

The Lamplighter

"Let Your Light Shine Before Others" Matthew 5:16

February 2023 — Volume 27 Issue 2

A publication of New Salem United Methodist Church ♦ Randleman, North Carolina

"Love Is"

As we continue further into the season of Epiphany with the Christmas season fading behind us and Lent on the horizon, this month our attention turns to Love. Love is a powerful and mysterious gift from God that helps us live in relationship with each other and in community. Sometimes, love is the only thing that keeps us together during times of struggle and pain. Yet, all too often, it's a word that we throw around casually.

Love is a word we use freely for many things, to express affection for our spouses, family and children but also for our favorite foods, music and movies. With such a wide array of use, it can be easy to lose track of what love is all about. Anyone who has been to a wedding can tell you that there is a 50/50 chance of hearing 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 recited during the service or reception.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Such aspirational words, words we may agree are not easy to live by every day. Just imagine if we could — what would that look like? We have been spending some time with Paul and his troubled church in Corinth for the past few weeks, and will continue with his struggles for some time to come. Now is a good time for us to take a deeper look at some aspects of this gift of love in response to a community having trouble getting along. For Paul, if we are "in Christ" and abiding by his commands to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbor as our self, this is what love should look like, and it should be effortless.

Specifically, during this month that celebrates the feast of St. Valentine and Black History, we have an opportunity to live into a life of loving God and neighbor. Paul gives us the blueprint for the right mindset, that of Christ, which can help guide us into a more loving community. John, in his Gospel, goes further by stating that how we love each other will define our identity as followers of Christ, which is based on the God who first loved us — a Love that protects, trusts, is hopeful, perseveres and never fails.

Peace,

Rev. Steve Bergkamp

FEBRUARY

MEETINGS THIS MONTH

Sunday, February 5, 12, 19, 3:00 pm — Bible Study "You Were Made for This Moment" will continue in the Fellowship Hall.



Tuesday, February 7th, 6:00 pm — UMW Executive Committee Meeting (2022 officers and committee members) in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 18th, 8:30 am — Methodist Men will meet at Olympia Restaurant

Tuesday, February 21st, 7:00 pm — Administrative Council will meet in the Fellowship Hall

Anniversaries

1st Tuck & Jennifer Strickland
20th Bob & Shirley Day

Birthdays

1st Chris Apple
1st David Cruthis
4th Kylie Vaughan
6th C. O. Hayes
11th Fay Campbell
19th Cody Fogleman
20th Mary Ann Trogdon
23rd Evelyn Routh
24th Joey Dodd
24th Martha Russell

"Fill the Wagons" School Backpack Pals Program

Bring your food items the first Sunday of each month. If you wish to donate money, make your check payable to "CIS Randolph County" with "Randleman Schools" on the memo line. Foods needed are:

Capri Sun Juice Pouches or Similar

Single Serve or Small Boxes of Mac & Cheese or Similar

Granola Bars or Cereal Boxes, Oatmeal or Similar

Ramen Noodles or Similar

Cans of Ravioli, Vienna Sausages



FIVE VALENTINES TO GIVE YOUR CHILDREN

1. **Acceptance.** Teach them they are loved for who they are. Give this gift with a kiss.
2. **Self-confidence.** Help them understand that they can trust themselves. Give this with a hug.
3. **Life without needless fears.** Don't let them see you as a worrier. Give this gift with laughter.
4. **Appreciation.** Help them become people with a spark who enjoy all of life and everything around them. Give this gift as they go out the door.
5. **Faith.** Introduce them to God, the best friend they will ever have. Give this gift by taking them to Sunday school and worship services every Lord's day.



Please be in prayer for:

People involved in the Ukraine/Russian war, Tommy & Angie Garner, Jim South, Betty Barker, Mary Ann Trogdon, Paul Morris (friend of Randy Russell), Norma Bergkamp (Pastor Steve's mother), Patrick O'Hara, Mary Ann Johnson, Jim Reese, Matt Tremble, Caroline and Dorothy Warmack (Karen Routh's niece), Rhonda Radcliffe's sister Vickey, the Billy Pugh Family, Rev. Lee and Evelyn Ellis and those affected by senseless violence and disastrous weather.

Have a prayer request for the Neil Goslen Phone-tree?
Contact the office at (336) 498-3936. Please leave a message.



*Love
your neighbor
as yourself.*

Leviticus 19:18

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday mornings at 10:45 AM in
the E. L.. Hayes classroom.

9:30 A.M.

Our Worship Services are live each Sunday
Morning in our sanctuary and on our
YouTube Channel. You are also invited to
view the recorded service at a later time at
the link found below.

GIVING & CONTACT INFORMATION

New Salem UMC

P. O. Box 303

Randleman, NC 27317

Phone: 336-498-3936

(Physical Address—623 New Salem Road)

E-mail: newsalemumc@northstate.net

On the web: umcnewsalem.org

Pastor Steve Bergkamp

Cell phone: 561-512-0199

Email: sbergkamp@wnccumc.net

NEW SALEM YouTube CHANNEL

LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHWYgOsR5oLamk6gMUWW5yQ>

**Deadline for information for the March 2023 edition
of "The Lamplighter" is Wednesday,
February 22nd.**

