

WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2015

THE LINK

FEBRUARY 2016



God is love and light

Here we are at the beginning of the second month of the year, February, again! The Love month!

Not much has changed since this time last year with regards to love. The world is still in need of love, although it pretends daily that love is important. And maybe it is, but what kind of love? What have been the fruits of this love?

I think these are relevant questions for the church because we're great at talking about love, but our actions do not always reflect an understanding that God is not becoming more loving...God IS love! The very essence of Who God Is, is love! And, that love is Light and Life-giving. 1 John 1:5 says, "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." That same love of God, is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us (Rom.5:5). Where is the Light of God's love in the church?

After having just seen the new Star Wars movie, my thoughts about love are playing off of the themes of light and dark, good and evil. Over the years, we have watched the battle between good and evil ebb and flow. We watched as Obi Wan, Yoda, Luke, Leia, Han and so many others battled against Darth Vader, the Emperor, Sith lords and the other purveyors of the death and destruction of the dark side of the Force. In the most recent installment, the story ends with a victory for good, and we see evil retreating to prepare for another day.

By Pastor Jill

For us, it seems that hate is on a winning streak! Stevie Wonder sang, "Hate's going around breaking many hearts." Love is limping today. It's badly bruised and battered... overtaken by the dark side in us! Yoda said to Luke Skywalker, in the Empire Strikes Back, "Once you start down the dark path, forever will it dominate your destiny, consume you it will!"

Our culture is certainly inundated with the shadow side of two forms of love: Eros, or sexual passion, and Philautia, or love of the self.

The expressions of sexuality that are admissible on television today would have been considered x-rated or pornographic less than 20 years ago. And, our senses have been dulled to the violent nature of many of these acts. I flip through the channels occasionally to see what's happening on this front, and just last week I watched a portion of a "comedy" that showed a male character doing something that amounted to assault on a female character. It got a big laugh!

Just yesterday, there was a remembrance service at SUNY Geneseo for the two victims of a

double murder, suicide. The killer was distraught after a recent breakup with the female victim. Was his, a reaction to love lost? Was he influenced by our nation's seeming acceptance of violence against women? Was the female victim tired of being "loved" in such a controlling or abusive way?

In this incident alone I see the shadow side of at least one of the two loves I mentioned, maybe both.

When we think about self-love, we know that it is important to love ourselves. To be secure in who we are, and to like who we are. This self-understanding is supposed to *expand* our capacity to love others. But that is not what happened here. The young man who committed the murders could not have been grounded in a positive love of himself, to react in such a destructive, death-dealing way. When did he begin down such a dark path?

I mention this incident in particular, but this type of crime is not isolated to the Rochester area. Relationship violence is pandemic in this country. I think the statistic is that every nine seconds a woman is battered. Now, women

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February Worship Schedule

February 7

Invocation: Kathy Gosnell
Scripture: Marti Spaker
Prayer: Clara White
Greeter: Leanna & Mike Shirley
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Available

February 14

Invocation: Marti Spaker
Scripture: Connie Necaster
Prayer: Val Bandemer
Greeter: Leanna & Mike Shirley
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Lynne Stewart

February 21

Invocation: Connie Necaster
Scripture: Val Bandemer
Prayer: Leanna Shirley
Greeter: Leanna & Mike Shirley
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Joyce Shutts & Anne Greco

February 28

Invocation: Marti Spaker
Scripture: Evie Scott
Prayer: Clara White
Greeter: Leanna & Mike Shirley
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Bonnie Healy

Grove of Grace



Golympics

Hope dawns tomorrow through dreams of today,
 Our destiny promises so!

Positive words hidden deeply within
 Firmly strengthen your steps as you go!

Strive to stay strong as your goals come in view,
 While you journey with hope in your heart --
 Steady your mind on a win to come true
 As the world, watching on, cheers your art!

Dreams which you share may inspire others too,
 Bringing lifetime ambitions to light --
 Leap with a force and persist without end,
 Keeping valued ideas in sight.

Stretching ahead, going forth mark to mark,
 Holding bravely to all you employ --
 Vision the gold of success from the start,
 Serving other with honor and joy!

By Evy-Lynn Shoots

Written August 2012



Men's Breakfast

7 a.m. Tuesdays at
 Peppermints

Prayer Meeting

9 a.m. Saturdays

Choir Practice

6:30 p.m. Wednesdays

Pastoral Search

6:30 p.m. Thursdays



Feb. 1: Don Van Doren

Feb. 5: Amy Sugrue

Feb. 12: Elaine VanDerMeid

Feb. 14: Della Van Doren

Feb. 16: Jessica Tasciotti

Feb. 19: Kathleen Serianni

Feb. 19: Jacob Teeter

Feb. 21: Lee Covill

Feb. 23: Andrew Gress

Feb. 23: Joanne Wilbert

Feb. 27: John Miller

Marking a century with Don

Don Peoples, who is half as old as West Henrietta Baptist Church, celebrated his 100th birthday after worship on Sunday, Jan. 10, just four days before his actual birthday. Sharon Gress prepared a scrumptious prime rib dinner with green leafy salad, fruit salad, potatoes, squash, and rolls and butter. A crew of volunteers including her husband Dan, the deacons, and others helped cook, set up, and clean up.



Don's granddaughter and her family attended his birthday party. Pictured with him above are Don's great granddaughters, Sabrina and Charlotte, his great grandson, Jack, and his granddaughter, Laura. Great granddaughter Chloe and son-in-law Paul also attended.

At left, Don cuts his cake with Leanna Shirley's help.

God is love and light

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aren't the only ones being battered in relationships, but they do represent the majority of victims.

When our love motivates us to hate and evil, it is not love at all. When our "love" of individuals is motivated by a need for self-validation, a desire to control, or some prurient interest, we are heading for the shadow side, the dark path.

When our love of one group or ideology makes it permissible to mistreat others who don't look like us, believe like us, or have what we have,

we have started down the dark path. And yes, it is already consuming us!

I'll sign off now with another portion of 1 John, written to Christians that grappled with confessional integrity (that means living out, not just talking about what we say we believe!) and the potential for congregational self-destruction. We must choose to stay in the light!

"My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is

love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. 1 John 4:7-11 MSG

May God's love and light be our Guiding Force!

Pastor Jill

2016 officers and board members elected at annual meeting

Moderator	Bonnie Healy	2017
Clerk	Gretchen Young	2017
Asst. Clerk	Sharon Scurlock	2017
Treasurer	Dan Scurlock	2017
Asst. Treasurer	Joanne Wilbert & Mary Bailey	2017
Financial Sec'y	Clara White	2017
Sunshine	Barbara Zima	2017
LINK editor	Bonnie Healy	2017
Ushers/Greeters	Roberta Miller	2017
Ordination Council Delegates	Rev. Jill Bradway & Lynne Stewart	2017
ABC/RGR Delegates	Leanna Shirley & Lynne Stewart	2017
ABC/RGR Women	Della Van Doren	2017
Greater Rochester Cty. Of Churches	Lynne Stewart	2017
Historian	Bonnie Healy	2017

Board of Deacons

Valerie Bandemer	2017
Connie Necaster	2017
Leanna Shirley	2018
Clara White	2018
Kathleen Gosnell	2019
Marti Spaker	2019

Board of Trustees

Daniel Gress	2017
Anne Greco	2017
John Miller	2018
David Chase	2018
Michael Shirley	2019
Joanne Wilbert	2019

Board of Christian Education

Annette Eney	2017
Virginia Chase	2017
Gretchen Young	2018
Betty Heisig	2017



THE ROGER CROSS HOUSE being built by the Flower City Habitat for Humanity on Ries Street in the city is nearing completion. Once the insulation is finished, the heat can be turned on and the dry wall installed. Then painting and trim! If all goes as planned, the house will be finished in March. Fundraising to close the gap and leave a little for the next house continues.