion
February
Adore
Affection
Be Mine



Devotion
Forever
Valentine
Soulmates
Beloved
Candy
Roses



Gifts
Embrace
Arrows
Joy
Cuddle
Bliss
Cherish



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Improvements to FBC's website are ongoing.
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A Purpose-Driven Church

Friendly through Fellowship
Developed through Discipleship
Enlarged through Evangelism
Sharing and Caring through Servanthood
Stronger through God's Word and True Worship

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