

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

July 2026



Dear Saints,

Over the last several weeks we have considered the idea of love as found in the Scriptures. We discovered that God's kind of love is called *agape*. Australian theologian, Leon Morris, has characterized it in this way: *agape* "is a love for the utterly unworthy;" it is "a love which proceeds from God who is Himself love. It is a love lavished on others without a thought of whether they're worthy to receive it or not. It proceeds rather from the nature of the one who loves, than from any merit in the one being loved."

This kind of love is vastly different than what we see in others and in ourselves as standard fare. So much of our day revolves around an idea of love that is self-serving. *Agape* is foreign to human nature. We learn *agape* from the Lord Himself through His Word. Romans 5:8 says it this way: ⁸ *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Agape love is unconditional love; without it operating in our daily walk with Christ, then we are noisemakers, who are nothing, and gain nothing. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 again: *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not 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 have not love, I am nothing.* ³ *If I give away all that I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

Lord, teach us to love the way You love us.

In His love,

Mario

August at a Glance

- . Aug. 2nd: Blessing of the backpacks.**
- . Aug. 4th: Methodist Women at 12:00.**
- . Aug. 11th: Coffee with the Pastor at 10:30.**
- . Aug. 13th: Vera Chester Circle at 6:00 P.M.**
- . Aug. 16th: Quilts of Valor Ceremony.**
- . Aug. 18th: Book Club at 11:00.**
- . Aug. 18th: Greenleaves at 12:00.**
- . Aug. 20th: Admin. Council Meeting.**
- . Aug. 25th: Peacemakers at 9:30.**
- . Aug. 27th: Franklinton Block Party 5-7PM.**
- . Bible Study will be held every Wednesday evening at 6:00.**

Blessing of the Backpacks

A new school year is already here and that means that there are backpacks to be blessed! What better way to go into a new year of learning than to take a moment to pray over our children and teachers of Centenary. Patri Gast led us in a quick prayer and made sure that each student walked away with a prayer tag for their bags. Our teachers were also shown a little love by receiving a few snacks to keep them energized while teaching. To our teachers, we can not thank you enough for the time and energy that you put into your students.



Centenary's August Birthdays



8/1	Lana Branch
8/1	Debbie Burris
8/3	Max Schilling
8/5	Laina Asprion
8/7	Kelvin McCain
8/9	Lenora Frazier
8/10	Brian Ridgedell
8/13	Jacob McCormick
8/16	Rick Brocato
8/16	Michael Walker
8/17	Abby McCormick
8/18	Laurie Duncan
8/18	Dixie Cody
8/21	Allie McCain
8/24	Mary Elizabeth Richard -son
8/24	Clay Richardson
8/28	Meg Norwood
8/31	Meadow Smith



Prayer Concerns

Judy Alston, Irvin Andre, Liz Belocq, Cole Bird, Neal Bond, Bob Burris, Irma Clark, David Dickson, Jessica Dubuy, Paul Givens, Jesse Knight, Ed Ladner, Melissa Lebo, Jack Lumbattis, Kathy Mauthe, Pam Penny, Mike Perez, Brian Pourciau, Ronald Pope, Bill Stager, Drew Stevens, Gail Stiles, Katelyn Strate, Anthony Terrell, Sandy Winkle and Rodney Wood.

Families of: Jim Cody and Mervin 'Toye' Taylor Jr.

OUR MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS

Kelly Reiss, Brody Schilling, Jackson Stewart, Chad Penny, Jonathan Pignato, T.J. Smith, Josh Magee, Lee & Rebekah McCain, Andrew Darbonne, Gavin Brumfield, Dillon Mitchell, Mason Knudson, Wesley Bedsole and J.P Brumfield.

Contact Us

Mario Parga (903) 720-7446 Tacy Gauthreaux (337) 356-5733

Pastor: Mario Parga

Choir Director: Bonnie Pope

Secretary: Tacy Gauthreaux

Treasurer: Julie Foret

Custodian: Lee Dudley

CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH

office@centenarymethodist.com

1015 Cleveland Street, Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

Centenary Methodist Church

1015 Cleveland Street

Franklinton, LA 70438