



FEBRUARY 2019

The Lamplighter

SFUNITEDMETHODISTCHURCH.COM

*St. Francis
United
Methodist
Church*

Does Real Love Exist?

Article by Wade Little

Does real love exist?

That's a question we ask ourselves in this day and age in this Society. With all that goes on in this world: all the bad things, all the anger. all the fighting. You have domestic abuse, you have people who only care about themselves and how much they can gain: either financially or power over somebody else a group of people. So, it makes one wonder if love really does exist.

We go to church where we are told that Jesus loves us, God loves us, and that God is love. But do we really believe it? We are a species that has to see, feel, and touch before we believe anything. Or we believe something because we are a part of a group, small or large, that seems to have one philosophy or one stream of thought, and we tend to go along with that group. Put in a society that's so fast - go-go-go everybody's on the move - does anybody stop and really notice that love is there?

Oh, I have noticed love in many places—noticed it where sometimes you may not think it is really there. I noticed in my friends, people and acquaintances around me, and just watching people in general—it's there. When I see a man, who loves his wife, and you wouldn't think that he does because his wife kind of abuses him, but he remembers her the way she was when he married her. Like the way they were when they were young, and he longs to have that woman back and you see the tears well up in his eyes—is that not love? Or when you see an old couple - and I mean old couple in their 80s - and the man pat's his wife on the knee lovingly as he looks her in the eye. He doesn't see her as an old lady, no, he remembers her as a young woman, and she looks back at him and remembers him as young man, and you can see love between the two of them—a love that is what lot of us would yearn for. To have that when we grow old together—one can only hope.

How many of us see those things in other people? Watching a father pushing a young child in a grocery store cart, playing with this child discreetly, quietly but lovingly. He loves his child beyond compare. How many of us are even looking for those things in life, in our everyday journey through life?

-Continued on Page 2-

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OUR MISSION

To make disciples by actively welcoming and encouraging all into a closer faith relationship with Jesus Christ; through worship, education, outreach and love.

Does Real Love Exist? (Continued)

Or the man whose wife is mentally ill, living in a home away from him. He visits her throughout the week and he calls her every night and talks to her—he misses her. And you can see it in his eyes and his heart that he wants her home so much. Or a man and his wife and three kids. He loves his kids, two daughters and a son. His wife had a miscarriage and he cries for his wife because he loves her so much—do we see those things and realize that? How many of us would long to have that kind of love or to be loved like that or to love somebody like that?

I have had love like that, and have loved like that and I thank God for it. I know in my heart God loves me and I love him, and he loves me so much that I can't even fathom it. He shows his love to me every day, and to the people I watch or see or encounter. But how many people miss that? We don't see his love but it's all around us, around this world of ours. It's there in a neighbor down the road, that friend at church, or your pastor. It's there in people down in the cities. In homeless people. In people who are sad. When you go out for dinner at a restaurant, if you open your eyes, you'll see it. It's there next to you, always. Do we ever stop to see these things in our life, or are we too busy with life to even notice?

Do you ever stop to watch a child with their mother or their father? If you do, you might see love there. You might see it in the bond between a homeless person and their pet—it's their companion, loved beyond compare. Who would think to look for love there?

Next time, when you think there isn't much love in this crazy mixed-up world, stop and look around. Check that neighbor up the road, or look go people-watch in the next town. Just go out and look. In the mall, or a grocery store, or a park. You'll see it there, plain as day, amongst all the bad and the nasty stuff. It's there—it isn't hidden—it's right there in the open for you to see, for you to recognize. If you're having a bad day, open your eyes. Look to see the love all around you and let that brighten up your day: that's God's love. His love is there all around you. Then give off that same love you see. Show God's love to others. Be His love to others - that is why he made you. Jesus said the two most important commandments were to love God with all your heart and soul; and the second, to love your neighbor as yourself. Let God's love guide you and keep you.

Peace be with you.

-Wade Little

Décor and Declutter Team

Spring cleaning will soon be in the air! God is up to something at St. Francis United Methodist Church, and you'll want to be a part of it. A group is gathering to look at all of the church spaces in the building with "fresh eyes" and spot areas that need to be cleaned up, re-organized, and the "clutter" to be tossed or donated.

Do you have an eye for setting a space to welcome others? Would you like to get involved with making a space for new families to be welcomed at church? Prayerfully consider joining the Décor and Declutter Team at church.

We plan to have our first meeting on Sunday Feb. 24th at 2:00 pm. Please contact Pastor Matt (pastormattsipe@gmail.com) if interested!

Tubing @ Elm Creek!

Saturday, February 16th, 11:00 am

SFUMC community members of all ages are welcome to join us for a day of winter fun at Elm Creek Winter Recreation Area in Maple Grove!



12400 James Deane Pkwy
Maple Grove, MN, 55369

Learning Opportunity

Message submitted by Barb Anderson

You are invited!!

In John 8:32, Jesus says "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" - and as Pastor Jim Wallis (Author of *America's Original Sin: Race, White Privilege and the Bridging to a New America*) states, "This is one of those moral statements that breaks through the confusion and chaos of our lives."

[Jim Crow of the North: a Twin Cities PBS Original](#)

Monday February 25, 9 pm on TPT 2 Or Thursday, February 27, 8 pm on TPT LIFE

We are in challenging times, and although it is difficult to take in at times, Jesus has taught us not to be afraid of learning the truth. This documentary shows a part of our history here in Minnesota that we are challenged to learn about. Many of us did not learn this growing up - when housing opportunities of the past and the formation of neighborhoods are discussed, many of us have to ask: "What do you mean by red lining?"

This is a challenge to learn some truth in our history. As Christians we are called to learn the truth: the truth of God and Jesus Christ, and how that applies to our lives. This TV program original is described in the TV Guide: "Roots of racial disparities are seen through a new lens in this film that explores the origins of housing segregation in the MPLS area. But the story also illustrates how African-American families and leaders resisted this insidious practice, and how Black people built community - within and despite - the red lines that these restrictive covenants created." Please consider learning about this part of our history that is so often overlooked.

Contact Barb Anderson for questions: jbbanderson@msn.com

Thank You—from Doug & Cindy Rogers

We would like to thank each and every one of you for donating to our mission trip to Jamaica, and for the prayers and commissioning on Sunday. Your donations made a great difference in helping us to make this mission trip a reality. We are so thankful for our church and for this opportunity. We will have left already when you read this, leaving in the freezing cold on Thursday, January 31 and will be returning on Wednesday evening, February 6. We ask for and appreciate prayers while we are gone, for safe travels and to let God's love shine through us. We are excited to share our experience with you when we return. Thank you, our church family!



-Doug and Cindy Rogers

15TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS BENEFIT FOR THE NACE FOODSHELF

Thursday, March 14th | 5:00—7:30 pm



St. Patrick's Catholic Church:

19921 Nightingale St. NW, Oak Grove, MN

- Free Will Donation Soup Dinner
 - Live Auction & Silent Auction
 - Wine Pull
 - Popcorn
 - Kid's Activities & More!
- Sponsored by:
- Cedar/East Bethel Lions & Lioness
 - Ham Lake Lions
 - Oak Grove Lions
 - St. Francis Lions & Lioness

SFUMC Annual Chili Cook-Off!

Sunday, February 17th
After worship



Adults: \$5 Each
Kids eat free!

Join us for an
afternoon of food, fun,
& fellowship!

Automatic Giving

Interested in
tithing online?

Visit our website:

sfunitedmethodistchurch.com/online-giving

- By clicking the button on the Online Giving page, you'll be taken to our secure online donation page.
- If this will be your first time giving online, please click the "Create Profile" button. This will allow you to set an e-mail and password to manage your giving and maintain payment history records.
- After creating your profile, you can use the "Log In" box on the right side of the page for future access.
- Use the "Add Transaction" button to create a new payment. Under "Donation Frequency," you can select either a 1-time gift or a monthly recurring payment.

Questions? Contact the church office @
sfumc.office@gmail.com

SPRC Update: Changes in Staff

Message submitted by Sandi Golyer, SPRC Chair

Congratulations to Zoey! She has finished the rest of her studies and has begun her student teaching. She plans to be an ESL (English as Second Language) teacher. Let's all keep her in our prayers that it will lead to a job that will appreciate her wonderful talents and her kind spirit. Thank you for sharing your wonderful talent and spirit with us. We hope to see on Sundays.

Also, we say good bye to Jason, the Worship Director. We have enjoyed his wonderful spirit, his constant warm smile, and of course his beautiful wife, Amanda and baby Ellie. You will be missed, but we pray that God has a plan that is even better.

On that note the Staff Parish Relations Committee is preparing to post these jobs and will let everyone know through email and announcements. In the past we have post on Craigslist too, so people outside the church the can apply.

Many changes, but we also pray the we are open to what God has planned. If you're interested in the worship director or communication administrator positions, please contact Pastor Matt (pastormattsipe@gmail.com) or Sandi Golyer, SPRC Chair (skgolyer@gmail.com).

Pastor's Note

In the winter months of our world and our lives, I am reminded that life moves slowly, the days are short, the food is thick and hearty, and it is a season of lying fallow in preparation for what will come in Spring. The polar vortex has cause all of us to pause and reflect in the deep mid-winter. This is a great metaphor for our church as well. God is up to something and I'm excited for what will come.

The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) team will be meeting with our coach later this month and looking at the next/first steps for bringing revitalization to our congregation. The SPRC will be working diligently on finding the right staffing fits for both worship, administrator, and the next pastor. While the next few months might have some unknowns, there is some behind the scenes work being done in preparation for Spring and new life and new growth.

Change is inevitable, growth is optional. It was something I shared on my first Sunday and also a sign that I have hanging in my office. Sometimes for things to grow, other things need to end or change or transition. So it is that we enter this next season as a church. You might not see all of the works going on behind the scenes, but many are serving out of a conviction of the Holy Spirit's working in their lives.

This reminds me of the verse in Hebrews about faith: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) While change can cause turmoil and difficulties, it is also the wind in the sails for movement and growth. I have faith that God is doing a new thing at St. Francis church and I'm excited to see where the Holy Spirit can take us.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Matt

St. Francis United Methodist Church

Administrative Council

January 22, 2019– 6:30 pm

Those Present: Amy Brady, Pastor Matt Sipe, Eric Kreiner (on the phone), Marilyn Emstad, Joe Kunz, Wade Little, Sandi Golyer

Call to order—Amy Brady

Devotions—Joe Kunz

Minutes—were read online and approved.

Treasurers Report: Joe passed out the financial report and year-end report.

Insurance: Joe passed out papers that our Insurance Agent sent us showing that we can save about \$1000 if we changed companies from GuideOne (\$4,963) to Grinnell (\$3973). We looked up Grinnell and all agreed to change companies to Grinnell.

Screen is too hard to see: Pastor Matt said that we have to do something about the screen in the sanctuary. He said that he knows a person that has helped churches with their projector. We made need to buy a new projector, Matt said that some churches buy monitors instead because it ends up being cheaper. We decided to give Matt the authority to spend up to \$2000 to get it done.

Audit: tomorrow at 1:00 with Dan Lehrer, a man that retired and decided to help church as his mission.

Healthy Church Initiative: The team that came out shared that the entryway is too cluttered. Matt agreed and is going to set up a team to declutter. He will have an article in the Lamplighter and a sign up for people to volunteer.

Christmas Concert: Marilyn Emstad canceled the Elvis program for 2019, we don't make money and it is not benefit bringing anyone to Christ.

United Methodist Women: we decided we will do the Bazaar again in 2019.

Children, Youth, and Family (CYF): Rebecca reported on the meeting held last Sunday. Here is the schedule:

- Feb 2nd is Feed My Starving Children
- Feb 16th 11am is tubing in Elm Creek, all ages welcome.
- March 10th - Do college boxes and the Birthday bags for North Anoka County Emergency (NACE)
- March: have a "Snow Day" - dog sledding if it works otherwise outside play day. We would need to coordinate with Herdina's to see if their daughter is able to do the sledding again.
- April: Do we know what Easter services look like for this year yet? We are just trying to plan the egg hunt. Also, if we are doing a breakfast?
- April 26 do Feed My Starving Children on April 26 to celebrate Pastor Matt's 41st birthday, he would like to get 41 people there.
- May 19th last day of Sunday School for kids and also Blessing of the Bikes if that works.
- May 26th Grad Sunday if that works?

Next Meeting: February 26th, 6:30 pm. Devotions will be led by Pastor Matt.

Closed with prayer.

Review and update calendar of the following:

January 28 – Mom's Group meeting at Mansettis, 7:00pm

February 2 - Feed My Starving Children

February 2 – Men's Breakfast at Oak Roads

February 16 - Tubing in Elm Creek at 11am, all ages welcome.

February 17 - Chili Cook Off and Jim Hahn will be here to meet with the HCI team.

February 26 - Feed My Starving Children

March 6 – Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00pm

March 10 – Youth will pack college boxes and birthday bags for NACE

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Golyer

Dates & Meetings



United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

February's UMW Meeting will take place at church on Tuesday, February 12th at 1:00 pm. It will be a dessert meeting. Please join us!



The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 2nd at 8:00 am at Oak Roads Grill. (2351 181st Ave NW, Cedar, MN 55011)

All men are welcome!



Adult Small Group

Adult Small Group will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm!

On the 2nd Monday of each month, SFUMC sends volunteers to the North Anoka County Emergency Foodshelf.



Volunteers can sign up on the board outside the office for each month. The next volunteer date will be: Monday, February 11th, 8:00a—12:00p.



There will be no book club meeting in February. Stay warm & cozy!



COMMUNION OFFERING

February's communion offering will go toward **Reach, Renew, Rejoice.**

Thank you for your generosity!

50 years on 229th Ave!

This year, SFUMC celebrates the 50 year anniversary of worshipping in our current building, which was consecrated on June 30, 1969. On Sunday, March 3, we will begin sorting through photos and planning a celebration. Please contact Sandi Golyer if you are interested in helping with this celebration!



Volunteer Ministries

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

1 Peter 4:10

Communion Steward for February is Bev Tennison	FEBRUARY			
	3	10	17	24
Acolyte	Ryleigh Montanye	Tate Bodenburg	Mackenzie Coons-Chambliss	Lucy Golyer
Host	Sandi Golyer	Janice Davis	Jill Tetrick	Marion Schulz
Liturgist Reader	Sandi Golyer / Bev Tennison	Tom Baumann	Marilyn Emstad	Janice Davis
Nursery	Rebecca Kreiner	Jill Tetrick	Barb Anderson	Jodi Roppe
Sunday School Assistant	Jill Overby	Jodi Roppe	Rachel Montanye	Jill Overby
Ushers	Bob Coons & Bev Tennison	CJ Davis & Sandi Golyer	Tate Bodenburg & Bob Coons	Bev Tennison & CJ Davis
Fellowship Snacks Setup	Jill Tetrick	Janice Davis & Sandi Golyer	POTLUCK Setup/Cleanup: Colleen Olson & Marilyn Townsend	Dot Dutcher & Brady family
Counters	Marilyn Townsend & Marion Schulz	Sandi Golyer & Joe Kunz	Marion Schulz & Sandi Golyer	Marilyn Townsend & Colleen Olson

Communion Steward for March is Jodi Roppe	MARCH				
	3	10	17	24	
Acolyte	CJ Davis	Ryleigh Montanye	Tate Bodenburg	Mackenzie Coons-Chambliss	Lucy Golyer
Host	Marilyn Emstad	Marilyn Townsend	Sandi Golyer	Janice Davis	Jill Tetrick
Liturgist Reader	Joe Kunz	Tom Baumann	Marilyn Emstad	Sandi Golyer/ Bev Tennison	Janice Davis
Nursery	Jill Tetrick	Rebecca Kreiner	Jodi Roppe	Marilyn Townsend	Barb Anderson
Sunday School Assistant	Jodi Roppe	Rachel Montanye	Jill Overby	Jodi Roppe	Rachel Montanye
Ushers	Bob Coons & Bev Tennison	CJ Davis & Sandi Golyer	Tate Bodenburg & Bob Coons	Bev Tennison & CJ Davis	Bob Coons & Sandi Golyer
Fellowship Snacks Setup	Sandi Golyer & Jill Tetrick	Janice Davis & Jodi Roppe	POTLUCK Setup/Cleanup: Brady family	Marilyn Townsend & Colleen Olson	Dot Dutcher & Sandi Golyer
Counters	Marion Schulz & Sandi Golyer	Marilyn Townsend & Colleen Olson	Sandi Golyer & Joe Kunz	Marion Schulz & Sandi Golyer	Marilyn Townsend & Colleen Olson



FEBRUARY 2019



Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

JAN 27	JAN 28	JAN 29	JAN 30 Adult Small Group: Wednesdays @ 6:30!	JAN 31	1 Happy Birthday! Jodi Hagen	2 8 am: Men's Breakfast 2:00—4:00 pm Feed My Starving Children
3 COMMUNION: Reach, Renew, Rejoice	4	5	6 Happy Birthday! Janelle Griep	7	8	9 Happy Birthday Hailee Coons
10	11 8am-12pm: NACE 6:30 pm: Council of Ministries Happy Birthday! Mackenzie Coons- Chambliss	12 12:00 pm: UMW Meeting Happy Birthday! Blake Bodenburg	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY  Happy Birthday! Kim O'Connell	15	16 11:00 am: Tubing @ Elm Creek (All are welcome!)
17 CHILI COOK- OFF AFTER WORSHIP! HCI Leadership Meeting	18 Happy Birthday! Megan Smith	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 6:30 pm: Ad Council Meeting Happy Birthday! Tate Bodenburg	27	28	MAR 1	MAR 2