

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not

rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. (2 Corinthians 13:4-8a)

This familiar passage is often heard at weddings. Paul had a different audience in mind when he wrote this, however. He was writing to the church at Corinth, speaking about what it means to live as a Christian in the world. Paul expands on Jesus' teaching about love and helps the church better understand this gift by giving it attributes that personify love. The idea is to introduce us to love as a living, breathing character in our everyday life.

As we continue to engage the topic of SERVICE, it is important that we see what it means to serve in the name of Jesus. Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" and then commanded him to "Feed my sheep." It is out of love that we are sent forth into the world to serve. What Jesus is talking about is that we need to identify ourselves with God's interests in other people. That is very different from identifying God with our interests in other people. Oswald Chambers suggests that this quote from 1 Corinthians expresses the character of God's love; it is this character that should drive the love we show in practice as we serve Jesus.

As we become more aware of God's love in us and recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in our own lives, we are better able to manifest God's love into the lives of everyone we meet. This kind of love requires that we come to Jesus with our defenses down. As Jesus said, we must receive the

kingdom of God like a little child – defenseless and completely dependent on God. Only then can we receive the full blessings God offers. This openness to God really is natural when we realize that we have nothing to hide, because Jesus already knows all there is to know about us. This is a perfect relationship of love where we should be able to relax.

Sarah Young writes, "One of the worst consequences of the Fall is the elaborate barriers people erect between themselves and others." This cuts us off from each other, from our church, and from God. Often, we find it most difficult to be free about who we are within the walls of our own congregation. We fear judgment; we fear attitudes; we fear not being loved for who we truly are. This sounds like there may sometimes be a lack of the kind of love that Jesus demands from us.

When we embrace the mandate to love God and love others seriously, we cannot help but focus on being in tune with God, worshipping God, glorifying God, and loving with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. In the midst of that kind of love how can there be space for making another person feel uncomfortable or unloved? I don't think there can be.

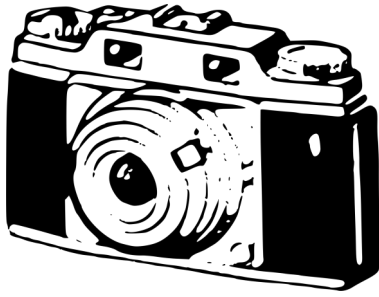
Our Bible study group just completed its study of the Book of Revelation. One thing we discovered is that, when you consider the entire Bible – Genesis through Revelation – you discover that it is God's story of redemptive love. God created a world intended to be filled with love. As many times as humanity has failed to live up to God's expectations, God has continued to redeem us and give us another shot at it. "God so loved the world that..." is not just a familiar phrase to be printed on a t-shirt; it is a promise of God's love and a command that we love.

*Doing my best to love,
Pastor Don*

**PLEASE BE SURE TO
SIGN UP FOR YOUR
PORTRAIT SESSION**

We want everyone in our congregation to be part of this great directory. Having pictures of all of you is so nice

when we welcome new people and begin to introduce them to the congregation. The pictures are the best quality and offer you a great gift-idea for the Christmas holidays coming up. Portraits are being taken the last week of October; there is still plenty of time to sign up. You can sign up at church on Sunday mornings by seeing Sarah Trzynka at the table in the lobby. You can also sign up by visiting our website: www.sandspringsumc.org or call Tracey in the office.



A Note about “Cancelling Church”...

Most of you have heard by now that we are “cancelling church” next Sunday – October 25th. This is an opportunity for us to BE THE CHURCH, to DO church, instead of just **going** to church like always.

We want to be the hands and feet of Jesus, together as this congregation. This is not a chance for you to sleep in on Sunday morning and ignore church; it is a call for you to step out in faith and DO what you believe. With that in mind we have planned for a number of mission and service projects designed to offer an opportunity to serve for everyone – regardless of age or physical abilities. You will be able to choose how you want to serve.

We will have projects here at the church that will be of service to Restore Hope, Day Center for the Homeless, and Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries. We will have a crew going to Sand Springs Community Services to re-organize their clothing room. We will have a crew going to Restore Hope to work on a special project at their facility. We will have crews going out to pick up trash at several locations in our own community of Sand Springs. We even have our Kingdom Kids going to do “Pumpkin Caroling” at Sand Springs Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. It will truly be a great day of blessing for all of us as we spread God’s love around.

Please dress comfortably and appropriate to the task you plan to work on. If you want to go out on one of the work crews, bring **work gloves**. (Also, if you happen to have access to any feed sacks, we can use them for picking up trash.) We will begin with a short worship service at 9:00 AM and we plan to be done with everything before Noon. Can’t wait to see everyone walking with Jesus this coming Sunday morning!

NOTE: Be sure to wear your church t-shirts! If you have the most recent one (white shirt with cross), wear it. If not, wear the one you have.



Trunk or Treat

6-8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 31

It’s that time again!

WE NEED CANDY AND TRUNKS!!

There is a drop off for candy in the narthex.
Please bring candy that is individually wrapped.

Let’s fill the parking lot this year!

Be creative..... Or not.....your presence is most important!

Calling All Communion Servers



Holy Communion

Do you ever feel a tug at your heart on the first Sunday of the month? It might be the Holy Spirit settling in and wanting you to sign up to be a Communion Servant. We do Communion monthly at our church and I always call or email a few days

ahead to ask for your assistance in this part of the worship. If interested please email me at datbatcat@gmail.com or call me at 918-932-0172. Once I get the list of the new servants in place (I'm calling on you) I will have a meeting to show you how to serve Communion.

Thank you, Linda Tabberer



Just a Reminder...

Next Monday, October 26 is the Community Dinner. Bring cornbread, a dessert or just come for a good hot meal. If you are not staying, you can bring

your dish on Sunday! Come **Sit down with a stranger, get up with a friend!**



Don't forget to set your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday, October 31st. Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 1.



KidZone

We had a great group of kids on Sunday as we made treats to take when we go "Pumpkin Caroling" next Sunday, Oct. 25th at the S.S. Nursing & Rehab Center. We will meet in the Caleb House at 9 a.m. for a short practice with Miss

Cathy before we leave. We also worked on projects for Operation Christmas Child and will continue to work on them next Sunday when we get back from caroling. Hope everyone has a great week after Fall break. See you on Sunday!



UMW News—October Circle Meetings:

Faith Circle – 10/22, 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Leesa Hairgrove and Karen Wilder have the devotion and program, Frieda Puckett has

refreshments

Priscilla Circle – Oct. 27 – 7:00 p.m.. You will meet at Kristin Henry's. Jami Warkentin has refreshments. Jami and Virginia Baldrige have the devotion and program

Ruth Esther Circle – Oct. 22 in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. Mona Warren and Wava Burt have the devotion and program. Morene Baker has refreshments.

Toole Tyme at Cookson is Nov. 13-15. Registration forms are in the UMW Mailbox in the Office.

Instructions on how to make the mats for the homeless are also in the mailbox.. There are bags of plastic bags in the closet in the Library to make into the Parn (plastic yarn). There are also prepared balls of Parn in the closet. Ask Tracy to let you in.

UMW Executive Meeting is Nov. 5 at 5:30 in the CIA/Pathfinders Classroom.

World Thank Offering is due in November. Be sure to empty your banks. Your Circle treasurer will appreciate you turning your coins into dollars before bringing your offering.

See you at Circle!

Closed on Sunday?

By BISHOP ROBERT HAYES JR.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.” (Acts 2: 42-44)

In this age when all things sacred and holy often are secondary to personal cravings and whims, it’s refreshing to see businesses remain that honor the Sabbath Day by closing their doors. Oklahoma-based Hobby Lobby is one of a few retail stores and restaurants that close on Sunday, choosing to honor God rather than commerce.

Some of you are old enough to remember the Blue Laws of the 1960s, restricting commercial activities on Sundays. According to the official statement, “While such laws originated to encourage attendance at Christian churches, the intent is to promote the secular values of health, safety, recreation, and general well-being through a common day of rest.” (Supreme Court decision in *McGowan v. Maryland*, 1961).

At the time I did not make the connection about what buying cars, pots and pans, selected grocery items, office supplies, and housewares had to do with glorifying God’s work. Sections in stores were roped off, preventing customers from buying certain items, and that’s the way it was. My peers and I never really questioned the practice back then.

But now, reflecting on then, I’ve stumbled upon a question that deserves some thought. It might shock you that I’m even asking, but I must. How many of our churches are closed on Sunday?

Take a deep breath before you condemn my nerve in asking this. Let me set the stage as to why. Certainly I don’t mean in a literal sense that our churches are closed on the Lord’s Day.

Rather, I wonder how many of our churches go through the motions of worship each week without considering that being open implies certain requirements.

For instance, when the doors open each Sunday at your place of worship, is the environment welcoming? Is the presence of the Holy Spirit invited into that space?

Are you personally open to coming to church in an attitude of worship, seeking to experience God or hear what God has to say to you? Are you and others who regularly worship at your church open to welcom-

ing new people, to making strangers know you genuinely are happy that they are there?

I am dismayed to hear stories every week about churches that never acknowledge visitors in their midst, neither asking them their names nor inviting them back.

Are you open to leave discord and disagreements outside the doors of your church? Realize that the last place people want to encounter conflict is inside the church.

Are you personally open to participating, learning, volunteering, teaching a class, sharing a word of encouragement or hope?

Again I ask: Are our churches open or closed on Sunday?

The history of the first-century church, as recorded in Acts, tells us that each time those Christians gathered they were devoted to the teaching by the apostles and to fellowship with each other. They broke bread and prayed together. They were attuned to the “wonders and signs” the apostles performed.

They held all matters in common.

Having everything in common doesn’t mean those earliest Christians agreed on all matters. But their minds and hearts were committed to serving the Risen Lord, and all else was secondary.

The last Bible verse in that chapter says it all: “And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved”! (Acts 2:47)

In our churches today, we are deeply engaged in devising strategic plans to make and grow disciples and to halt the decline in the number of United Methodists. We undertake great programs and activities that keep us busy. We spend a lot of resources on making houses of worship comfortable and appealing. We vision a future where people of all ages will find sacred spaces where they feel called to belong. Considering all these efforts, it appears that we truly are doing God’s work.

I declare this as fact: None of these will succeed if our churches are closed on Sunday.

Growing the church begins and ends with you and me! If we don’t live out the United Methodist motto of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors,” we might as well close.

The next time you step into your house of worship on Sunday, look around from this perspective that I have placed before you.

See if your church is open. And if you see it is not the case, ask the Holy Spirit to help YOU start to change that! (No Blue Laws stand in your way!)

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—October 25

Visitors Center & Coffee-Harmony
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Teaching: Jami Warkentin
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Katherine Reeves
 Counters-Sondra Allen & Dick Ford

Sunday Volunteers—November 1

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Teaching: Jami Warkentin
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Lisa & Caleb Massey
 Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Youth Lunch

October 21-Noah/Searchers-Kristen Henry & Jim Shaw
 October 28-Harmony-David Allen
 November 4-CIA/Pathfinders-Dick Ford
 November 11-Faith Circle-Rita Randall

Exodus House

Exodus House is a six-month temporary project where the residents are people newly released from prison. They can live with their families while they re-enter life successfully outside prison walls. Taking the Exodus House route has been very successful with tenants very rarely re-entering prison life. The apartment we sponsor is something they can be proud of and everything in the apartment can be taken with them to their next home and phase in life. We take pride in decorating the apartment to prepare for our new resident and hope you will want to participate.

We need gently used or new bedding, towels, dishes, lamps, rugs appliances, furniture—anything to decorate their new home. There is a room in the fellowship hall specifically for donated items. If you need help with pick up and delivery, we can arrange that—call Tracey or speak with Glenna Stockard.

Acknowledgements

Thank and God Bless!

Thank you church family – you helped make my day special!

Thanks – Morene Baker

We appreciate Alan and Janet Parker’s 11 years of service at our church. Their love for Christ and our church is evidenced in all our various ministries that were blessed by their contributions. Our prayers go with them as they move into the next chapter of what God has in store for them.

Alan and Janet,

May the Lord bless you and keep you;

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you;

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-27)

May grace and blessings be in your path,

Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

Please Keep In Prayer



Billie Schmidt, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Clare Caldwell, Darryl Muse, Jack Brown, Magen Stockard, Martha Scudder, Esther Williams, Owen Johnston, Paul Waldschmidt, Ruth Weaver, Tristan Schwartz, Delbert Sloan, Jim McCormick, Darin Grayson, Chris Bordelon, Mark, Aaron, Unspoken Requests

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 21

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
4:00 p.m.-Education Association-F. Hall
6:30 p.m.-Youth
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 22

1:00 p.m.-Ruth Esther Circle-F. Hall
C.P.H.S. Football Dinner-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Faith Circle-Parlor
7:00 p.m.-NO Karate-FLC*

Friday, October 23

No Activities

Saturday, October 24

4-7 p.m.-Boo On Broadway-at the Triangle*

Sunday, October 25

9:00 a.m.-Brief Worship & Prayer
9:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.-**Service Sunday**

Monday, October 26

5:30 p.m.-Community Dinner
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, October 27-Pictures Begin

1:00 p.m.-Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Priscilla Circle-Kristen H.
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, October 28-Pictures Continue

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
4:00 p.m.-Education Association-F. Hall*
6:30 p.m.-Youth
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 29-Pictures Continue

7:00 p.m.-Karate-FLC*

October 30-Pictures Continue

No Activities

Saturday, October 31-Last Picture Day

6-8 p.m.-Trunk or Treat

FLC—Family Life Center

* - Un-sponsored by SSUMC

Sand Springs UMC

319 N. Main Street/PO Box 336

Sand Springs, OK 74063

918-245-5955 Fax-918-245-2801

Family Life Center: 918-245-3725

www.SandSpringsumc.org