



**Matthew 22:37-39**—<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>[b]</sup>

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

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|-------------|---|
| February 4  | Men’s Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 AM<br>VBS Workers Meeting, 9:30 AM   |
| February 7  | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM  |
| February 8  | Tabitha’s Sewing, 10:30 AM<br>Mid-week Activities—Prayer Meeting, 6:00 PM<br>Youth, AWANA (Hugs & Kisses Night), 6:00 PM<br>Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM<br>Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| February 9  | WMU, 10:00 AM<br>Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM   |
| February 12 | Building & Grounds Committee meeting, 12N   |
| February 13 | Budget & Finance Committee meeting, 3:30 PM<br>Deacon’s Meeting, 5:00 PM  |
| February 14 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM<br><b>Happy Valentine’s Day!</b>   |
| February 15 | Mid-week Activities—Prayer Meeting, 6:00 PM<br>Youth, AWANA (Dig for Dollars), 6:00 PM<br>Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM<br>Choir Practice, 7:30 PM                                   |
| February 16 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM  |
| February 21 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM  |
| February 22 | Mid-week Activities—Prayer Meeting, 6:00 PM<br>Youth, AWANA (AWANA Store), 6:00 PM<br>Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM<br>Choir Practice, 7:30 PM                                       |
| February 23 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM  |
| February 28 | Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM  |



## CHRISTIAN CALLER

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**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
**WE DESIRE TO HONOR GOD BY**  
**LEADING PEOPLE TO BECOMING**  
**FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS**  
**OF JESUS CHRIST.**



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### A Word From Our Pastor

When I was a boy I used to tie my old rusty wagon to the back of my bike. Still have the wagon. It's in my back yard holding plants. Don't have the bike anymore, but it was cool... green metallic with a banana seat. Anyway, with the wagon trailing behind my bike, my brother and I would comb all the ditches of the main road leading to town picking up coke bottles. Those things were like gold to us. You remember. I guess to two ornery little boys who didn't have much sense, a couple of cents was like gold. When our wagon was full, we'd pull 'em to town to "Tenorio's Grocery Store" and get our paycheck, then spend it all on a sugary buzz of penny candy and a Big Red. Ah! The days! We'd thought we hit pay dirt with our business scheme to take advantage of what dumb people just threw away.

Mom and dad used to take us as kids to Wimberley, to a place called "Pioneer Town," located on the 7A Ranch. It was an old western ghost town... a kids dream place. I loved it, but in that place was a house made completely out of coke bottles. I mean it! Walls, ceilings, the roof, even the windows were a stained glass mixture of soda pop bottles. All in shades of greens, and browns, blues and white glass bottles. It was beautiful. Inside the sun shining through all those coke bottles made it look like you were inside a kaleidoscope of sparkling gems and diamonds. Boy, that house made me think of all the candy and Big Red I could buy on those returns. Too many to fit in my wagon. It's amazing what people throw away, that another might pick up and turn into a treasure... or a sugary delight for a little red-headed imp.

Some years ago, a man named Ray Bolts wrote these words, "Grandpa and me, every week or so, we'd go walking down a country road looking for something others drove right past. Maybe they were late, and they were dogging the throttle. Maybe they just didn't notice the bottles shining like diamonds in the grass. We would pick them up, and we'd cash 'em in. He'd look at me and I'd look at him, and he'd say, 'Thrown away! Can you believe the things they toss aside, and leave 'em where they lay? Oh, but they can be saved if you will take the time and try to find the good along the way. Oh, what this world throws away!'"

What this world throws away, says is no good, trashes, uses up and tosses out... what this world throws away God picks up and redeems. He sees the value in what others discount and toss aside. He sees the value in you and me, and He delights in us with the joy of a child enjoying penny candy and a Big Red. The delight of His day is redeeming one of us. *Luke 15:7*, "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

So He pulls us out of the ditches of life, cleans us up, puts us in His wagon, calls us His own and carries us home as His own. And He rejoices over us! *Zephaniah 3:17* is a beautiful verse full of hope and promise for ones like us who were at one time "thrown away" in life's ditches when God found us and sent His Son on a mission to pick us up and redeem us. *Zephaniah 3:17* says about our God and about us, "The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Don't you ever think you don't matter, or that your life doesn't count, nor that no one loves you, or that you're not of much worth. You are to God! Like a diamond in the rough he values you. You know how I know? He gave His life to redeem you! ***God bless you, Bro. Buddy***

### Youth Re+Mind

*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."*  
– *2 Corinthians 3:17-18*

2023 is well underway and you like me may be feeling like you're hitting the ground in a dead sprint. Yes this month has felt as long as 3, just by the sheer amount of stuff that is going on. It's easy to see, at our current pace, by the time we all catch our breath it'll be September and we will be wondering where the year has gone. In the midst of the mad dash may I insert this gentle reminder by the Apostle Paul, about the spiritual reality of our lives in the year of our Lord 2023.

It's no small thing what these verses are saying. Let it be a moment to pause and consider, that the craziness of life even life in our modern day is not merely physical, but the Lord is at work in our world today. His work however is veiled to those who do not know Him. What work is happening? Well, He's transforming lives. Whether that is bringing the spiritually dead to life in salvation, or working in the souls of the redeemed to make them look like Jesus. "From one degree of glory to another". Our God is up to something today. So, what are we to do? Does He need our help? Do we need to get a committee together to find out how we can aid Jesus in His work? I do appreciate the enthusiasm, but the answer is simple, "behold[ing] the glory of the Lord". That's it, in the craziness of your year take time to behold the glory of the Lord and let Him amaze you, and His grace overwhelm you. That is all, carry on!

***Trey***

### MUSIC NOTES

Happy February to all of you!! What an amazing start of the year we have had. The choir has begun practicing their Easter music. Come join us if you have ever wanted to sing in the choir. We'd love to have you. ***In his Name, Nancy***

### WMU

WMU did not meet in January but will meet on February 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. We will be setting our goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering beginning March 5-12 for the Week of Prayer. We would love any of the ladies to come and be a part of our meeting. ***Thank you for your support of our WMU!***

***1 Corinthians 13:4-7*** —<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.