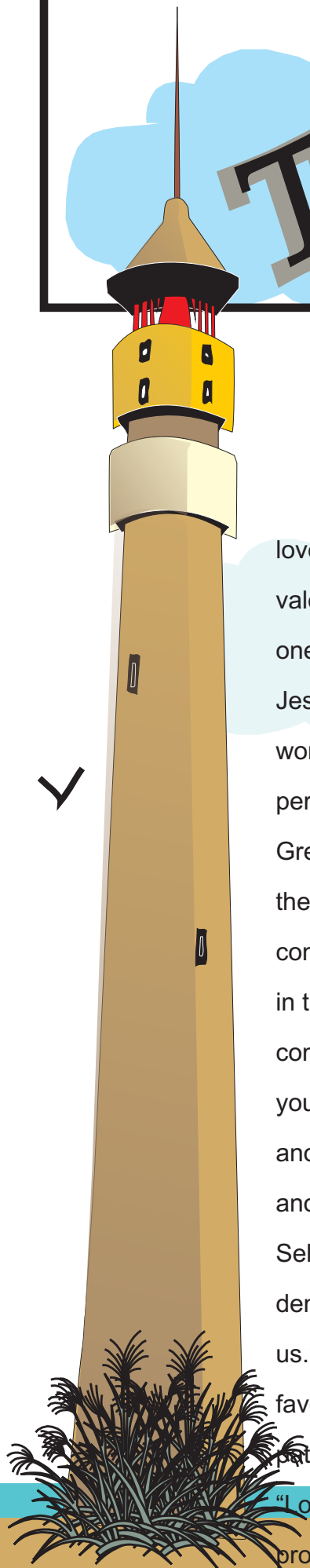


February 2022

# The Lighthouse

Happy Valentine's Day!  
Rev. Shannon Philio  
Assistant Pastor

Well, it's February already, the month of Valentine's Day, a time to show more love to those close to us. Of course, God is our greatest valentine, and as you give valentine's cards to family members and close friends, I hope you remember to give one to the Lord. After all, God the Father gave us the greatest valentine, His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King, our Savior and Redeemer. "For God so LOVED the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The word "loved" in this verse is the Greek word "agape." Sometimes you may see an Agape church when driving down the road. The word means "love." My definition of agape is "a selfless, sacrificial concern for the welfare of others that is not called forth by any quality of loveableness in the person loved, but is the product of the will to love in obedience to God's command." And what is that command? John 13:34-35 – "A new command I give you:" says Jesus. "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you 'must' love one another. By this love all men will 'know' that you are My disciples, if you love one another." We are commanded to love as God has loved us. How did God love us? Selflessly. Sacrificially. Full of grace, unmerited favor. Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:10 says, "While we were still enemies," Christ died for us. One of my favorite chapters in the Bible is 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter, if you will. "Love is patient." Be patient with each other in your thoughts, in your words, in your actions. "Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast." Hey, look at me! "Love is not proud." Never be too proud to say, "I'm sorry. I made a mistake." Never be too proud



to do a menial task for others when asked, even if the football game is on. "Love is not rude. It doesn't dishonor others. Love is not self-seeking," but always other centered. "Love is not easily angered. Love keeps no records of wrongs." These actions are some of the greatest ways you can show agape love to your list of Valentine's recipients. "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth," and the truth is that you love each other. Don't let Satan, the world, or the flesh deceive you into thinking those close to you don't love you. Hold onto love. "Love always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres. Love never fails." Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Love is the most durable power in the world. Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that. I'm sticking with love." Jesus is that light. Jesus is that love. Rev. King also said, "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." Love is the greatest form of evangelism. This month, let us really put forth the effort, not only on Valentine's Day, but every day, to show agape Jesus' love to our family members, to our friends, to our fellow church members, and to all people. Pastor Tim and I want to express our great love for each of you and wish you and yours a blessed Valentine's Day.



HAVE A HAPPY

VALENTINE'S DAY



## Dear friends and family,

We have now been approved to return to Burkina Faso! We have bought our tickets and will depart February 3<sup>rd</sup>. I want to thank everyone who has given to our ministry in the past few months and made the return possible. We are always amazed at the generosity of so many people that long for the gospel to be spread to the four corners of the earth. Please play for safety for our return to Africa, and that we will all test negative on our Covid tests for the flight. Also, please pray that I will be able to resume the ministry effectively when we return, since my role will be somewhat different this term. The church has grown and is more stable now, but with that growth come new challenges and I'll continue to update you as we begin this new season.

While we have been eager to return to the ministry, it was a blessing to be in America and with family for the holidays. The kids enjoyed seeing so many cousins, but now I will just have to figure out how to pack the Christmas presents. Charlotte and Lucas have made it clear that Christmas is their favorite time of the year (we are trying to make sure it is not only for the presents). But for the next month, our lives will center around figuring out what we can take on the plane with us and packing up what we are leaving.



Lord willing, the next time you hear from us we will be in West Africa.



Aidan liked his Christmas present.

### **How Can You Give Financial Support**

1. You can give online at [www.MTW.org](http://www.MTW.org). To find us, put our account number 13727. You will not see our names mentioned because we are going to sensitive country, but any donations to that account number will go toward our ministry. To have the support automatically taken and applied to our support account you will need to make an account with MTW.
2. Send out a check to Mission to the World (in the memo line add: account 13727) and send the check to:

Mission to the World  
P.O. Box 744165  
Atlanta, GA 30374

God bless,  
Evan, Bonnie, Charlotte, Lucas, and Aidan

# BIRTHDAYS for FEBRUARY



Katherine Harrison 6th  
Harriel O'Malley 19th  
Jimmie Lynn Spinks 19th  
Joan Gosnell 22nd  
Joy Lynn Glidewell 24th  
D'Andre Washington 25th

## Dates to Remember for February

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| February 2  | Ladies Circle at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall                                   |
| February 4  | Mid-South Men's Rally, Jackson, MS   |
| February 5  | Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall                                 |
| February 6  | Communion  |
| February 13 | Monthly Luncheon after the morning worship service, please bring a dish to share |
| February 20 | Evening Communion  |