

And now abide
faith, hope, love,
these three; but the
greatest of these is
love.

1 Cor. 13:13

TO KNOW CHRIST, TO GROW IN CHRIST, TO GO SERVE CHRIST

February
Medicine Lodge United Methodist Church 2015

A Month For Love VS A Lifetime Of Love

St Valentine's Day falls in February and the stores are filled with flowers, cards, candy and an abundance of reminders that if there is someone in our live we love, show it!

Of course the stores have a vested interest in commercializing this occasion. It's all about the money. And yet, I don't mind so much as I think about my darling wife who has stuck with me through the thick and thin of life's traumas, and ministry's heartaches, and declining health. It also reminds me of my lovely daughters and granddaughters. It even makes me reflect on all those lovely people who supported my ministry with their attendance, their finances, their cards and letters of encouragement, and their personal visits, hugs, and warm handshakes.

Now I can't speak for Jesus on the commercialization of loving others but he does speak to us about loving others. In Matthew 5:46 he says, "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?" And he follows that statement by pointing to what was considered to be the worst sinners of his day. He says, "Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

Earlier in this same chapter he says, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:43-47, NKJV)" I wonder if Jesus were with us in person today as we shopped for cards, flowers, candy and the like for those we love if he would have us consider sending something nice to those who hate us, who want us to fail, who say lies about us and plot our demise?

How exactly do we "love our enemies?" He says we are to greet them but I believe he wants more than that. I believe he wants us to change our way of thinking. He wants us to change our way of loving so that we don't pick and choose who we will care about. He wants us to care about everybody, especially those who are our enemies!

Now I don't say any of these things on my own authority because I don't have any authority. I don't assert my opinion on the matter because my opinion is of no consequence. However, I do quote Jesus because his authority is absolute and his opinion does count for everything. He tells us how his Father operates in Matthew 5 as well when he says, "for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

He also demonstrated his depth of commitment to this principle on the cross, "Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do (Luke 23:34a, NKJV)." He said this about those who orchestrated his crucifixion!

Paul tells us in Romans 5:8-11 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation (NKJV)."

If you and I are now believers and friends of Christ Jesus, we must also understand that we were once his ene-

mies. We must understand that he loved us first as we are told in 1 John 4:18-20, There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen (NKJV)?"

February may be the month we focus on love and that may not be all bad. However, Christ Jesus wants us to focus on a life of love, and that my dear readers, is all good!

For me - being a highly opinionated, vocal, and type A personality - this means that I have irritated, offended, and/or really ticked some folks off. I know this because they have told me so in word and deed. It is much easier to dismiss the opinion of these folks, ignore their anger, and avoid their company than it is to love them. And yet, as a Christian, I - and all other true followers of Christ Jesus, are called not to do the easy thing but rather to do the hard task of loving those who don't love us.

Matthew concludes chapter 5 with these words from Jesus. "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect (NKJV)."

I believe with all my heart, mind, and soul that Jesus' mission, in part, was to save us by perfecting us in love. Let's cooperate with him and his desire for us by truly loving one another. Let's lay down our boxing gloves and put on the mantle of Christ Jesus.

Pastor Dale Thiele

THANK YOU!

Thank You!

- 👉 George Palmer for lighting the water heater pilot light
- 👉 Jimmy McCullough for repairing the cabinet doors
- 👉 Kelly Stockwell for repairing toilets
- 👉 Cindy Christensen, Sue Lee, Ton Phipps, Joscelyn Nittler & Emerald Bedwell for taking down the Christmas decorations
- 👉 Jimmy & Judy McCullough & Rick Anderson for hanging the entryway doors

Administrative Council Meeting

Sunday, February 8

1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Administrative Council will meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm.

All chairpersons of committees are requested to be in attendance.

Thank You & God Bless

LET'S PREPARE FOR EASTER

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 18

LENTEN SMALL GROUP STUDIES
will begin on Sunday, Feb. 22nd. If you are interested in hosting and/or participating contact the church office at 886-3903.

LENTEN DINNER
Tuesday, February 24
6:30 pm
Assembly of God Church
Speaker: Karen Lemon



Our Deepest Sympathy

To the family of
Jack Greenwood

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1-Clay Axline
- 3-Jed Hill, Mary Rhea, Cason Cline
- 5- John Platt, Tristan Guthrie
- 6 - Kelli Swayden, Henry Hudson
- 7 - Thomas Petardi
- 8 - Charles Swayze, Brooke Mease Savanna Christensen
- 9 - Jayne Packard
- 10 - Harry Dawson
- 12 - Janet chance
- 13 - Madilyn Kolb
- 14 - Jimmy Packard, Cooper Christensen
- 16 - Deb Kolb, Krista Dawson
- 19 - Georgi Dawson, Tori Clark, Tricia Larkin
- 20 - Ali Ferguson, Laura Wheeler
- 22 - Cheryl Standage
- 23 - Michaela Pate
- 26 - Allen Waller
- 27 - Jody Mullican



UMW NEWS

Faith Circle

will meet on February 9th at 7 :00 pm with Barbara Jones as hostess and Barbara Lonker as co-hostess. Mary Lou Hinz has the program and devotions. Local exchange students will be our guests and program.

Mary Martha Circle

will meet on February 25 at 2:00 pm with Maida Anne Packard as hostess and Brenda McLain will have the program.

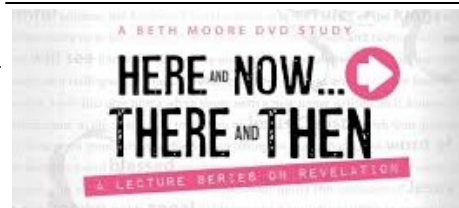
UPCOMING EVENTS:

Feb. 14 - Dinner and A Movie

Let's go to the movies & dinner together. The Assembly of God Church is showing "The Song" at 8 pm. Plans for a steak dinner are in the works. More details will be coming soon. Call the church office if you are interested.

Feb. 28th - Family Game Night

Snacks and Games
More details coming.



Beth Moore
Revelation Lecture Series
Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm
UMC Library



The Worship Committee met and determined the best way to revamp the Usher, Greeter & Acolyte list is to have people sign up. There is a clipboard in the office where you can add your name to the list on the months you would like to serve the church by assisting with worship. We are also adding readers and Children's time volunteers, as well. May you be blessed by serving the church.

It's A Boy



Isaac Martin Mease was born January 13 and weighing 8 lb 2 oz. He was welcomed home by his very excited siblings: Aubrey, Kylie and Connor. Parents are Chad and Jennifer Mease, grandparents are Craig and Sharla Mease.

February

Sunday Schedule

- 9:30 am -Worship
- 10:45 am - Fellowship Time
- 11:00 am-Sunday School
- 12 noon - Covered Dish Dinner

(1st Sunday of the month)

Wednesday Schedule

- 6:30 am - Men's Bible Study
- 3:50 pm - 5:15 pm
Extreme Kids Club
- 7:00 pm - Jr & Sr High MYF

Ushers

Greeters

Acolytes

Readers

Tammy Keimig

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 12 Noon - SPUDS OF LOVE	2	3	4 <i>Reg Wed Act</i>	5	6	7
8 1:30 pm-Adm Co	9 10 am Food Bank	10 6:30 pm - Beth Moore Revelation Study	11 Reg Wed Act.	12	13	14 Dinner & a Movie
15	16 10 am Food Bank	17 6:30 pm - Beth Moore Revelation Study	18 Ash Wednesday Reg Wed Act.	19	20	21
22	23 10 am Food Bank	24 6:30 pm - Beth Moore Revelation Study 6:30 pm - Lenten Dinner @ Assembly of God	25 Reg Wed Act.	26	27	28 Family Game Night





United Methodist Church
108 E. Second
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104

PERMIT NO. 5

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 5
 Medicine Lodge, KS

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
www.umcmedicinelodge.com

Office Hours: M-F 9 am-4 pm
 Ph: (620)886-3903

Pastor

Dale Thiele cell 785-324-1344
 dale_thiele@hotmail.com

Education Director

Secretary

Sharla Mease
 sharlaumc@sctelcom.net

Custodian

Cheryl Wampler

2014 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Adm. Co-Tammy Keimig 739-4553

Congregational Care

Mary Lou Hinz 886-3558
 Ron & Judy Phipps 739-4722

Education -Andrea Fisher 930-2049

Endowment-David Oxley 886-5783

Evangelism-Linda Vick, Lesley Hill

Hospitality-Emerald Bedwell 886-5320

Lay Leader John Platt, 886-2003

Dean Stucky 886-3485

Lay Leadership-Dale Thiele 886-5989

Memorial -

Missions - Andrea Fisher, 930-2049

Scholarship-Bob Packard 886-3006

SPRC Relations -

Dean Stucky 886-3485
 Dorothy Stutler 930-2020

Stew/Finance- Dale Lonker 886-3311

Brandon Phipps

History & Archives -

Worship/Music & Arts -

Trustees - Tom Lee 930-2072
 Jed Hill

Childcare Facilities-

Emerald Bedwell 886-5320

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Schedule

Worship	9:30 am
Fellowship Time	10:45 am
Sunday School	11:00 am
Covered Dish Dinner (1st Sunday of the month)	11:45 pm

Monday Schedule

Food Bank	10:00 am
-----------	----------

Tuesday Schedule

Beth Moore Revelation Study	6:30 pm
-----------------------------	---------

Wednesday Schedule

Men's Bible Study	6:30 am
Extreme Kids Club	3:50 pm
Jr MYF	7:00 pm
Sr MYF	7:00 pm

PRAY FOR OUR

MILITARY

Natasha Florian
 James Guy
 Rodney VanRanken
 John Ordonio
 Blazer Walker
 Brian Larsen, Marilyn Fox's son
 Spencer Wartman, Lee's grandson
 Joey Ludwick, Heather & John's son

