



A Valentine for Everyone!

Dear Friends,

When I was a first-grade teacher, I loved the month of February. There were so many good hands-on, experiential activities related to the many recognitions we have in February.

It's National Dental Health month. So we would have a dentist come in with her tooth models, and we would practice brushing and go home with new toothbrushes and dental floss. Do you remember those tablets they used to give us to chew and see if we had brushed well enough?

In February, we celebrated Black History Month. So we would read *Black is Brown is Tan*, and marvel at all the beautiful colors of our skin—cinnamon and cocoa, nutmeg and oatmeal. While we mixed paints to make our own perfect skin tone to paint our self-portraits, we would imagine what wonderful contributions we could make in our community like the people we were learning about from history.

In February, we celebrate Presidents Day and remember the two presidents with birthdays in the month: Washington and Lincoln. My classes enjoyed making cherry tree cookies (a sugar cookie circle with a popsicle trunk, green sprinkles for the leaves, and red hots for the cherries) when we learned the famous legend about young George Washington's commitment to honesty.



And of course, in February we celebrate Valentine's Day. We made boxes to receive the valentines the children would make at home and deliver to their classmates. We talked about making a valentine for *everyone*. No one should be left out. My students didn't need to be convinced of this. Somehow, they knew it already—like they had some secret understanding of the kingdom of God, where teeth are clean, everyone is valued, our heroes tell the truth, and everyone gets a box full of love notes.

I've been told, and I believe it, that one of the greatest gifts we can give is to listen to someone. During February, we are going to get a chance to listen to Jesus as he teaches us. Of course, we know that listening is more than hearing. Listening allows words to sink into us and transform us. That is our valentine, our gift of love to Jesus, to listen to him. And that is a gift of love we can offer to one another. To listen.

Continued from page 1

What might happen if we declared February to be Westminster Month of Listening? If we took time this month to *really* listen to Jesus and to one another? It might just be like a box full of grade-school valentines—a good way to love God and neighbor. And the dentists will be pleased, because unlike Valentine sweets and cherry tree cookies, listening won't rot out your teeth!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Your pastor and friend,

Caroline



February Sermon Series: Listen to Him!

There is a framework around our gospel lessons in this ordinary time between Epiphany and Lent. It started in January when we read of Jesus' baptism. There, God said to Jesus, "You are my dearly loved Son and you bring me great joy." (New Living Translation).

The season will end with Jesus' transfiguration, a mysterious mountaintop experience, where Jesus is accompanied by his disciples, Peter, James, and John, and met on the mountain top by Moses and Elijah. While he is there, the scripture tells us, his face is transformed and his clothes become dazzling white. Then, Peter, James, John, and Jesus hear God's voice from a cloud, "This is my Son, my Chosen one. Listen to him."

One of the greatest gifts we can give someone we love is to listen to them. This month, we have the chance to be Jesus' disciples, to sit at his feet and listen to him. May this ordinary season be a time of learning and growth as we listen to and follow Jesus.

February 6: Try This

Communion

- † Psalm 138
- † Luke 5:1-11

February 13:

The Happy and the Sorrowful

Phillip Dennis, guest preacher

- † Psalm 1:1-6
- † Luke 6:17-26

February 20:

But I Say to You

- † Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
- † Luke 6:27-38

February 27:

One Shining Moment

- † 2 Corinthians 3:12-18
- † Luke 9:28-36



A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen one. Listen to him."

Westminster Happenings

Note: Keep an eye on your inbox in case of last-minute schedule changes necessitated by developments in this persistent pandemic.

Tuesday February 1	Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting Convene in the parlor at 5:30 P.M. every first Tuesday. <i>Postponed due to COVID-19 exposure.</i>
	Men's Bible Study Organizational Meeting Meet and eat (pizza!) in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 P.M. <i>Postponed due to COVID-19 exposure.</i>
Wednesday February 2	Mid-day Dance Party Dance and stretch upstairs in the Middler's room at noon. <i>Cancelled this week due to COVID-19 exposure,</i>
	Zoom Story Time Storytelling, singing, and more at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom.
	Wednesday Evening Study Group Facilitated discussion at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom. Engage in this lively study of "Short Stories of Jesus" (by A.J. Levine).
Sunday February 6	Sunday School Gather safely at 9:00 A.M. in the choir room. <i>Postponed due to COVID-19 exposure.</i>
	Try This! <i>Communion</i> Worship at 10:00 A.M.: <i>changed to Zoom only due to COVID-19.</i> Listen to the story of the fishermen who obeyed Jesus.
Wednesday February 9	Mid-day Dance Party Dance and stretch upstairs in the Middler's room at noon. Improve your strength, flexibility, and balance while having fun!
	Zoom Story Time Storytelling, singing, and more at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom.
	Wednesday Evening Study Group Facilitated discussion at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom. Dig into another parable from Jesus, "the enigmatic rabbi."

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Sunday February 13	Sunday School Gather in the choir room at 9:00 A.M. Learn more about “The Mighty Acts of God” through our discussion. The Happy and the Sorrowful <i>Souper Bowl Sunday Special Offering</i> Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Listen to Jesus’ instructions on how to be blessed and avoid woe. Session Meeting Meet in the parlor at 11:30 A.M. Conduct the business of the church with prayers and thanksgiving.
Monday February 14	Presbyterian Women: Circle Meeting Attend in the Sanctuary or via Zoom at 10:00 A.M. Learn “What My Grandmothers Taught Me” about Bathsheba.
Wednesday February 16	Mid-day Dance Party Dance and stretch upstairs in the Middler’s room at noon. Come dance with me in Broadway style! Zoom Story Time Storytelling, singing, and more at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom. Wednesday Evening Study Group Facilitated discussion at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom. Join in the discussion about the stories of “the enigmatic Rabbi,” Jesus.
Sunday February 20	Sunday School Meet at 9:00 A.M. in the choir room. Deepen your knowledge of the Bible and God’s mighty acts. But I Say to You Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Listen to Jesus challenge our expectations on love. Sunday Sustenance: Come to the Table of Fellowship Lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 A.M. with Chef Rob Graves.
Wednesday February 23	Mid-day Dance Party Dance and stretch upstairs in the Middler’s room at noon. Improve your strength, flexibility, and balance while having fun!

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

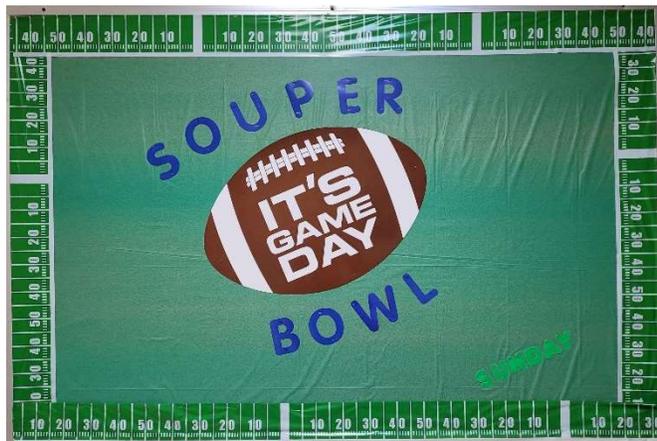
Wednesday February 23 <i>continued</i>	Zoom Story Time Storytelling, singing, and more at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom.
	Wednesday Evening Study Group Facilitated discussion at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom. Probe and process the parables in their Jewish context.
Friday February 25	Fourth Friday Foray? Send your ideas for a recreational ramble to the church office.
Sunday February 27	Sunday School Meet at 9:00 A.M. in the choir room. Rejoice and stand in awe of “The Mighty Acts of God.”
	One Shining Moment Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Listen when God tells us to listen to His Son.
Wednesday March 2	Ash Wednesday <i>Communion</i> Worship in the evening to embark on our Lenten journey.

Putting the *Super* in Souper Bowl Sunday

Before you settle in for an afternoon of fierce football, clever commercials, and all the snacks you can eat, tune in for the ultimate pre-game event: Worship at Westminster and give to our Souper Bowl special offering!

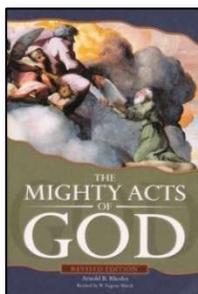
The Missions & Outreach Committee is spearheading our participation in this national event. Since 1990, over **\$170 million** has been reported donated to local food charities across all fifty states with over **300,000 unique groups** participating.

Our contributions will go to our friends and mission partners at the **Food Bank of Greenwood County** (<https://foodbankgreenwood.wordpress.com/>). Non-perishable foods are always welcome, so stash those in the One Can bins. If you prefer to provide financial support, please make out your check to Westminster, and note in the memo line that it is for Souper Bowl Sunday. Thank you for being super!



Listen to the Word of God—Studies for Everyone

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal, and God's Word to you? When Ruling Elders are ordained and installed, they are asked this question. And your Session and Pastor take their answer *very* seriously! To foster both faith formation and Christian fellowship, Westminster offers a variety of Bible studies throughout the week. Find the ones that speak to you, and listen to The Word with open ears and heart.



Sunday Morning Study

From now until Lent, adults meet in the choir room at 9:00 A.M. Sunday mornings to witness the Mighty Acts of God. While we are guided by the Arnold B. Rhodes book, the *true* text for this study is the Bible. In the first several sessions, we have looked closely at God’s mighty acts of creation, and how those famous passages from Genesis are truly a statement of faith. Jump in whenever you can. If you don’t have a Bible, we’ll happily provide you with one, and a copy of the text, as well. For a preview of what’s coming up in Lent, check out page 10.

Men’s Bible Study

At long last, the men of the church will once again have their own forum for feeding body and soul. If you’re hungry to explore the Bible together as men of God, you are encouraged to participate in an organizational meeting that will be held in the Fellowship Hall as soon as our COVID concerns permit. The Reverend Spears Alexander will lead the study, followed by a pizza dinner and discussions on the who, what, where, and when of making this a continuing series. All thoughts and suggestions are welcome!

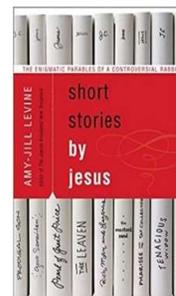


Story Time for All God’s Children

Jesus loves the little children, and little children love a good story! So what could be better than story time for our youngest...and those young at heart? Zoom in on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy a story from Pastor Caroline. While not every story will be a Bible story, every story *will* help us know Jesus’s heart and love.

Wednesday Night Zoom Study

Join the Pastors Dennis on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M. from the comfort of your own Zoom Room. Phillip and Caroline will facilitate discussion guided by the book by A. J. Levine, “Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi.” In this study, we are enriching our understanding of these often-familiar stories by exploring more fully the context in which Jesus told them, and how His listeners most likely interpreted His words in the world as they understood it.



February is for Hearts...

During February, be sure to check out the magic loving tree on the bulletin board on the back hallway, across from the church office (see photo on page 12). You just may find a special, personalized Valentine message just for you hanging on that tree!

...and Flowers

Flowers speak a language of love. So celebrate the people *you* love by sponsoring sanctuary flowers in their honor or memory. It's easier than ever to claim your special date! A sign-up sheet is available on the back hallway bulletin board (see photo on page 12). With 52 Sundays in the year, there's plenty of room for you to make your love visible for everyone on your list!



Poetry Corner

Regret, by Joyce Alexander

Regret

Stitched on ragged edges,
Sets new patterns in motion,
Resistant to elasticity,
Held in place with heavy thread
On dark fabric.
Useful in somber moments
Contributing to dark shadows
And deep reflection.



Festive February, Indeed!

Best wishes and sincere prayers for these members and friends with birthdays in February:

- ❖ 1st –Kathy West
- ❖ 6th – David Hammond
- ❖ 10th – Eric Schneider
- ❖ 11th – Danielle Sholar
- ❖ 12th – Lucia Horowitz
Kevin Cartee
- ❖ 22nd – John Funke



Let Your Voice Be Heard!

When your Session held its annual planning retreat (see photos on page 13), the elders identified *listening* as a top priority: listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit guiding everything we do, listening to each other in truth, and listening to our wider community in love.



In that spirit, the Worship & Music Committee asks for your feedback—not just right now, but throughout the year.

Feedback is most powerful when it is fast, frequent, and frank. So please share your thoughts on all our worship events and musical offering with co-chairs Claire Kuhl and Elizabeth Watkins, or with any member of the committee. Tell us what you find most meaningful, what you'd like more of, what you'd like less of, and what ideas you have for broadening our worship experiences to better meet your needs and the needs of our community. Thank you—*your* voice matters!

Stewardship Snapshot

The Stewardship Snapshot is a regular report from the Session to the *Westminster Times* newsletter. Please note that because of the newsletter publication schedule vs. timing of month-end close, these reports will typically be about six weeks behind.



2021 End of Year Report

	December Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	\$10,277	\$15,575	\$196,447	\$186,900
Total Expenses	\$22,498	\$17,710	\$198,469	\$194,189
Net Gain/Loss	-\$12,221		-\$2,022	

The total expenses for December include a major capital expenditure of \$3,990. The YTD expenses includes total major capital expenditures, such as replacing the office HVAC system and repairing the storm drain in our front yard.

January 2022

	January Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	\$19,117	\$15,576	\$19,117	\$15,576
Total Expenses	\$14,616	\$18,406	\$14,616	\$18,406
Net Gain/Loss	\$4,501		\$4,501	

Please direct any questions about church financial matters to Len Bornemann, treasurer, or any member of the Administration, Personnel, & Finance Committee.



Camp Fellowship: Upcoming Events of Interest

Red Letter Day—Wednesday, March 30
A day of fellowship and wholeness for cancer survivors

Spring Festival and Egg-Stravaganza—
Saturday, April 2

Re-Creation: A Spring Adult Retreat—
Friday, April 29-Saturday, April 30

Visit CampFellowship.org for more information and to register or donate online.

Greenwood Place Update

Submitted by Fred Murphy, Executive Director

Greenwood Place was able to reopen in December. Executive Director Fred would like to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts as he went through his eye surgery and recovery. The procedures were very successful and for the first time in 60+ years he no longer needs glasses to see.



The most recent Clubhouse stats show that the average daily attendance for December was 11. For the month of December, Members spent 692 hours at the Clubhouse. We served 123 meals and provided transportation to 133 Members. We currently have 6 Members who are working part-time. There was one Member who was hospitalized for mental health issues during the month.

We want to acknowledge one of our Members, Will Landers, who is now enrolled in a divinity program with the intention of being ordained as a minister. We support Will in this endeavor and will continue to support him.

We continue to seek funding and have a number of grant requests pending for 2022. Greenwood Place will be seeking funding from the State of South Carolina and will request additional funding from Self Regional Hospital for 2022. We are hoping that with this additional funding we will be able to again expand our services to our members and to the Community.

Greenwood Place would like to thank Westminster Presbyterian for their support of our program and members. Without your support, we would not be able to fulfill our mission to those in our community who truly need help and support as they face their mental health issues.

Surprising Mental Health Benefits of Fishing

Part of a series on mental health issues; excerpted from The Surprising Mental Health Benefits of Fishing | NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness

If you live with depression, you've likely been advised to seek time in nature to boost emotional well-being. Studies show that physical activity, and the resulting improved physical health, has a direct, positive impact on mood and general well-being. You've likely heard stories about bikers, campers, and various sports enthusiasts managing their mental health challenges through the activity they love.



For [many individuals], fishing has delivered the same results. Fishing can improve mental health by offering physical health benefits, providing tranquil space for reflection, teaching resilience, and building community. Beyond offering a unique way to be physically active, fishing provides an opportunity to get outdoors and get in touch with your body.

Consider fishing as a metaphor for overcoming your emotional struggles — there will be good days and bad ones, but success lies in pushing forward, one day, one skill at a time.



Fun and Fitness for *Every* Body

Thanks to some nifty networking from Denise Waldrep, Westminster is now offering a delightful dance/exercise opportunity every Wednesday at noon.

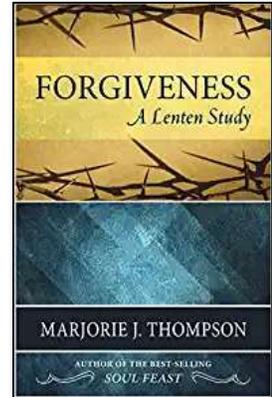
The benefits of even gentle physical movement are well-documented—increased strength, stamina, flexibility, balance, and aerobic capacity.

Dance/exercise is also notably beneficial for brain and mental health. Moving increases blood flow to the brain. Learning new dance steps and choreography fires up new neurons to sharpen your thinking and keep you mentally agile. Social interaction builds relationships. And laughter lightens your mood!

Angelina Richter, our volunteer instructor, creates a relaxed, judgement-free environment. You'll work at your own level and pace—no experience necessary. Worried about balance? Grab a chair to hold on to or sit on. Do what you enjoy and enjoy what you do! No reservations, special equipment, or membership fees required! Call Angelina at 864-704-8345 with any questions you may have.

Preview of Our Lenten Study

Our Lenten study on Sunday mornings will be *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study* written by Marjorie J. Thompson. Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers. Lent, a time to reflect on our Christian journey, is an appropriate time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness. Thompson, author of the best-selling book *Soul Feast*, takes a close look at our understanding of forgiveness in this encouraging study.



The book is available **new** from PCUSA and Amazon. A Kindle version is available. Good **used** copies are available from Thrift Books and other online sellers. However, participants do not have to buy a book. We will provide downloadable handouts from The Thoughtful Christian that include almost the same text.



Check It Out: Local Pastor Podcast

First Presbyterian-Greenwood's pastor, Kyle Hite, has a provocative new podcast available on their website: <https://firstgreenwood.com/>

Let Us Pray...

"...I constantly remember you in my prayers."

Timothy 1:3



For Those in Our Church

We share one another's joys and concerns:

- John Bacot
- Len Bornemann
- Mary Corley
- Jacob Dennis & family
- Mac & Holly Hubbard
- Kelli Lott, Savannah, & Gabby
- Ann Lorraine Sander
- Akabana Siyunyi
- Faye Tillotson
- Ed Watkins

We pray daily for our prayer partners and their special concerns. We pray for our sister churches: New Faith, Ware Shoals, First Presbyterian, Abbeville Presbyterian, and others.

We pray for the ministries of our church, especially:

- Presbyterian Communities of SC
- Prison Ministry
- Thornwell Home
- Greenwood Place
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Gwd. Food Bank
- Beyond Abuse
- Meg's House
- Greater Greenwood United Ministries
- Camp Fellowship



For Those in Our Hearts

We pray for these members of our wider community:

- Charles Alexander
- Tom & Lucia Bryson
- Laura Clark
- Nancy Cooper
- Charlotte Gero
- Jim Greene
- Lois Grice
- Edward Hamilton
- Joan Herin
- Michael Knight
- Margaret Rada & son
- Kay Rentz
- Terrance Reece
- Geri



For the World

We pray for all our neighbors everywhere who we are called to love as we love ourselves:

- For Westminster's leaders, pastor, and all members, *always*
- For congregations dealing with internal strife
- For families divided by politics
- For those living with mental, emotional, and/or physical illnesses
- For all those suffering from war and natural disaster and the COVID-19 pandemic
- For unity among Christians in every country and corner of the world
- For all who experience exclusion
- For those in our community who struggle to meet basic needs
- For peace and wisdom in our community, country, & among world and local leaders
- For those serving in the United States Armed Services at home and abroad
- For our enemies, that their hearts may be opened to your love and truth

And God Saw That It Was Good...



Welcome new member
Tina Corley!



Many thanks to Di and Mitch Litwer for their creativity
and commitment to better bulletin boards

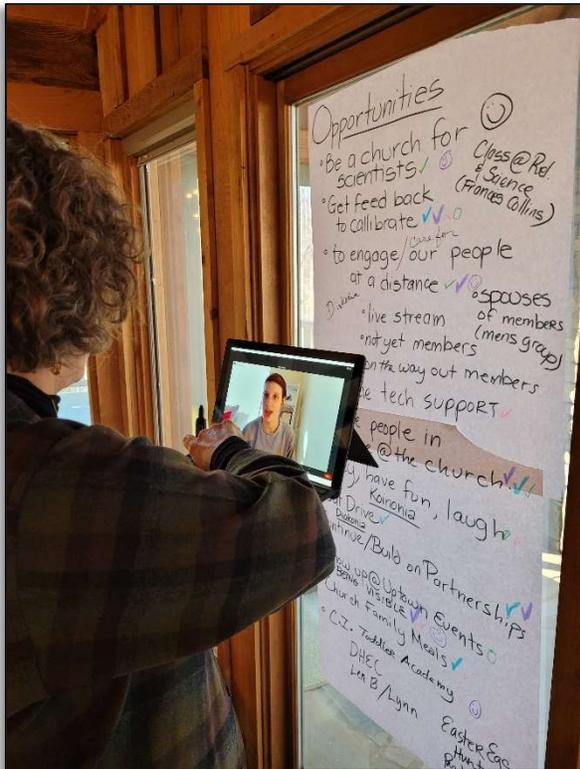


New friend and professional dance instructor Angelina Richter leads some of Westminster's wonderful women and their friends in a classic Latin dance move. Olé!

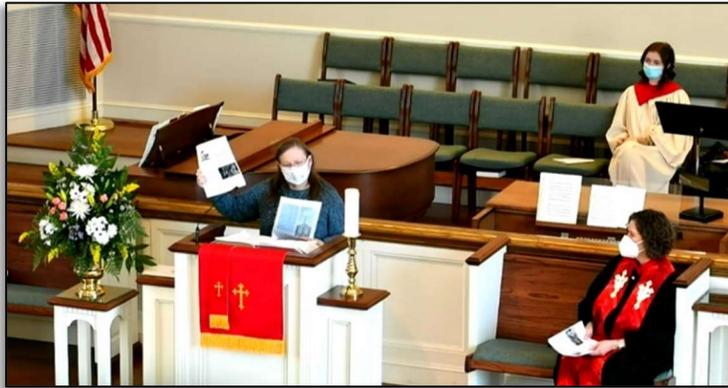
2022 Session Retreat @ Hobson's Hideaway



On Saturday, January 29, 2022, this year's Ruling Elders invested a day in praying, prioritizing, planning, and playing. Caroline designed and facilitated a lively series of activities to stimulate thought and discussion. The ladies of the Congregational Care Committee prepared outrageously good food. And everyone on the Session vigorously engaged with the work at hand. Stayed tuned for a vibrant year of faith and works.



2022 Annual Meeting and Elder Ordination & Installation





*"Circles of Love"—Original artwork by Denise Waldrep
Used with permission of the artist*

Twelve Days of Love

Give your kids a little extra love this year with these simple surprises.

- ♥ Day 1: Leave a love note under the pillow
- ♥ Day 2: Play Valentine Tic Tac Toe
- ♥ Day 3: Donut breakfast:
"Donut you know how much I love you?"
- ♥ Day 4: Make secret message Valentines
- ♥ Day 5: Heart Attack their bedrooms
- ♥ Day 6: Play Heart Hopscotch
- ♥ Day 7: Make Valentine Poppers & fill with surprises
- ♥ Day 8: Have a Heart-themed dinner:
heart-shaped pizza, watermelon hearts, etc.
- ♥ Day 9: Write a list: Ten Things I Love About You
- ♥ Day 10: Play Valentine Bingo
- ♥ Day 11: Make a scroll love letter
- ♥ Day 12: Have a balloon drop
Pop the balloons and find love notes inside

justcallmechris.blogspot.com

Shared with us by Di Litwer—put a little extra love in your kid's and grandkid's February festivities.