

# Circuit Rider

Saybrook United Methodist Church  
*"People trying to live like Jesus"*  
7900 S. Depot Rd., Ashtabula, OH 44004  
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**February 2023**  
Pastor for both churches  
**Rev. Vernon Palo**  
Plymouth Community  
United Methodist Church  
*Joyfully Share God's Love,  
Compassion, Mercy, and Hope that  
Transforms the Lives of Others.*  
Church: 440-998-0260

Dear Friends,

As we enter into the month of February, images of hearts, cupids, flowers and candy easily come to mind, all connecting with something called **Love**. The question I have for you is "**What is Love?**". The apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, declares that an individual can possess any spiritual gift but if it is not accompanied by "**Love**" it is useless. What I understand Paul striving to do here is to give a description of, **Christian Love**. That **love** above all else is the supreme bond. Paul was concerned with spiritual unity and also the quality of our Christian fellowship.

Still the question remains, "**What is Love?**". The word that Paul used in the original Greek was "**Agape**". It should be understood that "agape was not the usual word used in Corinth when referring to **love**, the more common word was "Eros". **Love** in this use referred to the sensual or erotic passions. Corinth had the reputation of being one of the most sensual cities of the ancient world, comparable to Las Vegas or Paris France of our present day world.

What Paul was doing was using a new word to convey a new meaning. The word "agape" signifies moral **love**. It conveys the idea of moral **love**, friendship, and good will. There is an element of reverence in it, indicating what man's attitude toward God and his fellow man ought to be. The **love** of which the apostle Paul writes has nothing whatsoever to do with the senses, spiritual qualities or emotions. I believe Paul's goal here was to give **love** a moral and spiritual quality.

As mentioned this "agape" type of **love** which Paul speaks of is not a feeling or emotional type of **love**. Rather it is a type of **love** that Christ showed us, loving us enough to die for us. "Agape" **love** first draws the Christian out of a self-centered

life into one of unity with Christ and fellow believers. Romans 8:38-39 tells us "that nothing in life or death can then separate us from the **love** of God".

In Paul's view, all churches (present day included) can and ought to be regarded first and foremost as a new order of friends. We are different because of the **love** of Christ that reigns within us. Paul's letter in every sense was a essay on Friendship, intended to foster the spirit of Christian friendship. As a spiritual community it is proper if we can be characterized by our spiritual bond , that unites us in faith, loyalty and **love**, first to our Lord and then to one another.

Paul is pleading with the church not to do as he thinks best but rather to fulfil the intention of its founder Jesus Christ, to create an order of friendship as the world has never seen before. What is **Love**? Easier then a definition is a description of its works, John 15:9 "I have loved you even as the father has loved me. "Live within my **love**." An extension to this verse might be, let us **love** one another as Christ has loved us.

Paul was aware of the defects and blemishes of the early church and ancient world just as we are aware of the defects and blemishes of the church and world present day. But unlike the critics both ancient and modern, he refused to stand apart from these poor examples, to give up on them, to quit, rather to keep on loving them just as Jesus did. As Mentioned before "Agape" is a moral kind of **love**, a **love** that doesn't give up, a **love** that is Supreme.

What is **love** then? **Love** is something from God, a very real part of God. As you reread, 1 Corinthians 13 concentrate on verse 8, especially the final part, "**Love** goes on forever".

Yours in Agape **Love**  
*Pastor Vernon & Karen Palo*



# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### SAYBROOK UMC

- 1 Penny Vaughn
- 4 Judith Verdi
- 4 Khloe Stout
- 4 Emma Stoneman
- 7 Maddie Loudermilk
- 7 Paige Fox
- 8 Susan Miller
- 12 **Donald & Mary Clugh**
- 13 Jim Keesler
- 20 Linda Gray
- 20 Mia Loveland
- 20 Kyle Richmond
- 20 Jacob Palmer
- 24 Ellen Benedict
- 27 Mary Lewis
- 28 Landon Pimental
- 28 Abby Parks



“I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

### PLYMOUTH UMC

- 1 Linda Miller
- 20 Debbie Poff
- 20 Sue McCracken
- 21 Michelle Kingston

Every one of your birthdays  
is a gift to the rest of us  
who have had the pleasure  
of having you in our lives  
for another year.

Every one of your birthdays  
brings joyful memories  
of your bright smile  
and your love of life.

Every one of your birthdays  
reminds us of your sensitivity  
and service to others,  
and other delights  
too numerous to name  
that we are gifted with  
just by knowing you.

Happy Birthday  
to one in a million.

May you, and we  
enjoy many more.

By Joanna Fuchs



*As a local United Methodist Congregation we promise to honor God with:*

Our Churches, Shut Ins, Military, Our Pastor & Family,  
Missionaries, Ed & Linda Gray, Richard Clugh, River,  
Betty Hansen, Jim & Phyllis Wright, Dean Moore, Howard Hewitt, Erik Pimentel,  
Kurt Brindley, Linda Johnson, Sarrah Brown, Mary Lewis, Stoneman Family,  
Jackie McKee, Jim McKee, Keith Youngberg, Louise Ebetino, Chuck Ebetino,  
Kelly Forren, Monna O'Connor, Lisa Buck, Virgil & Carol Hammonds,  
Gary & Debbie Munson, Ron McIvaine, Charlene Hopkins, Mike Greenwood,  
Marilyn Wenner, Kathy Feiler, Dixie & Larry Leggett, Billy Hudson, Sue Hogan,  
Robin Nagle, Lou Buck, Bill Swanson, Edie Ann, Denny & Bobbi Heil,  
Diane (Swiger), Don & Mary Clugh, Diana Cheryl McLaren, Shelley Didonato,  
Chris Stiltner, John, Tim Cambell, Rick Arnold, Leo, Harold Miller,  
Rev. Joe Platt, Mallory Wickert, Kelli Nelson, Patty Moore, Emily Fisher,  
Cheryl Josson, Ruth Falcione, Don Lute, Jim Smith, Barb Conrad.  
Baby Zayne Pniewski, Paul Gynn, Marvin Dietrich, Janet, Cheryl Josson  
Pam Thompson & family, Rev. Vernon Palo

**We have several handicap accessories that we are able to loan to those in need, such as a few walkers, wheelchair, potty chair etc. Please don't hesitate to borrow. That's what they are here for.**

## *Our Service*

**Worship Service on Sunday's**  
**8:30am at the Plymouth UMC**  
**10:00am at the Saybrook UMC &**  
**9:00am Adult Sunday School**  
**WOW 6:00pm on Wed.**

## *Our Gifts*

***Saybrook Stewardship Update***  
***For the General Budget***  
***01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022***

<b>Offerings &amp; Income</b>	<b>\$189,746.69</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>- \$207,034.23</b>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>-\$17,287.54</b>

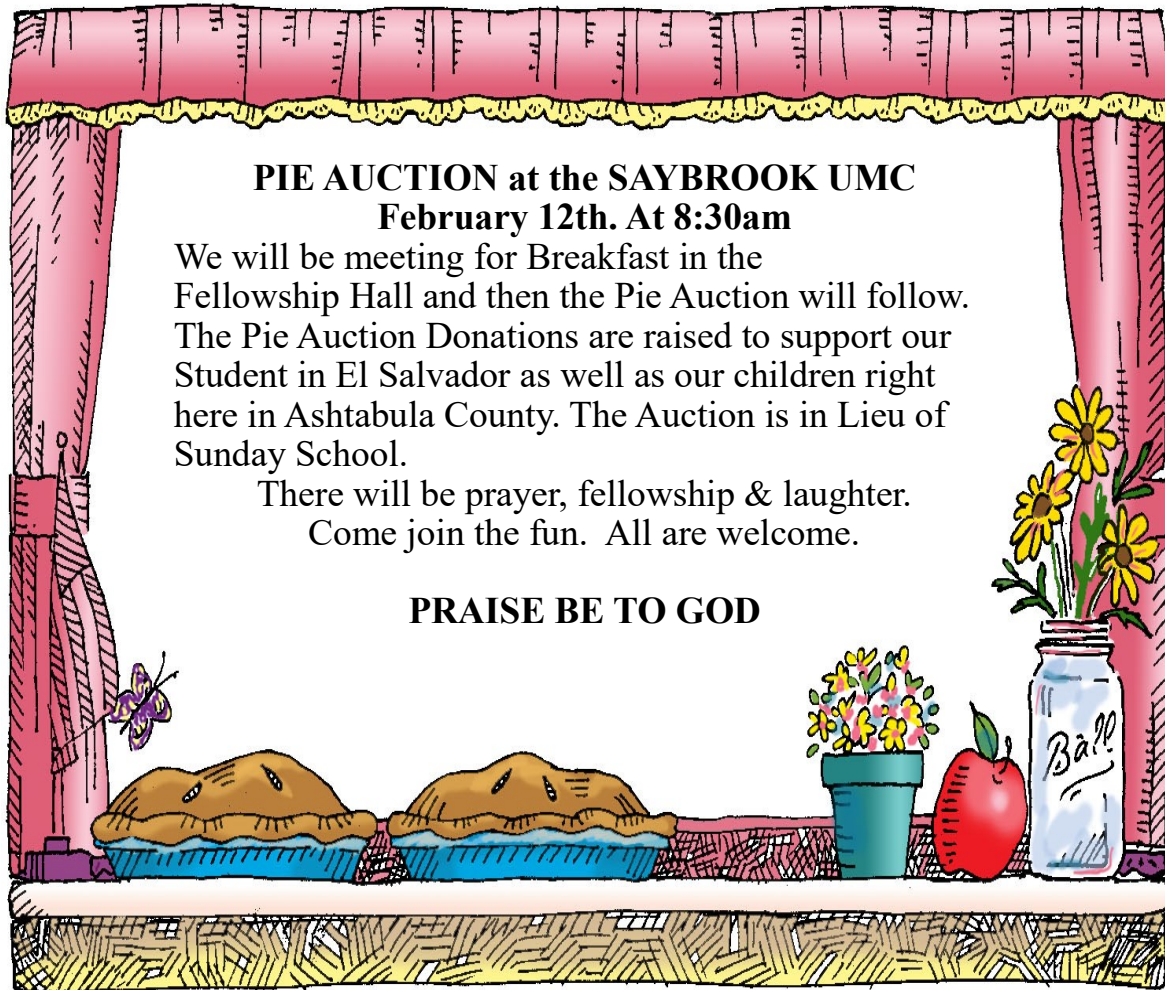
### **At the Saybrook UMC**

**February 5th.** Our guest speaker will be **Rev. Chet Harris** from the Wesleyan Covenant Association.

After service we will have **Pot Luck in the Fellowship Hall** & Rev. Harris will be discussing and taking questions regarding the Global Methodist Church and the Disaffiliation.

Please bring in a dish to share for the Pot Luck if you are able

***"We Will Be Taking Up A Love Offering for Rev. Harris"***



**PIE AUCTION at the SAYBROOK UMC  
February 12th. At 8:30am**

We will be meeting for Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall and then the Pie Auction will follow. The Pie Auction Donations are raised to support our Student in El Salvador as well as our children right here in Ashtabula County. The Auction is in Lieu of Sunday School.

There will be prayer, fellowship & laughter.  
Come join the fun. All are welcome.

**PRAISE BE TO GOD**

**Loving Pair**

It takes two special people,  
To make a loving pair.  
There's a joy just being around you,  
A feeling we love to share.  
We send anniversary wishes to you,  
For years of joy and pleasure.  
May each year keep getting better,  
With memories to treasure.

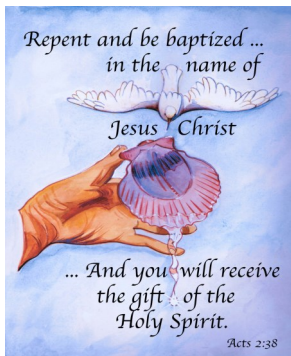
*By Joanna and Karl Fuchs*

Love  
ONE ANOTHER

**INTERESTED IN JOINING THE  
SAYBROOK or PLYMOUTH CHURCH ?**

A informational meeting will be held later in February or early March. Pastor Vernon will answer any questions you may have about the church and a schedule for a future new members class.

Please call the church office with your interest or simply share with Pastor.



**HOLY BAPTISM FOR ANY AGE**



If you are interested, please see Rev. Palo to discuss this most important issue.

**Thanks**   
**FOR PITCHING IN!**

A special thanks to Jeff Nelson (Saybrook) for the trimming down the doors that were sticking in the basement rooms and the rehanging of the doors at the Plymouth Church. Also the front door of the Plymouth parsonage.

A special thanks to Chuck Sharp (Plymouth) and his brother Jessie for taking care of the church sign at the corner of Rt. 46 and Plymouth Rd. The large sign had been removed when the county cut down the tree at the corner. Not only did the "Sharp" boys level and position the sign correctly, they also cemented to in prevent future problems.

If you see any of these gentlemen let them know of our appreciation. Also let us know of others who are doing the behind the scenes work for our Lord and His Church.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Saybrook 6:00pm WOW	2	3	4 Saybrook 8:30Men's Group Plymouth 10:00am Choir Practice
5 8:30am Plymouth Saybrook 9am Adult SS 10:00am Worship Guest Speaker & Pot Luck after Service	6 Noon Spring Chics at the Pie Shop	7 Saybrook 6:00pm Trustees	8 Saybrook 6:00pm WOW	9	10	11 District Leadership Training at the Mayfield UMC
12 8:30am Plymouth Saybrook 8:30am Breakfast Pie Auction 10:00 Worship	13 Saybrook 5:00pm Education	14 Plymouth 6:00pm AD Council Meeting 	15 Saybrook 6:00pm WOW	16	17	18 Saybrook 8:30Men's Group Plymouth 10:00am Choir Practice 10:15am Worship & Music
19 8:30am Plymouth Saybrook 9am Adult SS 10:00am Worship	20 Presidents Day	21 Plymouth Produce Distribution 3-5pm Saybrook 6:00 AD Council	22 Saybrook 6:00pm WOW	23 Saybrook 5:00pm Community Dinner	24	25
26 8:30am Plymouth Saybrook 9am Adult SS 10:00am Worship	27 Saybrook 9:30am Missions Plymouth Food Pantry 3-5pm	28	AA Sundays & Tuesdays here at 7:00pm			



## **VALENTINE BOXES FOR STUDENTS & MILITARY**

Please let us know if you have a son, daughter or grandchild in the Military or College that you would like a Valentine box sent to.

Write down the name and address and give to Pam Whelan  
(or email to [bobdawn53@hotmail.com](mailto:bobdawn53@hotmail.com))  
or Cheryl McLaren by Jan.31st. That's today!

Needed are donations of wrapped cookies or treats that can be left in the kitchen or upstairs in the marked box. Donations for mailing are also appreciated.

Also, we will be making treat bags for the residents of  
Saybrook Landing.

Please have the donations and treats at the church by the **first** so we will know what we have to purchase.

We will be packing the boxes this  
coming **Friday, February 3rd.**



# Valentine's Day

