

2024

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

First Christian United Church of Christ

February Devotion

Dear Friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God.

1 John 4:7

February has been called the “Love Month.” In our consideration of love, we usually think of love as being an emotion. In the New Testament understanding of love, as “agape,” love is a matter of the mind, or of the will. It is a willingness to care for another, even though the other may be unresponsive to us, or even against us. Such is of the nature of God. God, we confess, never gives up on any of us, although we may turn our lives away from God.

Regardless of whether we focus on love more as a matter of the emotions or of the will, I have discovered that either understanding of love leads to love being like a honeysuckle vine that intertwines in our lives.

Caring about another person has a way of allowing that love vine to grow into our lives and to wrap about our inner being. Loving another person allows the tendrils of love to grab hold of our soul, so that we are caught up in the life of the other.

The more you and I care about another person, the more we have the sweet honeysuckle vine of love to entwine our life with the other person. The more we share in life with another person the more we find our life being concerned about the other person’s well-being.

February Devotion

One of the reasons we enjoy being with those whom we love so much is because their lives are intertwined with ours. We find those people to be special for we have had their lives to become a part of ours. We, in some ways, grow together. Their life adds fiber and support to our lives.

One reason we hurt so when someone whom we love leaves us, and especially departs from our lives due to their death, is because their leaving us, in a very real sense, rips out a part of our lives that was connected with them.

It is special to have someone whom we love to be intertwined with our lives because they add so much value to our living. On the other hand, to lose a loved one due to their moving away, or due to their death, leaves a void in our lives that often takes quite a while to heal, and sometimes the scar left by their leaving is never gone.

It could be asked if it is worthwhile to love at all, for departing can cause such sorrow. On the other hand, if it were not for love, where would be the value for living? It is in the deep, caring relationships of love that we find the joy, the value, and the hope that make life worthwhile.

February Devotion

The value of knowing of the spiritual love of God is that as God's love intertwines with our lives we find the support, the value, the joy, and the hope that can enable us to make it through the ups and the downs of our journey of life. The hope we have is that as God's love entwines with our lives that we become stronger in our faith and more confident for our future. Through God's presence intertwining with our lives, we find hope for an eternal future where we will know of even greater connections with God.

God's agape love holds on fast to us, even in uncertain days, and gives us a security for the future that cannot be found elsewhere in life.

As we think of February as Love Month, may it remind us of our Eternal God's Boundless Love that seeks to bind us close to God so that we have security and hope for the days that are before us. Such a Caring Love gives deep value to our living.

Jamie Fonville

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Birthdays

Lewis Fowler - 2/5

Anne Marie Greer - 2/7

David Allred 2/17

Linda Smith 2/22

Mary Leighton Sellers 2/26

Harvey Sharpe 2/26

Anniversaries

Ken & Lola Pipes 2/19

Mike & Linda Smith 2/23

Those Remaining in Our Prayers

Amber Massey

Buster Freeman

Lola Pipes

Ross Strange Sr.

Voncile Fowler

Lewis Fowler

June Sellars

Betty Bone

Joe Strickland

Vicki & Curtis Foster

Best Friend and Best

Grandmother

to Tena Barnwell

David & Nell Allred

Jim Horne

A member of our active
membership

CHURCH UPDATES

- **Sunday, February 4th**
 - *Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 am*
 - *Congregational Meeting after worship*
- **Monday, February 5th**
 - *Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am*
- **Monday, February 12th**
 - *Official Board Meeting at 6:00 pm*
- **Tuesday, February 13th**
 - *Centennial Circle at 5:30 pm*
- **Wednesday, February 14th**
 - *Ash Wednesday*
- **Tuesday, February 20th**
 - *Finance meeting at 11:00 am*
- **Tuesday, February 27th**
 - *Deacons meeting at 6:00 pm*

****Choir practices are 6:30 pm on Wednesdays****

THEMES & LITURGISTS

Communion

Matt Rice 2/4

Greeter

Eleanor Lovgren

Ushers

Benji Terrell (head)

Julie Miller, Eleanor Lovgren, Charlie Vitou

Liturgists

February 4 - Joy Ballard

February 11 - Judy Kipp

February 18 - Kathy Russel

February 25 - Nancey Simmons

Receptions

Please join us in the parlor for fellowship and light refreshments after Worship on Sundays.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Mission Statement

We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ and in the Church that he has called into being which, by his grace and mercy, welcomes all. We encourage all who join us and confess Jesus Christ - regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, social, economic, physical or mental condition - to share fully in all aspects of our church life and leadership. We believe relationships between individuals, groups, and nations must be based on love, justice, commitment, and mutual respect; and we strive toward such relationships in our church, homes, and community.

Our Ministry Support Team

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am - 12 pm

Church Officers

President: Jamie Fonville

Vice President: Cindy Sharpe

Treasurer: Judy Kipp

Assistant Treasurer: Julie Miller

Secretary: Mark Garrison

Church Staff

Interim Chaplain: Deborah Suess

Supply Pastor: Rev. Jamie Fonville

Organist / Choir Director: Matt Rice

Custodian: Rodney Paul Sr.

Office Administrator: Debbie Norris