

“THE MESSENGER”

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HOW TO BE HAPPY!

Are you almost disgusted with life, little man? I'll tell you a wonderful trick that will bring you contentment, if anything can, do something for somebody, quick!

Are you awfully tired with play, little girl? Wearied, discouraged, and sick – I'll tell you the loveliest game in the world, do something for somebody, quick!

Though it rains, like the rain of a flood, little man, and the clouds are forbidding and thick, you can make the sun shine in your soul, little man, do something for somebody, quick!

Though the stars are like brass overhead, little girl, and the walks like a well-heated brick, and our earthly affairs in a terrible whirl, do something for somebody, quick!

Yes, let us always remember that despite the downsides to life as it hits us at different times, there is always an upside waiting for us to enjoy the gift of life that God provides each of us.

As we look to the positive aspects of life and all the gifts God gives freely to us, we should be encouraged to share those gifts with one another, helping others to see the good in what otherwise would be a

bad situation they find themselves in. Life isn't a bowl of cherries without any pits! But, if all we worry about and stew about are the pits we may encounter, just think how many delicious opportunities, such joyful encounters, we could and perhaps already have missed out on.

When we devote ourselves to doing those things in life which reflect our love for Christ and his love for us, then will we find more beauty in the world than we ever thought possible. Our function – our assignment – our mission as Christians is to look for the best in all situations and the best in all people we meet and take it from there!

Be proud to be a child of God who can do so much for others in so many different ways, helping them to discover, through your own efforts, how precious it is to belong to the kingdom of God here on earth and be an active, positive-thinking and selfless brother or sister in Christ.

Shalom,

Pastor Rich

The Twenty-second of February

By William Cullen Bryant

Pale is the February sky and brief the mid-day's sunny hours; the wind-swept forest seems to sigh for the sweet time of leaves and flowers.

Yet has no 'month a prouder day, not even when the summer broods o'er meadows in their fresh array, or autumn tints the glowing woods.

For this chill season now again brings, in its annual round, the morn when, greatest of the sons of men, our glorious Washington was born.

The Eternal Struggle by Abraham Lincoln

It is the eternal struggle between these two principals – right and wrong – throughout the world. They are the two principals that have stood face to face from the beginning of time and will ever continue to struggle. The one is the common right of humanity, and the other the divine right of kings. It is the same principal in whatever shape it develops itself. It is the same spirit that says, “You toil, and work and earn bread, and I will eat it.” No matter what shape it comes, whether from the mouth of a king who seeks to bestride the people of his own nation and live from the fruit of their labor, or from one race of men as an apology for enslaving another race, it is the same tyrannical principal.

WHAT VALENTINE CAN I GIVE HIM? By Joanna Fuchs

What can I give to Jesus
On this special Valentine’s Day?
How can I tell Him I’ll love Him,
And follow Him, come what may?
How can I show I need Him?
Should I send a red heart, with lace?
How can I thank him enough
For His sacrifice, love, and grace?
What valentine can I give Him,
My adoration to impart?
I’ll give to him what he wants most;
I’ll yield to him my heart.

WISHING ALL OF YOU A WONDERFUL VALENTINE’S DAY!

LAY READERS

4 – Marsha Minge

11 – Julie Ratliff

18 – Abbey Breeding

25 – Carl Batliner

GREETERS

Rick Lyons

Jim Rockwell

John Williams

Bryan Cantor

USHERS

Larry & Darlene Adams

Carl & Jennifer Batliner

Tom & Marcia Shibley

Dan Flory & Jim Rockwell

COME AND WORSHIP WITH US!

4 – “Source of Strength” – Communion served

11 – “Compassionate Community”

14 – **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE IN CHAPEL – 1PM with Communion**

18 – “God’s Loving Paths”

21 – First Lenten Luncheon Service

25 – “Always Close”

BELLS ARE RINGING!

It was good to have our Bell Choir back together again at Christmas. Now we look to doing a few selections during the Lenten Season. We will perform sometime in the month of March. If you are interested in joining our group, please let Marsha or Barb know.

LENTEN LUNCHESES TO START UP AGAIN

This Lenten Season will include our Lenten Lunch/meditation hour every Wednesday: February 21 – First United Methodist - Scotty Robertson, preaching; February 28 – First Baptist Church – Kim Armentrout, preaching. Our theme is “Vices and Virtues”. Please join us for food, fellowship, and worship. Our lunches will run through March 20th. We are hosting one on March 6th and could use some volunteers to help serve and for people to donate desserts and soups and sandwiches. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex beginning February 4th.