

First United Methodist Church

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Once again, the “love” season is here. Valentine’s Day is just a few days away. (Guys, heads up on this!!)

The question that sometimes comes up this time of year is, “What does it mean to show or express love in your life?” Hallmark and Florists have an easy answer to this question; a nice card and a dozen roses for that special someone. But does that really get at the “HEART” (Valentine’s Day pun intended 😊) of what love really is all about? Probably not, but it does seem to be an accepted “norm” for this time of year. Yet the question remains, “What does it mean to show or express love in your life?” This really is a great question to wrestle with in the meaningful relationships of one’s life.

So, let me ask you this same, but slightly different question. “What does it mean to show or express love in your life when it comes to your relationship with God?” Now that is a good question to consider! There are some who would answer it by saying follow the 10 Commandments. There was a time in history when love for God was expressed through sacrificing animals. There are those who might say love for God is expressed by not doing “bad stuff.” Others might say love for God is expressed through being in church every week for worship. All of these are interesting responses.

Jesus had an interesting response for this question about showing love for God in our lives. His answer starts out, “I give you a new commandment...” I’m sure many of you know the words that complete this statement. “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35. Jesus point is, showing love for God comes through showing love for others around us.

The really great thing about Jesus’ “new command” is that he doesn’t fill in the blanks for us as far as what showing love to others means. That is intentional, I believe. Jesus doesn’t just give us a check list or a “how to” list for loving others, because Jesus wants us to wrestle with this ourselves. Jesus wants us to understand that “loving” is sometimes a moment by moment, person by person, situation by situation experience of how we live out our faith.

Another point Jesus really wants us to “get,” I’m sure, is that love isn’t just a “season” that rolls around once a year. It really is a day in and day out...year-round experience. The word used for love, “*agape*,” means “an unconditional and demonstrated love.” In other words, it’s not just words...it’s actions demonstrated through how we treat, live with, and care for one another. Yes, this is the season of love! Everyday is the season of expressing our love for God in our lives by loving one another! Today...everyday...may our prayer be, “God, help me live out your love with the people I meet today!”

Serving Together,
Pastor Keith

-This Sunday, February 11, is a special day. It’s **Bible Sunday** at our 11:00 am service. The K-6 School Children will sing a special song for us and the 2nd graders will receive their Bibles. This is an important and special time. Join us for Worship on Sunday - 8:30 and 11:00 am.

-This Wednesday is **Ash Wednesday**. Join us for an Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 6:00 pm on Wednesday Evening.