

Celebrate

"Growing in Christ and the Word and Bringing Others to Him"

Pastor's Snapshot...Love or Just Valentine's Day

Love is used 310 times in the Bible, beginning with Genesis 27:4 through Revelations 12:11.

In Genesis, the story is about Jacob and his mother stealing his brother's birthright for his aged father Isaac. Jacob uses the word love (Hebrew – *Ahava*) to convey his deep appreciation or desire for a type of food because he gives this love freely. This is different from the Hebrew word *Hesed* which is much more personal. *Hesed* is difficult to translate because it stands for a cluster of ideas – love, mercy, grace, and kindness. It wraps up in itself all the positive attributes of God. *Hesed* is one of the Lord's most treasured characteristics. These words express more than what we just throw around today.

I love this stuff; I love this movie; or I love you.

Consider the word love as defined by the Greeks; *Storge* or family love, *Philia* or social love – friendship love, *Eros* or sexual love, and *Agape* or love of God – love from God – love as unconditional among humankind.

In Revelation, the word comes forth as the *Agape* love, for we by the power of God see the battle won even unto our death. No greater love has one than to lay down their life for another.

Today, we use love as a password to open opportunities but with little depth. We think that sending, or receiving, a card on Valentine's Day is more than a trifle but less than a wedding proposal.

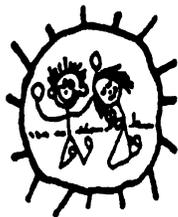
If we say we love, let it be with all of our heat, soul, and strength. This can only be true if we love God first, abiding in the Lord and loving the Lord with everything that we are as human beings.

Let us show this love to our neighbors without holding back some reserve for ourselves. Let the grace of God fill the space between you and me, us and them, and all places in between.

Grace and Peace – Pastor Tony



CHILDREN AND WORSHIP



Children and Worship provides one way of being in worship with children ages 4 through 2nd grade. In their book, *Young Children and Worship*, Sonja Stewart and Jerome Berryman combined their extensive experience as teachers of young children and adults. The result is a program that offers the church a unique and innovative worship experience for young children. The program calls for a structured time with children based on an outline for worship found in most Reformed and Presbyterian churches - we gather in God's name; we proclaim God's word; we give thanks to God; and we go out into God's world. This approach translates the religious language of Biblical stories, parables, and liturgy into concrete materials, which children use to retell into the stories themselves. Children and adults are drawn into the stories together as they experience, rather than merely learn, about worship.

When children reach the age of 10, parents are encouraged to keep their child with them in the sanctuary.

February 7 - The Sower

February 14 - The Good Samaritan

February 21 - The Great Banquet

February 28 - Jesus and the Children

Church Humor...

The minister's son was invited to his friend's house for dinner. Before they ate, the boy bowed his head and waited for the blessing to be said. But everyone else started helping themselves to the food, and he looked up puzzled. "What's wrong? Why aren't you eating?" asked his friend's mom. The boy, who had been taught to give thanks, asked, "Don't you pray at meals?" The father answered they didn't. "Oh, I see," said the boy, "you're just like my dog - you start right in."

Kroger Update...Help Keep Kroger Rewards Coming!

For 2015, Kroger donated a total of \$2,406.80 to our Women's Ministry as part of their Kroger Rewards Program benefiting local community groups. We have been able to fund several projects and/or donations because of their generosity...all because 27 folks in our church registered their Kroger Plus Card using our church number 11421!!

If you are not currently part of this program, please consider enrolling...it is easy, quick, and brings our church great \$\$\$ rewards. As other community groups join the program, our rewards will decrease, so we need to continue to boost the number of folks registering. Anyone can use our church number...they don't have to be a church member...so consider asking friends or neighbors if they might be willing to participate with us. Enrolling is a simple matter of linking online your Plus Card number (that we all use to get the Kroger discounts) with our church number.

If you already are participating, THANK YOU!! And, please remember that you need to re-enroll as of January 1st, 2016, so they keep their records current.

Please talk with Barb Greer if you have any questions, or would like help in enrolling or re-enrolling.

A special Valentine's Day treat...

Skip the store-bought candy this Valentine's Day and make homemade sweets straight from the heart.

Dark Chocolate Raspberry Fudge

- 1 pkg. (10-12 oz.) white baking chips
- 1 tsp. butter, softened
- 3 cups dark chocolate chips
- 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- ¼ cup raspberry liqueur
- 1/8 tsp. salt

Place baking chips in a single layer on a baking sheet. Freeze 30 minutes. Line a 9" square pan with foil; grease with butter. In a microwavable bowl, combine dark chocolate chips and milk. Microwave, uncovered, on high 2 minutes; stir. Microwave at 30 second intervals stirring until smooth. Stir in liqueur and salt. Add white baking chips; stir just until partially melted. Spread into prepared pan. Refrigerate for 1 hour; cut into 1" pieces.

Friendship News...

Happy New Year Greetings from the Friendship Ministry!

Goodbye, January! Welcome, February!

We will be starting out the month with the love story of Boaz and Ruth with a skit, then reinforcing the message with their student paper and finishing the evening with making their own valentine card for a favorite someone.

The story of Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah in our previous meeting had everyone making beautiful tissue flowers in honor of Ruth's love for Naomi. These two lessons show us that God was faithful to Naomi and Ruth just as He is faithful to us, his children no matter where we are or where we came from. We are all part of God's family.

Our second lesson this month will start a series of four stories about David and how God planned all kinds of experiences for David. We'll be starting out with David as a shepherd boy for his dad, Jesse, the grandson of Ruth and Boaz. Yes, just like all of us, David had a job to do in his family – watching his dad's flock. All of us can relate to having jobs to do as a family member.

Please keep our friends and their staff in your prayers to keep them safe on the roads as they go to Friendship Clubs, shelter workshops, etc.

Serving the Shepherd,
Shirley and Carolyn

Second Saturday Women's Fellowship Saturday, February 13th @ 10AM

Please join us for conversation and fellowship on Saturday, February 13th from 10-12. Why not reach out to another church member, or invite a friend or neighbor? There will be light refreshments provided. If you have a portable project, bring it along. It's wonderful to see the creativity of the talented women in our church.

Deb and Marty

Thank you...

To CCC Congregation:

I wish to thank all of YOU for prayers and concern for our daughter, Shirley (Coulter) Busack. As age 52, Shirley has had two heart valve replacement surgeries (Aug. 14th). And, as this one was unsuccessful, the surgeons did a second surgery (Sept. 29th) of the same two valves plus a double bypass surgery.

When on the mend from all this, she had a severe stroke October 12th (even on blood thinners) as one valve was a mechanical valve. Since this time she has mostly been in a rehab facility – first in Indy, then in Fort Wayne. Rehab has been difficult with all the pain she's been through. We are thankful for each step forward. Shirley has been trying so hard to be cooperative. We ask in the name of Jesus prayers of healing, as well as patience.

*Thankful to be in God's Family,
Elnora Coulter and Family*

I want to thank everyone in the church for the great basket you gave me at Christmas. I am still enjoying the great things that were in it.

Betty Maszkiewicz

Dear church family,

Thank you all for your support and appreciation you've shown me. The flowers you gave me after the cantata were just gorgeous, and the monetary Christmas gift was so generous. Thank you, and my God continue to guide and bless His church as we seek His face and glory in all we do.

*Love,
Lynette Smith*

Dear CCC Family,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all your prayers, love, and support during Jeff's struggle with dementia. He delighted in participating with LOGOS, Friendship Ministry, VBS, and of course choir. Your acceptance of his limitations during the last year we were there was so heartwarming. He was loved for who he was despite his withdrawal, due to the disease.

Kyle, Conor, and I are so touched by your continued outpouring of love and prayers through your cards, emails, and on Facebook. I can assure you, that though we miss him very much, we are joyful in knowing Jeff is in Jesus' loving, healing arms and he is made whole again.

God bless you all, I miss you, Wendy Corcoran

Christ's Community Church Financial Report as of 31 December 2015

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
INCOME		
General Giving	237,222.12	228,000.00
Total Income	237,222.12	228,000.00
EXPENSES		
Operating	45,484.29	44,420.00
Mortgage Reduction	28,162.71	27,904.00
Programs, Operating	21,734.16	23,040.00
Wages and Benefits**	123,317.00	133,042.00
Expense Subtotal	218,698.16	228,406.00
Operational GAIN (LOSS)	18,523.96	(406.00)
Designated Giving Programs		
Designated Giving Balance 1/1/2015	36,286.90	
Designated Giving YTD	40,471.17	
Programs Expense Designated	(18,375.04)	
Net Designated Giving Balance	58,383.03	
Additional Information as of 31 August 2015		
Cash in Bank Account	123,752.68	
Less Designated Fund Balances	58,383.03	
Available Operational Cash	65,369.65	
Mortgage Payable	283,444.75	
ENDOWMENT Summary as of 3/31/2015		
Market Value	66,292.01	
Principle Invested	45,344.50	
Cumulative Income Earned	9,668.79	
Cumulative Distributions Made	4,144.44	
Cumulative Undistributed Income Available	5,524.35	

Designated Funds Balances as of 31 December 2015

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Sub Fund</u>	<u>2014 End Bal</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Current Bal</u>
Advertising, Promotion		200.00			200.00
Building Fund		5,043.06	5,461.52	3,920.03	6,734.55
	Projector	150.00			
Chair Fund		2,193.26	(2,193.26)		
Children and Worship		128.23			128.23
Deacon		3,726.62	395.00	613.33	3,508.29
Flower		482.22	92.00	108.00	466.22
Friendship		3,076.32	2,283.00	1,358.40	4,000.92
LOGOS		1,319.68		224.33	1,095.35
Memorial Fund		1,775.00			2,270.00
	Greer Memorial	495.00			
Piano		9,010.34		1,780.74	7,229.60
Mission and Outreach					
	A Hope Center	1,540.00		1,540.00	-
	Food Drive		390.00	390.00	
	Shepherd's Storehouse		1,000.00	1,000.00	
Pastoral Needs Fund			27,000.00	27,000.00	
Staff Gifts		70.00	1,205.00	1,275.00	-
VBS		763.85		610.22	153.63
Women		6,171.75	4,737.91	5,428.71	5,480.95
Youth Mission		-			115.29
	World Vision	-	100.00	126.28	
	Youth Group	42.61			
	Youth Missions	98.96			
Designated fund balances TOTAL		36,286.90	40,471.17	18,375.04	58,383.03
True Desig Fund Bal: Desig Fund Total less negative bal					58,383.03
Fund balances gain/(loss)			22,096.13		



Peyton Mankey	3
Sharron Manter	10
Keira Smith	11
Shirley Born	12
David Allen	22
Sean McMurray	26
Rich and Kitty Conkling	19
Jeff and Nancy Myers	26

Secret Sisters in Christ

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:12

Our ministry to support and encourage each other in our Christian walk begins! I am so excited for each one of us as we begin another year in this wonderful opportunity to serve Christ. Everyone should have gotten their Secret Sister information in their mail folder.

Here's a few ideas to help you get started –

1. Begin your ministry by writing an encouraging note or card letting your Secret Sister know that you are thinking of her and keeping her in your prayers. Save postage by using the church mail folders!
2. Valentine's Day will be here soon and is one of the three times during the year to give your Sister a small gift. Gifts can be placed on the bookcase in the Women's Ministry area next to the water fountain. Please make sure your Sister's name is clearly visible.
3. Mark your calendar now with your Sister's special occasions such as birthday, anniversary, and Mother's Day.

If you have a special prayer request, let me know and I'll pass it along to your Secret Sister. I pray each of you will be blessed by this ministry and know that you are a blessing to your Sister as well. Any questions, give me a call at 413-8748 or email me at kitty_conkling@waterfurnace.com.

Love and prayers,
Kitty

February 2016 Sermon Series

*February 7 - "Transformed,"
Romans 12:1-2*

*February 14 - "In His Image,"
II Corinthians 3:18*

*February 21 - "Simplify the Law,"
Matthew 22:34-40*

*February 28 - "Dwelling in Conflict,"
Luke 6:37-42*

LOGOS UPDATE

Our LOGOS adventure continues in February with Valentine Night February 10th and Dr. Seuss Night February 24th.

If you want to see the unity and bonding of a group of children, visit us on LOGOS nights! Remember, if Southwest Allen County Schools closes due to inclement weather on a LOGOS day, we will not meet.

NO EXCUSES!!

We all enjoy Coffee Fellowship after worship, and we need volunteers to take a turn setting up. Getting involved could not be easier, and the reward is seeing the fellowship and love that flows with the beverages and cookies. **There is a guide sheet for set up posted in the kitchen.**

If you wish, you could shadow the current hosts or invite someone to walk you through the prep. If you don't want to do it alone, pair up with someone. If you are signed up and must be out of town, call for back-up to cover for you. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board above the drinking fountain.

What did a president of the United States, a candy seller, and a stuffed animal have to do with a favorite children's toy?

Psalm 135:13

When Theodore Roosevelt was president, he went hunting one day in 1902. A bear cub was captured and tied up for the president to shoot, but President Roosevelt said he would not kill the defenseless bear. The story became famous when it was reported in the newspaper and drawn as a cartoon.

A man named Morris Michtom owned a stationery and candy shop. His wife, Rose, sometimes made little stuffed bears, which they would put in the window of their shop. The Michtoms saw the cartoon about the bear, and that gave Morris an idea. He asked his wife to make some special bears like the one in the cartoon. Then Morris wrote a letter to the White House, asking if the new bears could be named after the president. President Roosevelt wrote back to Morris and said, "I don't think my name is likely to be worth much in the bear business, but you are welcome to use it." So Morris put the new bears in his shop window, next to the cartoon. The stuffed bears were called by the president's nickname: "Teddy's bear." We call them *teddy bears* today, and we celebrated their one-hundredth birthday in 2002!

So what? It's fun to think about how names got started. Many times we don't even remember why we call something by a certain name. And sometimes names themselves get forgotten too. But there is one name that will always be remembered. It says: **"Your name, O Lord, endures forever; your fame, O Lord, is known to every generation."** Psalm 135:13, NLT

Because people have told each other about God for thousands of years, you know who he is today. If you tell others about Jesus, you can pass his blessings into the future.



**Thursday Morning Women's Mission Group
(Women's Sewing Group)**

There is something new going on with this group of giving women. **We have changed our name!** Next, we ask that you join us to develop our new Vision Statement. Come on the first and third Thursday mornings...9:30 to 11:30 AM and maybe join for lunch after at a local spot? Ladies this is not just a sewing group, it is a mission outreach and fellowship opportunity to connect with other ladies of our church. Join us on February 4th and 18th. We look forward to seeing you there.

Contact person: Betty De La Rosa; (712) 539-9961 or bettydela@gmail.com

Special Thank you...

Pastor Tony and CCC Family,

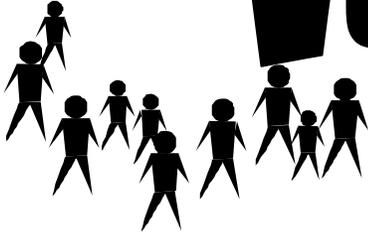
One of the greatest joys I receive as the Director of Military Families is to see the donations collected being received by those they were intended for. This Christmas season you and your congregation provided gifts for a family that experienced a hardship in 2015. Without the generous and abundant giving from the Christ's Community family, this Military Family may not have had a joyful memory to cherish.

I was personally blessed when you delivered the gifts to Associated Churches with your wife. To see how God was working through you made my day.

So on behalf of Family #1 and Military Families Ministry, I thank you all.

*Jim Garigen
Director – Military Families of
Associated Churches*

Volunteers!



The time and talents of many help to strengthen the work of our church.

A wide variety of volunteer opportunities exist. Please contact the church office if you would like to get involved.

LAYREADER SCHEDULE

February 7 – Jack Heller
February 14 -
February 21 -
February 28 – Ted Neuenschwander

If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Whitney at 459-2306.

USHER SCHEDULE

February 7 – The McMurray Family
February 14 -
February 21 -
February 28 -

If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Whitney at 459-2306.

SOUND BOOTH SCHEDULE

February 7 – Kevin McMurray
February 14 – Sean McMurray
February 21 – Cole Clements
February 28 – Rich Conkling

GREETER SCHEDULE

February 7 – Aaron and Allison Sackett
February 14 – Chet and Lenora Perkins
February 21 -
February 28 -

If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Whitney at 459-2306.

DEACON COUNTERS

February – see attached schedule on the church bulletin board.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

COMMUNION PREPARATION

February -

Thank You!

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Girl Scout Meeting – 4:30 PM Friendship Ministry – 6:30 PM	3 C.H.O.P. Meeting – 7:15 PM	4 Men's Morning Bible Study – 6:00 AM Thursday Morning Women's Mission Group – 9:30 AM Mission and Vision Team Meeting – 6:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings – 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 PM	5	6
7 Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 AM Youth Group – 4:00 PM	8	9 Girl Scout Meeting – 4:30 PM Women's Evening Bible Study – 7:00 PM	10 LOGOS (Valentine's Night) – 5:00 PM C.H.O.P. Meeting – 7:15 PM	11 Men's Morning Bible Study – 6:00 AM Mission and Vision Team Meeting – 6:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings – 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 PM	12	13 Second Sat. Women's Fellowship – 10:00 AM
14 Scout Sunday Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 AM Potluck Luncheon – 12:00 PM Youth Group – 4:00 PM	15 Deacon/Elder Meetings – 6:00 PM Consistory Meeting – 7:00 PM	16 Girl Scout Meeting – 4:30 PM Friendship Ministry – 6:30 PM	17 C.H.O.P. Meeting – 7:15 PM	18 Men's Morning Bible Study – 6:00 AM Thursday Morning Women's Mission Group – 9:30 AM Mission and Vision Team Meeting – 6:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings – 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 PM	19	20 Chinese Church 4-8:00 PM
21 Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 AM Youth Group – 4:00 PM	22	23 Girl Scout Meeting – 4:30 PM Women's Evening Bible Study – 7:00 PM	24 LOGOS (Dr. Seuss Night) – 5:00 PM C.H.O.P. Meeting – 7:15 PM	25 Men's Morning Bible Study – 6:00 AM Mission and Vision Team Meeting – 6:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings – 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 PM	26 Ladies' Luncheon – 12:00 PM	27
28 Choir Rehearsal – 8:30 AM Youth Group – 4:00 PM	29	Notes:				



www.ChristsCommunityChurch.org

Email: secretary@ChristsCommunityChurch.org
or Buckeyesx6@frontier.com
www.facebook.com/pages/Christs-Community-Church/104924772884765

Our Mission Statement

Christ's Community Church, with the help of God, strives to be a nurturing church where individuals and families, children, youth, and adults are encouraged and given the opportunity to grow in:

Faith
Biblical Knowledge
Christian Living Through –
Worship
Missions and Outreach
Education
Fellowship

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Worship Service
And Children and Worship
Program

10:45 AM
Coffee/Fellowship

11:00 AM Bible Groups for
Adults

11:00 AM Sunday School for
Children and Youth

Celebrate!

is a monthly publication of **Christ's Community Church, a part of the Reformed Church in America, Rev. Tony De La Rosa, Senior Pastor.** We are located at 10616 Liberty Mills Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46804. Our worship service is held at 9:30 A.M. with small groups for all ages at 11:00 A.M. Nursery care is provided at both times. For more information, please call the church office at 260/436-2637 or log on to our website at www.ChristsCommunityChurch.org.

Christ's Community Church

10616 Liberty Mills Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804