



## The Hill Country Connection

February 2025

Hill Country Christian Church

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### Rick's Ramblings



Both the Apostle Paul and the Apostle John seemed utterly amazed at how much God loved them. "Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I

acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 1:13-14). "Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us, that we should be called the children of God!" (1 John 3:1).

We have been talking for the past few Sundays about Living the Lord's Prayer. Many of us struggle with having a consistent quiet time with our Father. You may notice as you read the gospels, Jesus never had that problem. Even after His busiest, most pressing days, He would get up early the next morning to spend time in prayer with His Father. Why? Because He knew the Father loved Him completely, and He loved His Father the same way. If we struggle having a time set aside to spend with God, it is evidence of our reluctance to believe in His love for us, and our reticence to express our love for Him.

Our motivation for keeping a time alone with God is not IN ORDER TO have a relationship, but BECAUSE we have a relationship. Because we have a love relationship with the Lord, we want to meet with Him and spend time with Him. Time with Him enriches and deepens the relationship we already have with Him. Many of us may say, "I really struggle trying to have time alone with God." If that is a problem we face, here is a suggestion: make the priority of your life to do what Jesus said was the greatest commandment—to love God with all your heart. If we spend a few moments being amazed at God's love for us (just like Paul and John did), it will elicit within us a deep love for Him. That will solve most of our problems with

having a quiet time. A person has a quiet time because they know Him and therefore love Him—not just because they want to learn more about Him.

As we head towards Lent—Ash Wednesday (March 5)—we will continue looking at Living the Lord's Prayer. Most—if not all—of us have problems around forgiveness. Either offering it to someone who has hurt us deeply, or desiring to receive it from someone who may refuse to give that which we most desire. Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." How do we experience and express such forgiveness in our lives? Come Sunday as we hear what God has to say to us about, "Nurturing a Culture of Grace" from Matthew 18:23-35.

A quick reminder—Board Meeting this month is on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. instead of our normal schedule of the fourth Thursday of the month.



### **A VALENTINE'S PRAYER**

***I said a Valentine prayer for you  
and asked the Lord God above  
to fill your heart and bless your soul  
With the precious gift of holy love.***

***I asked Him for sincere  
and selfless love  
The kind that's meant to stay  
just like the clean and generous love  
You give to those you touch each day.***

***I prayed for love from family  
And from every cherished friend  
Then I asked  
the Lord Jesus  
to give you  
His same love  
that knows no end.***

***Happy Valentine's Day to all!***

# Prayers Please

We are very pleased to say the Tim Bates is doing very well after his amputation surgery and is now working himself very hard in rehab. His spirits are up and he is thinking positively for the future – this has been a hard road for him and he deserves the very best for him and his family. Wishing him a quick and successful recovery, please continue your prayers for Tim and his family.

Prayers are needed for Greg Vinson and his family for the unexpected loss of his mother, Vicky. There will be a memorial service for her here at the church this Saturday, the 15th, at 4:00 p.m. with a reception immediately following the service.

Continued prayers are needed for Elaine Anderson who is still in rehab following surgery for a brain tumor. Elaine has been making a lot of progress in regaining her speech and mobility, and has now been moved to The Heights in Bulverde.

Prayers for Joan Miller as she recovers from her surgery – she feels much better and is doing well – it is good to see her up and around.

Please remember Cherlyn Patteson who is grounded at home with a fractured ankle. Pray that surgery will not be required on her ankle and that it heals quickly.

And please continue to remember Ernie and Melanie Fishlock in your prayer as Ernie remains in rehab at The Heights.



Another Family Game Night has been scheduled for Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 p.m. so mark your calendars. This is a lot of fun, and is open to everyone so feel free to invite other family members and friends .



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is March 5th, and there will be a service that evening at 6:00 p.m.



Dear St. Valentine,  
help us learn to  
**love unselfishly**  
and to find great  
**joy in giving.**  
Enable all true lovers  
to bring out the best  
♥ in each other. ♥



# Celebrate !!

## Birthdays

Kay Leigh Thomas - 1  
David Chipman - 4  
Orlando Martinez - 10  
Marilyn Shackelford - 16  
Ati Saenz - 27  
Christina Martinez - 28

## Anniversaries

Ron & Cathy Lutz - 3  
Orlando & Tani Martinez - 16



## VALENTINE'S DAY







Be my  
Valentine





# February 2025



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday                            | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
|   |  |   |                                      |  |   | 1  |
| 2<br>9:30 am – Adult Bible Class<br>10:30 am – Worship  | 3<br>One Day Academy  | 4   | 5<br>1:30 pm – Pastor’s Bible Class  | 6  |   | 8<br>8:30 am – Men’s Breakfast and Fellowship        |
| 9<br>9:30 am – Adult Bible Class<br>10:30 am – Worship  | 10<br>One Day Academy   | 11  | 12<br>1:30 pm – Pastor’s Bible Class | 13   | 14<br><b>Today is Valentine’s Day - or, as men like to call it, Extortion Day!</b><br><small>- Jay Leno</small> | 15<br>10:00 am -- CWF (Christian Women’s Fellowship) |
| 16<br>9:30 am – Adult Bible Class<br>10:30 am – Worship | 17<br><b>PRESIDENT’S DAY<br/>Office Closed</b>                                    | 18<br> | 19<br>1:30 pm – Pastor’s Bible Class | 20   | 21<br>                     | 22   |
| 23<br>9:30 am – Adult Bible Class<br>10:30 am – Worship | 24<br>One Day Academy   | 25<br>6:00 pm – General Board Meeting   | 26<br>1:30 pm – Pastor’s Bible Class | 27   | 28  |  |

**Contact Us**

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