

# WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

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## LOVE

### **“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”**

If you mention the month of February, most of us immediately think about Valentine’s Day, romantic “Love”, a significant other, a memory of a departed, loving partner, heart shaped boxes of candy, little red/pink colored cards, etc. This month of February we openly speak the word “love”.

But what “LOVE” do we share with each other as Christian “Brothers” and “Sisters”?

John 13:34 states: **“And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”** And **“For the whole Law is summed up in one commandment: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”** from Galatians 5:14.

Reading a recently received religious article regarding our use of social media, it extolled the usual admonishments of not opening email messages unless we feel the sender is safe, not posting personal information on social media sites, not revealing news of our upcoming periods of holiday/vacation away from home, etc. The article also mentioned the many benefits of social media posting: staying in contact with geographically dispersed family and friends, sharing with “like minded” people our thoughts; involvement in online communities of various social causes, business networking and marketing; etc. All these warnings and benefits we hear continually.

However, my mind started to wander as I read one line stating that items posted on social media cannot be totally deleted/removed. My mind really took off when I read a couple of words: “risk to reputation”. I recognize schools and potential employers utilize applications to scan student and prospective employee social media messaging. I am quite aware employers utilize “apps” scanning company computer systems for employee use of social media and take action when negative/volatile comments are posted.

My wandering mind focused on the article’s message as it dealt with our use of social media. My mind took the article’s message and started considering how easily our social media postings and re-postings destroy our stated expressions of Christian Love.

How many times do we see a “cutesy” cartoon, rapidly re-posting to our Facebook page, without thought of the impact the cartoon has on those who read our Facebook postings. Most of the time not consciously considering what we just posted is “out there” forever; not considering what we display about ourselves; after all it is just a cute, funny cartoon. That little politically divisive re-posting reaches so much farther than the many times on Sunday morning we state our Christian Love.

Further, what are we saying when the re-posted cartoon pokes fun at, marginalizes, someone who shares a different political view, a different gender, a different age group, a different race? LOVE? I submit, we, yes myself included, so quickly re-post things which is viewed as negative by those who we profess to “love as our neighbors”. Does Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc. represent us, possibly more accurately than we would like to admit?

And how long the hurt lingers when we marginalize each other: a “jesting” statement of “discrimination”, of being treated as “stupid”, of being told “you don’t understand”. Imagine the raw emotion burnt when one tries to express a personal point of view and we constantly cut the person off in mid-sentence. Or how “bullied” we feel when another emphatically states “That doesn’t mean anything”, dismisses us with a “whatever” as they walk away!

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## February 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Communion Sunday

Invocation: Valerie Bandemer  
 Scripture: Sharon Smith  
 Offering: Valerie Bandemer  
 Kids' Moment: Song  
 Greeter: Leanna Shirley  
 Nursery: BOCE  
 Fellowship: TBD

## February 9<sup>th</sup>

### Installation of Officers

Invocation: Kathy Gosnell  
 Scripture: Joyce Shutts  
 Offering: Kathy Gosnell  
 Kids' Moment: Leanna Shirley  
 Greeter: Leanna Shirley  
 Nursery: BOCE  
 Fellowship: Pot Luck

## February 16<sup>th</sup>

Invocation: Patricia Floyd  
 Scripture: Mark Heintz Sr.  
 Offering: Patricia Floyd  
 Kids' Moment: Song  
 Greeter: Leanna Shirley  
 Nursery: BOCE  
 Fellowship: Anne Greco and  
 Joyce Shutts

## February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Invocation: Connie Necaster  
 Scripture: Valerie Bandemer  
 Offering: Connie Necaster  
 Kids' Moment: Dan Scurlock  
 Greeter: Leanna Shirley  
 Nursery: BOCE  
 Fellowship: Linda Heintz



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Additionally, I am positive we all have heard the admonishment: "when someone gossips to me about someone else, they're probably gossiping about me to someone else!" 1 Corinthians 13:1 reminds us: ***"I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell."***

I believe our forwarding politically divisive, gender slamming, demeaning cartoons easily appears lacking in Christian Love when viewed by our "Facebook Friends". Especially those among us who have already suffered the pains of having been bullied, of being left out, of being subjected to ridicule just because we are perceived as different. Further, the "stacked up" little hurts grow exponentially until just a little statement becomes a final straw of pain.

"God loves us" is our message of Christian Love. God loves us even though we are different. God loves us, accepting who we are, as we are! Yet we may not get that message when our Christian neighbors, brothers and sisters "in Christ", post/re-post those "cute/funny" cartoons on social media threads. Thankfully, as ***"The Love of God"*** song boasts: ***"Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made. Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade. To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry nor could the scroll contain the whole though stretched from sky to sky."*** "O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure".

I pray, Oh God, your love shows through to my "neighbors", my "brothers and sisters", in all of my communication, whether it be verbal, written, or through my social media usage. Please forgive me when it doesn't. Amen!

By: Daniel J. Scurlock



## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Prayer Meeting  
 9 a.m. Saturdays

Bible Study  
 10 a.m. Wednesdays

Choir Practice  
 8:30 a.m. Sundays

Installation of Officers  
 Pot Luck Luncheon  
 Feb. 9

BOCE  
 11:30 a.m. ~ Feb. 2

Deacon's Meeting  
 10 a.m. ~ Feb. 7

Trustees Meeting  
 6 p.m. ~ Feb. 18

LINK articles due to  
 Joyce Shutts ~ Feb. 18

Missions Committee Mtg.  
 1:15 p.m. ~ Feb. 21

Ash Wednesday  
 Feb. 26



Feb. 5 ~ Amy Sugrue  
 Feb. 10 ~ Barbara Nice  
 Feb. 12 ~ Elaine Vandermeid  
 Feb. 14 ~ Della VanDoren  
 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

# MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



The Missions Committee met on January 17, 2020 at WHBC at 1:00 p.m. Leanna Shirley, Joyce Shutts, Evie Scott and Patricia Floyd were present. The following items were discussed:

1. We discussed and decided that we would continue collecting the noisy offering during the year of 2020.
2. We discussed and decided we were not happy with the deficit that occurred with the Church Budget regarding the donations for missions in 2019. We must encourage the Church to honor its commitment to missions in the future. We will also review the Church's commitments and make recommendations to changes at a later date, following a careful study making adjustments to the overall Mission's budget if necessary with the Church's approval.
3. After a short discussion, we voted to support the pastor's recommendation and agreed to donate the \$300.00 donation to ABC-Rochester/Genesee Region.
4. We will continue to collect the Love Offering during the months of January and February with our Noisy Offerings.

We will invite Laura Wenthe to become a member of the Missions Committee. Our next meeting will take place Friday, February 21, 2020 at 1:15 pm at WHBC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia A Floyd, Chairman  
Mission's Committee



Editor: Sharon Scurlock



## ANOTHER CHILD By: David and Michelle Heed

***"Your wife will bear children as a vine bears grapes, your household lush as a vineyard. The children around your table as fresh and promising as young olive shoots" Psalm 128:3***

The Message

David and I have prayed our eyes out for another child. I suspect you have prayed for us too. These prayers are full of bittersweet moments. Let me tell you about our *"another child"*, and invite you home to see the children crowded around our table.

*Another* again child comes over with a growling stomach, and whispers to Olivia, "Tell your mom you need a snack". So, I gladly pull out peanuts and toast for my daughter and *another* child.

Another child quietly colors with Olivia at our table. She proudly hangs her picture on our fridge since she doesn't have one of her own, or even a family that values crayon masterpieces. Next to pictures by my kid is a drawing from *Another*.

Yesterday *Another* child brought over her report card. She needed someone to say "I believe in you. You got this". So, in that holy ordinary moment, *Another* and I grew together through hugs and high fives.

In town, *Another* street boy shows me his scrapes and bumps from another night of roughhousing and living on the edge, hoping for some sympathy and Neosporin. His friend is burning up from malaria, so I run to the pharmacy for medicine. I cheer the *another* street kids on later that day in a soccer scrimmage.

My list of *Another* stories goes on. *Another* healed, *Another* set free, *Another* who knows he is loved. This truth should blow me away, and sometimes it does. Yet, I often miss the magnitude of *Another's* miracle as we wait for a more personal miracle. It's easy to miss God's handiwork as we focus on our perceptions and expectations. Sometimes in our nearsightedness we miss how God daily answers this plea through His creativity.

### God's at work. Do we want to watch?

Focusing on our unmet expectations causes painful confusion even when God is shining brightly.

Maybe you can relate. After years of waiting and praying, you are still waiting and praying. Disappointments and unanswered prayers lead to withered dreams. Life can be unfair. God, I see Your hand, but the answer is not what I thought. God, I know you are with me, but I **really** want to walk the easy road. Even in the not-easy, His Spirit leads us to trust. He reminds us He has the best dreams for His children, even as we tread uncharted waters.

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## PRAYER CHAIN

**Ephesians 6:18** *“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all of God’s people”*

As many of you know we have had a prayer chain at WHBC for many years. We actually have two chains. One is the phone chain which is headed up by Loretta. Bless her, she actually calls each person on the phone chain and gives them the prayers. The second one is an e-mail chain. Luckily it takes one email to reach many people and then the prayers begin.

If you are not on either chain and would like to be, please call Loretta Hirschman (273-6062) for the phone chain or call Leanna Shirley (334-7610) for the e-mail chain.

We have lifted many, many different people and situations up to GOD over the past years and have received much comfort, healing and various answers to these prayers.

Please consider adding your name and prayers to those who are already praying.

Everyone has a love story.  
It's in the Bible.  
It tells you how much  
**GOD LOVES YOU,**  
and how far He  
went just to win  
your heart.



*Little Church Mouse*  
© Ged Backlund / Hutz 2016

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### God's best is better than easy.

I cook a little extra these days, not knowing if *Another* will stay for dinner. I carry water in my car, not knowing if I will bump into *Another*, thirsty and sun-baked. I keep my schedule a little bit freer, hoping to allow room into my life for a God appointed moment with *Another*.

I'm learning the heart truths of the verse Isaiah 54:1 *“Sing, barren woman, who has never had a baby. Fill the air with song, you who've never experienced childbirth! You're ending up with far more children than all those childbearing women.”* God says so! (The Message)

Yes and amen. God has given us more children than we could have ever dreamed of. He does unlikely miracles. His life giving creativity means our heart cries are not forgotten.

We continue to pray for another child, as we thank God for the other ones He moment-by-moment gives us. We see God's answers to heartfelt prayers in unexpected ways, through the gift of *Another* Child. We can learn to see God's hand in unforeseen circumstances. We choose joy in finding everyday miracles as we wait on a specific answered prayer. We can trust our Father's good heart, seeing the goodness He is a part of today

We will not miss God's unexpected and creative answers to our heart cries as we dare to open our eyes to witness His Spirit moving.



### DO YOU PRAY?

I loved this interpretation of prayer. What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't just happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend. That's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends. That's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say, “drive safely” or “be safe”. That's a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy. You are praying. When you forgive someone by your heart. That is prayer. Prayer is a vibration. A feeling. A thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of your silent being.

“Keep praying always”

Author Unknown

*The Joy of Journey**By**Evelyn M. Shoots*

*Our Father is good  
And His love endures forever  
With friendship so pure.*

*As we make our way  
And our thankful praises rise  
May we never stray!*

*Jesus, our best friend  
Ever joins our singing hearts  
With salvation's song.*

*When we praise His name  
Our hearts retain a calmness  
And soothing words reign.*

*Alleluia!**Psalms 100 & 121***Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?****A: Psalms 117****Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?****A: Psalms 119****Q: Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?****A: Psalms 118****Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118****Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118  
Add these numbers up and you get 1188****Q: What is the center verse in the Bible?****A: Psalms 118:8****Q: Does this verse say something significant  
about God's perfect will for our lives?**

**The next time someone says they would like  
to find God's perfect will for their lives and  
that they want to be in the center of His will,  
just send them to the center of His Word!**

**Psalms 118:8**

**"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put  
confidence in man."**

**Amen...Praise the LORD !!!****Harvest Home Coalition**

As of Jan 6, 2020 all the drywall and mudding is done. Please contact Mike Shirley or Joyce Shutts if you are able to help with inside work.



One of the action items that came out of the annual meeting is that we would like to collect the ideas from **everyone** to help us plan activities, events, as well as gather ideas for fund raising, communication, etc. It is hoped we will have 10 minutes after the Postlude on the second Sunday each month to voice these ideas. We would like to start this process, February 9th.

This will facilitate better long-range planning, and better calendar management.

Please bring forth all of your ideas to allow our Church to function better this year, become more prosperous, and more attractive.

## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

In spite of the weather, WHBC 2020 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 19, 2020. Worship was followed by a delicious pot luck luncheon. Kudos to Gretchen Young and her helpers for setting up the Fellowship Hall, overseeing luncheon and clean-up following luncheon. 2020 Annual Meeting was held in the Sanctuary and called to order by Leanna Shirley, Moderator, at 12:23 p.m.

Coming together we looked back on year 2019, in terms of ministry, fiscal and physical needs of our Church. There were many events highlighted during the year. A few of them were:

- ◆ Loss of five members: Rev. Charles Bixby, Virginia Bliss, Anna-Jean McClarin, Timothy VanderMeid and Donald Vandoren
- ◆ Music ministry of the Choir
- ◆ Pastoral Care Ministry of our Church community
- ◆ Mission's Committee's support and activities
- ◆ Ongoing Wednesday Bible Study Group
- ◆ Installation/replacement of a handicapped ramp
- ◆ Much work done on both Church building and parsonage
- ◆ The Tent Crusade
- ◆ Two successful Craft and Vendor Shows

Please contact Sharon Scurlock if you were unable to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the Annual Report.

We also looked forward to the New Year 2020; sharing our hopes, dreams, concerns and plans. We tackled 2020 Proposed Budget developed by our hardworking Stewardship Committee. Following discussion, 2020 Proposed Budget was adopted. The proposed slate of Church Officers and Board Members was also adopted. A few other items discussed were:

- ◆ Future social and fundraising activities
- ◆ Communication, publicity and scheduling of activities
- ◆ Landscaping around the handicap ramp
- ◆ Reorganization of Boards and Committees

Do you have ideas? Hopes for our Church? Concerns for our Church Community? Would like to know what is happening? You are invited to attend an Advisory Council Meeting. The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at the Church building.

Sharon Scurlock  
Church Clerk

