

FROM THE COMMUNITY CO-SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

“This is My **COMMANDMENT**, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (Jesus speaking to His disciples [and to us] in John 15:12)



The month of February is considered the “Love Month” around the world. Even Christians get caught up in the hype. I know of people who spend big money on Valentine’s Day, just so their loved one knows how they feel. But are they truly in love in the real sense of the word?

Jesus Christ tells us to love (agape) one another as He loves us. That’s a tall order, because He loves us unconditionally, with all of our baggage, warts, and sins. He doesn’t stop loving us because we mess up, or don’t follow His “game” plan. God doesn’t take revenge because we choose to go another way through life. He doesn’t throw His hands up and walk away from us.

So, why do we do that to our brothers and sisters, or to anyone, for that matter? Love means that we look beyond others’ faults and find a common ground where we can commune together. Some have stopped attending church activities because they haven’t gotten their way. Does that sound like love? Did Jesus stop fellowshiping with Judas, even though He knew what the future held?

When God talks about love, He knows it may mean sacrifice, swallowing our pride, or admitting we are wrong about some things. Love goes beyond race, culture, wealth, politics, or ability. Love reaches out to those who think differently than we do or live in different circumstances. If we plan on getting to heaven, we **MUST** love everybody and treat others the way Jesus would. Read what the Bible says and follow it.

Valentine’s Day is just around the corner. Why not send a card or call someone you’ve been at odds with and tell them you love them? Why not just start loving others because it’s the righteous thing to do? God would be pleased, and you just might make a friend.

Let’s grow up in our Christian love and do what Jesus would do. It’s a matter of life or death.

Yours in Christ’s love,

Pastor Ray Harper



Love ever gives

Forgives

Outlives

Love never stands with open hands

and while it lives it gives.

For this is love’s prerogative

to give

and give

and give

and give

From Our Community Lay Director

Lots of people complain about the weather, especially lately, but I like all the days God gives us. The sunny warm days are so cheerful and they energize me; the gray rainy days create a more reflective mood in me; and the spooky windy days fill me with awe and wonder over the power of God as displayed "invisibly". But I have a special fondness for the snowy white days. The whiteness of the snow makes everything look so clean and bright. When the moon is out and it shines across the snow, I think it is a beautiful sight. The snow helps quiet things outside – partially because most people are indoors, and partially because the snow itself muffles much of the world's sounds. I remember fondly one evening when we had a deep blanket of snow. Vic and I were walking up our long driveway. The moon was full and was lighting up the whole area better than a street light would. It was quiet, and peaceful, and beautiful. It felt like it was just the three of us out there: Vic, I and God. We were so struck by that feeling that we slowed our walking pace, so that we could extend the time to enjoy God's presence in the peace and beauty of the winter scene. I guess you could say that it was a "Closest to Christ" moment for me.

The snow often forces the cancellation of "our" plans. Perhaps when that happens, it is God's plan that we take these opportunities to be still and know that He is God. Or perhaps to curl up indoors and spend some extra time in scripture or with devotional materials. Or perhaps we are to watch the snow in awe and wonder of Him. I have heard it said that we make our plans, and then God laughs. God is in control. I take comfort in knowing that.

I pray that you keep safe and warm through the rest of the winter, and that God may bless you in those quiet times that the weather conditions force upon us.



Peace,
Sue Neves



An Ohio Poem

It's winter in Ohio,
And the gentle breezes blow,
Seventy miles an hour,
At thirty-five below.

Oh, how I love Ohio,
When the snow's up to your butt,
You take a breath of winter air,
And your nose gets frozen shut.

Yes, the weather here is wonderful,
So I guess I'll hang around,
I could never leave Ohio
"Because I'm frozen to the ground!"

PILGRIM, CHURCH & SPONSOR LIST

Springfield Women's Walk #68

PILGRIM

Bobbi Allen
 Ashley Andrews
 Melissa Andrews
 Rosemary Arnold
 Margaret Barwick
 Melainie Calland
 Debra Carter
 Beverly Davenport
 Amy Erne
 Herbina Evans
 Linda Fox
 Jennifer Funderburgh
 Melyssa Haire
 Rebekah Hoesterey
 Kathy Jakucki
 Kathy Lewis
 Barb Lindsay
 Peggy Link
 Mary Louise Martin
 Sherry Maxel
 Patty McAllister
 Shirley McIntosh
 Kwawnisha Moore
 Pam Murnahan
 Lisa Richards
 Kandy Richardson
 Tammy Schwartz
 Angel Sherrock
 Linda Shook
 Teri Turvy
 Shari Webster

CHURCH

Buckeye Gospel
 First Baptist
 Stepping Stones
 Zion Hill Baptist
 Omega Baptist
 Messiah Lutheran Church
 St. John Missionary Baptist
 Fountain of Life
 Grace United Methodist
 New Life of Springfield
 St. Lutheran Church of Splfd
 Vineyard Church Northridge
 My Church
 My Church
 Shelterhouse
 Presbyterian
 Presbyterian
 Messian Lutheran Urbana
 Medway United Methodist
 Yellow Springs United Methodist
 Restored Life Ministries
 Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
 Medway United Methodist
 Grape Grove Church of Christ
 Medway United Methodist
 Central Cristian Church
 Shelterhouse
 Yellow Springs United Methodist
 First Presbyterian London
 New Life Christian

SPONSOR

Lacey Cron
 Darrell Andrews
 Darrell Andrews
 Martha Jones
 Jean Hickman
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 Barb Cremeans
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 Sally Abbott Pomputns
 Carlene Sands
 Mike Haire
 Sim & Corina Bowen
 Sim & Corins Bowen
 Linda Pack
 Nena Dillon
 Nena Dillon
 Connie Geroge
 Joni Nettleingham
 Libby Hammond
 Selena Martin
 Keesha Walker
 Alexandria Merrill
 Nena Dillon
 Milli Jefferson
 Robbin Ferriman
 Linda Pack
 Sherri Blackwell
 Nena Dillon
 Kasi Gardner

Women's Walk #68

Team List

POSITION	NAME	TALK
LD	Karen Packer	Perseverance
Board Rep	Sue Neves	
Co-SD	Pastor Waiter Mock	Means of Grace
Co-SD	Pastor Bill Kelley	Obstacles to Grace
ALD	Cathie Finchum	Priority
ALD	Shannon Moerch	Fourth Day
ALD	Yolanda Bell	Fourth Day Example
LOG	Shawn Clark	
LOG	Sherry Fout	
MD	Sarah Cogan	
AMD	Stacy Cameron	
TL	Kaci Gardner	Changing Our World
TL	Carolyn Cook	Life of Piety
TL	Joni Nettleingham	Priesthood Of All Believers
TL	Cyndi Bishop	Grow Through Study
TL	Julie Koivisto	Christian Action
TL	Jean Ferryman	Discipleship
TL	Amy Lauber	Body of Christ
ATL	Tabetha Dillavou	
ATL	Barbara Luttrull	
ATL	Faith Skidmore	
ATL	Kristol McDonald	
ATL	Vivian Lester	
ATL	Gina Monroe	
ATL	Donna Sakaitis	
ASD	Pastor Carolyn Peacock	Justifying Grace
ASD	Pastor Cindee Johnson	Prevenient Grace
ASD	Pastor Ben Webster	Sanctifying Grace



LD — Lay Director
 Co-SD — Co Spiritual Director
 ALD — Asst Lay Director
 LOG — Logistics
 MD — Music Director

AMD — Asst Music Director
 TL — Table Leader
 ATL — Asst Table Leader
 ASD — Asst Spiritual Director

THE CORNER

"I was in prison and you visited me..." (Matt 25:36)

For the last 6 months God has blessed me to be a member of a Christian prayer-and-share group in Chillicothe prison. I would not have picked this group myself, but God knew better.

About 3 months ago one of our group shared that he had nothing – No soap, No toothpaste, No deodorant, No money, nothing. As we prayed for joys or concerns, we all prayed for provision of necessities. The next week I was informed that everything had been provided for this resident by his Christian brothers. When I said that I was impressed at

the outcome, I was told "isn't that what we are here for?" – I gladly agreed.

Another group member had us pray for some contact with his family, whom he hadn't seen for 17 years. God provided a way for him to be re-united and he now has 12 family members on his visitation list. I shouldn't be surprised when God answers such seemingly impossible requests, but I usually am.

Finally, during our "Study" question another group member asked us if murder was the worst sin (20 years earlier he had been convicted of murder). My initial response would have been 'yes', but I felt the Spirit ask me "what would Jesus say?". I remembered that Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment? His response was 'To love God, then your neighbor'. Because of this, I felt that the greatest sin would be about God – not man. I then realized that if God insists he be called "I AM" then the greatest sin is to tell God that 'He is not' – that He doesn't exist. I was able to tell my Christian brother that he was closer to God's heart than most of the rest of humanity because he acknowledges his Creator. He walked away with peace in his heart. I walked away with a better understanding of God.

Isn't that what prayer-and-share is all about? I think so.



Jeff Montgomery
Kairos Representative

Want a Blessing?

TRY WORKING IN THE KITCHEN!!

Well, we're on our way! Please get signed up for some times for the Women's Walk at the Gathering on the 9th.

Greg, his Mom and I will be gathering the supplies for this exciting time. If you haven't helped in the past or haven't been in the kitchen for awhile, come and join us. It's an exciting time. There is nothing that compares to observing these new Pilgrims blossom as the weekend goes along. You can relive your journey and it is still so special. There have been so many updates in the facilities, you'll be surprised.



Remember that Thursday is a busy day too, getting everything placed and stocked up. Hope to see some of you there. I'll be there from 8:00 on that day, so sign up and we'll get to know each other.

Always, in His service,

Jean Grumbling

