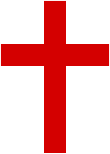
** **West Union Baptist Church**

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*“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” John 14:6*

***February 2025 Newsletter***

Dear Members and Friends of West Union Baptist Church,

As we step into February, a month often dedicated to love, we are reminded of the central message of Christ: to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This foundational command not only defines our faith but also challenges us to embody the love that Christ showed us. Let’s take a moment to reflect on what it means to truly love God and love others, as revealed in Scripture. The command to love God is the first and greatest commandment. In Matthew 22:37-38, Jesus says: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." (KJV) Loving God means more than just saying we love Him; it involves every part of our being—heart, soul, and mind. When we love God with our whole being, we acknowledge His greatness, His holiness, and His sovereignty over our lives. This love compels us to live in obedience to His will, seeking to glorify Him in everything we do. As the Apostle John writes: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15, KJV) True love for God is demonstrated through our actions. We show our love by following His Word, seeking His guidance, and living lives that honor Him.

The second commandment, closely tied to the first, is to love others. Jesus said in Matthew 22:39: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (KJV) In this verse, Jesus is calling us to selfless, sacrificial love—the kind of love that puts others before ourselves. We are to love others as we love ourselves, recognizing their inherent worth as creations of God. This love is not conditional on their actions, but rather an expression of God’s love for them. As we are reminded in 1 John 4:19:  
"We love him, because he first loved us." (KJV) God's love for us is the foundation for our love for others. When we experience the depth of God's love in our own lives, it overflows, and we are empowered to extend that love to those around us. This kind of love is patient, kind, and forgiving. Paul describes it beautifully in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." (KJV)

Loving others in this way is often difficult. It requires us to set aside our pride, preferences, and even hurts to extend grace and compassion. But in doing so, we reflect Christ’s love for us. These two commands—loving God and loving others—are inseparable. Jesus taught us that these commandments are the foundation of all the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:40). When we love God, our hearts are transformed, and we are empowered to love others. The love we have for God overflows into our relationships with others, and the love we show others is a reflection of our love for God. As we go through this month of February, let us strive to love God more deeply and love others more selflessly. Remember that every act of love is an opportunity to share God’s grace and mercy with the world around us. Let us be intentional in our pursuit of loving God and loving others, for it is in these acts of love that we most clearly reflect the heart of Christ. In Christ, Pastor Adam