



February 2023



Fox River Life



The following article is written by Kyle E. Sims who is Pastor at the First ARP Church of Lancaster, PA. He is also a writer for the Gentle Reformation web-

site. My hope and prayer are that we all would heed his sage words on Christian Love.

The Need for Christian Love

Love should be a ubiquitous characteristic among Christians. The scriptures are replete in calling for this emphasis on love in the life of every Christian. Jesus answers the Pharisees that love for God and others were the greatest commandments.

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." - Matthew 22:37-40 (ESV)

The world speaks of love but really, they only mean acceptance. Worldly love is predicated on set conditions. In the church, love is much deeper. Love does not just accept people; it works for their best interest. Christian love should be a much greater love. The church is a place where worldly distinctions are

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melted away by an intense love fired by a common salvation, a shared hope, and the powerful indwelling by the Holy Spirit. It is a love that is active and involved. The early church father Tertullian wrote how the pagans noted the evident love Christians had for each other.

"But it is mainly the deeds of love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. See, they say, how they love one another, for they themselves are animated by mutual hatred."

Love is at the center of Christianity. God's gracious and merciful love for sinners is at the heart of the gospel. Once experienced, the Gospel brings a genuine love for God and develops a love for all men. Apostle John speaks about this truth in his First Epistle:

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 John 4:19–21

Christian, you must be a person of love. Our great enemy knows the power of this love in our hearts, relationships, and churches. He does all he can to turn us from love to hate, from trust to doubt, from clear communication to suspicious gossip. He works this evil in our families, churches, and denominations.

God calls you to love others, which is a challenge because being a Christian does not free us from the hurts and misunderstandings of relationships. However, it does give us a different perspective. It provides us with hope beyond hurts. It teaches the power of forgiveness, especially as wretched sinners saved by amazing grace. The church's love is different from the world's love. The world can love its own, but we can love even our enemies. This love must be more than words. It must be a love that moves our actions and forms our words in all our relationships.

In the example of Jesus, we see that we must initiate love. We do not wait for others to act. True love compels us to love those around us. During this season of the year where everyone is thinking about Christ's incarna-

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST & PRAISE

GUADA MAE (10 Years Old)

Guada Mae arrived at CSC this week. She joins her younger brother, Jaireh, who has already been living at the shelter. Guada Mae is a sweet girl and is adjusting well. She was excited to meet her new roommates, but she is still a little nervous. Prior to coming to CSC she had been living at another shelter.

Guada Mae's favorite color is light gray, and her favorite foods are vegetables. She has a few physical challenges, but she takes pride in being independent. We are so thankful God brought her to CSC. Will you please pray with us for her adjustment and for her future?



In the example of Jesus, we see that we must initiate love. We do not wait for others to act. True love compels us to love those around us. During this season of the year where everyone is thinking about Christ's incarnation, we are reminded that we did not go to God but that He came to us. He came to suffer and die for us. He came to defeat sin and death that we might be redeemed now and forever.

Love should compel you to work through broken relationships. How many families have broken and strained relationships? Are there unspoken issues and unresolved conflicts in your life? How best would Jesus have you love these folks? How do you need to go and love these people?

Love must be seen in the local church. Many churches have struggled in the last two years. Covid, Trump, and Race Issues have divided many congregations. These added to the usual struggles in the local church have shown in many congregations a lack of true love for each other. Too many have loved their rights and opinions more than their fellow Christians. It is hard, all of us have had to work through disagreements and conflicts in the church. We must keep loving and working through these. If we lose our love for each other, we start to mirror the world. You are not to give up your opinions, but you must have them and voice them in love. It should pain us to see congregations torn apart by any reason, but especially due to a lack of love for other Christians.

Love must be seen in our denominations. Many denominations are going through difficult times. The issues are serious. Some cut to the heart of what we believe on how best to live out the Bible. As church leaders, we should be setting an example of love in disagreements and conflict. We who speak of the infallible and inerrant word of God should live by it. Especially in conflict and division, we are to love each other. We must fight the urge to pick up the weapons and methods of the world. What a witness it is when we love in difficult times.

Christians, you must love! The Lord says it clearly in the Bible. I challenge us all to consider the Word of God and command to love those in our families, local churches, and denominations. May true Biblical love be a mark of who we are in these difficult days. May a watching world see our love for God, the church, and for them.

In His Name & For His Glory,
Pastor Tim

The Deaconess are setting up a Valentine Dinner on February 18th, 4-6pm. Dinner, Music and Activities will be fun and festive. For admission, a donation to our St. Joseph Food Program.



Women's Ministry Committee will meet February 1 to make plans for the new year. We look forward to continuing our support of Vida, having quarterly craft fellowships, and being a blessing to Brewster Village residents.

Children's Church has been studying about the covenant. God made a promise that Abraham would inherit the land of Canaan.

Abraham will have many descendants as numerous as the sand on the seashores or as many stars that are in the night sky.

God would bring blessings and redemption to all people through Abraham's people.



DISCIPLESHIP

Men & Women's Bible Studies

All three of our Bible Studies are going very well. The Ladies on Thursday afternoon are working their way through the Epistles of John. The Saturday morning Ladies are just about to wrap up Hebrews and will begin to look at 1 & 2 Corinthians here in a couple of weeks. The Men's Saturday morning Bible study is over halfway through the book of Revelation. If I may say a word on the Bible Studies, no matter where they are in the study do not allow that to be a hindrance to you joining one of the groups. Whenever you join and wherever we are in the study, God will bless your time and study in His Word with your brothers and sisters.

Sunday School

The Sunday School is continuing the study of the last week of Jesus' life on earth. It has been a rich study and well taught by our multiple teachers. Once again do not allow the fact that we are over half way done keep you from attending. Finally with regards to all our teachers and leaders I am eternally grateful for your faithfulness, service, and gifting...we are so richly blessed.

In His Name & For His Glory, Pastor Tim

Church Library :

“You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suite me.”

— C.S. Lewis



Sunday Evening Services Schedule

February 5—Ask Pastor Tim @ 5:00 pm

February 12—Prayer @ 5:00 pm

February 19—Sola Christos @ 5:00 pm

February 26—Prayer @ 5:00 pm



Financial Update, 2023
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,340.00
Received: \$ 2,244 per week
Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Men's & Women's
Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:00pm

Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am



February 5
Howard Schimke

February 12
Bob Abitz

February 19
Scot t Smith

February 26
Ryan Smith



Please contact Carol
Smith at
(920) 788-9795
to volunteer for
Nursery
ministry. There is a sign
-up sheet at the front
desk.

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

MISSIONS BOARD

Missions Board will meet February 6 to review the Yearly Update forms which have been returned by each of our missionaries. We hope to have good highlights for you in the upcoming Missions Spotlights.

Young@Heart will be continuing provide a service at Care Partners in Fox Crossing on the first Thursday of each month, with our next service on February 2, at 10:30 am. We are also temporarily filling in for Rich Engel of Shepherd's Care with a service at Frontida Assisted Living in Kimberly on the second Tuesday of each month starting on January 10 and continuing through April.

You can talk to Lynn, Doris, or Diane with any questions about what we do, and if you are interested in joining us at either service, please contact Lynn Abitz.



FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



1—Connie Snortum

9—Dan Waggoner

9—Samya Johnson

27—Gail Kroehler

28— Ron Van Asten

20th—Steve and Carolyn Krauss

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Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new Prayer request email address:

Care to be part of the prayer chain?

Email or call Becky Godfrey at
becl.godfrey@gmail.com —
(920) 277-1526

