

# Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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## Celebrating Love

For 80 years, a couple in Ecuador was an exceptional example of marital love. Julio Cesar Mora Tapia, 110, and Waldramina Maclovía Quinteros Reyes, 104, were wed on February 7, 1941. Until Julio’s death last October, they were reportedly the world’s oldest married couple. Their large family includes nine great-great-grandchildren!

Good News Network recounts: “Julio Cesar fell in love with Waldramina’s beauty, her conversation, and her big heart.” Meanwhile, she found in him “a poet with a young spirit.” The couple says the formula for a lasting marriage is “love + maturity + mutual respect,” as well as patience, compassion and hard work.

That calls to mind Paul’s words, often read at weddings: “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:4-6, ESV).  
--copied

## An Ash Wednesday Prayer

Dear righteous Lord, we enter the holy season of Lent confessing our many sins that separate us from you. We’re sincerely sorry for offending you repeatedly through our thoughts, our words and our actions—and often through our inactions, too.

Forgive us, Lord, and show us your tender mercy. Restore and strengthen us to become your faithful and faith-filled servants. During our Lenten journey, remind us to show mercy to other people, just as you’ve shown mercy to us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## **SUGGESTED DISCIPLINES FOR LENT 2021**

1. Instead of watching that television show which probably has no spiritual value, call some lonely, elderly, or sick person.
2. Write a daily or weekly note to encourage different persons during the Lenten season.
3. Look for positive attributes in your “sandpaper” person. Intentionally pray for those persons with whom you have problems or even ones whom you think may dislike you.
4. Surrender negative talk. Let your speech be soft and gentle. Cultivate a life of gratitude.
5. Sacrifice pleasure reading for spiritual reading. Spend more time reading the Bible. Learn to meditate on scriptures.
6. Commit scripture to memory. Memorize a verse or verses each day, week, or other established time frame.
7. Set aside quiet time with God!
8. Purchase only essentials for yourself. Give the money saved to someone in need or to some other Kingdom-of-God cause.
9. Discipline your eating habits. Eat for fuel and not for fun or pleasure. Omit in-between-meal snacks.
10. Do a John Wesley fast one day a week. (This would be water only until 3:00 p.m.)
11. Do a partial fast (liquids only) for a day, two days, three days, or even a week.
12. Add some type of physical activity to your day/week.
13. Schedule fasting from cell phone use and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, or other forms of social media.
14. All fasts should be accompanied by prayer, study, or service.
15. Volunteer your service where you discover needs such as Manna House or Boys & Girls Club.
16. Develop trigger points for prayer. For instance, say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, hear an ambulance, or check your email. Before you text someone, pray for them.



# FEBRUARY

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

9:00 a.m. Come AZ U R Service  
9:50 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service  
11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship  
5:00 p.m. P22 Ministries  
5:00 p.m. Planet 456  
5:45 p.m. Snack Supper  
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible study  
6:00 p.m. Solid Ground Youth  
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

PRESIDENT'S DAY

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

*LENT BEGINS*

6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
6:00 p.m. Youth Small Group  
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible study

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

9-12 noon Methodist Market



**FEBRUARY**  
Birthdays & Anniversaries



**Greeters** are needed for the 9 o'clock and 11 o'clock worship services. If you would like to be a greeter, a sign-up sheet will be in the vestibule or call the church office.

Congratulations  
on Your  
New Baby!



Congratulations to Joe Ed and Mallory on the birth of their son, Alex Clyde, who was born February 8, 2021.

Loving grandparents are Tommy and Wanda Woodard.



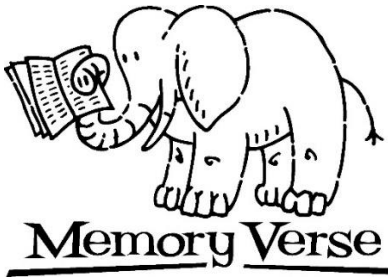
*Harold Fisher*

Jane Gordon

14. Leland Bond  
16. Allison Coulton, Brenda Oakes  
17. Clayton Nagle, Emma Woods  
20. Hubert Hatfield, Vicky Webb,  
Amanda Canard



# Children's Page



"Jesus traveled among all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness."  
Matthew 9:35



This Sunday we will talk about a very well-known Sermon that Jesus preached. This sermon begins with the Beatitudes. In this sermon, Jesus taught that sinners would be blessed through experiencing God's forgiveness and grace. Jesus also reminded people to be compassionate toward others.



We will be talking about love to coincide with Valentine's Day! We will have a fun craft to make and take home as a reminder of the importance of loving one another.

**P22  
Ministries**



**FUN NIGHT WITH SPECIAL CRAFT!!** This Sunday night P22 will meet for a special lesson reminding us that we are loved and that we should love one another. Mrs. Julie Paul will have a lesson and a very special fun craft for you to make and take home.



## **Youth Sunday School**

Last week our Sunday School lesson began with a new book of the Bible to focus on. We will continue talking about our future and the scripture from the book of Revelation. The apostle John wrote the book of Revelation while living in exile on the Island of Patmos. For the next few weeks, we will be studying this book.

## **Sunday Night Youth**

Thank you to Julie and De Paul for hosting the Youth last Sunday night for the Super Bowl Party. We enjoyed all the food sent by youth parents and the Super Bowl Bingo Game really helped us all watch the commercials!! We also discovered that we are not so great at Emoji translations!! This Sunday we will continue back with our Study on “IF”.

## **Wednesday Night Small Group**

Wednesday Night Small Group resumed this week. We are trying something new with the Youth Wheel of Challenge and incorporating Bible trivia, activities, and games. We will also introduce a new game entitled *I Should Have Known That*. The Wheel of Challenge will be in correlation with our topic each week.



The DVDs that go along with Beth Moore's study "Daniel" are missing. If you have any knowledge of where these might be, please contact the church office.

**Sunday, February 14, 2021**

Greeters	Bay & Alice George/Michael & Mabel George
Scripture	Leviticus 1:1-9
Sermon	<b>"What's with All the Blood?"</b>
Flowers	Frank & Dee Webb

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

### **FEBRUARY**

#### **14. Transfiguration Sunday**

15. Return to the Lord

16. Wash me thoroughly

17. From one ancestor

18. Celebrating God's Gift

19. No need for fear

20. Lord of all

#### **Mark 9:2-9**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51:1-17

Acts 17:24-27

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13