



ALDERSGATE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GATHER in Community-GROW Through Discipleship-GO Into The World

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

“Love is Patient, Love is Kind” February Edition

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

Office Details

Hours: 8:00-1:00

(Emails answered throughout the day)

Aldersgate@ftc-i.net

(803) 775-1602

211 Alice Drive

Sumter, SC 29150

Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Laura Whitt

(Ext. 101)

Office Manager:

Brooke Staniec

(Ext. 100)

Custodian: Shpendi Dani

I still remember sitting at the kitchen table with the list of names of everyone in the class and a couple of boxes of valentine cards. We were all expected to give everyone in the class a Valentine card. Some years, the card simply folded over other years they had separate envelopes. One of the best years, only the back of the card needed addressing and signed, because a lollipop went through the card. I know that I probably asked why we had to have a card for everyone.

I also remember the hard work of getting my children through this process, too.

The slow process of finding the right packs of cards – cool enough, but also fitting their personalities. Then the torture of having to write that many names.

This process may have been more reflective of the love expressed in 1 Corinthians 13 than all the romantic dinners ever have been. This text, often called the “Love Chapter,” is thought of when planning weddings, but not for the everyday living out of our lives. It sounds right for the kind of love necessary for a strong marriage. However, that sugar coats this passage and minimizes the responsibility living love as a lifestyle. Paul did not write it for couples. He wrote it to a congregation struggling to live with diversity and opinions and real people.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

It is easy to reflect on how Daryl and I have exhibited this kind of love as we celebrate our anniversary. We wouldn't still be married if we hadn't shared some of this kind of love. We've both needed to offer the other forgiveness and patience and to decide that some things aren't as important as the love we have for each other.

This month, I challenge us not only to think about love for Valentine's Day but also to think about what it means to have love as a lifestyle. It is harder to reflect on the news, this being Black History Month, or the disparity between the haves and have-nots. Yet, the kind of love Paul describes calls us to consider what actions love might take in the face of threats of war, political grandstanding, racial diversity, and poverty.

I think one of the keys is that this kind of love is willing to seek out truth and to still have hope. God offers us a generous love. May this be the kind of love that we offer others.

Peace,
Pastor Laura



Lent is the next season on the Liturgical calendar. Lent begins with a service on Ash Wednesday at 6:30 PM. In preparation for this season, Pastor Laura will conduct a Lenten study. It will be held on Wednesday's at 10AM in person or 7PM via zoom. Please call or keep look for emails with more information and sign up details.

OUR PRAYERS:

- Lynn Boan
- Betty Hodges
- Mark Goldstein
- Ann Gerace
- Gene Hunter
- Larry & Garland Nettles
- Allen Prescott
- Everett Burroughs
- Ed Hudson
- Cornell Thomas
- Family of Liz Wild
- Dot Morgan
- Britton Family
- Wilma Crayton



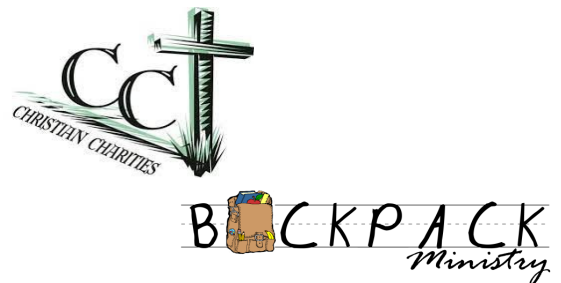
On Saturday, February 5th, we will have our leadership launch. This meeting is for all on church committees to come and help schedule our upcoming year and to get familiar with committee responsibilities.



The UMM are hosting a "free will offering meal" for Valentine's Day on February 9th. On February 12th we will have a children's Valentine's get together from 10:30-12:30. Please contact the office by February 6th if you want to sign up for either of these.



Supper Club Start Up meeting for this year will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, February 22nd at 7:00 PM. If you are in a supper club for this year please try to attend this meeting.



Backpack and serving Christian Charities are our two ongoing ministries. We are still working with these programs every week, food donations for both of these ministries can always be dropped off in the basket across the hall from the church office.



Our Pastor and our Health and Welfare Committee are continuously working together and following the most recent guidelines to keep us safe and informed. We will keep you informed as we continue to navigate through these times.



February 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Jenky's Circle 10:00 AM Circle #2 7:00 PM	2 UMM 7:00 AM	3	4	5 Leadership Launch 9:00-1:00
6	7	8	9 UMM 7:00 AM UMM Valentine's Meal Pickup	10 Knitters 10:00 AM	11	12 Children's Valentine's 10:30-12:00
13	14 Valentine's Day	15 UMW Board Meeting 6:30 PM	16 UMM 7:00 AM	17	18	19
20	21	22 Supper Club Startup Meeting 7:00 PM	23 UMM 7:00 AM	24 Knitters 10:00 AM	25	26
27	28					

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 Midge Hickman	15 Jim Smith	24 Keyth Edwards
4 Susie Roberts	18 Jerry Jackson	25 Alison Davis
5 Homer Hunt	19 Marla Wilkinson	26 Lynn Wallace
8 Parker Harding	21 Christopher White	27 Malissa Heriot
10 Veve Allred	22 Dale Griffin	28 Liz Wild
15 Frankie Moore	23 Vicky Edwards	