

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Love of Jesus

Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 CSB)

If I am not mistaken, I believe that love will be getting a lot of press this month. Heart-shaped candy has been on display since Christmas! A wonderful book by Dr. Phil Ryken was published in 2012 called *Loving the Way Jesus Loves*. He had preached a series of sermons from 1 Corinthians 13 looking at them through the lens of Jesus as the Scriptures present him. He changed my paradigm for thinking about that famous text. Jesus really does exemplify those characteristics of love.

Let's consider a few examples from the gospels. *Love is patient*. Can you imagine what life was like for Jesus and his inner circle of Peter, James, and John? And can you even conceive of the patience Jesus showed these men he called? Peter rebuked Jesus when our Lord made clear his plan to go to the cross. Peter came out with his sword swinging in the Garden of Gethsemane. Later that night he denied Jesus three times. James and John once volunteered to Jesus that they would call down fire from heaven to consume some unbelieving Samaritans. Later their own mother asked Jesus to place her sons on his right and his left in his kingdom. Jesus was patient. He told Peter beforehand that he had prayed for him. After the resurrection he gave Peter three opportunities to renew his love for Christ according to those three denials. As far as James and John (and their mother!) go, he loved them to the end. The patience of Jesus as well as his lack of rudeness and lack of irritability are a wonder to behold.

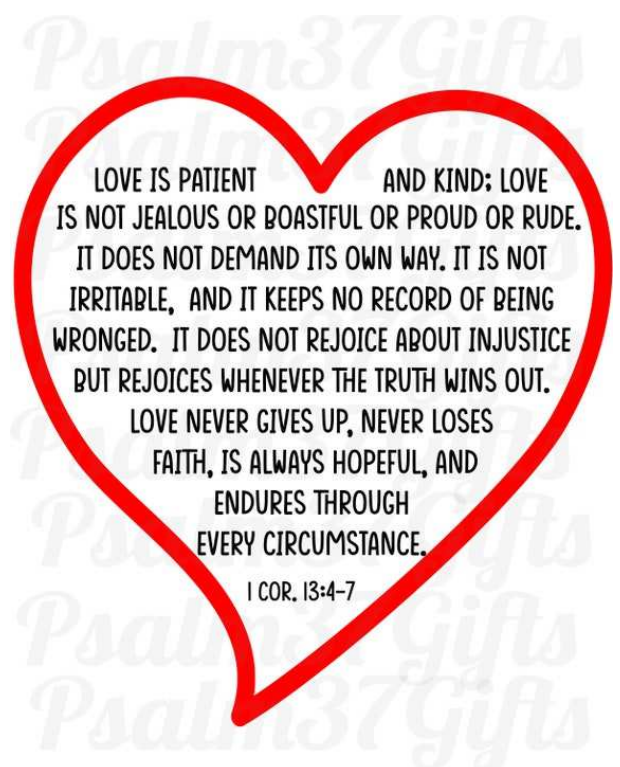
Love is kind. When he ministered to lepers, he touched them. He also touched the bier upon which lay the deceased son of the widow of Nain. Once a woman with a flow of blood touched the garment of Jesus. All of

these instances would have made Jesus unclean. That means he would have been ceremonially unfit to attend worship in the temple. Jesus is kind. Quite beyond the healings in all these stories is the pure kindness of Jesus entering—physically and spiritually—the lives of those he touched (pun intended!).

Love ... does not keep a record of wrongs. Think of the two encounters in John's gospel Jesus had with the Samaritan woman at the well and the woman caught in adultery. The first was five times divorced and living with a man not her husband. The second was caught in the very act of adultery. The end of each story? Repentance and faith. Grace and forgiveness. And witness to the truth. And the admonition: "*Neither do I condemn you,*" said Jesus. "*Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.*"

What wondrous love is this! It finally would *endure and bear* the cross for sinners like us.

Thankful for Jesus' love,
Pastor Josh





SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			1 <u>Dessert Fellowship:</u> 6pm <u>Study/Prayer:</u> 6:15pm	2	3	4
5 <u>Sunday School:</u> 9:30am <u>Worship:</u> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)	6 <u>Game/Fellowship</u> <u>Time:</u> 9:30am	7	8 <u>Dessert Fellowship:</u> 6pm <u>Study/Prayer:</u> 6:15pm	9	10	11
12 <u>Sunday School:</u> 9:30am <u>Worship:</u> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) <u>Deacon Meeting</u> <u>Communion</u>	13 <u>Game/Fellowship</u> <u>Time:</u> 9:30am <u>WM Council Meeting:</u> 5pm	14 <u>Valentine's Day</u> <u>WM Circle Study:</u> 9:30am or 6:45pm	15 (No Wednesday events this week)	16	17	18 <u>36th Annual Missions Conference</u> <u>Men's Breakfast:</u> 8am <u>Ladies' Luncheon:</u> 11:30am <u>BBQ Dinner/Missions Presentation:</u> 5:30pm
19 <u>Sunday School:</u> 9:30am <u>Missions Conference</u> <u>Worship:</u> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) <u>Fellowship Potluck</u>	20 <u>Game/Fellowship</u> <u>Time:</u> 9:30am	21 <u>WM Circle Study:</u> 9:30am or 6:45pm	22 <u>Dessert Fellowship:</u> 6pm <u>Study/Prayer:</u> 6:15pm	23	24	25
26 <u>Sunday School:</u> 9:30am <u>Worship:</u> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) <u>HOP:</u> 2pm	27	28 <u>WM Circle Study:</u> 9:30am or 6:45pm				

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: David Coddington and Ray Evans

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Bernice Cork

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am, in the sanctuary and via Zoom.
- Monday, Game/Fellowship Time, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday, Women’s Ministry Circle Study, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall or 6:45 pm at Ann Resto’s home.
- Dessert Fellowship and Bible Study/Prayer Time, Wednesdays. Dessert fellowship at 6:00 pm and study with prayer time at 6:15pm.

<u>2022</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 10,293.00	\$ 101,592.17
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 10,012.01	\$ 98,609.15
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 280.99	\$ 2,983.02
<u>2021</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 10,012.00	\$ 98,454.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 5,039.38	\$ 73,816.42
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 4,972.62	\$ 24,637.58

DECEMBER AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 30

DEACONS: Glenn Basinger, David Coddington, Mike Cork, and Ray Evans

FEBRUARY EVENTS

February 12:

- Communion.
- Deacon Meeting.

February 13: Women’s Ministry Council Meeting, 5:00 pm.

February 18: 36th Annual Missions Conference

- Men’s Breakfast with Missions: 8:00 am.
- Ladies’ Luncheon with Missions: 11:30 am.
- BBQ Dinner with Missions: 5:30 pm.
- Refreshments and Fellowship follow.

February 19:

- Missions Conference Worship will be led by Rev. Clete Hux, 11:00 am.
- Monthly Fellowship Potluck. Setup/Clean-up Committee: Weltin and Symon families.

February 26: Hooked on Prayer (HOP) will meet at 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris’ home. Please see page 4 for more details on this activity. For more information, please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin.



*Ask for the old paths,
where the good way is,
and walk in it;
then you will find
rest for your souls.
Jeremiah 6:16a*

36TH ANNUAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Date: February 18-19, 2023

Theme: Ancient Words - Guide Us Home

Theme Verse: Jeremiah 6:16a

Missionary Guests:

- Clete and Karen Hux, Apologetics Resource Center, Birmingham, AL
- Robert and Lisa Stewart, Mission to the World, Japan
- Andy and Bev Warren, Mission to the World, Ethiopia

Weekend Events: (see calendar for event times)

- Saturday, Men’s Breakfast with Missions
- Saturday, Ladies Luncheon with Missions
- Saturday, BBQ Dinner, Missions Presentation
- Sunday, Worship with Missions
- Sunday, Potluck Luncheon

We hope you will support our event and our Faith Promise giving in 2023.

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

FEBRUARY 2023

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARIES

Robert & Lisa Stewart	Mission to the World — Japan
Andy & Bev Warren	Mission to the World — Ethiopia
Doug McNutt	Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa
Aaron & Leticia Zapata	Mission to North America — Mexico
U.S. Military Chaplain Ministry	Mission to North America
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah & Jennifer	Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country
General Support	The Lighthouse Women's Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS

HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Abrams, Riddell	Hoggle, Judy
Acton, Beth	Huizenga, Fran
Allinder, Kate	Hux, Karen
Bazuin, Caiden	Ivy, Kendall
Beale, Amy	Jennifer (Missionary)
Beard, Ronnie	Lane, Barbara
Beeler, Peggy	Lawson, Connie
Belcher, Samuel	Ligon, Brandon
Brantley, Maggie	Mackin, Jimmy
Bridges, Ida Lee	Mader, Rebecca
Brooker, Chrissy	McIntier, Jodie
Brooker, Jan	Morgan, Laura
Brown, Walt	Morris, Seth
Busby, Rhae	Mutisya, Cecilia
Bynum, Linda	Parr, Higley
Craig, Noah	Phillips, Ronnie
Curry, Walter	Plummer, Kaegan
Davidson, Karen	Renner, Elizabeth
DeWitt, Robert	Reynolds, Christy
Duncan, Conner	Sakon, Ethan
Dyer, Doug	Sharp, Chris
Emerson, Sandra	Sims, Anna Katherine
Espy, Emily	Telmont, Jose
Farst, Sharon	Thornton, Alaina
Finley, Betty	Tipton, Carolyn
Hall, Jimmy	Tulipan, Amelia
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Tulipan, Hansen
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Turner, Becky
Hayes, Betsy	VanderMolen, Popko
Headley, David	Womble, Caleb
Hocker, Jeannie	Zimmerman, Steve

If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.

If you have a heart to pray for the critically, chronically or terminally ill, HOP needs you.

**Can you pray?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you knit or crochet?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you write note cards?
WE NEED YOU!**

HOP is a prayer shawl ministry. We give shawls, throws, or blankets to the critically, chronically, or terminally ill to let them know we are praying for them. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet to be involved.

Any monetary gifts or donations of supplies, yarn, note cards and/or postage is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin for more information on how you can get involved.



OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:

Luke (Jonah's son)
Scott Kirkpatrick
Jimmy Mackin
Rick Wilson
Kendall Ivy
Jimmy Hall

Illness:

Laura Morgan
Neal Bules
David Headley
Linda Dunning

Special Needs:

The Hutton Family
Sharon Farst

Other Needs:

Christina & Danny Addison
Abigayle Kircharr
Harry Jeong

Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick
Sam Brasfield
Steven Mackin
Victor Resto
Joseph Wilson
Josh Tyson
Blake Ivy
Austin Griffith
Kaleb Brown