



If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

Love in the Christian Context

We are entering the month of February and so it is natural that many among us will begin to think about Valentines day and love. Of course the love we think of with Valentines day is romantic love, but what of the love written about in scripture. The Greek language has multiple words that we translate as love. The Greek word *eros* is used to convey romantic love, the Greek word *philos* means brotherly love, while the Greek word *agape*, as it is used in the New Testament has the sense of sacrificial love. It is the word *agape* that is used nine times in 1 Corinthians chapter 13.

In fact, the context of the book of 1 Corinthians Paul is using the word to encourage the church in Corinth to be united together by their love of God, and one another. Paul uses the word *agape* in vs 1-3 as it applies to the gifts of tongues and prophecy, which were particularly divisive gifts in Corinth. Later in the chapter Paul says that *agape* is not the very things that the church in Corinth is: jealous (3:3), self-promoting and puffed up (4:6), shameful (5:2, 11:4), seeking one's own advantage (chapters 8-10), and easily provoked (chapter 6)¹.

What was to unite the church in Corinth was the sacrificial love of God flowing from God to them through Christ. This same love was to then flow from each of them to the others. It is the same for us today. We are to love each other as Christ has loved us, not romantically, or with brotherly or sisterly affection, but sacrificially. We are to give of ourselves for the well being of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the church itself.

In Christ,

Pastor Jared

¹Wetherinton III, Ben; "Conflict & Community in Corinth, A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on 1 and 2 Corinthians.

Canton Calvary Mission Dinner

What a wonderful evening we had serving dinner at Canton Calvary Mission!! What a wonderful crew of helpers!! Thanks to all of you who gave of your time to serve our community during this very busy holiday season. You did it all – hauling heavy roasters and boxes from Grace to Calvary, mixing up the best punch ever, baking delicious biscuits, dipping up Chicken a la King, serving yummy homemade holiday jello salads and making special Christmas favors for each person.

So, a big thank-you to the Strain family, McCully Family, Law family, Chris Davis and Lillian, Jason Wright, Nancy Allman-Bull, Judy Leszczynski, Jared Williams, Ed and Jane Crist, Becky Schissler, and Rhiannon Blaine and Levi.

The Jello Brigade: Tricia and Mike Davis, Louise Miller, Joyce Gibbons, Judy Leszczynski, Sandy Lutz, Jane Crist (I'm afraid I've left someone out!)

Punch ingredients: Sara Mallady, Becky Schissler, Sharon George, Chris Davis

Cooks and Choppers: Louise Miller, Jen and Sydney Cramer, Sharon George, Jane Crist and Patty Takas

Our next dinner at Calvary will be May 9, 2020. Mark your calendars. It is a great opportunity to fulfill the mission of our church and bring the love of God into our community.

100 Plumbers Challenge



Canton Calvary Mission is looking for 100 people to take the "100 Plumbers Challenge!" According to Google, a plumber is "a person who installs and repairs the pipes and fittings of water supply, sanitation, or heating systems." You may not be handy with a pipe wrench, or have never dug a trench with an excavator, but you can still accept this challenge to help with a plumbing repair! On November 12, the main

outside water line from the Mission to the street broke. It not only caused a flood in the kitchen and adjoining area, but resulted in the Mission being without water for 4 days and having to cancel programs and services during that time. We have received the bill for \$17,609.86. We are hoping to find some "plumbers" willing to help us with this repair. It would take 100 people to give a gift of \$170 to cover the cost. We will gratefully accept gifts of any amount. Checks should be written to Canton Calvary Mission, with "plumber" in the memo line, and mailed or delivered to Canton Calvary Mission, 1345 Gibbs Ave NE, Canton, OH 44705. Gifts may also be given through PayPal on our website, www.cantoncalvarymission.net. Thank you in advance for taking the "100 Plumbers Challenge!"

YOU'RE INVITED TO A



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1720 SCHNEIDER ST. NW NORTH CANTON

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22TH

6:30- ????

BRING FINGER SNACKS TO SHARE

DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED

COME BY YOURSELF OR WITH A CROWD

ALL ARE WELCOME

PLEASE CALL CHURCH OFFICE FOR RESERVATIONS

CONTACT LELAND SPENCER FOR INFORMATION

2/1 Jean Fry
 2/1 Sharon Marshall
 2/3 Samantha Sarah
 2/4 Samantha Dunkle
 2/4 Kelli Law
 2/4 Karen Newbauer
 2/4 JoAnn Steer
 2/4 Nicholas Takacs
 2/6 Carol Bucklew
 2/8 Carol Webb
 2/9 Tony Rothermel
 2/11 Carol McKelley
 2/11 Kyle Wirth
 2/15 Carol Fier
 2/15 Glen Hookway
 2/15 Sam Pavlik
 2/15 Karen Simmerman
 2/16 Samuel Casey
 2/17 John Mallady
 2/18 Connor Finnicum
 2/19 Rayna Finnicum
 2/20 Aiden Martin
 2/21 Marilyn Gibbs
 2/22 Rob Morton
 2/23 Brair Crowl
 2/24 James Boszor
 2/24 Graclyn Dalton
 2/24 Willow Dalton
 2/24 Tyler Harbert
 2/24 Jason Mauer
 2/25 Elijah Barker
 2/25 Kim Burns
 2/25 Rebecca Evanoff
 2/25 Cheryl Weekley
 2/26 Rich Barnhart
 2/26 Kayla Davis
 2/26 Grace DeBois
 2/26 Mason DeBois
 2/26 Ryan Leszczynski
 2/27 Rosemary Ault
 2/27 Eric Steer
 2/29 Cheryl Morton

PASTOR*Rev. Dr. Jared Williams***CHOIR DIRECTOR &
ORGANIST***Matt Brown***DIRECTOR OF YOUTH
MINISTRY***Kelli Law***OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR***Lorrie Harbert***MAILING COORDINATOR***Judy Carl***CUSTODIAN***Paula Blaine***CONTEMPORARY
WORSHIP LEADER***Alex Evanoff***CHURCH COUNCIL***Diane Spencer***STAFF PARISH
RELATIONS***Sandy Lutz***TRUSTEES***Lee Spencer***FINANCE***Bill Lacy*

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Come and join us on **Sunday, February 16, 2020 10:15 - 10:45am** in the Youth Room (Café Grace, room 103) for Coffee, Cookies and Fellowship. **Everyone is welcome!**

This is an ongoing event and is usually the 3rd Sunday of each month unless otherwise advertised. Please join us and get to know other members of the church.

Please see Amanda de Fays or Diane Spencer to sign up to help by providing cookies or to set up and clean up for the event.



LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Grace United Methodist Church on 3/27/2020. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979**

AMAZING GRACE SENIORS

The Amazing Grace Seniors will hold their February 6th meeting at Beyesly's Restaurant at the corner of North Main Street and 5th Street NW. We will order from their menu. We start at 11:30 am and usually are finished by 1:00 PM.

Being that it is close to Valentine's Day, we are asking everyone to wear something red. We will talk about ways to show love to others. So bring your ideas. Bring a friend. If you have none bring an enemy. Show them you love them. Please come.

Rides for Church

We have 2 to 4 people who are residents of The Inn at Whitewood Village who would love to come to our 10:45 Service on Sundays to worship with us. If there is anyone who would be able to give them a ride on Sunday mornings, even if it is just occasionally, please call the church office at 330-499-2330. We would love to be able to arrange rides for these individuals who are unable to drive for themselves.

**North Canton Grace United Methodist Church
Treasurer Report
2019 Year In Review**

The year 2019 was the year of abundance for North Canton Grace United Methodist Church. Abundance not because we had more to give but rather we gave more of what we have received of God's blessings. We as a Congregation gave of our Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service, in abundance!

I would personally like to thank you for allowing me to be of service to God and you as your Treasurer. The personal growth that I receive is definitely more than I give, I am truly thankful.

I have witnessed throughout 2019 so many of you making huge impacts in taking the love of Jesus Christ to all people. Everyone's collective efforts in offerings, volunteering, praying and showing up have helped us to achieve the following financial accomplishments in 2019.

- We met all operating expenses from operating funds.
- We paid 100% or \$2,800.00 of District Apportionments.
- We paid 47% or \$20,150.24 of Conference Apportionments.
- We reduced our mortgage principal balance by \$283,858.72. At the beginning of 2019 the mortgage principal balance was \$614,403.62 and as of December 31, 2019 the ending mortgage principal balance was \$330,544.90.
- We realized expense savings in education personnel, children's ministry personnel, nursery personnel, office hours and maintenance expense by doing maintenance for ourselves. Please thank these volunteers for stepping up to enhance our program offerings and save critical dollars.
- At the end of 2019 Staff Parish hired a Director of Contemporary Worship. The salary for this position is being covered in year- 1 and year- 2 by the Development Fund and a Conference Grant. In year-3 we will need to cover approximately 50% of the salary from operations.

December Year-to-Date (12 months) 2019 Financial Results:

1. Total Receipts- \$338,719.82 or 93.88% of budget (behind). Identified giving/pledges accounted for 90% of total receipts. Through December 2019 identified giving/pledges were \$305,223.70 or 94.35% of budget (behind).
2. Total Expenses- \$324,464.70 or 85.42% of budget (ahead, mainly because we have not fully paid our apportionments).
3. Income less expense \$14,255.12; Cash balance with payables due was \$10,793.50.
4. Apportionments- We have paid \$20,150.24 of \$42,432.00 Conference Apportionments (47.49%). We have paid \$2,800.00 of \$2,800.00 District Apportionments (100%).
5. 2018 Capital Campaign- 2019 collections of \$66,359.00
6. Mortgage balance \$330,544.90. Principal was reduced by \$283,858.72.

If you would like to get a copy of the financials for 2019 please contact the Church office and we will make arrangements to provide you a copy. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact the Church office and ask that the Treasurer give you a call to chat.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Harbert, Treasurer

Thank you

Thank you very much for the food you sent to us at the holiday's. We all enjoyed it very much! Again, thank you for thinking of us!

Discount Drug Mart

In response to someone dropping off food Christmas Eve or Day to workers at Drug Mart.

Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers, prayers and cards. God bless you all and thanks for making a dark day a little brighter. I still hope to return.

Blessings,

I would like to thank my church family for the very generous Christmas bonus. I am so grateful and appreciate the kindness I am always shown at this church. My family and I are so blessed to be part of this church and to have such a loving and caring church. Thank you all for blessing me this year.

I love you all,

Thank you so much for the Christmas Gift from my church. It is a blessing to be able to work here.

Lorrie Harbert

To Our Congregation

I am so thankful for all of you and your support for the youth and myself. I am thankful for your generosity as well.

I would like to thank the congregation for the monetary Christmas gift. I really appreciate it!

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of Ruth, Cindy, Naomi, and myself I want to thank you for your very generous gift this Christmas. We are truly blessed to be at Grace and appreciate each of you.

To each and every member of the congregation, I express my utmost thanks and gratitude for being given the opportunity to serve you each Sunday through the ministry of music. I am solely here at the pleasure of the pastor and you, and through my efforts both in front of you and behind the scenes while practicing for a service, I hope always to provide pleasing sounds that invite, stimulate and properly accompany your worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

--Matthew T. Brown

North Canton Grace
United Methodist Church

1720 Schneider St NW
North Canton OH 44720

(330)499-2330

Email:

office@northcantongrace.org

Website:

www.northcantongrace.org



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

MISSION:

*The mission of Grace UMC is
to take the love of Jesus Christ
to all people.*

VISION:

*The vision of Grace UMC
is to love God, love our
neighbors, and love ourselves.*

SERVICE TIMES:

8:00 Traditional Service in the
Chapel

9:15 Contemporary Service

9:15 Sunday School

10:45 Traditional Service in the
Sanctuary