



Rev. Bertina J. H. Westley, Pastor
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Love Is . . .

"and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matt. 22:35-39)

As February arrives, symbols of love are everywhere: candy hearts, greeting cards, stuffed animals, and fragrant roses. As Christians, we know that we are called to a life of love in all seasons and at all times. Most often when those outside the community of believers speak of love, they are referring to romantic love (Eros) or an affectionate regard for friends and family (Philos). These types of love are wonderful! However, the love we strive to live out is an unconditional love (Agape). Agape is a selfless love that is freely given to another with nothing expected in return. Agape is how God loves us.

This unconditional love of God is what we as followers of Christ contemplate during the Lenten Season. Lent is the 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays, and begins with Ash Wednesday. It is during this time, that we let go of the things that keep us from growing in our relationship with God. It is also a time in which we are to acquire new habits of holiness that will help us to fall more in love with God and with our neighbor.

I invite you to intentionally prepare for the celebration of Easter and resurrection. Ash Wednesday worship will be offered twice on Wednesday, March 6th from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm as a time of quiet prayer, scripture readings, and an invitation to receive the imposition of ashes.

A special Lenten study, *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado, will be offered for adults and youth on Thursdays at 7:00 pm beginning March 14th. Prior to the study, there will be a 30-minute time of prayer (6:30 pm).

During the season of Lent, let us intentionally invite the Holy Spirit to renew and revive our faith so that we may truly grow in Agape for God and neighbor.

Peace be with you!
Pastor Bertina



Stewardship Note, January 2019

Dear Congregation and friends,

This is a look forward to some things we can expect for the rest of this year and a summary of our contributions for the previous year, 2018.

Tax Year 2019 Concerns:

The new tax laws for 2019 eliminate tax deductions for charitable contributions. We are hoping that this major change in tax laws does not seriously distort the giving to all of our Church operations. For those of us who are 70 ½ or older who are REQUIRED to take out money from IRA's (called "MDR's), those distributions are not subject to income taxes, if given to charity (that is, Church.) If you are affected by the above, we suggest you contact your tax person or financial advisor for their advice.

General Fund Contributions: \$157,983

For 2018, our contributions were much like those of the previous years: almost on, but slightly under budget. That is, we averaged about \$176 UNDER our budget requirement each week. That gave us a budget shortfall of about \$9,000 for the year. Our contributions have been like this for the last few years. We did, however, offset this shortfall by judicious control over those expenses that we could delay or avoid. Overall, we avoided a deficit by our constraints on spending. We would like to see this change in 2019.

Mortgage Fund Contributions/Remaining Debt: \$19,812 / \$198,232

For 2018, we gave \$19,800 to our Mortgage Fund. That's about \$3,800 over the minimum required by our mortgage. As of December 31st, 2018, we had retired our original debt of \$400,000 to \$198,232. We have reduced our debt by more than half. We have continued to pay extra towards the principal whenever we could, but our overall contributions have fallen somewhat, and we have not been able to do that consistently. We should remember that barely meeting our minimum mortgage payments is not consistent with our intent to retire our mortgage as soon as possible. Also, when we renegotiate our mortgage interest rate in 2012, we expect a slight rise in that rate.

We are a Church that strives mightily to spread the Good News of Jesus. Please remember that the financial health of our Church is a major part of our mission.

Alvin Ingram

A NOTE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

Growth and Community

When I was a freshman in high school I felt out of place with my peers. I wasn't sure what my real niche was. Outside of extracurricular activities, I really struggled to find a group of like-minded people I could engage with. For me being part of a youth group provided a community for me, that allowed me to grow and mature alongside great friends. I still credit mission trips as having the largest impact on my life, where I developed long lasting friendship with some of the most loving people I've ever known. Just the other week I bumped into an old friend from my days on the youth council, and I was meet with nothing but warmth. Through youth groups and youth council I grew as a person and as a Christian. Knowing I was only a text message away from a prayer request brought so much ease to my life as college began. That is what I want to build at Salem. A community of like-minded Christians who can grow with each other.

I'm eager to get working with youth in both aspects. I know Rome wasn't built in a day, but I know the potential of a good youth group. I have always believed that teens want responsibility and respect. They want the opportunity to prove themselves to everyone. They just need a push in the right direction. To have the chance to help foster that drive, is a blessing and an honor. It wasn't long ago that I was in their shoes being scolded by Kevin Hogge. Well the last part hasn't really changed. My point is, I remember being a teenager. I remember wanting to be treated with respect. I also remember the trill of tearing down a porch, on a mission trip, just to build a new one.

This year might start with some hiccups here and there while I settle in, and while they try to figure out of I'm a weirdo or not. However, I look forward to watching this youth group grow, and become it's own community. Pray for us as we start this new adventure.

Tyler Bass

SALEM SHIRT FUNDRAISER

The children and youth of Salem are selling shirts to raise money for a new outside play area. Shirt color options include Navy blue, Carolina blue, Charcoal, and Coral. All colors can be ordered as a short or long sleeve shirt, except coral, which is short sleeve only. Sizes range from Youth S, M, L, XL, Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL. Short sleeve shirts cost \$15.00 and long sleeve shirts cast \$18.00. There will be an additional \$2.50 charge for sizes XXL and larger. Below is the logo for the front/ left chest and the back of the shirt. Logos are printed in white ink. Please Contact Stacie Wiatt if you are interested in ordering. Swiatt@mathews.k12.va.us or (804) 854-8778.





UP COMING EVENTS

On February 7th at 7:00 pm, we will begin a four week study based on the book *The Importance of Being Foolish: How to Think Like Jesus* by Brennan Manning. The study is a reminder of the call of Christ upon our lives and the transforming love of God. The cost of the book is \$11.00. The sign-up sheet is on the green table in the hall; books will be distributed prior to the first class. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bertina.

Ash Wednesday worship will be offered twice on Wednesday, March 6th from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and from 6:30 pm 7:30 pm as a time of quiet prayer, scripture readings, and an invitation to receive the imposition of ashes.

A Lenten Study will begin on Thursday, March 14th at 7:00 pm. The five-week study is *“He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart”* by Max Lucado. The cost of the workbook is \$9.50. Sign up information will be coming soon.

Lenten Prayer Group

During the season of Lent, you are invited to gather weekly for a time of prayer. The first prayer group will meet on Thursday,, March 14th at 6:30 pm. During this time, we will pray for the individuals on our prayer list, our community, and beyond. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bertina.



“To Boldly Go” with a Bible Study



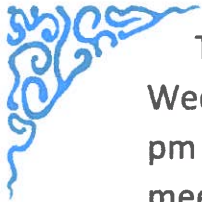
Want to try something different in a Bible Study? Are you a science fiction buff? Are you a closet “Trekkie?” Then you are in luck! Starting on Tuesday, March 5th at 6:30, and continuing on Tuesday nights until April 30th (April 2 will be a down week), we will be conducting a Bible Study entitled: “Star Trek for Christians”. This will be an 8 week study where we watch 8 specific episodes of Star Trek – The Original Series, and discuss the modern implications of the story to our Christian walk in the world. We will watch the episode (45 minutes) and then discuss questions on the implications to our Christian life. This will be a different approach to Bible Study, and should be both fun and informative. A sign-up sheet will be available soon, or you can contact Glenn Mantell for more information. Come join us and Captain Kirk for a time of learning and fellowship. May you “Live Long and Prosper” in the Lord.



PRAYER BREAKFAST

Men's Prayer Breakfast

will be held on Sunday, February 10th at 7:30 am. Ladies are invited to join the men for a wonderful time of fellowship.



The Agape Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 13th at 6:30 pm before the 7 pm Unit meeting/Call to Prayer Self-Denial.

The Agape Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 13th at 7 pm at church. Host will be Christina Tomcany.



ACOLYTES SCHEDULE



February Acolytes

03rd Michael and Sam
10th Melody and Harmony
17th John Stephen and Andrew
24th Adam and Ray

March Acolytes

03rd Adam, and Seth
10th John Stephen and Sam
17th Harmony and Melody
24th Michael and Lincoln
31st Ray and Andrew



The answer to all of the world's problems?

The  Bible



Milford Cemetery News

"Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."

Psalm 90:14

Many who receive the Salem Church Newsletter have loved ones interred at Milford Cemetery.

The trustees of the cemetery are Richard Daniels, Sue Rowe Mitchem, Bruce Waddell, Michael Rowe and Deena Waddell.

Like you, the trustees want the cemetery to be well maintained. The grass is mowed about fifteen times each year. In October of 2018, a large tree needed to be removed. Currently the driveway needs gravel so that the cemetery is accessible, especially during these wet winter months.

Many years ago the interest accrued on the checking account and CD account helped a great deal. This, of course, is no longer the case. Monetary gifts received are a wonderful boost to help meet maintenance and unexpected needs, and greatly appreciated. Anyone desiring to make a donation can make a check payable to **Milford Cemetery, send in care of Deena Waddell, P. O. Box 596, Mathews, VA 23109.**

Anyone who would like to know specific information concerning the finances of the Milford Cemetery Association, or would like to have input in the operation, can contact Deena Waddell or any trustee.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Deena Waddell
Secretary-Treasurer
Milford Cemetery Association

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ~ UNIT NEWS



United Methodist Women wish to thank all those who contributed to our projects in 2018. Our baby shower for Jesus was a huge success. Social Service was go grateful for all the diapers. There will be many dry bottoms, thanks to your donations. The Christmas Store for the Convalescent Home residents was also a huge success. The residents who were able to shop had a grand time, and those who could not shop were not forgotten. Our volunteers shopped for them It was a special time for the residents and also for all the volunteers.

On Wednesday, February 13, United methodist Women will meet at church at 7:00 pm. Anne Carole Daniels wil present our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Program. We will celebrate Valentine's Day by fixing cards for the residents of the Convalescent Center. The Agape Circle and The Lilly Hopkins Circle will each have a business meeting at 6:30 pm.

We are now packing over 60 Snack Packs each week and appreciate any help we can get. The need continues! We are indebted to those who shop and those who come out to help pack. We are also grateful for all the generous donations.

LILLY HOPKINS CIRCLE

In March the Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 13.at 1:00 pm. Sis Thomas will be hostess, The Circle voted in November to change the meeting time since "old ladies" like to be home at night.



Happy Birthday To All

February

01 Besty Ann Stewart
01 Roger Campbell
02 Bill Edwards
03 Ryan Persinger
06 James Diggs
09 Alvin Ingram
09 Brayden Westley
11 Sydney Morgan
12 Nicholas Wilks
13 Sue Mitchem
14 Frankie Pruitt
16 Kathy James
18 Jo Bridgers
21 Lindsey Boyden
24 Brad Liverman
28 Karen Hudgins

March

01 Lowry K. Hudgins
01 Kristen Powell
01 Hunter Royall
03 Ellis Bing
04 Rachel Dye
05 Earl Dye
05 MaryBeth Burroughs
07 Michael Persinger
09 Jeff Sterne
12 W. G. Mitchem
12 Katrina Ottinger
15 Heather Hudgins
16 Steve Bing
17 Kyle Brown
17 Patrick Gibbs
18 Melinda West
20 Ted Royall
20 Lincoln Williams
21 Patty Morgan
23 Lincoln Shuber
26 June Rowe
27 Lenorad Jenkins
27 Bri Sadler
29 Belle Silver
30 Chandler Rogers
30 Meredith Sherman
31 Louis Burroughs



PRAYER LIST

Delores Abrams
Joannie Adams
Tate Bennette
Trey Blake
Joe Bly
Talon Busic
Peggy Callis
LouAnn Diggs
Jeannie Elliott
Suzanne Fisher

Joe Forrest
Lex Foster
Paul Wesley Hudgins
Thomas Hughes
Hughes Family
Ruby Ingram
Roy Insley
Margaret Leonard
James Ralph Mitchem
Frankie Pruitt

Roy Respress
Collin Royal
Charles Snelling
Jennifer West
Cheryl Wheeler
Chris White
Ben Williams
Joan Williams
Becky Zeller



NURSING HOME BOUND

Betty Durkovich
Martha Ellen Hall
Alice Hatcher
Judy Mitchem
Patty Morgan
Mary Jo Robins
June Rowe
Erma Webb



January
 S M T W T F S
 1 2 3 4 5
 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
 27 28 29 30 31

February 2019

User: Wayne Brown
 Greeters: Lowry Huddins Memorial Class

March
 S M T W T F S
 1 2
 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
 31


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Administrative Board 7 pm			
Communion 3	Choir 7pm 4	5	6	Bible Study 7pm 7	8	9
Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 am 10	Choir 7 pm 11	12	Agape Circle 6:30 pm Lilly Hopkins 6:30 pm Unit Meeting 7:00 pm 13	Bible Study 7 pm  Valentine's Day 14	15	16
Mortgage Sunday 17	Choir 7 pm 18 President's Day 	19	20	Bible Study 7 pm 21	22	23
Food Bank 24	Choir 7 pm 25	26	27	Bible Study 7 pm 28		

February
 S M T W T F S S
 1 2
 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
 24 25 26 27 28

March 2019

User: Paul Bing
 Greeters: Boyd Gunn Class

April
 S M T W T F S S
 1 2 3 4 5 6
 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
 28 29 30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Communion	4 Choir 7 pm	5 Bible Study 6:30 pm	6 Administrative Bd. 7:30 pm Ash Wed. Service 11:30 am & 6:30 pm	7		8 Day Light Saving Set Your Time Ahead
10 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 am	11 Choir 7 pm	12 Bible Study 6:30 pm	13 Agape Circle 7 pm Lilly Hopkins Circle 1 pm	14 Lent Prayer Group 6:30 pm Bible Study 7 pm	15	16
17 Mortgage Sun. St. Patrick's Day 	18 Choir 7 pm	19 Bible Study 6:30 pm	20	21 Bible Study 7 pm	22	23
24 Food Bank Sun	25 Choir 7 pm	26 Bible Study 6:30 pm	27	28 Bible Study 7 pm	29	30
31						

**SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**



February/March

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