

South Montrose
Community Church
February 2019 Newsletter

Pastor's
Perspective



Pastor Jane's Message...

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love. Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others. Love isn't always "me first." Love doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies. But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

(I Corinthians 13:1-8a and 13 The Message)

What does Christian love mean? It's not the same as loving cookie dough ice cream, or Oreo cookies. Christian love is love in action. It is more than just a warm-fuzzy feeling. It is putting that warm-fuzzy feeling inside each of us to work to show kindness,

patience, gentleness, and faithfulness to a world that is hurting.

Love is the most important gift you can give during your life time. It is not a one-time event. Love is a genuine, ongoing assurance that we express in our words and actions on a daily basis. There are many priceless gifts in our lives that have their roots in love. Some are forgiveness, friendship, trust and sacrifice. Just think for a moment on how these kindnesses have been afforded to you. We don't have to think very long before a tear comes to our eye in gratitude to someone who believed in us and showered us with love in one form or another.

By sharing our love with others, we begin to understand how much God really loves us. It is a gift that doesn't always fit in our time schedule. Think about how much your Mom or Dad sacrificed for you over the years. How they attended to your needs while sacrificing their own. We love others because God loves us unconditionally. As we are generous with our love it becomes a part of who we are and a reflection of whose we are.

Let us love the people God brings into our lives. God fills our hearts to overflowing with an endless supply of love. We can't keep it to ourselves. Let's pour out this great love on others. Let's let love define our words and our actions this month.

As I write this letter, I am reminded of a story about love. A group of elementary students were asked to honor a teacher who had passed away by drawing a picture of something that reminded them of her.

One young boy finished his work of art quickly. When asked why he colored the entire page red, he explained, "I wanted to draw a picture of her heart, but it was too big for the paper." What a wonderful way to be remembered. We can only hope that others will remember us in this same matter.

We love others because God first loved us. Let us give the gift of love to others this month. For if we do, it will change their lives and ours as well.

Happy Valentine's Day to all, Pastor Jane

Feb. 4th - Happy birthday

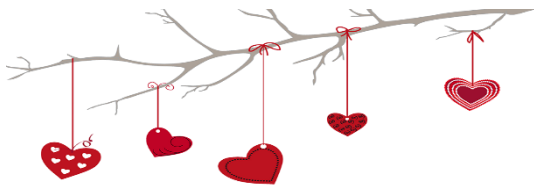


Pastor Jane!

Prayer for February

O God,
You have bound us together
in this bundle of life;
give us grace to understand
how our lives depend
on the courage, the industry,
the honesty and integrity of
our fellow men; that we may be
mindful of their needs, grateful
for their faithfulness, and
faithful in our responsibilities
to them; through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)



Valentine's Day, also known as Saint Valentine's Day, originated as a church holiday on February 14th to honor martyrs of the faith. It is believed that the first heart valentine note was sent by a Valentine who was in prison for a girl he loved. Valentine notes have been recorded as far back as the Middle ages. While the meaning and celebrations of Valentine's Day has changed, it has remained as a special day to shower with love those who we hold close.

May these Bible verses encourage you to celebrate Valentine's Day, for God has unconditional and indescribable love for us. No matter your age or stage in life, Valentine's Day can be celebrated because of God's great love.

Let all you do, be done in love.
I Corinthians 16:14

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
I John 4:8

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
Colossians 3:14

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:13

So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.
Genesis 29:20

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Psalm 37:4

To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.
Mark 12:33

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
Romans 12:9

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
I John 4:12

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and truth.
I John 3:18

We love because he first loved us.
I John 4:19

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth--for your love is more delightful than wine.
Song of Songs 1:2



Looking toward Lent...

Ash Wednesday this year is March 6th. Our Service will be at 7 p.m. at South Montrose. Ash Wednesday is the day we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God and we turn our lives towards Jesus Christ. We confess our sins and seek God's forgiveness. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them, and mixing them with a little water (like tears). It is symbolic. At our Ash Wednesday service, folks are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. I will make a small cross on your forehead by smudging the ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection and forgiveness. Come join us for this meaningful service as we begin our journey of Lent.

Sundays in Lent...

We will be doing the service of the Candles each week. During Lent, we will extinguish candles instead of light them as in Advent. Various groups in our church will do the ceremony of the candle each week. The Candle Theme is as follows...

- Sunday, March 10th: A Sober Season
- Sunday, March 17th: The Greatest Love
- Sunday, March 24th: Light of the World
- Sunday, March 31st: Saying Good-Bye
- Sunday, April 7th: In the Garden
- Sunday, April 14th: A Royal Reception (Palm Sunday)
- Friday, April 19th: Day of Darkness
- Sunday, April 21st: Up from the Grave He Arose (Easter)

Theme for our Lenten Sundays together: Time in the Wilderness

- Sunday, March 10th: A Time of Learning...Mark 1:12-15
- Sunday, March 17th: A Time of Challenge...Mark 1:12-15, 2 Corinthians 4:8-11
- Sunday, March 24th: A Time of Dependence...Mark 1:12-15, Hebrews 4:14-16
- Sunday, March 31st: A Time of Doubt...Mark 1:9-15, Mark 9:24b
- Sunday, April 7th: A Time of Comfort...Mark 1:9-15, 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10
- Sunday, April 14th: A Time of New Beginnings...Mark 1:9-15, 2 Corinthians 5:14-19

The Way of Love: I Corinthians 13 taken from The Message

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
 Love cares more for others than for self.
 Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
 Love doesn't strut,
 Doesn't have a swelled head,
 Doesn't force itself on others,
 Isn't always "me first,"
 Doesn't fly off the handle,
 Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
 Doesn't revel when others grovel,
 Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
 Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

Prayer of Love by Debbie McDaniel

Dear God, thank you that you are a loving, gracious God. Thank you that you've offered us forgiveness and the gift of new life in you. Thank you that your love is perfect, it never fails, and that nothing can separate us from your love. We pray that our lives would be filled and overflowing with the power of your love so we can make a difference in this world and bring honor to you. We ask for your help in reminding us that the most important things are not what we do outwardly, it's not based on any talent or gift, but the most significant thing we can do in this life is simply to love you and to choose to love others.

Lord thank you that your love is patient, Help us show patience with those around us. Lord thank

you that your love is kind. Help us to extend kindness to others. Lord thank you that true love is not jealous. Help us cast aside feelings of jealousy or hatred toward others. Lord thank you that your love does not brag and is not arrogant. Help us not to live with pride or arrogance, but to choose to walk with humility and grace. Lord thank you that true love does not act unbecomingly. Lord help us to extend kindness instead of rudeness toward others. Help us to lay aside the critical tone and tearing down with our words, so that we can truly walk in peace. Lord thank you that true love does not seek its own. Lord help us not to live selfishly, looking only to our own interests. Lord thank you that true love is not provoked. Lord help us not to become easily angered. Help us not to be so quickly reactive, but instead slow to speak and slow to become angry.

Lord thank you that your love does not take into account a wrong suffered. Lord help us not to hold grudges, but to choose to forgive, even when it's difficult. Lord thank you that your love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. Lord help us to love your words of truth, may we walk in your freedom and wisdom. Let it be what drives our lives and choices every day. Lord thank you that your love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, thank you that your love never fails.

Help us to love as you love. Fill us with your Spirit so that we can choose what is best. We are weak Lord, but we know also that even when we are weak, you are strong within us. Thank you that it's not all up to us. Thank you that you equip us to face each day with the power of your love, your forgiveness, and your grace. We love you Lord, and we need you today, and every day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Holy Humor

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign..."Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

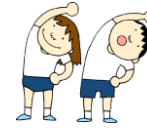
"Somebody has said that there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

Women's Resource Center Wish List

The Women's Resource Center is in need of the following items:

Reusable Grocery Bags, Gift Cards to Pump and Pantry, Price Chopper, and Ray's ShurSave. They are in need of Full Sized Hair Conditioner, Feminine Care Products, Tampons, Laundry Baskets, Journals, Pens, Stationery, New Towels. Please only donate New and Full-Sized items. Travel or sample sized items are appreciated but are too small for the families we serve. Please put your donations in the basket/box in the back of our congregation. Thank you!



Exercise Class

Exercise Class has started up again! Meet Sherry Weller at the church (downstairs) on **Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 to 10:00** for some fun and fitness!

Soup Night

Soup night will be held on February 18th, from 4:30-6:30. This month's selections are stuffed pepper and cream of carrot. As always there will be salad, bread and dessert. This month the desserts will be provided by the kitchen staff at Gracious Living Estates! They make awesome desserts! This is a free meal, but donations are accepted and given to our local food bank.

The SMCC choir will be presenting the cantata "One Silent Night" at Gracious Living Estates on February 17th at 3:00. All are welcome!!

Christian Music Concerts in our area....

Matthew West Feb. 23rd at Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre. Compassion LIVE presents the Roadshow Tour with Matthew West, Tenth Avenue North and Matt Maher, worship with very special guest Michael W. Smith and Leanna Crawford.

Casting Crowns Feb. 28th at Floyd L. Maines Arena in Binghamton. Family Life presents Casting Crowns Only Jesus Tour with Zach Williams and Austin French. The *Only Jesus Tour* will support Casting Crowns' brand new studio album, *Only Jesus*.

Friends who would love a friendly card:

Craig Estelle
PO Box 181
South Montrose, PA 18843

Gussie Fritz
Gracious Living Estates
10543 SR 29
Montrose, PA 18801

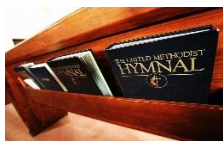
Grace Harvey
Gracious Living Estates
10543 SR 29
Montrose, PA 18801

Aggie Holbert
Gracious Living Estates
10543 SR 29
Montrose, PA 18801

Harry Snell
Fair Hill Personal Care Home
272 Lamphere Road
Montrose, PA 18801

Jean Weaver
Fair Hill Personal Care Home
272 Lamphere Road
Montrose, PA 18801

Reminder!!! There are activity bags for the young ones hanging on the coat rack. There are bags for both boys and girls. Feel free to use them!!



Large print hymnals
There are large print hymnals on the coat rack in the narthex. Please help yourself!

Who's doing what??



Greeters:

February 3 & 10
February 17 & 24
March 3 & 10
March 17 & 24

March 31

April 7

April 14 & 21
April 28

Mike and Joyce DePaola
Terri Bennett
Alan and Peggy Jerauld
Sharon Newhart and
Gigi Salsman
Maxine Fox and Phyllis
Valenza
Maxine Fox and Phyllis
Valenza
Ben Owen
Rob and Phyllis Meyers



Altar Flowers:

February
March
April

Gigi Salsman
Paula Remington
Diane Linaberry



Acolyte:

February 3
February 10
February 17
February 24
March 3
March 10
March 17
March 24
March 31
April 7
April 14
April 21
April 28

Hailyn Campbell
Matthew Hinds
Kohen Kraynak
Emma Bisel
Elizabeth Stone
Hailyn Campbell
Matthew Hinds
Kohen Kraynak
Emma Bisel
Elizabeth Stone
Hailyn Campbell
Matthew Hinds
Kohen Kraynak

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

In the church: Tommy Kerr, Guy Vandermark, Jean Weaver, Grace Harvey, Harry & Harriet Snell, Aggie Holbert, Nic Remington, Ben Owen, Craig Estelle, Marian Nye, Gladys Barber, Gussie Fritz, Ruth Vandermark, Wayne Vandermark,

In our community: Dennis, Jeff, Ingrid Hower family, Dave Rice, Helen Myers, Phil Reimel, Suzanna, Jenny, Stop the Hate and Violence Against Others, Bill Wilber, Stephen Van Kuren, Tom Teneralli, Kenny Rauch, Our Teachers and Children in our Local Schools, Nancy Coy, Damon Johnson, Holden Lunger, David Daniels, Darlene Pacihlock, Dot Owen, Jason Bennet, Jim Hogg, Bridget Cooke, Dawn Arnold, Lorna Jones, Jim Snell, Chuck Peters, John Henry, Debbie Smales, Elijah Sabo, Jim Phillips, Justin Guyr, Karen Cox, Will & Sarah, Mary Alice Hawley, Misty Hitchcock, Dennis Carey, Jeanette Smith, Vanesia West, Betty Pykus, Pat Amiondolia, Tony Susi, John Capoccia, Jose Roe, Bill Lawyer, John Breen, Monica Anderson, Audrey Cady, Gary Baker, Bill Copley, Margie Green, Jim Taylor, Bernie Boyer, Carol Jones, Jim & June Ochse, Ann Smith, Jane Perry, Joyce Millard, James Walters, Dottie Henry, Catalina, Sandra Lathrop, Helen Crotta, Lisa Steele, Dee Pierson, Duane Snell, Dennis Snell, Helen Peterson, Jonathan & Daniel Snell, Those Struggling with Addictions, Our Teenagers in Susquehanna County, those in the military, the unemployed, those in nursing homes, people in prison, our country, our world, our church, and each other.

If you know of someone who needs to be added to the prayer list, or if someone is on there that can be taken off, please contact Pastor Jane.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Reverend Jane M. Pykus, Pastor

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Church phone: 570-278-3019

jpykus65@gmail.com

Church Website:

<http://southmontrose.umcchurches.org>

Facebook address:

<https://www.facebook.com/South-Montrose-Community-Church-220670034624804/>



