

Shermont Baptist Church

February 2026 Newsletter

Senior Pastor: *Rev. Ryan Riley*

Associate Pastor: *Mr. Dylan Gary*

Music Director: *Mrs. Ellen Petty*

781 Mount Cross Road Danville, VA 24540

www.shermont.org

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Ryan's Reflections

As part of my “reading through the Bible” plan this year, I have enjoyed reminding myself of the events recorded in Genesis, and how God is always faithful, and how He proves it to each generation. However, I find myself noticing details and aspects perhaps overlooked in past readings. One of those experiences occurred while reading about Noah and the flood.

The most terrifying detail about that story is not the size of the flood, but the design of the boat. Think about those very specific “blueprints” God gave Noah in **Genesis 6**: He gave him the exact length, width, and height; He specified the type of wood and the pitch to seal it; but God left out a crucial component to any boat or ship – there is no steering wheel, no sail, and no engine.

If you’ve ever been on a boat before, you know there’s a sense of comfort in knowing that you have some control over where the boat goes, how to handle the waves, and the ability to navigate the water so as to return safely to shore. Yet Noah built a massive vessel to survive a global storm, but he had zero control over it or where it would go.

He couldn’t steer it away from rocks; he couldn’t turn it into the waves; he couldn’t aim for dry land. He was completely at the mercy of the water. It’s as if the ark was designed for floating, not navigation. Noah’s job was to be the builder and passenger, not the captain. That was God’s job!

So it is with us: we so often try to put a steering wheel on a situation that God simply wants us to float through, trusting Him to guide us and keep us headed in the right direction. This gives a whole new meaning to the phrase, “Let go and let God!”

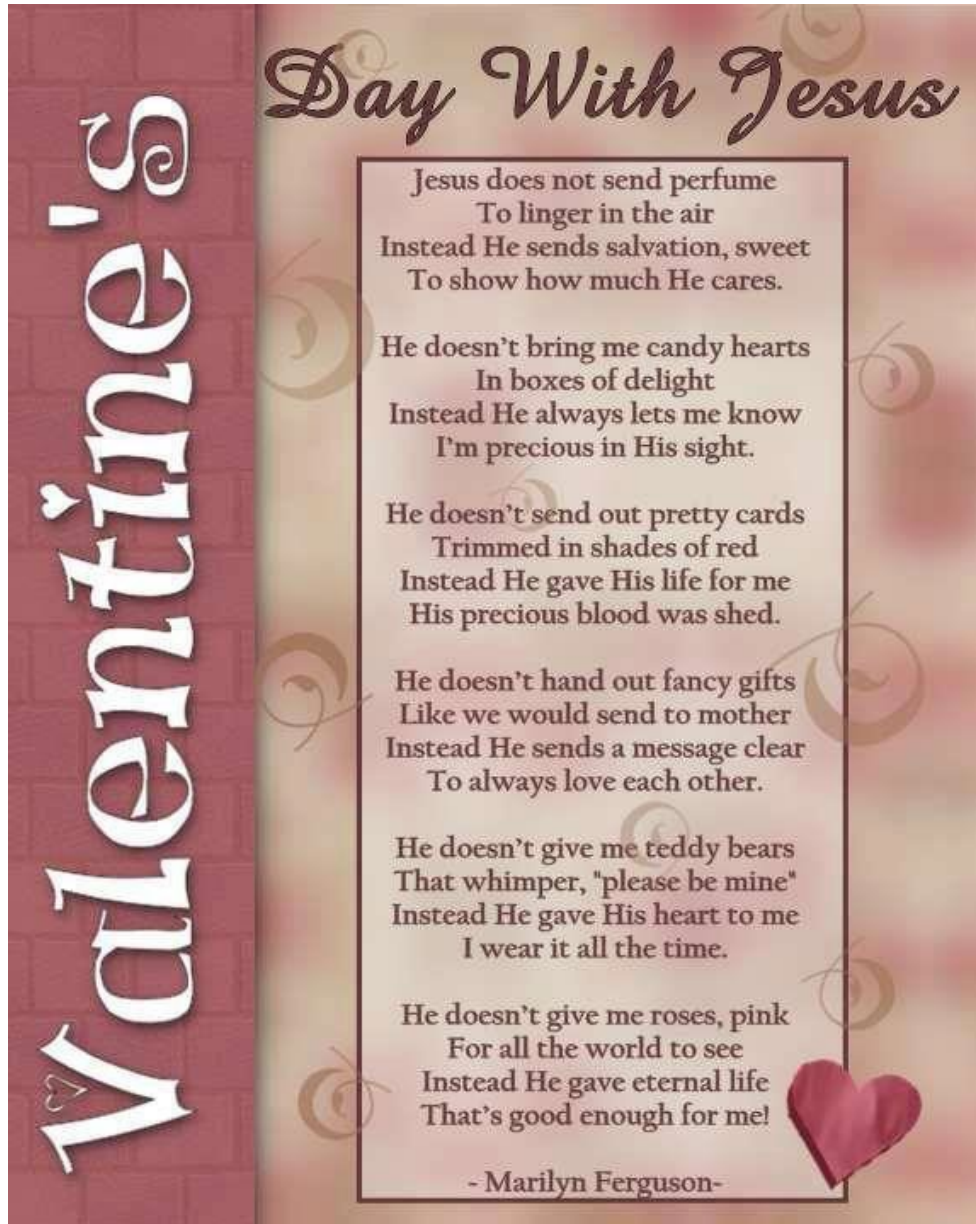
As **Prov. 3:5-6** reminds us, *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Rather than trying to steer our way, let’s trust the Captain to get us where we need to be, and take comfort in His unending faithfulness from generation to generation.

Thankful to be floating alongside you,

Pastor Ryan





Happy Valentines Day!



Reminder: Our choir begins practice on our Easter Cantata this month.

Practice will be on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm.

*We would love to have you join us
as we prepare to celebrate our Risen Savior!*

Singing for JESUS,

Ellen

February Birthdays

Feb 1	Leigh Laughorn, Norma Pleasant	Feb 16	Randy Barrett, Brenda Jones
Feb 4	Kim Baldrige		Bobby Pleasant, Jr.
Feb 6	Madison Laughorn, Deb Mitchell	Feb 17	Amber Poteat
Feb 10	Elizabeth Alvis, Butch Cassada	Feb 21	Marc Dalton, Sandra Pritchett
Feb 11	Gwen Moschler	Feb 22	Mark Satterfield
Feb 13	Josh Speagle	Feb 25	Donald Bailey
Feb 14	Donna Hutson		
Feb 15	Keith Cassell, Jaxon High Ramona Woodson		



Happy Birthday to All!

Library Spotlight—Linda Godfrey

Brr, it's cold! Who loves to snuggle up in your cozy chair with some coffee, hot tea or hot chocolate during these cold winter days and read a book? Best way to enjoy winter! We have a lot of new books in our library that anyone would love reading. There are fiction, nonfiction, inspirational and children's books.

Some of the new books in our library are part of the Amish book series by Karen Harper:

1. ***Dark Road Home***—This is about a lady attorney who feels threatened and moves to a quiet Amish community. Then a hit-and-run accident happens. She can't help but get involved because the Amish only want to forgive. It is a mystery with some romance included.
2. ***Dark Harvest***—The Amish are under attack from unknown assailants with the main target being the children. A policewoman goes undercover as Amish to try to solve these attacks. She finally solves the attacks, but with a lot of struggles.
3. ***Dark Angels***—There are dark secrets in the Amish community that concerns an adopted baby by one of the Amish women. A doctor comes to the community to help study genetic illnesses of the Amish but he and the Amish lady uncover a conspiracy.

Check out these books and enjoy reading!

Linda Godfrey



Mission / Outreach—Food Collection

February 1st - 25th

We are excited to be hosting a month-long food drive for God's Storehouse, and your participation makes a real difference. This food drive aims to support those in need and help God's Storehouse continue feeding nearly 5,000 families annually, highlighting the importance of your support.

There are collection bins at each entrance for you to drop off your donations. If you are not able to shop, you are welcome to donate. I or some of the committee members would happily shop for you.

Karen at God's Storehouse is so excited that we are collecting items, as she stated they have almost depleted the stock donated from October through December by other churches and organizations. You will see the list below of items needed to replenish the stock.

Please make note that they do not need canned vegetables!



- Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken, Beef Ravioli)
- Canned Soup
- Mac & Cheese
- Dried Beans
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta
- Canned Tomatoes
- Cereal
- Oatmeal Packets
- Breakfast / Granola Bars
- Peanut Butter
- Crackers
- Canned Fruit
- Rice

Love In Christ,

Amanda Crews

Each morning in our home, we wake up, eat breakfast, and head to the den to watch our daily dose of the classic cartoon, *Scooby-Doo Where are You?* I always look forward to this time because I usually get at least one of the boys sitting in my lap before I head to work. Occasionally, I also enjoy a cup of coffee. As I'm sure all of you have seen this cartoon, the plot is always the same: a person dresses as a monster to scare others away from a specific location. Despite the lighthearted nature of this show, my oldest son will often talk about monsters, so I remind him that the monsters aren't real but are human beings in disguise. Though *Scooby Doo* is a children's show, it presents the timeless truth that the "real monsters" are men.

The Bible is replete with stories of men who were "monsters" and acted deceitfully. For example, Jacob literally dresses up as his brother, Esau, to fool Isaac and obtain a father's irreversible blessing. Jacob then flees and works for Leban; moreover, Leban tricks Jacob by providing Leah, as opposed to Rachel, to marry. Later in Jacob's story, he and Rachel (Leah's sister and Jacob's wife) have a child named, Jospheh. In Joseph's story, his brothers trick their father into thinking that Joseph was attacked and killed by wild animals while they themselves are the true "animals" of the story. King David acts monstrously in deceiving Uriah into thinking he simply wants him on the frontline of battle as opposed to knowing the truth of David's lust for Uriah's wife, Bathsheba. Although each of these men of God acted deceptively, their stories are ones in which they remove their "masks" and become the image bearers God intended.

Despite the trickery and deception of Jacob, the Text describes Jacob's continued struggle to better his relationship with God and to "take off his monster costume" such that he can act as an image bearer of the Creator. Moreover, Joseph's brothers were provided with the opportunity to mature and grow as followers of YHWH, with even Jospheh caring for them by providing food and safety during Egypt's great famine. David sought the Lord's forgiveness and repented after Uriah's death on the frontline, becoming a true servant of God and leader of the nation of Israel. In essence, the Bible shows that Believers are on a consistent path to sanctification and maturity in the faith. Our goal in being followers of the Way is to constantly seek to be like Him as that is what it means to truly be "made in His image."

The late singer-songwriter, John Prine, wrote a song entitled "Some Humans Ain't Human". In the song, Prine sings, "Some humans ain't human/ Some people ain't kind/ You might go to church/ And sit down in a pew/ Those humans who ain't human/ Could be sittin' right next to you/ They talk about your family/ They talk about your clothes..." Though not public about his religious beliefs, Prine seems to have captured the fact that for one to be true to his or her humanity as our God intended, one must be a true image bearer of the Creator, interacting with others in a loving and caring way. Therefore, I challenge each of us to continue to work on our own sanctification and maturity in the Walk. I challenge each of us to be true to our original humanity as image bearers of our God; outwardly displaying those qualities and characteristic that make Him unlike any other.

Yours in Christ,

Colby Warren, Chairman



Student Ministry Update

Love one another with brotherly love. Outdo yourselves in honoring one another.

Romans 12:10 (ESV)

As we head into February we will be flooded with images and messages about love. For the student ministry we will hone in on *philadelphos* which is brotherly love. One scholar explains it this way, "Brotherly love is more than natural affection; it is covenantal loyalty generated by the new birth... Where *agape* highlights unconditional, sacrificial commitment, *philadelphos* stresses the warmth and tenderness proper to siblings." As brothers and sisters in the family of God, we should have a warm affection towards one another that cross all age, economic, social, and cultural boundaries.

In order to live out Romans 12:10 we must mutually seek to grow a warm relationship with each other and to consistently uplift each other. From my short time at Shermont, I have noticed that individuals who join consistently point out the warm affection they felt here. I urge each of you, don't grow stagnant as if we have reached the end; press on all the more so that all of Danville will know the love of Jesus Christ!

EVENTS

Kid's Valentines Party—All students in the children's ministry are invited to join us **Sunday, February 8th from 3:30-5:00pm** for the Kid's Valentines Party. Students can make and bring cardboard cars to sit in while watching the movie and eating snacks. Kids will also make valentines gift bags for Shermont's shut-in's. This will be a fun and exciting time of learning what it means to biblically love one another and putting that knowledge into action.



Valentines Meal—On **Wednesday, February 11th** there will be a church-wide valentines meal. Due to this, children and youth activities are canceled for that evening.

We would love for your whole family to join us for the dinner.

WINTER JAM 2026

Winter Jam—Winter Jam 2026 is **Saturday, February 14th** at the Greensboro First Horizon Coliseum. Students 6-12th grade are invited to enjoy this evening of high-energy and worship. We will cover the cost of tickets; students should bring money for lunch and merch from Winter Jam. We will leave from Shermont at 12:00pm, eat lunch at Whataburger in Greensboro, and head to the Coliseum after that to get in line. For more information on Winter Jam please visit jamtour.com and to register to attend please visit the events page at shermont.org.

Danville DNow 2026—**March 6-8th** youth from across Danville will gather together to grow in their relationship with God and other believers. The **\$20 deposit is due Sunday, February 15th**, and students can be registered by going to the events page at shermont.org.



Dylan Gary