

FEBRUARY 2026

*THE PURPOSE OF **DESERT SHORES COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH** IS TO SHARE THE LOVE AND SAVING GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST WITH EVERYONE, THROUGH GOD'S POWER, MAKE DISCIPLES WHO LOVE GOD.*



“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” Matthew 28:19

The Beacon



Love Is.....

We again arrive at the wonderful month of February, a month known for “valentine’s day”. We all seem to think more about love during this month. We are reminded to show that special person we love them by taking them out for a nice dinner, flowers, and maybe some entertainment. Some of us just look forward to being alone with our mate and resting together. All of these things seem good ways to show that we care for someone and that they have made our lives better.

What we sometimes forget is that love has different meanings. We recently went over Jesus’ restoration of Peter in John chapter 21. We saw the different meanings of love. Love is not always demonstrated in a manner in keeping with the teaching of scripture. For example, we all know I Corinthians 13 is the love chapter. We like to quote it when someone is not being very loving.

All the Greek words for love in I Cor 13, are noun form of the Greek word agape. The root word agape means unconditional love, a strong positive emotion of regard and affection. It is identified as God’s love towards mankind as shown by the actions of Christ. The Gospel is God’s definition of love, real agape love. God’s love never fails. Mankind will fail in showing this agape love towards one another, but God’s love towards us will never fail, even when we don’t understand what God is doing.

Love is a noun, a “person, place or thing”. It is a concept we need to continually strive to understand as a people that God has called out to show the world what love means. This is why love is a noun, but it is demonstrated by an action, or as we call it in English, a verb. The most well-known verse has this action/verb form of the thing called love, or the agape love of God is in John 3:16. If we truly love someone, we want them to know both in their minds and heart what God has done for them and receive it into their minds and hearts. We know that this “God Love” can only come about through the power of God, the Holy Spirit working in their lives. We all want God’s Spirit to control us. We all want to “walk” in the Spirit and show others God’s love.

But the things I Corinthians 13 is telling us to demonstrate are hard, difficult, and not always part of our nature, or at least our human nature. That is why we need to surrender to God’s Spirits work in our lives.

Instead of us insisting that others be patient with us, we need to be patient with others. Instead of criticizing someone for harsh words, we need to be mindful of our harsh words. Instead of being jealous that someone else is being recognized, we take time to recognize someone. Instead of being upset that our talents are not being identified and praised, we praise and encourage someone who is using their gifts to serve. I could go on through the whole chapter, but I hope you get my meaning or view on showing love. All of us need to work on this.

Continued on page 2

Desert Shores,

Hello Church Family! I just wanted to update you all on how God has been working in our young family ministry. We are continuing to grow every time we meet for our young family's Bible study on Wednesday. It is such a blessing to watch how God is working in everyone's lives as they continue to put the world to the side and seek Jesus. We recently started talking about baptisms and had an amazing response. God willing, we will have up to 8 people getting baptized in our next baptism. Also, several baby dedications! At one of our last Bible studies, we had 12 children! This is an amazing sign that God is bringing exactly what we need into our church. I have also watched several people step up and volunteer to make this ministry possible. I continue to tell people that God is working over time here at Desert Shores!

We do have a Baptism coming up in the beginning of March. If you are not baptized this would be a great time to start thinking about it. The Baptist Faith and Message says "**Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead.**"

This is an outward expression of an inward transformation. If you have already given your life to Christ and you feel it's time to take the next step, this is it. If you have more questions you need answered please feel free to reach out to myself or Pastor George. I cannot wait to see how God is going to move this year!

God Bless,
Nick

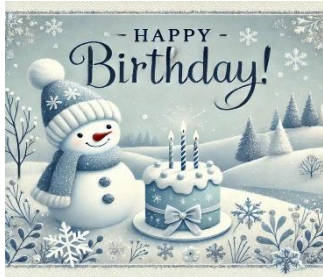


Pastor GeorgeContinued from page 1

The last three verses of this chapter go as follows: 1 Corinthians 13:11–13 “When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

As we grow in the Lord, we need to develop our reasoning and let go of some of the things of the past. We all have had to face challenges and make difficult decisions. That is part of growing up. One day, we will be able to look back on situations and how they allowed us to grow. We will have a better understanding of things. We will have a better understanding of God's love for us! Remember, I love you!

God Bless,
Pastor George



February Birthdays

2/3
 David Dunn
 2/6
 Petra Boop
 2/8
 Beth Mason
 Bill Kriech
 Jenny Elias
 2/9
 Doreen Hammer
 Walter Ray
 2/12
 Linda Loucks
 2/13
 Myrna Allen
 2/16
 Glenda Earnest
 2/17
 Brittany Pisano
 2/18
 Betty Ray
 2/19
 Susan Forde
 2/20
 Richard Dodson
 2/22
 Hannah Watts
 2/25
 Achilles Kater
 Marissa Childs
 Pamella Schlawffman
 Tracy Weisz
 2/28
 Chloe Spawn



February Events:

February 7th
 Men's Breakfast
 8am

February 11th
 AST Meeting
 4pm

February 13th
 Valentine Dinner
 6-8pm

February 15th
 Comedy Show

**THANK YOU to all the
 volunteers for helping
 with the EVENTS, past
 and future! We have a lot
 of EVENTS coming up
 and if you are interested in
 helping out, we would
 greatly appreciate it.**

**Grace, Peace & Love,
 Nick Childs &
 Roberta Oleson**

Weekly Events:

Sunday 9:00am Sunday School
 9:00am Faith Builders Class
 9:00am Titus Women
 10:30am Worship Service
 2:30pm SunRidge Village
 Monday 5:00pm Choir Practice
 5:00pm Creation Series
 6:00pm Praise Team practice
 Tuesday 9:00am Prayer Team
 10:30am Davis Place
 1:00pm Silver Creek
 2:30 Joshua Springs Memory Care
 3:00pm Joshua Springs
6:30pm Men's Bible Study
 Wednesday **8:00am Men's Bible Study**
9:30am Women's Bible Study
6:30pm Bible Study - Galatians
 Thursday 6:30pm Family Game Night
 Last Thursday of the Month
 1:30pm Legacy
 8:00pm Young Adult Bible Study
 Friday 8:00am Men's Bible Study
 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous
 6:30pm Movie Night
 Last Friday of the Month
 Saturday 8:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 First Saturday of the Month
 6:00pm Contemporary Worship Serv.

February Anniversaries

14th
 Linda & Bill Kriech
 16th
 Ron & Jackie DeVall
 17th
 Karen & Martin Pezely
 22nd
 Gary & Linda Lutz

CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD



*When the Holy Spirit passes the offering plate,
step in.... God is not so much interested in your
money; He's interested in you.*

David Grant

COME PRAY WITH US!

Philippians 4:6

**Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by
prayer and petition with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.**

*“Cast your burden on the Lord,
and he will sustain you”*

Psalm 55:22

**Our Prayer Meeting is at 9:00 on Tuesday
Mornings! Please join us!**

**If you have any requests or praises you can
email them to**

Ljneitz57@gmail.com

**Or text them to
928.201.8924**

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

My morning walks with God

A friend told me a story about when her mother became a grandmother. She told her kids that she wanted her grandmother name to be “Grandmother” ... plain and simple. Well, when the first grandchild was born, he couldn't pronounce “Grandmother” correctly. The best she got out of him was “Gramucker.” (LOL!) When her second grandchild came along, once again, “Grandmother” just wasn't working and the child called her something totally different. So, she decided that she'd just let them call her whatever they came up with.

Then the third grandchild came along. One day, while still a toddler, the grandchild asked her mother, “Can we go to ‘I Love You's’ house? The mother replied, “What are you talking about?” The child replied, “I want to go to ‘I Love You's’ house?” Not understanding what the child was saying, the mother asked, “Who are you talking about?” The toddler was trying to tell her mother with her limited vocabulary that she wanted to go to her grandmother's house. The reason she named her “I Love You” was because those were the main words she had always heard her grandmother say to her. It was then that “I Love You” became her grandmother name. From the mouths of babes!

So, this brings up a couple of inspirational thoughts for today. Thought number one ... If you were to be given a name by others based on the words you most often speak, what would your name be? Would it be something positive and sweet, or would it be negative and harsh? What a thought!

Thought number two ... The Bible says in 1 John 4:8 “God is LOVE.” His love is what He is best known for. Do those around you understand the LOVE of God through you, and through the words you speak in reference to Him? Or, do you emphasize God's judgement and justice to the neglect of His great love?

Friends, just in case you haven't heard it lately, GOD LOVES YOU!

GOD IS LOVE.

1 John 4:8

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

*Stay ahead of the game and become informed. Events
of the Tribulation are casting a shadow today. The
shout and the trumpet are close. He is coming soon!*

Jan Markel

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

“A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great; and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.”

This best-known and most enduring hymn from the early Protestant Reformation celebrates the utter invincibility of almighty God – and in particular the safety He affords those who take refuge in Him. It begins with a powerful statement echoing Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength”.

By the end of our first stanza, however, the focus of the hymn is on “our ancient foe”, the devil. No doubt many careless singers have belted out the closing phase of the first stanza (“... On earth is not his equal”) as if it were a line of praise about God. But Satan, not God, is the subject here. He is, after all, the believer’s arch-adversary. It is fitting that a hymn about God as our stronghold should consider what kind of a threat Satan poses to the security of that stronghold.

Some have suggested that Luther had an obsession with the devil. A well-known legend has Luther heaving an ink-pot across the room at Satan. Supposedly, the ink stain is still visible on a wall in Wartburg Castle today (though most researchers believe the ink-stain was deliberately applied to the wall long after Luther’s time in order to substantiate the popular legend). In figurative terms, Luther certainly did throw a printer’s ink-pot at the devil, with his translation of Scripture into the language of the people and with his own voluminous writings, including this favorite hymn.

But Luther never wrote of Satan’s fierce power and opposition without also stressing the still greater power of God and the certainty of the devil’s destruction. The third stanza of this hymn is a classic example. Here Luther also highlights the absolute ease with which God’s power will overthrow both Satan and a world full of his evil minions. “One little word” from the Lord’s lips will be their undoing. The hymn is filled with rich theology and biblical references. Each verse building on the last. The triumphant final verse of the hymn distills the message of the whole and closes as it began, with an echo of Psalm 46: “Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.....The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

Read or sing the whole song and be truly blessed!
(excerpts from the book *Worship the King*)



SENIOR MINISTRY

The Senior Ministry is doing well and the volunteers are so invaluable. The volunteers bring not only their assistance to the seniors in helping them with pages in the songbooks, but also in sharing the love of Jesus by their affection and giving individual attention to another person. The seniors look forward to our weekly meetings/services! We are blessed as we bless others.

We always encourage church members to come to a service or two BEFORE deciding if this is a ministry God is calling you to try. The days and times for the individual services are listed in the weekly church bulletin and in the Beacon. Please consider attending and observing to see the joy you can bring to another individual. You will see how easy it is to be part of a service simply by a word of encouragement and a smile!

We look forward to seeing you!

Rick and Karen Bickman

PEACE IN TODAY'S WORLD

Behold Israel

Many today have a negative perception of Christianity because, in their minds, they see it as a list of “thou shalt nots”. Therefore, it is restrictive to pursuing their desired behaviors. Peter even made this observation about how they view us as followers of Christ:

1 Peter 4:4

In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

The word dissipation means “unsavedness”. In other words, the world will think it strange that we don’t do what they do, and they will call us evil for not participating with them in those things. Think about how this applies today. The pro-life group is viewed as a threat to women’s health, although it is the pro-choice crowd who are actually the guilty party in that accusation. The believers of the biblical definition of the sanctity of marriage are viewed as bigots and haters.

We are viewed as narrow-minded fools bound by the content of a fictional book supposedly authored by a nonexistent God. The reality is that the opposite is actually true. We are not bound; we are the most free people on the planet.

John 8:36

Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

We are free from worry about the future because we already know it. We are free from ignorance about what happens after you die, for Jesus has proven it. We are free from the fear of wars and rumors of wars that dominate the media and the minds of the masses in these last days, because we know the ultimate outcome of them all. God wins!

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

We are even free from living under the anxieties created by the perilous times in which we now live. We are so free from these things that we have peace that the world cannot understand.

We also know that there is coming a transition for us as we move from this life to the next. New bodies await us that will never grow old nor will they fight against our flesh’s desire to rule our decisions and actions.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

In these crazy times we need to remember that Jesus said He is coming suddenly. For us, it seems likely it is very soon! When He does come, in a moment and twinkling of an eye, we will be like Him for we will see Him as He is!

Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus,

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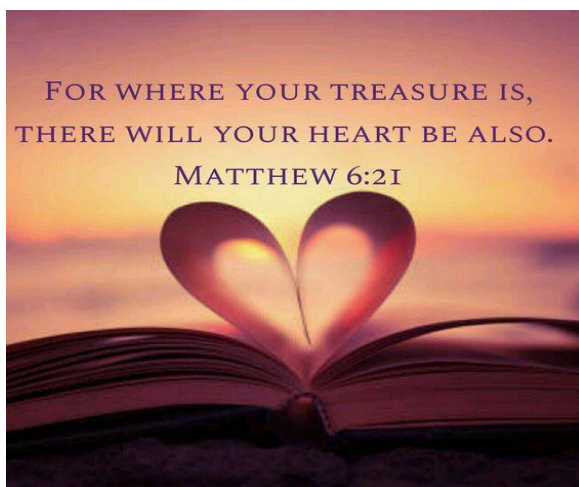
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SNAKEBITE! ***Experiencing Life Today***

Then the people came to Moses and cried out, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take away the snakes.” So Moses prayed for the people. — Numbers 21:7

Dealing with people’s gripes and grumbles can wear you down. Moses and Aaron were constantly dealing with discontented people. The children of Israel became impatient with their leaders and with the direction the Lord was taking them. They had just won a major military victory (Numbers 21:3), and they became self-confident. They blasphemed God, rejected Moses, and complained about the manna, the bread from heaven. “We hate this wretched manna!” they said (21:5). By rejecting the food, they were rejecting God’s gracious provision (John 6:32-35, 48-51, 58). God’s response was to send poisonous snakes among the people, and many died (Numbers 21:6). God judged their complaining attitude but also provided a way of escape. God’s remedy was a bronze snake on a pole. All who looked at the bronze snake lived (21:8-9). It’s easy to complain, but it’s wrong. The Bible says we mustn’t do it. Paul warned the Corinthians not to “put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites” (1 Corinthians 10:9). We are to “stay away from complaining and arguing” (Philippians 2:14). Once we have received eternal life, we don’t stop complaining overnight. Yet complaining has no place in believers’ lives. Complaining is habit-forming and can be self-destructive. We should stop grumbling about our husbands, children, church, or friends. Life may feel like a desert, and we may be hot and tired and anxious for a new place to live and work, but beware of complaining about anything or anyone—it’s like a poisonous snakebite!

Jill Briscoe



In An Ever-Darkening World, We Can Find Solace In Bible Prophecy

By David Reagan

Each morning when I turn on the television, I am assaulted with news of violence and sexual perversion. I often feel so much rage, I am tempted to throw something at the TV!

My wife once told me that I could likely have a hit TV reality show based solely on video footage of me watching the news and responding to it passionately.

So, how do I resist tumbling into despair? I think of what Psalm 2 says God is doing in Heaven. The psalm says that while all the politicians of the world are shaking their fists at Him and mocking His Word, He is sitting on His throne in Heaven laughing! ([Psalm 2:4](#)).

Why is God laughing? Is it because He is not concerned? Never! He is laughing because He has everything under control. To put it another way, He has the wisdom and power to orchestrate all the evil of Mankind and Satan to the triumph of His Son, Jesus.

Why is this consoling? Because, if God is laughing, why should I be pulling my hair out? I should, instead, rest in the assurance that God has everything under control.

Further, all of us should be able to find solace in the fact that Bible prophecy specifically states that in the end times, right before the return of Jesus, the world will grow increasingly dark — to the point that it will become as evil as society was in the days of Noah ([Matthew 24:38-39](#)).

Thus, the bright side of the growing evil in the world is that it is a sure sign that we are living in the season of the Lord’s return. If you will check Genesis 6, you will find that Noah’s society was characterized by violence and immorality.

This is the reason that the great pastor, Adrian Rogers (1931-2005), once said, “The world is growing gloriously dark.” How can the acceleration of evil be considered “glorious”? Because it is a sign of the imminent return of Jesus.

The Messianic Jewish evangelist, [Jan Markell](#), has expressed Adrian Rogers’ insightful observation in another way. Pointing out that people are always expressing so much concern to her about how the world seems to be falling to pieces, she says that she responds by saying, “That’s true, but we need to keep in mind that according to Bible prophecy, the pieces are all falling into place.”

So, do not despair. Instead, rejoice that you are privileged to live in the season of the Lord’s return. Therefore, keep your eyes on Jesus and be assured that He will triumph over the news.

And don’t forget to begin each day praying, “Maranatha!” ([1 Corinthians 16:22](#)).