

## Prayer Requests



### LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS

Tom's parents, Jean & Dick Forbes  
Alison's mother, Isabel Fain  
Ginny Flick  
Lawrence Cook  
Floretta Kelly

Gloria Harrell-Cook  
George Tasker  
Virginia Metcalf

Our country and our troops

People who are caregivers to family members

Orphans of Belize  
Glynn & Shawn Harbaugh  
Valerie Grogan  
Steve & Jeanne Thrasher  
Peggy Peer

Theresa Wolford  
Nina McCarty  
Paula Swayne  
LauraNeill Hill  
Lauren Cook  
PPC ministry  
Toni McCarty  
John Michael Hartman

Missionaries in Belize  
Jeanne Freeman Murray  
Artie Hartman  
Jim Wilson  
Jack & Tess Tasker



## thank you

for your service to your church in *February*

### Ushers & Greeter

February 1	Kathy & Mike Boyce
February 8	Lawrence Cook & Buck Knott
February 15	Aggie & Phil Carnell
February 22	Frances Becker & Maxine Groves

### Money Counters

February 1	Sandra Chilcote & Erma Landis
February 8	Erma Landis & Andi Grady
February 15	Denise & Darlene Spitzer
February 22	Debbie & Mike Hartman

### Liturgist

February 1 *	?
February 8	Mike Hartman
February 15	Mike Hartman
February 22	Laura Groves

\* PLEASE SEE FRANCIE BECKER OR CALL HER AT 301-359-9962 TO SIGN UP FOR LITURGIST FOR FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 22, AND/OR ANY DATES IN APRIL AND MAY.

The period of 40 days prior to Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. The word "lent" comes from the Latin word for "lengthen," because the days of Lent occur during the springtime of the year, when the daylight hours increase. The period consists of 40 days because the number 40 has special biblical significance: Moses and the people of Israel were in the wilderness for 40 years; Jesus was tempted in the desert for 40 days.

Since the days of the early church, in the decades and centuries after the death and Resurrection of Christ, Christians have regarded the period of Lent as a time for repentance and reflection. It is invariably marked by fasting (going without food and/or water for a period of time), by giving up something during Lent (sweets; the sports page), and by taking on such habits that will increase one's devotion to Christ.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015 and ends on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## What is the meaning and purpose of Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is a wake-up call. Ash Wednesday hits us squarely between the eyes, forcing us to face mortality and sinfulness. We hear Scripture readings that are urgent and vivid. We have black ashes rubbed into our foreheads. We recite a Litany of Penitence that takes our breath away, or should. It is a tough day, but take heart! This is one religious day that won't fall into the clutches of retailers. There aren't any Hallmark cards celebrating sin and death; no shop windows are decked out with sackcloth and ashes.

On Ash Wednesday we come to church to kneel, to pray, and to ask God's forgiveness, surrounded by other sinners. Human sin is universal; we all do it, not only Christians. But our church tradition sets aside Ash Wednesday as a particular day to address sin and death. We do this mindful that "God hates nothing God has made and forgives the sins of all who are penitent." We are ALL sinners, no better and no worse than our brothers and sisters. This is not a day to compete ("my sins are worse than yours are"), but to confess.

Ash Wednesday is the gateway to Lent. We have forty precious days to open ourselves up most particularly to God, to examine ourselves in the presence of one who created us, knows us, and loves us. We have forty days to face ourselves and learn to not be afraid of our sinfulness. We are dust, and to dust we shall return, but with God's grace we can learn to live this life more fully, embracing our sinfulness, allowing God to transform us.

### Calendar of up-coming February events:

Sunday, February 1	Food Pantry Collection Sunday Session meeting following worship
Monday, February 9	Presbyterian Women meet 10:0 a.m.
Saturday, February 14	Valentine's Day
Sunday, February 15	Communion will be served— Transfiguration Sunday
Wednesday, February 18	Ash Wednesday—Lent begins



BLESSINGS  
ON YOUR  
BIRTHDAY

February 5	Sam Swayne
February 7	Paula Swayne
February 12	Emma Shay
February 17	Dennis Lynch
February 20	Pam Neder
February 21	Brendon Rounds
February 22	Denise Spitzer
February 22	Frances Becker

### Youth Sunday School

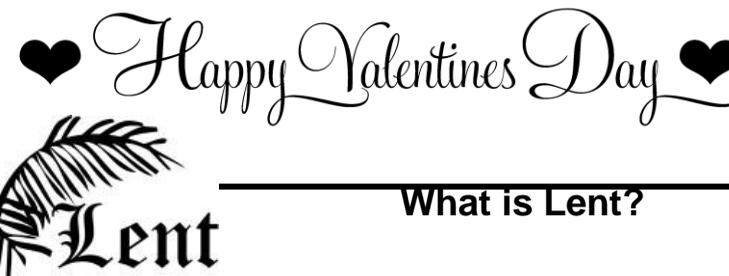
Teachers are Glynn Harbaugh, Cindy Scheermesser and Jeanne Thrasher and Frances Becker leading music

### Adult Sunday School

The Adult Class uses the *We Believe* series.  
Sandra Chilcote is our Adult Teacher

Winter Quarter 2014-2015  
Unit 3 - Stewardship for Life

- Feasting and Fasting (Daniel 1:5, 8-17; Matthew 6:16-18; 9:9-17)
- Serving Neighbors, Serving God (Luke 10:25-34)
- Serving the Least (Matthew 25:31-46)
- Clothed and Ready (Ephesians 6:10-20)



What is Lent?

How do I give  
 One flower can wake the dream.  
 One tree can start a forest,  
 One bird can herald spring.  
 One smile begins a friendship,  
 One handclasp lifts a soul.  
 One star can guide a ship at sea,  
 One word can frame the goal.  
 One vote can change a nation,  
 One sunbeam lights a room.  
 One candle wipes out darkness,  
 One laugh will conquer gloom.  
 One step must start each journey,  
 One word must start each prayer.  
 One hope will raise our spirits,  
 One touch can show you care.  
 One voice can speak with wisdom,  
 One heart can know what's true.  
 One life can make the difference,  
 You see, it's up to you!

John 3:16

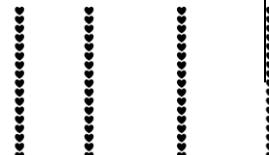
**THE GLEANER**

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February 2015



**It's Up To You**

One song can spark a moment,  
 One flower can wake the dream.  
 One tree can start a forest,  
 One bird can herald spring.  
 One smile begins a friendship,  
 One handclasp lifts a soul.  
 One star can guide a ship at sea,  
 One word can frame the goal.  
 One vote can change a nation,  
 One sunbeam lights a room.  
 One candle wipes out darkness,  
 One laugh will conquer gloom.  
 One step must start each journey,  
 One word must start each prayer.  
 One hope will raise our spirits,  
 One touch can show you care.  
 One voice can speak with wisdom,  
 One heart can know what's true.  
 One life can make the difference,  
 You see, it's up to you!

contributed by Sandra Chilcote

## Tom Forbes

A devotional written by Pastor Tom  
for his Preaching Class:

### Mark 6:34

As [Jesus] went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

This verse is the prelude to the familiar passage of the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus and the disciples were in need of rest after a mission trip. They set off by boat to a deserted place but the crowds were there waiting. The disciples were to have no rest that day. Jesus has compassion on the crowds for they were like sheep without a shepherd. In the Old Testament this metaphor refers to Israel when lacking a leader. As Jesus prepares to feed the crowd he has them sit down on the green grass. Mark is the only gospel writer to include this little detail of *green grass*. This, along with the shepherd metaphor, draws us to Psalm 23, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures." And Jesus begins to teach the people. I think this is the key to understanding the comfort that comes only from God. These sheep without a shepherd were vulnerable. They were unable to care for themselves. They were in danger of being lost. The peace, the comfort, the rest they needed wouldn't come from taking a vacation. It wouldn't come from having a better job. It wouldn't come from having more stuff and more money in the bank. It wouldn't come from getting more education. It wouldn't come from greater security. It wouldn't come whether or not they had better health insurance. The peace, comfort, and rest we all need comes only from understanding what Jesus will teach us, and following where he leads without fear. This imagery of green grass shows up again in the Bible. In Rev. 8, the seventh seal is broken, the trumpet blows, and all green grass of the earth is burned up. The peace, comfort, and rest of the world are tenuous and fleeting. Only in Christ do we find a lasting comfort for all that life brings. Let us pray: Lord, feed us with the teaching of Christ; sit us down in the green grass of your Word and Kingdom that we may have lasting peace, comfort, and rest. Amen.

## February Worship Services & Lectionary Readings—2015—Year B

Sunday, February 1 Food Pantry Collection Sunday  
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18: 15—20 Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8: 1—13 Mark 1: 21—28

Sunday, February 8 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40: 21—31 Psalm 147: 1—11, 20  
1 Corinthians 9: 16—23 Mark 1: 29—39

Sunday, February 15 Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2: 1—12 Psalm 50: 1—6  
2 Corinthians 4: 3—6 Mark 9: 2—9

Wednesday, February 18 Ash Wednesday

Joel 2: 1—2, 12—17 or Isaiah 58: 1—12 Psalm 51: 1—17  
2 Corinthians 5: 20—6:10 Matthew 6: 1—6, 16—21

Sunday, February 22 First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9: 8—17 Psalm 25: 1—10  
1 Peter 3: 18—22 Mark 1: 9—15

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17: 1—7, 15—16 Psalm 22: 23—31  
Romans 4: 13—25 Mark 8: 31—38

### Life and work of your church

Sunday 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship service

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month Presbyterian Women  
10:00 meet in the fellowship hall

Wednesday evenings 5:30 p.m. Bible study

Wednesday evenings 6:30 p.m. Choir practice

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month Church Women of  
of the Tri-Towns 12:00 noon

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month Food Pantry  
collection Sunday



## Piedmont Presbyterian Church's Mission Giving 2014

February	\$ 420.00	Piedmont Fire Victims
February	\$1,500.00	Baja Trip (from Wanda Guy bequest)
April	\$1,260.00	One Great Hour of Sharing
June	\$ 802.00	PW Birthday offering
Summer	\$ 150.00 and 1 volunteer	Children's Summer Lunch program
August	\$ 100.00	Union Rescue Mission
August	\$ 100.00	Potomac Fire Company
August	\$ 100.00	Tri-Towns Fire Company
August	\$ 75.00	National Child Service
November	\$ 404.00 and volunteers	Tri-Towns Food Pantry
December '13	\$1,006.00	Christmas Joy Offering
December '14	\$1,075.00	Christmas Joy Offering
December	\$2,420.00	Christmas Concert/ Lights of Love donated to Toys for Joy & Warm the children

### Thank you to all for your generosity !

In addition to monetary giving, a huge thank you goes out to all who make the church run. The church is a major team effort. Thank you to all the "behind the scenes" workers necessary for the church's livelihood.



TEAM PPC

## TEAMWORK

Alone we can do so little.

Together we can do so much.

Helen Keller

- Thank you also to Mike Hartman for a fantastic job in routing the wood in the sanctuary to hide the internet cable running to the choir loft. What a difference this made. Beautiful job Mike!
- The new blinds have been installed in the back half of the church. Thank you to all involved in getting these installed.
- The per capita apportionment tax for 2015 is \$15.00 per person.

## Information Please

When I was quite young, my father had one of the first telephones in our neighborhood. I remember well the polished old case fastened to the wall. The shiny receiver hung on the side of the box. I was too little to reach the telephone, but I used to listen with fascination when my mother used to talk to it.

Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person - her name was "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know. "Information Please" could supply anybody's number and the correct time.

My first personal experience with this genie-in-the-bottle came one day while my mother was visiting a neighbor. Amusing myself at the tool bench in the basement, I whacked my finger with a hammer. The pain was terrible, but there didn't seem to be any reason in crying because there was no one home to give sympathy. I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger, finally arriving at the stairway. The telephone! Quickly, I ran for the footstool in the parlor and dragged it to the landing. Climbing up, I unhooked the receiver in the hall and held it to my ear.

"Information Please," I said into the mouthpiece just above my head. A click or two and a small clear voice spoke into my ear.

"Information."

"I hurt my finger. . ." I wailed into the phone. The tears came readily enough now that I had an audience.

"Isn't your mother home?" came the question.

"Nobody's home but me." I blubbered.

"Are you bleeding?"

"No," I replied. "I hit my finger with the hammer and it hurts."

"Can you open your icebox?" she asked. I said I could. "Then chip off a little piece of ice and hold it to your finger," said the voice.

After that, I called "Information Please" for everything. I asked her for help with my geography and she told me where Philadelphia was. She helped me with my math. She told me my pet chipmunk that I had caught in the park just the day before would eat fruits and nuts.

Then, there was the time Petey, our pet canary died. I called "Information Please" and told her the sad story. She listened, then said the usual things grown-ups say to soothe a child. But I was unconsolated. I asked her, "Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?"

She must have sensed my deep concern, for she said quietly, "Paul, always remember that there are other worlds to sing in." Somehow I felt better.

Another day I was on the telephone. "Information Please."

"Information," said the now familiar voice. "How do you spell fix?" I asked.

All this took place in a small town in the Pacific northwest. When I was 9 years old, we moved across the country to Boston. I missed my friend very much. "Information Please" belonged in that old wooden box back home, and I somehow never thought of trying the tall, shiny new phone that sat on the table in the hall.

As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me. Often, in moments of doubt and perplexity I would recall the serene sense of security I had then I appreciated now how patient, understanding, and kind she was to have spent her time on a little boy.

A few years later, on my way west to college, my plane put down in Seattle. I had about half an hour or so between planes. I spent 15 minutes or so on the phone with my sister, who lived there now.

Then without thinking what I was doing, I dialed my hometown operator and said, "Information please." Miraculously, I heard the small, clear voice I knew so well, "Information."

I hadn't planned this but I heard myself saying, "Could you please tell me how to spell fix?" There was a long pause. Then came the soft spoken answer, "I guess your finger must have healed by now." I laughed. "So it's really still you," I said. "I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time."

"I wonder," she said, "if you know how much your calls meant to me." I never had any children, and I used to look forward to your calls."

I told her how often I had thought of her over the years and asked if I could call her again when I came back to visit my sister.

"Please do!" she said. "Just ask for Sally."

Three months later I was back in Seattle. A different voice answered "Information." I asked for Sally.

"Are you a friend?" she asked.

"Yes, a very old friend," I answered.

"I'm sorry to have to tell you this," she said. "Sally had been working part-time the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago."

Before I could hang up she said, "Wait a minute. Did you say your name was Paul?"

"Yes,"

"Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. Let me read it to you."

The note said, "Tell him I still say there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean."

I thanked her and hung up. I knew what Sally meant.

**Never underestimate the impression  
you may make on others.**



ACTS

AMOS

CHRONICLES

COLOSSIANS

CORINTHIANS

DANIEL

DEUTERONOMY

ECCLESIASTES

EPHESIANS

ESTHER

EXODUS

EZEKIEL

EZRA

GALATIANS

GENESIS

HABAKKUK

HAGGAI

HOSEA

ISAIAH

JEREMIAH

JOB

JOEL

JOHN

JONAH

JOSHUA

JUDGES

KINGS

LAMENTATIONS

LEVITICUS

LUKE

MALACHI

MARK

MATTHEW

MICAH

NAHUM

NEHEMIAH

NUMBERS

OBADIAH

PHILIPPIANS

PROVERBS

PSALMS

ROMANS

RUTH

SAMUEL

SONG OF SONGS

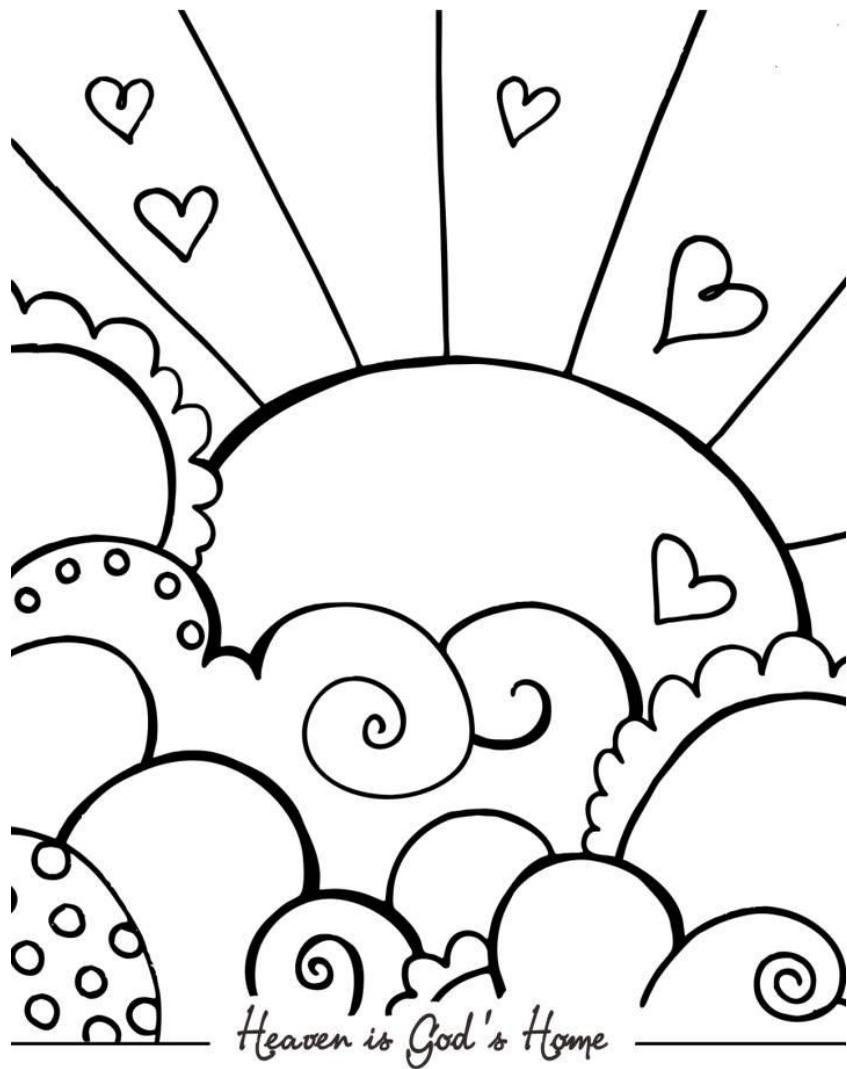
THESSALONIANS

TIMOTHY

TITUS

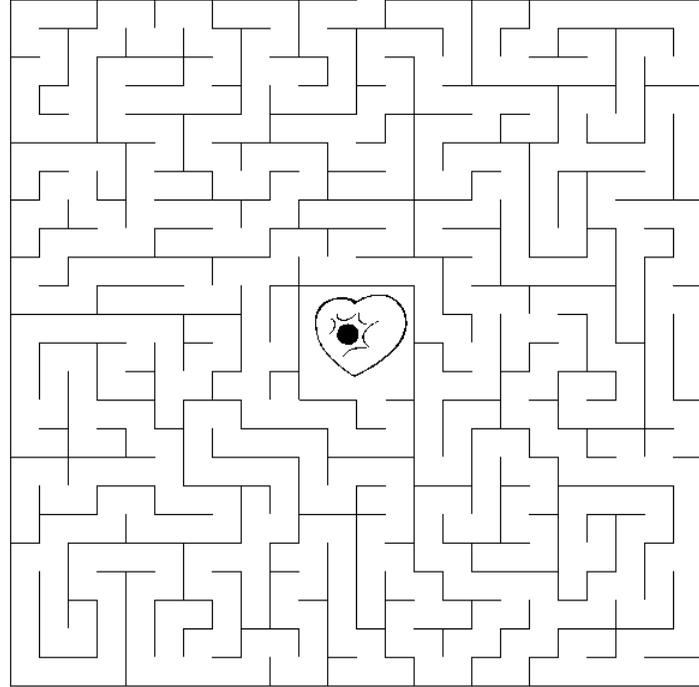
ZECHARIAH

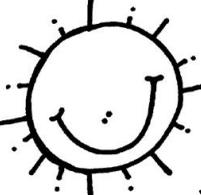
ZEPHANIAH

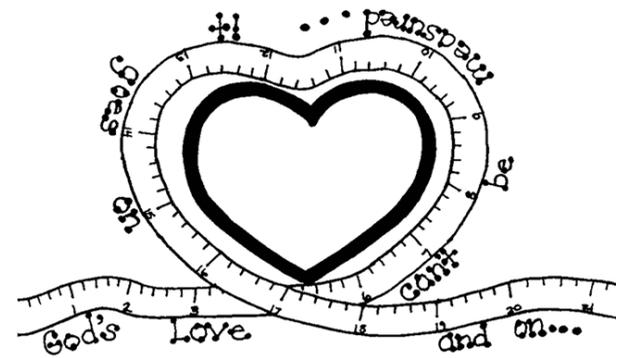
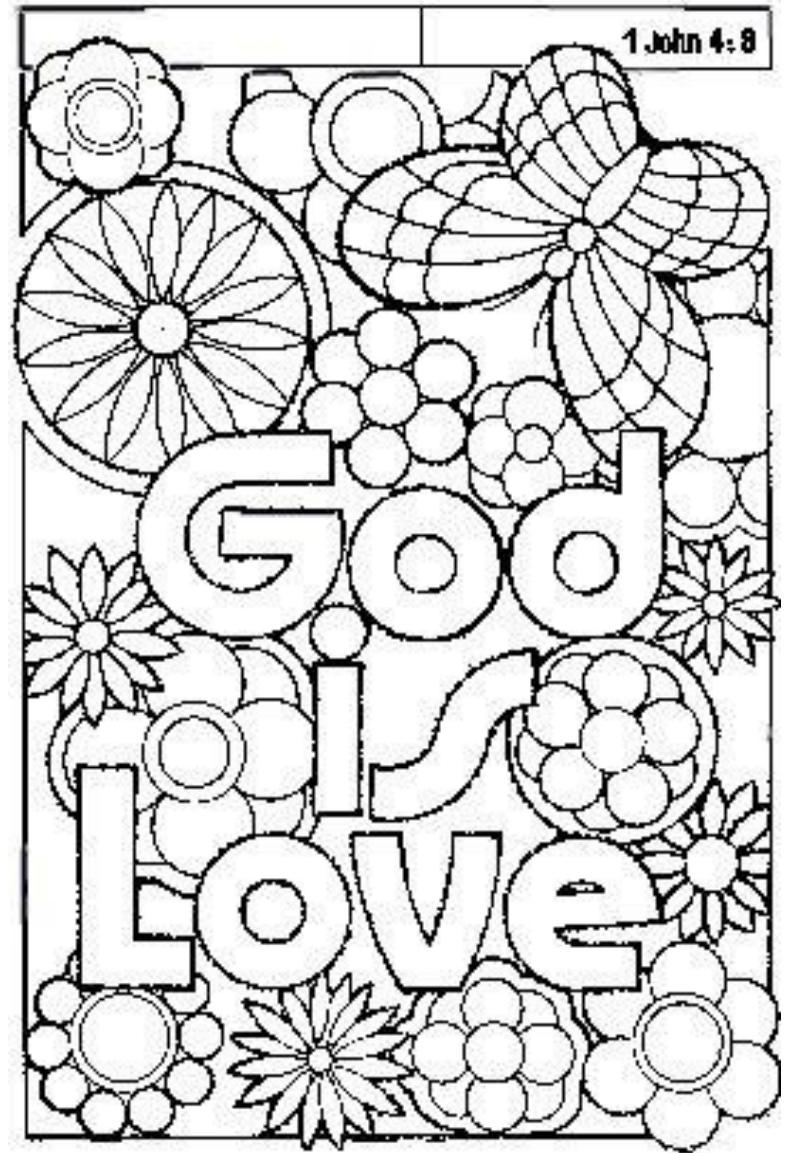


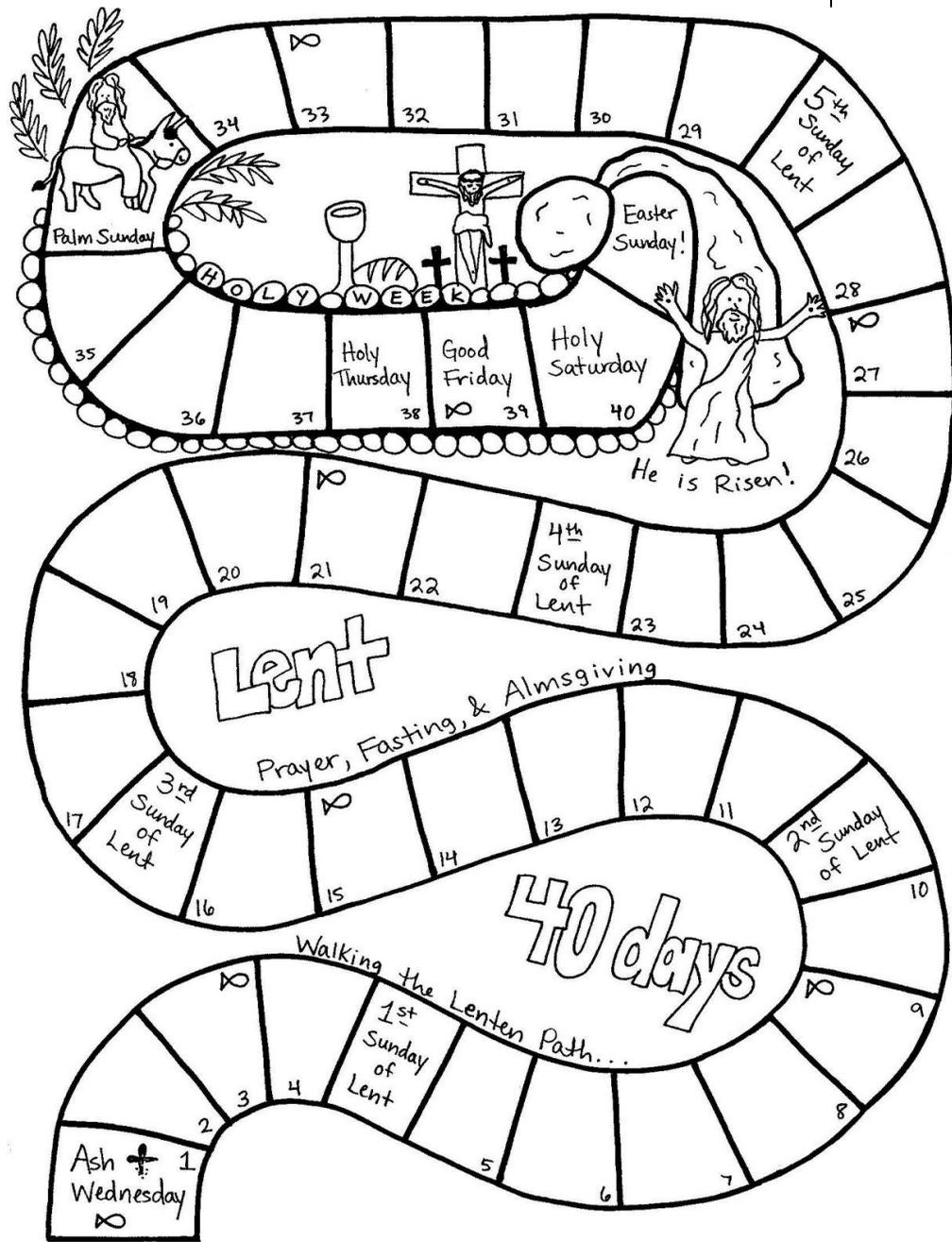
**JESUS** **LOVES** **ME**

# Valentine's Day maze



   **JESUS**   
 **wants ME for a**  
 **SUNBEAM**    
**to SHINE for Him each day**





Lent runs from Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> through Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

# Valentine Word Search

Look up, down, back, across and diagonal to find the words below.

L	A	P	F	P	I	H	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	A
E	D	V	E	D	T	O	T	R	E	A	T	E	S	D
S	T	O	T	V	R	N	V	P	O	C	F	N	L	S
O	V	F	S	W	E	A	P	L	N	H	R	D	V	R
F	P	A	R	R	O	W	C	T	S	O	A	O	N	E
O	L	F	L	O	T	W	A	F	H	C	T	E	P	W
U	A	N	H	E	A	R	T	T	L	O	V	L	V	O
R	Y	O	E	P	N	F	O	D	R	L	O	V	E	L
T	F	R	V	E	F	T	L	E	U	A	I	T	U	F
E	L	Y	A	W	S	T	I	F	C	T	E	W	C	S
E	T	E	T	U	L	E	L	N	F	E	B	N	U	P
N	E	S	N	F	R	O	V	I	E	R	F	R	P	D
T	E	P	W	V	T	B	F	R	U	H	L	T	I	V
H	W	O	V	L	F	N	E	B	W	C	A	N	D	Y
D	S	L	A	T	W	E	T	F	N	A	L	S	I	O

VALENTINE  
CHOCOLATE  
HEART  
LOVE  
SWEET  
FRIENDSHIP  
CARD

FEBRUARY  
CUPID  
ARROW  
CANDY  
FOURTEENTH  
FLOWERS  
TREAT



Psalm 104:34- My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

