



Macedonian Call

February 2020

Since February is the month we celebrate love (on the 14th, not the 2nd), I'd like to share an article I recently read on Focus on the Family's website. The article's simply titled, "Love One Another" and was written by Ted Cunningham.

Jesus loved people. He loved thieves, prostitutes, tax collectors, diseased people, poor people, children and His followers. He loved people who were devoted to Him and those who were different from Him. He even loved difficult and dangerous people. And His love is the same today as it was 2,000 years ago. Because we are loved by Him, we are called to love like Him. The extent to which we love one another validates and communicates our faith (John 13:34-35). The NT contains 54 "one another" passages that teach us how to love. Parents can show their children how to love like Jesus by living out the following "one another" passages.

Forgive one another (Col. 3:13). The ultimate example of forgiveness was displayed when Jesus hung on the Cross and cried out for those who were crucifying Him: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). We should forgive others even when they don't deserve it or ask for it. That demonstrates a love that keeps no record of wrongs (1 Cor. 13:5).

Accept one another (Rom. 15:7). To truly love someone, you must avoid trying to change the person for your own purposes. Accepting love is patient and kind, even when someone does not meet your expectations (1 Cor. 13:4).

Honor one another (Rom. 12:10). *Honor* means to esteem someone as highly valuable. It leads us to treat others as though they are personally autographed by God. When we value others above ourselves, we are emulating the attitude of Christ (Phil. 2:3-5).

But what if the person you are trying to love does not receive it? Loving others isn't always easy, but a Christlike love means forgiving, accepting and honoring even those who are different and difficult. Our ability to love others comes from God (1 John 4:7). We can only give love when our hearts are full of God's love. That is the formula. Any other attempt at loving one another simply does not work.

Happy Valentine's Day! Groundhog Day too, if that's your preference! ~ Pastor Randy

Source: "Love One Another," Ted Cunningham 10/18/16, focusonthefamily.com, accessed 01/21/20.

**Winter Bible
Study**

JEREMIAH
FAITHFUL TO THE
MISSION

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

The focus of this study is to understand the heart of the prophet and the need for believers today to faithfully proclaim the truth of the gospel. In this study we will examine the life and message of Jeremiah to gain insight into how believers today can be faithful to the call of God in our lives.



9:45 am
Classes for
all ages

The essence of scriptural authority is that when we hear and believe the words of the Bible it is equivalent to believing God Himself (Ps. 119:89-90, Ezek. 12:28, Acts 20:32, 2 Peter 1:20-21). Christians recognize that we do not worship the Bible itself, as interesting or essential as the book is for us. To use John Wesley's phrase, the Bible is a "means of grace" - It is one of the primary ways God has given to work within us love, obedience, humility, and every fruit of the Holy Spirit (Ps. 19:7, Isa. 55:10-11, Heb. 4:12-13). It is important then for us to make sure that no earthly authority contradict, undermine, or usurp the authority God has given to His Word (Col. 3:16). (Source: THEGODWHOSPEAKS.ORG)



Every second Wednesday of each month is C.A.R.E. Night. C.A.R.E. is an acronym for

"Christians Actively Reaching Everyone."

We have a meal each C.A.R.E. Night beginning at 6:00 pm and ministry opportunities follow at 6:30 pm. This month C.A.R.E. Night is February 12th Everyone is invited to join us for this night of fellowship outreach and ministry.

Women's
Saturday



Conference
February 15

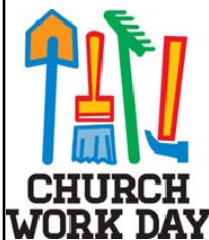
from 9 am until 3 pm

at the Lincolnton Citizens Center

Ephesians 6:8-10 Put on the whole armor of God as warriors in Christ.



Men's Meeting
Saturday, Feb. 22
@ 7 am in the
Fellowship Hall



Saturday,
Feb. 15th
8:00 am
Outdoor Work
on cemetery,
church &
parsonage grounds



As we enter February, we begin to think about Valentine's Day and love. February 14th is a day to express our love to those most special to us. Love is a commitment expressed in actions that put the needs of others before our own. But acts of love should not be only reserved for certain times. Love should be the identifying characteristic of every follower of Christ, love should be the motivation for everything we do. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 makes it very clear that no act of Christian service has any value without love as its motivation.

"If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:3)

Love must be the motivation that drives us to action. This was demonstrated for us in the greatest act of love ever when Jesus sacrificed himself for us. We are the object of the greatest act of love as Jesus put our need before His own and died for our sin. This should motivate us to acts of love that put others first for the glory of Jesus, who gave all out of love for us. Love must be expressed every day and not just be reserved for certain days of celebration. So, let Valentine's Day be a reminder to love extravagantly everyday for the glory of God. ~ Pastor Jeremy



Poor Man's
Lunch
Sunday,
Feb. 9th

following the morning
worship service
Hosted by our Mission
Ministry Team



**Sunday Evenings @ 6:00 pm
in the Youth Room**

**Weekly Youth Bible Study
Wednesday @ 6:30 pm**



PAINTBALL!!!

**Students 7-12 Grade
Sunday, Feb. 23rd
Following the morning worship service
\$35/person +
money for Lunch**



**AWANA Clubs
Sundays @ 6pm
For Children 3 years – 6th Grade**



**Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm
All kids Pre-K through
6th grade**

Children's Church is worship designed especially for children 3 years - 6th grade. They will meet this month on February 2nd, 9th, & 23rd during our morning worship service.



**God Loves You
S'more Party
Saturday, Feb. 8th
6-8 pm in the
Fellowship Hall
for children Pre-k—6th grade**



70% of all voters are over the age of 65. 75% of all assets in the US are held by people over 60. There are more people today over 65 in the US than teenagers. In the last 200 years life expectancy has gone from 35 (1776) to 40(1886) to 75 (1986) to 73 (2019). An article from a CNN report stated that the recent decline in expectancy rates are due to several things, but the major things are; drug overdose, obesity, hypertension and suicide. One writer said these major problems were primarily found in people who had given up on life and suffered from depression. No reason to go on was a focal point. Well after that depressing news listen to the LIFE giving Word.

Psalm 92:14-15 (Amplified Bible)
v. 14 – Growing in grace they shall still bring forth fruit in old age: they shall be full of sap, of spiritual vitality and rich in trust, love and contentment.
V.15 – They are living memorial showing that the Lord is upright and faithful to His promises.

As seniors there should never be a time that we are fruitless and depressed. Yes we have aches, pains and troubles, BUT we've known God's faithfulness through all of life. So let's, knowing His faithfulness, give Him our faithfulness! Let's not just talk about the "good ole days" but be about living our lives as a witness to His love. Let's be alive as long as we are alive! Have a blessed and fruitfully fat life! ~ Pastor Joe



**All Seniors are invited to our weekly
Bible study each Thursday morning
at 11:00 am!!**