

02-13-19 Wednesday Musing

This week my mind tends toward the subject of "love." In every store every where, on TV and the internet we see the pictures of red hearts and words of love... as Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Some say that it's a "Hallmark Holiday", meaning that it is made and promoted by those in the business of selling cards and decadent chocolates expressly to boost their sales... and perhaps it is... but it also a time that we should be reminded of the one who is Love... God...

The Bible tells us in 1 John 4:8 *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

And 1 John 4:16b *God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

The Lord shows you how you can reflect his love to others--your friends, your family, even your enemies. God's love is unconditional; his love is very different from the love we experience with one another because it is not based on feelings. He doesn't love us because we please him. He loves us simply because He is love.

An entire passage found in 1 John 4:7-21 speaks of God's loving nature. Love is not merely an attribute of God, it is his very nature. God is not only loving, he is fundamentally love. God alone loves in the completeness and perfection of love.

So, if God is love and we, his followers, are born of God, then we will also love. God loves us, so we must love one another. We receive God's love in our relationship with Him.... And we experience God's love in our relationship with others...

Scripture speaks of love in abundance... 1 Corinthians 13, John 3:16, 1 Peter 4:8, Colossians 3:14.... just to name a few....

So... as we see the red hearts... dozens of roses... boxes of chocolates... turn your mind towards the One who is love... God your Father... and His unconditional everlasting love.

As we love one another... let us hold up in prayer the following: Donna Freeman, Anna Gerow, Anne Mary Greer, Harvey Sharpe, Nancy Thomas, Margaret Turner, Louise Walters, Family of Lee Whitfield - (Son of Bobby and Mary Jo Whitfield), Delores Johnson - (Sister of Troy Johnson). Also remember the many people in the community that are suffering from the flu.... It seems to be hitting folks especially hard this year.

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And please keep the church pastor, deacons, leadership, and pastoral search committees in your prayers as well... that God's will for First Christian may be clearly made known to them.

On the church's activity front...The Board of Finance meets next Tuesday, February 19th at 2 pm in the conference room. Articles for the March newsletter are due in the church office by Wednesday, February 20th.

May God's peace surround you,

Joan 😊

TEN WAYS TO LOVE...

1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. (Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)