



Millville United Methodist Church

The Dove

September 2016

Hello Church,

What's Love Got to Do With It?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” – Galatians 5:22-23

To start this month's letter, I have to admit a small, special kind of joy in writing this one. I'm not the best at titling anything; sermons, series, studies, events, groups, you name it. Even as a teenager, when I started preaching and public speaking, trying to come up with names for my sermons was the least favorite part of the process. It did not take long for me to come up with a fun workaround, which was naming my work after famous and fun sayings or lines from pop culture. That's a very long way to introduce our first Fruit of the Spirit, love, by way of Tina Turner's classic song “What's Love Got to Do With It?”.

The song has been stuck in my head for the last two days, but I'm extra excited by it because as our family was getting ready this morning Emma accidentally turned on the radio function of my bedside clock radio. After a couple minutes of her curiously hitting buttons she figured out how to change stations and what do you know Tina came on belting out this exact song. I laughed and started singing along, but my oldest daughter was not amused. Take a minute and see how many songs you can name

with the word love in the title or that are about love. How many did you come up with?

Songs about love transcend artists, genres, and generations. There are more than any of us can recall on our own, yet they are for the most part unique in what they say about love and how they say it. How often do we throw around the word love far more casually, far more trivially than we really should? I'm sure you've heard me say this before because it is one of my personal soapboxes, but I believe that many of us, me included, need to rethink how and when we use the word love. On a regular basis I hear people say they love things like movies, books, music, food, restaurants, places, and all sorts of other things. Do you think that kind of love is the same love that Paul ascribes as coming from the Holy Spirit?

Debate me if you will, but I feel quite strongly that the love we receive from God, the love that is made known through Jesus Christ, is far above how I feel about Taco Bell. I won't quote it here, but I encourage you to read 1 Corinthians 13 if you haven't visited it in a while. When you talk about love in the Christian context, many people struggle and wonder about how we love those people in our lives that may not be the easiest to be around. We want to be sincere and authentic, not superficial or less than genuine, so there are many work arounds that folks have come up with to come to peace with this conflict.

Love as a follower of Christ isn't about what we can muster up in any given day or moment, because we and God know the extent and fickleness of human love. Referring back to 1 Corinthians 13, we are reminded of how much God's love is eternal, unflinching, and unfailing even in the light of our sin and the brokenness of the world. What do we have that compares to that? Nothing, plain and simple. So meditating on God's love and how we can embody it and share it with others is an exercise in getting out of our own way and being a conduit for the Lord. We are able to be the recipients of that everlasting gift due to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our choice to open ourselves up to that truth and how the Spirit can shape us through it.

Once we've done that we realize part of our calling as His followers is to extend and share that love with all those we can. We are loved not because of who we are, but because of who we can be through Christ. We can love others by looking at them through the eyes of Christ and realizing that they can be so much more also through the work of the Savior of the World. That possibility never changes in any life, even our own, until we pass from this world into the next and face the judgment of God. That judgment is God's alone, so it is up to us to carry around the hope and love from our Great Shepherd in the hope that the seed planted in us can bear fruit in not only our life, but in so many more! Through God and God alone, may we be a bountiful people in all the days we have left.

Blessings,

Pastor Brad

BAZAAR CRAFT TIME

We really need help with crafting for our bazaar in November. Please come to the hall on Tuesdays at 10 am. There are lots of things you can even take home to do.

Marie Myers 539-4623

Trustees Job Description

Result Expected

Effective trustees will function as Christian stewards of property God has entrusted to the congregation. This includes supervising and maintaining both the physical property of the congregation and gifts made to the congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective and all legal requirements related to the property are satisfied.

Spiritual Gifts and Qualifications Helpful for the Job

- Trustees benefit from having one or more of these spiritual gifts: servanthood, helping, discernment, leadership, administration, and giving. The chairperson should show evidence of prior effective ministry leadership, especially in the area of stewardship of assets, and this leader should exhibit evidence of active and growing discipleship.
- Useful knowledge and skills for this position are knowledge of property and asset management, ability to listen to and communicate with people of all ages and the ability to work with other ministry leaders. The chair should show prior ability to preside over meetings, the ability to delegate responsibility and to follow up to complete tasks.
- Trustees should show genuine interest in responding to the hopes and concerns of people in the community and show willingness to partner with community interests.
- The congregation's committee on nominations and leadership development may establish specific standards for this position.

Responsibilities of the Chairperson

- This leader guides the work of the trustees throughout the year, including preparing and communicating the agenda for meetings, leading the meetings, following up on plans by assigning responsibility for implementation and coordinating both routine and special maintenance of church property, including endowments, trust funds, and gifts made to the congregation.
- The chairperson should maintain a healthy and growing spiritual life.
- This person needs to become familiar with disciplinary and legal requirements related to church property and with United Methodist resources and organization.
- This person should consult regularly with the pastor about property matters.

Responsibilities of the Committee

- This team, subject to the direction of the charge conference, has oversight and care of all local church property, buildings, and equipment to further the mission of the church. This work is done in consultation with the pastor.
- This team and individual trustees need to engage in spiritual practices that build attentiveness to God's will and direction. Church administration and attentiveness to daily affairs can distract the team from the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Trustees need to hold one another accountable to the mission and vision of the church.
- Trustees receive and administer all gifts made to the congregation and make certain that trust funds of the congregation are invested properly.
- Trustees ensure that the Articles of Incorporation of the congregation are kept up-to-date.
- Trustees annually review property, liability, and crime insurance coverage on church-

owned property, buildings, and equipment. They also review personnel insurance for protection against risk and consult with the pastor-parish relations team about other personnel insurance.

- Trustees conduct an annual accessibility audit of buildings and grounds to discover and then work toward eliminating barriers that impede the full participation of all people.
- The team submits annual budget requests to the committee on finance for property maintenance and improvement and new property purchases.
- Trustees are accountable to the charge conference and the church council. The term "trustees" as used in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* may be construed to be synonymous with "director of corporations" when required to comply with law.

Getting Started

1. Talk with the nominating committee, the pastor, and others to understand their hopes and dreams for the way that trustees can advance the congregation's vision for ministry. Talk with people in the congregation and community about current issues and concerns related to the use of the church property.
2. Set aside time for prayer. Express your concerns, joys, and observations to God, and listen for God's direction for your leadership and for your congregation.
3. Study *Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation, 2017-2020: Trustees* and participate in training experiences.
4. Convene the first meeting of the board of trustees within thirty days of the beginning of the calendar year to get acquainted, assess needs, and make plans for the year.

Forgiveness – Part 2

By Ed Thornton

To review, forgiveness is directly associated with the nature of our relationship with God. According to scripture, forgiveness is directly connected to the covering of sin. Interestingly the New Testament also talks about being *forgiven* in financial terms. It suggests that the debt was settled by another. Now in the New Testament we find a fuller description of what our response to God's forgiveness should be. Our response to God's forgiveness should be confession and repentance as David told us in Psalm 32.

What does the New Testament say about confession?

Read 1 John 1:9.

Our first response to God's forgiveness is confession. Forgiveness begins with confession. We must confess our sins, we must bare our souls to God. In confession we realize and acknowledge our dependence on God and the gift of His Son to cover our sins.

On the cross Jesus paid for our fresh start. He paid the penalty of death to wipe our slate clean. Confession is the acknowledgment that we accept Christ's death as the payment for our sin.

Confession also brings cleansing into our lives. Sin stains our lives whether it would be the habits we have formed, or the damage of our actions. Cleansing is the washing that takes away the stains of our sin. It washes the dirt and the grime caused by sin from our lives. Cleansing washes our sins away, making us presentable before the Lord.

What does the New Testament say about repentance?

Read Acts 3:19.

“Repentance” means to turn about or turn around. It means to totally change direction. It means to turn from whatever is taking God's place in our lives or distracting us from Him right now. The actual Greek word that we translate as “repent” literally means to have another mind.

The word repentance is not a popular word in today's society. It is not popular because if people are asked to repent then they must necessarily admit that they have done something wrong. People don't like to be told that they are wrong or have been living the wrong way.

Remember the Genesis account of the fall of man, when Adam and Eve sinned, they were not necessarily repentant over their sin. In fact they knew they had sinned and they tried to hide it from God. Then when confronted with their sin they failed to take any responsibility for their actions.

Repentance requires three actions from us:

First, repentance is a change of mind:

Repentance begins with a change in how we think. Our minds should change about God, who He is and what place He has in our lives. Repentance should also bring about a change in how you live.

It is a change in lifestyle because we see the consequences of our sin and no longer want to disobey God.

Repentance means resisting the devil. To resist means to withstand, strive against, or oppose in some manner. Resistance can be a defensive maneuver on our part, such as resisting or withstanding the temptation to sin. Or it can be actions we take to expose Satan's lies and temptations.

Second, repentance is a change of will.

Repentance also involves a change of the will. Our will is our inclination to use values and standards to guide our actions. In a change of will we abandon the world's values and standards and adopt God's values and standards as found in God's Word.

Repentance means purifying our hearts. The imperative to purify your hearts is a call for inner purification. Our outward sins are always connected to the inward sins of our hearts; our thoughts and attitudes, our wills and emotions. We must deal with the inner sins of our heart, the ones only seen by God. We must cleanse our hearts of these inner sins.

Third repentance means taking action.

The most important aspect of repentance involves a life change or a reformation of the lifestyle. We must change how we live our lives and this change must be visible. Jesus' story of the prodigal, or lost, son highlights this taking action.

The parable is about a son who wanted his inheritance from his father early.

So he took it and left home and went off into the far country. As it turns out the son quickly squandered all the money he was given.

At some point the son realized his mistake, he realized he messed up, and he was sorrowful for what he did. Rather than staying where he was, there in the pigpen, he took action. He decided he would go back to his father's house and say to him, 'I have sinned against God and against you. I don't deserve to be called your son, so hire me and I will work for you.' He returned home. He asked for forgiveness. The father, who had been wronged, immediately forgave him. The prodigal son's confession led to repentance, a change in how he lived.

Always remember we have two responses to forgiveness – confession and repentance.

John told us the blessing of forgiveness begins with confession. Confession helps us to take responsibility for our sins and acknowledge them to God. Confession also brings a cleaning of the stains of sin from our lives.

Luke told us confession leads to repentance. Repentance means an about turn or turn around. It means to totally change direction and adopt God’s values and standards not those of the world.

Repentance means:

A change of mind

A change of will

Taking action

