



PASTOR'S PAGE

“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing”. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

February has become the month we think about love, but did you know there are different kinds of love? I think you knew that because your love for your grandmother was different than the love you had for that first boyfriend or girlfriend. The Greek language of the New Testament uses three different words for love. Filia is that love for grandma, your children and those who are family to you. Eros is the love pictured by Cupid. It is the love for your husband or wife. Eros is the kind of love that propels our Valentine’s Day celebrations and what sends people out on a date. There may be a Christian component to the way you love your spouse and your kids, but the concepts of Filia and Eros don’t assume a relationship with God. Agape love does. Agape is the word for Christian love, that love that comes freely from God and moves among God’s people. Agape love is what makes us enjoy missions and ministry. It’s the love we have for one another in our church family.

I don’t really think people spend time thinking about which kind of love is which. I do think people spend a fair amount of time and energy on Valentine’s Day and I do think a lot of folks feel left out by the celebration. We may wonder if there isn’t someone who really loves us, but here’s the thing about love, if you give it away you also receive it. Paul tells us we could be filled with knowledge and power, but its love that really gives us life. This year, instead of wondering what we might receive for Valentine’s Day, let’s take it into our own hands and choose to help someone else feel God’s love. If we show a little love to others, we will find that we feel it too. Happy Valentine’s Day.



Filia



Eros



Agape



Peace,

Pastor Joyce

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

In January we met to plan out our spring semester. We decided to have a Super Bowl party right after church on the 5th. Middle school and senior high school students should plan to stay after for food, fun and games. February 12th we have a game night for the whole church family. Youth are invited to join in for games, pizza and snacks. We meet at 6pm. On the 26th we are going sledding. We're looking for a good hill close by or we will go to State Park. If you have ideas, speak to Pastor Joyce. We'll go home after church that day and meet back at church at 2:30.

Our new schedule can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary, on the bulletin board by the little kitchen and on the bulletin board in the Parish House.



YOUTH COLLECT FOR THE HUNGRY

On February 5th, Ogden's youth group will participate in a national mission project called the Souper Bowl of Caring. In 2016, 6886 youth groups and churches collected \$10,506,059 on Super Bowl Sunday, and one hundred percent of that money stayed in their local communities to feed hungry people.

Our youth will meet you at the door after the service on February 5th for your donation. We are asking for just one dollar and only if you can afford it. The youth will decide which local hunger related organization to give them money to. We are registered with the Souper Bowl of Caring and we will add our donations to the total to see if we can help beat last year's giving.

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

At both services on **February 5**, wear your team colors, team jersey, or wear what you usually wear to church. We will be celebrating the day with a sermon called, "*Weakness Fear and a Lot of Shaking*" and singing hymns that just could be related to football. It is our way of worshiping God, enjoying the Super Bowl, and having a great time doing it!



SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Inspirational vision

Charley Boswell, a former University of Alabama football star with hopes of a professional baseball career, lost his eyesight in World War II. But that did not stop him. He went on to become the National Blind Golf Champion 17 times. He was quoted as saying, "I never count what I've lost. I only count what I have left."



SUPPER CLUB

We're just a group of people that like to go out to dinner together. We meet once a month for a "Dutch treat" meal at a local restaurant. This month we'll meet on February 17th at 6pm at the Spot Diner. Come on out and join us for a fun evening. Thanks to all sixty people who joined us for the Christmas party!

GAME NIGHT

Come on out for a night of food, games and fun on Sunday evening, February 12 at 6pm. There is always pizza and snacks at our game nights. You are invited to bring your favorite snack and your favorite game if you'd like. Don't worry though, there will be plenty of both to share!



ASH

LENTEN NEWS

Wednesday



Mark your calendar for **Ash Wednesday services at noon and 7pm on March 1st** and watch the newsletter and bulletin for news about our Lenten Study. "Creed" by Adam Hamilton is a wonderful study that will ask us to look at our personal beliefs. The study that will be offered Sunday mornings at 9:30 and Wednesday evenings at 6:30. It's mix and match, you choose which class fits your schedule best that week.

MISSION NEWS

We collected 77 winter items of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to provide warmth to children of the Chenango Valley School District. Thank you for your donations to our Christmas mission. This is a valuable mission for our community children.

We will soon be running our campaign for Blanket Sunday. This event is sponsored by the Church World Service and it provides blankets to people in emergency situations. Read more about it in the article included in this Beacon.

If you are interested in joining our Mission Committee please contact Brenda Rhodes (607-238-7054). We usually have 2 to 3 meetings per year and the missions are fairly easy to plan and put into action. If you would like to suggest a new mission and are willing to help initiate it, please let me know as well.

GREETERS

Our church greeter is the first person people see when visiting our church. The greeter is the first face of our ministry, which makes it one of the most important jobs in the church. The greeter welcomes regular members and visitors with a smile, hug or handshake as they arrive in the doors. They may also show them fliers and brochures for church ministries. Church greeters should be able to direct the flow of traffic inside the church. Newcomers will need to know where restrooms and other facilities are located.

Ok, why are we getting this little review. Easy answer we are trying to recruit a few new volunteers, we have lost some to busy schedules and health issues. All are welcome, young and old alike. Would you like to share your smile? Gladys Hughes (fall & winter) and Ruth Fiato (summer) organize our greeters and would love to hear from you. Don't see them, mention your name to Pastor Joyce.

And for your enjoyment:

ENTER LAUGHING

Upon entering a North Carolina church, a retired pastor from Arizona approached an older couple serving as greeters. Observing their beaming countenance, the minister eagerly shook hands and said playfully, "I want you to know that I came all the way from Phoenix just to shake your hands."

The cheerful husband laughed and said jovially, "Well, now you can go back."

Everyone nearby, overhearing the repartee, laughed at the merry dialogue.

The Arizonan entered the sanctuary giggling to himself. The service seemed especially uplifting that Sunday, because he entered the church with a joyful heart.

And a little knowledge:

St. Valentine's sacrifice

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine's Day has another meaning that's been lost.

First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.

TRAINING DAY

What: Binghamton District Training Day -

Where: Central United Methodist Church, Nanticoke Avenue Endicott, NY

When: Saturday, February 18th, Registration at 8:30 am, Workshop from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

Our guest presenter this year is our Conference Treasurer, Kevin Damonico, who will share Conference and Local Church Finance Information.



Are you ready to join the church? Would you like to be a member here at Ogden? Speak to Pastor Joyce and she will schedule a membership class.

THE CHURCH MOUSE



This is a cold time of year to live in the church. It's nice and warm and full of people on Sunday, then it's cold and lonely all week long. I have moved to my winter home over in the Parish House, where the action is. If there is a meeting or Bible study in the winter, come to the white building next to the church. It's warm in there!



Those Tuesday morning Bible study folks are a hoot. They are working on the book of Proverbs and there is a lot of laughter! I love Tuesdays because they always have treats around. This week they ate leftover Christmas candy, pretzels and cookies. From the mouse perspective, that alone is worth the trip.



Shush!

The youth group are so kind and wonderful. I make sure to be over in the church on the nights they meet. They like animals and they make sure I have a good snack too. Last week they talked about the word that will be in their minds the most during the Epiphany season. One person chose the word "calm" while another chose "shush". She hears that word on one of her favorite tv shows and when she thinks about her relationship with God, she's decided she needs to shush a little. She reminded us of the Bible verse to be still and know that God is God.

I want to tell you that prayer works. I asked you to pray Barbara McKane home for Christmas and she got there. Her family was with her to celebrate the holiday. Barb thanks you for all of your prayers!



Please keep on praying for John and Kathy Case who are also at home. As I write Francis Sandwick and Doris Slater are neighbors in the rehab unit over at Fairview

**THE
POWER
OF PRAYER**

Good Shepherd Home. Doris had some surgery and needs a little TLC before heading home. Francis fell

and broke her hip and it was surgically repaired. Pastor Joyce said she wondered how down Francis would be after surgery, but when Francis saw her coming into her hospital room she yelled right out, "here comes my pastor". Both of those ladies could use your prayers as they recover. Please don't forget Elmer Miner and Grete Dodson in your prayers too. Both of those folks are at the VA home in Oxford.

Keep yourself warm this month but try to get to church on Sunday. It is so good for us to worship together.

The Church Parish House Mouse