

We miss the point if we do these things:

To gain God's favor. To gain the approval of others.

To gain accolades within. *"How wonderful I am!"*

The love of God does not seek to build the self up,
but to empty itself again, and again, and again.

Philippians 2:5-8 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

What the Sacrificial love of Christ, in community looks like:

Patience and kindness with each other,

Keeping envy and anger in check; willing to forgive. (7x70)

Not self-seeking, nor boastful, proud, or rude.

Not delighting in the misfortune of others.

Rejoicing in the good others experience.

Protective of and trusting of others (benefit of a doubt).

Hopeful and persevering (Because of who God is).

Love is the thing of lasting value. Why?

Because God is love, and God is eternal.

(vs. 8) Love never fails...prophecies will cease; tongues will be stilled; knowledge will pass away.

(vs 13) And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

FINAL THOUGHTS Luke 4:22-30 p. 1,596

"Widening the Circle of God's Love"

Last week – Good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, sight for the blind, oppressed set free (well received).

This Week – Elijah/Famine/Zarephath/Gentile
Elisha/Leprosy/Naaman/Gentile & Enemy

2 Issues – Faithfulness & God's care for outsiders.

Sermon Notes 02-02-2025

Psalm 71:1-6 p. 907

"Experiencing God's Redemptive Love"

Who comes to mind when you hear this bit of verse?

She wiped your tears when you were three.

He gave you a hug when stung by a bee.

When overwhelmed by hardship and strain,

They helped you find joy through the pain.

And when unsure of where your path lay,

Their wise counsel showed you the way.

She forgave you when you were too busy to care.

He was your biggest fan, when you lived life as a dare.

Young or old they did what they could,

In your corner they have always stood.

Have you ever considered that these people were a means?

The Psalmist uses words like refuge, deliver, save, and hope.

How & through who/God's redemptive love shown to you?

FURTHER THOUGHTS 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 p.1,786

"A Community of God's Love"

"If pigs could fly."

"If money grew on trees."

"If fish could climb mountains."

If dreams built castles in the air."

"If you the moon were made of cheese."

Fun little idioms that point to the improbability of something.

How about these "If" statements?

If I speak in tongues without love...

If I have the gift of prophecy without love...

If I can fathom all mysteries without love...

If I have mountain moving faith without love...

If I give all I possess to the poor without love...

These "If" statements point to the following:

"I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal."

"I am nothing" (nothing of substance). "I gain nothing."

*Prayerfully, openly engage in relationships
through Christ's love."*

CONTACT INFO

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PRAYER LIST

Hope Glesner, Barry Miller, Dorothy Drescher, Jenny Kump, David English, Chris English, Ray Border, Donnie McKeehan, Daniel Ferriss, Jeff Weer, Jill Tasker, Elaine Fry.

Prayer Persons: Jim & Becky Ellingsworth-717-776-8331
37 Cedar Circle, Newville PA 17241

Local Church: GRV- Troy Howell (Chaplain)

Presbyterian: 2nd, Carlisle- Jeff Gibelius

The Church Office will be closed February 3-6. On these days you will need a key to access the church and to unset and then reset the alarm when leaving the building.

Debby Madden will be providing Pastoral Care while Pastor Vern is on Study Leave February 3-9. She can be reached at (717) 440-1263.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members: On February 23rd we are planning to receive Jan Roberts and Jesus Gomez into membership. If there are others who would like to discuss the possibility of membership, then speak to Pastor Vern as soon as possible.

Meals on Wheels (MOW) information/opportunity

The Newville MOW is provided to Big Spring School district residents, most of who are seniors, who reside within 7 miles of the borough of Newville. The program is facilitated by Rausa Roscinski and Sherri Webber-Mains, and the MOW Board.

Each client pays \$3.50 daily for a hot meal and an additional \$1 for an optional cold Supper meal consisting of a sandwich, milk, and fruit. Meals are prepared by Green Ridge Village and delivered Monday-Friday.

MOW is "staffed" by a host of volunteers. Currently we have 25 clients receiving meals. There are 3 routes with each headed up by a Scheduler who coordinates the days for each driver according to their availability. The backbone of our organization are our drivers who volunteer to deliver meals to all our clients without mileage reimbursement.

If you'd like to find out more about the program and are possibly interested in volunteering as a driver, please talk with Sherri, Rausa OR Pastor Vern, Bob Kovanic, Jill Davis, Mike and Elaine Fry, or Jody Kann about their experience as drivers.

If you're interested in helping support MOW, please make out the check to Meals on Wheels, and mail it to:

Beth Spahr, Treasurer
150 Creek Rd.,
Newville, PA 17241