

Dear United Church Congregation,

I hope you've had a good week and are ready for another weekend. This Sunday will be another full day here at The United Church. Along with our worship services, there will be Sunday morning classes for all ages. We will NOT have a potluck lunch this Sunday because of last week's Souper Bowl of Caring; however, some of the boards will meet at 12:15 p.m. and the Executive Council will meet at 1:30 p.m. in Graves Hall.

This Sunday we will be reading a passage that is read at many a wedding: 1 Corinthians 13. Yes, this will be our third week in 1 Corinthians since January 20th, but it seems a natural choice for this Sunday because of Valentine's Day next Thursday, and the fact that 1 Corinthians 12 really teed this up for us. This seems the natural conclusion to Paul's words to the Corinthian congregation about the motivation and aim of all their gifts and talents as the Body of Christ. It needs to be stated, however, that Paul was not thinking about appropriate words for a Christian marriage service. He was pulling out all of the stops to try and convince people that love was the necessary ingredient for anything and everything in which the Christian church was involved. As he wrote in so many words in more than one place in our reading, without love, everything the community of faith and individuals do, give, or accomplish in life is futile! That is a bold statement that avoids being sentimentalized (or Hallmarked) in any way. And yet the poetry, eloquence and theology in this reading are not to be denied. May we find a way to both enjoy these familiar words written so long ago, as well as to learn more about our essential need of, and the One who is, the source of all love.

Join us for worship this Sunday at 8 and 9:30 a.m.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Sermon: "Nothing Without Love"

Classes begin at 11 a.m.

No Potluck.

Boards meet at 12:15 p.m. and Executive Council at 1:30 p.m.

In Our Prayers...

The memorial service for Ed Macmann will be tomorrow, Saturday, February 9 at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow.

Grace and peace,

David