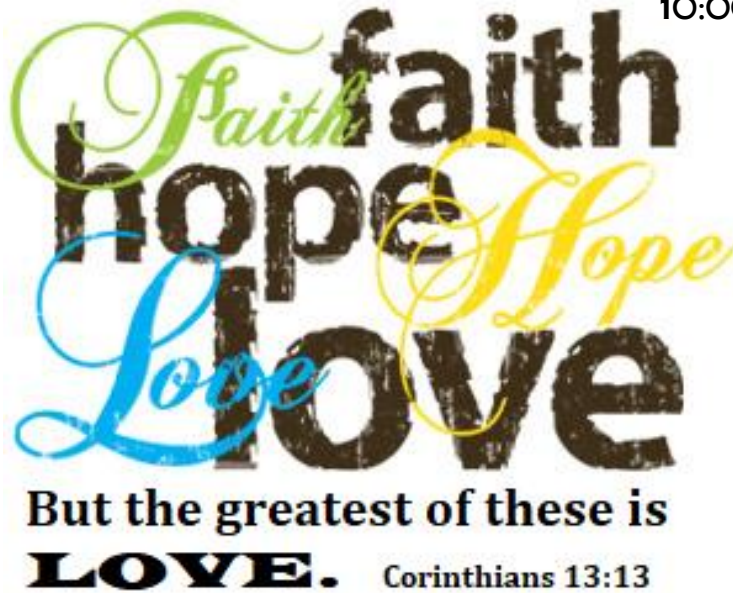


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13
10:00 A.M.



OPENING WORSHIP SONG.....*"Hallelujah (Your Love Is Amazing)"*
WELCOME & INVOCATION.....*Jim Loeffler*
PRELUDE.....*"The Gift of Love"*
SCRIPTURE (1 Corinthians 12:27-13:1-13).....*Jerri & Harold Blair*
PRAISE & WORSHIP.....*"Love the Lord"*
"Reckless Love"
PRAYER.....*Sue Fuller*
KID'S TALK & DISMISSAL.....*Jim Loeffler*
HYMN #408.....*"The Gift of Love"*
MESSAGE.....*Rev. Harold Blair*
The More Excellent Life
1 Corinthians 12:27—13:1-13
RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE.....*"One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)"*
BENEDICTION/BLESSING
EXIT SONG*"Beautiful One"*



In Sunday School TODAY: Friends of Paralyzed Man Do Whatever It Takes
Friends can help each other follow Jesus. (Mark 2:1-12; Malachi 2:1-9, 3:1)



The nursery room is open TODAY and available to our young families. We do not have it staffed, as yet, so parents will need to stay in the room with them. Masks will be optional but encouraged. You will be able to view the worship service on the TV in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You!



SHUMY Winter SNOW BLAST Retreat/COST: \$50 PER CHILD

February 18-20 @ Camp Findley - Findley Lake, NY

- Rev. Don & Chrissy Poole will be teaching our sessions on God's Power.
- Saturday afternoon ski/snow tubing at Peek'n Peak & then Brandon Fox will lead us in a concert and worship Saturday night. Don't forget about our EPIC Nerf Gun Battle! Invite your friends!
- Cut off for Registration is February 13!



TOPPERS (anyone 55 yrs. & up)

Potluck/Ice Cream Social on

Friday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex so that we know what you'll be bringing to the potluck as well as the need for different ice cream toppers. No need to bring ice cream – that will be provided.

REMEMBER to save the date and wear something red or green!

Give Gordy Locke a call if you have any questions: 719-640-7644.



The Annual Women's Retreat in Chautauqua will be held on Friday, June 3rd through Sunday, June 5th. More details to come!



SHUMC plays a supportive role in the Summer Camp Program! We believe Christian-based camps provide events that have the Gospel of Jesus Christ at their heart and that Summer Camp is a place for kids to find themselves, meet new friends, and above all connect with God. Don't let finances deter you from registering as financial assistance is available for most campers. So please take a look at the brochures in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Sue Fuller, Adrienne Morton, Julia Stranahan or LeAnne Morton.

If you go to www.wesleywoods.com and register for camp by the end of February (Feb. 28) they are offering \$50 off if you register and pay in full.



CALLING ALL MEN!! We are planning a men's chorus to sing either Sunday, March 13 or March 20. Song choice is "Be Thou My Vision," an Irish hymn. Any man who enjoys singing with a choir is welcome. The song is two-part, bass and tenor.

Practices (whichever is more convenient for you) begin on **Thursday, Feb. 10-March 10 at 7:00 p.m. or on Sunday directly after worship starting on February 13-March 13.**

COVID PROTOCOLS

As a leadership team, we are making decisions daily & will continue to do so regarding COVID protocols here at SHUMC. SO... We're asking a couple of things of you as you come to worship:

- 1) That people be mindful of responsible 'distancing' between family units
- 2) We are watching the School District for direction. We're asking that everyone wear masks until the children are dismissed for Sunday School. Once the children are dismissed, you're welcome to take off your mask for the balance of the service.
- 3) We're asking that we all wear masks as we leave the sanctuary and return to our cars.

With love and care,

SHUMC



Please hit the "Like" button so we know that you are viewing! It helps us with our attendance to know who is watching.

The More Excellent Life

1 Corinthians 12:27—13:1-13 (NRSV)

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have 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 do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Notes

- Divine Love may not be totally explainable, but it can be examined, talked about, and best of all lived in conjunction with God's other gifts of Faith and Hope.
- Divine Love is the heart of the More Excellent Way or Life Paul speaks of in I Corinthians 12:31.
- In chapters 1-12 of I Corinthians, Paul dealt with several serious faults in the Corinthian Christians' attitudes and behavior. Much of this had to do with their view of God's gifts as means of self-advancement and self-fulfillment. Paul shows them in a positive and poetic manner a better way of viewing the gifts as well as living an excellent life (I Cor: 12:31).

This more excellent life is grounded in faith, hope and love.

I. Faith in God

- Faith is more than a recited creed, head knowledge or theology.

"...faith is the hand by which we receive love, the way in which we receive God's revelation."

In other words, "...faith is nothing but the openness of our heart to God's love" faith without love cannot be faith in God, for God is love." Emil Brunner, in his book, *Faith, Hope, and Love*.

- Faith stabilizes in a transient changing world and secures us when God's presence is obscured.

II. Hope in God

- Hope is born of one's faith in God as their loving Father.
- Hope arises from one's faith in God who promises to never leave us and to always be in relationship with us.
- Hope is sustained and nurtured through believing God and obeying his commands.
- "The Christian hope is not simply a trembling, hesitant hope that perhaps the promises of God may be true. It is the confident expectation that they cannot be anything else than true." (William Barclay)
- Hope anchors us to a God who is always accessible to us. ***"We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain." (Hebrews 6:19)***

III. Love From God

- Faith and hope alone cannot sustain the more excellent life - without **love** faith becomes dogma leading to legalism and at times demonization – without **love** hope simply becomes cynicism and eventually dies.
- Without love, all gifts become meaningless "loud cymbal or the large gongs" used to attempt to awaken heathen gods!
- This love is **Agape** (sourced in God) as opposed to eros love (sensual), Philos love (brotherly), and Storge love (family).
- This love commanded by God: ***"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."***
- This love is patient, kind, longsuffering, and enduring. It does not boast nor is it arrogant and rude. It is not irritable or resentful and rejoices not in wrongdoing but rather in truth.
- This love is inclusive seeing everybody as "somebodies."
- This love motivates as a community to embody love to a world who needs to know that in God's sight, they are somebody!