



FEBRUARY 14, 2021 — 10:00 A.M.

PRESERVICE MUSIC.....*"More Love to Thee, O Christ"*

WELCOME.....*Jim Loeffler*

INVOCATION

PRELUDE.....*"Hallelujah"*

OPENING SONG.....*"Show Me Your Glory"*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE*Adrienne Morton*

PRAISE SONGS.....*"Hallelujah"*
"Reckless Love"

OFFERING A PRAYER OF OUR GIFTS & THANKS TO GOD

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #453.....*"More Love to Thee, O Christ"*

SERMON.....*Pastor Keith*

"AGAPE"

A Love Like No Other

Matthew 22:37-40; 1 John 4:10-12; Ephesians 5:1-2

SONG OF RESPONSE.....*"One Thing Remains"*

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

EXIT SONG*"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"*



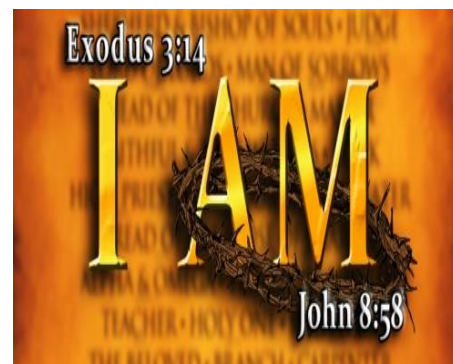
We would like to thank all those who recently responded to our need for help with our Digital Ministry which is expanding and growing. And also, for our need to interpret the variety of metrics and interpret them from Facebook, You Tube and other digital platforms. Thank you so much!



Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. we will be featuring a 20-minute LENTEN DEVOTIONAL with Pastor Keith called –

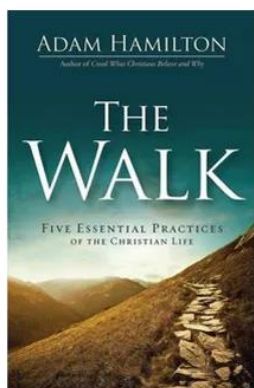
JOURNEY TO THE RESURRECTION

He'll begin this devotional on Thursday, February 18 (day after Ash Wednesday).



Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

- February 18: "The Journey Begins – Discovering the Great 'I AM'"
- February 25: "I Am the Bread of Life" – knowing God's satisfaction
- March 4: "I Am the Light of the World" – knowing God's guidance
- March 11: "I Am the Good Shepherd" – knowing God's care
- March 18: "I Am the True Vine" – knowing God's power
- March 25: "I Am the Way, the Truth & the Life" – knowing God's way
- April 1: "I Am the Resurrection & the Life" – knowing God's possibilities



NEW BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN...

Longing to get into a Bible Study? "*The Walk*" *Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life* by Adam Hamilton will begin on Wednesday, February 24 at 6:00 p.m. and will end March 24.

Please let Linda Morey know or leave your name with the church office at 899-5962. The Bible Study will be held in the multi-purpose room. Masks and safety protocols will be used.

Support Our Active Military



For our active service men and women, we thought it would be a great idea and a great honor to write them letters and messages of appreciation, support, or just send some news from their hometown (send them a newspaper or newsletter to keep them connected here at home). **BUT** -- We need your help with **NAMES**. If you have a son, daughter, relative, friend, neighbor who you may think could use a warm word, news from their hometown, or a note of gratitude. You can contact Gordy Locke or give Barb a call at the church office or e-mail us at: SHUMHH@aol.com



With the increasing guidelines from the State of Pennsylvania we must continue to be perseverant and aware of our compliance with these rules. For the safety and well-being of **ALL** of those choosing to worship with us 'in-person' we ask that everyone who attends 'in-person' worship be aware and follow these rules:

- 1) Masks and distancing apply to **ALL** (that includes the parking lot).
 - 2) Post-service lingerings and gatherings in the narthex must be avoided.
 - 3) Family units with children and that reside under one roof may sit together.
- Otherwise, sitting groups must be limited to no more than 4 people.



Live-streaming of the services can be seen on . . .

- ❖ www.facebook.com/southharborcreekumc
- ❖ You Tube @ south harborcreek umc

- ❖ Website: southharborcreekumc.org
- ❖ SHUMC app

"AGAPE" *A Love Like No Other*

2 PRIMARY VERSES:

MATTHEW 22:37-40 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

1 JOHN 4:10-12 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

JEREMIAH 31:3 The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

MATTHEW 5:43-45 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

JOHN 15:12-13 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7; 13 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

EPHESIANS 5:1-2 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SACRIFICIALLY & UNCONDITIONALLY LOVE OTHERS?

DILEMMA: HOW TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN:

"WE LOVE CHOCOLATE" AND "WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN"

"WE LOVE THAT SONG" AND "WE LOVE GOD"

The New Testament writers, particularly Paul and John, took an existing but little used word from the Greek language and imputed it with new meaning that might be used to reflect the powerful concept of "GOD CENTERED LOVE."

Isn't it cool that the 1st century Christians desire to find a better way to express a "Christian" type of love uniquely centered upon God's love resulted in a very special word?

UNIQUE DISTINCTION OF “AGAPE” LOVE:

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

- + AGAPE LOVE IS NOT DEPENDENT ON LOVE GIVING BACK.
- + AGAPE LOVE PUTS NO CONDITIONS, EXPECTATIONS, OR STIPULATIONS UPON A PERSON BEFORE THEY ARE LOVED

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

- + AGAPE LOVE GIVES ITSELF UP AND TAKES RISKS FOR THE WELFARE AND CARE OF --- OTHERS --- WANTING GOD’S BEST FOR THEM AND BEING WILLING TO EXPEND ENERGY TO SEE GOD’S BEST MADE REAL IN THEIR LIFE

FORGIVING LOVE

- + AGAPE LOVE EXPRESSES THAT “YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PERFECT FOR ME TO LOVE YOU”
- + IN FACT, I AM ALREADY COMMITTED TO FORGIVING YOU BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT PERFECT.

APPLYING GOD’S LOVE TO OUR WORLD AND OUR LIVES:

I AM THEIR ADVOCATE

I SACRIFICE MY RIGHTS TO SEE THEM SUCCEED

I HELP THEM SEE GOD’S GOOD FOR THEM

- * GOD’S GRACE ENABLES ME TO FORGIVE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HURT ME
- * I REJOICE WHEN GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO OTHER PEOPLE
- * I DEMONSTRATE LOVE EQUALLY TOWARD PEOPLE OF ALL RACES, CREEDS, AND LIFESTYLES
- * I FREQUENTLY GIVE UP WHAT I WANT FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS

BOTTOM-LINE: AS I GROW IN CHRISTIAN MATURITY AND CHRIST-LIKENESS I BECOME A BETER AND BETTER EXPRESSION OF GOD’S AGAPE LOVE FOR ME AND FOR ALL OF HIS CHURCH.

WHAT AND HOW SHOULD I PRAY TO GOD TO HELP ME BE A BETTER EXPRESSION OF AGAPE LOVE RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW? i.e. IN THE CONTEXT OF MY FAMILY, CHURCH, LIFE AND WORLD THAT I LIVE RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW --- FEBRUARY 2021?

AS WE CLOSE ... LET’S NAME IT IN OUR HEARTS ... CONFESSING OUR STRUGGLE AND COMMITTING OUR DESIRE & WILL TO LIFT ‘THIS PERSON’ AND ‘OUR RELATIONSHIP’ TO GOD AS AN OFFERING AND A PRAYER THAT WE MAY BE A SOURCE OF GOD’S LIGHT IN A DARK WORLD.