

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Dear Friends of Faith,

THANK YOU FOR COMING! We are praying that the love of God will warm every heart!

WE ARE NOW 11 DAYS FROM THE 15th Annual ST LOUIS HOLINESS CONVENTION! On Thursday and Friday (2/20-21) we will hear JAMES PLANK, Pennsylvania, and on Saturday and Sunday DAVID ELLIS. The JEWETTS will be here ministering in song. The Union Bible College Quartets will be here both days of the convention.

We appreciate the help and encouragement of God's people as we press forward. We love and appreciate you all!

Let's do something significant!

LOVE WHO?

President Trump spoke after Arthur C. Brooks, author of "LOVE YOUR ENEMIES," at this week's National Prayer Breakfast. Taking his position at the dais, the President turned to the popular writer, "Arthur, I don't know if

I agree with you." When the laughter subsided, he continued, "But I love listening to you. It's really great."

Seated only a short distance away from the President sat Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The President and Speaker Pelosi have not spoken for months. A few days earlier the Speaker sat behind the President in the House of Representatives, making faces, muttering, and shaking her head as the President delivered the State of the Union address. At the end of the speech she defiantly stood up, tore the speech up, and threw down the pieces.

If President Trump is anything, it is unvarnished. He stood before hundreds of believers assembled to pray for our nation and spoke of his disdain for deception, and his contempt for people who couch their political machinations in spiritual semantics.

Late in his message he confessed, "I'm sorry. I apologize. I'm trying to learn." (The audience laughed.) "It's not easy. It's not easy," he repeated. And then continued, "When they impeach you for nothing, then you're supposed to like them? It's not easy folks. I do my best."

How then should a President respond to those whose vitriol has been so malicious? Must he love those who are so determined to defeat him? How should a Citizen respond when we are hatefully assaulted or misrepresented? Should we love the people who hate and hurt us—even want us dead?

Jesus told us that we must love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and



PASTOR RICK JONES



Faith Community Church St Louis

Please turn off the ringers on your cell phones. You are welcome to text PR a question 314-607-1424.

strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves. When asked, "who is my neighbor?" Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan. Talk about shattering stereotypes and woke justice. The hated rescues the hater!

Jesus taught, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." And that's what He did.

Then Jesus raised the bar to what would seem an impossible attainment. Not only are we to love our parents, our friends, and our neighbors, Jesus urged—"love your enemies."

In the greatest sermon ever preached, Christ said: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 6:43-45).

To the man of the world our Lord's ideal sounds more like nonsense than good sense. What did Christ mean?

Was Christ saying that Donald Trump should love Nancy Pelosi, his malicious political foe? Was Christ saying that Nancy Pelosi should love her antagonist, Donald Trump? In a word "Yes!"

Witness our Lord's example. Only hours before His arrest in Gethsemane, Jesus washed the feet of Judas. He knew what Judas was about to do—"He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me." (Matthew 26:23)—but He humbled himself and washed the betrayer's feet.

Standing before Pilate for the death-sentence, our Lord's demeanor and witness moved his judge to declare, "I find no fault in Him!" Oh what a Savior! Christ was plain as He spoke to Pilate, "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto you has the greater sin." (John 19:11). He spoke the truth. But He spoke the truth in love.

Nailed and lifted to die, the first words out of our suffering Savior's mouth were, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34).

Christ's prayer was sincere. He knew they were wrong. He knew their hearts were evil. And it was obvious that they were determined to kill him. Yet He prayed for them—not against them.

Love desires the best for its object. So then, loving our enemies means that we desire the best for them. God is not willing that any should perish, neither are we. (2 Peter 2:9) God would have all men to come to the knowledge of the truth, so do we. (1 Timothy 2:4).

Christ warned against labeling our adversaries worthless "fools," (Matthew 5:22) He warned that those who did so would be in danger of hell fire. So we do not.

On the other hand, Christ's love did not silence His voice against hypocrisy. He hated hypocrisy. But He loved hypocrites.

Christ's love moved Him to care for sinners who were literally opposing themselves. (2 Timothy 2:25). He hated sin. But He loved sinners.

Christ's love drove Him to expose the devil and his damnable lies. He hated deception. But He loved the deceived and longed to open their hearts and eyes to receive Him—the way, the truth, the life!

READY FOR A CHANGE UP?

If anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are passed away, behold all things are new

TRANSFORMATION WEEKEND

Three Services Sat 2/22 6p
Sunday 2/23 11a & 6p



Dave Ellis

Trish & Larry Jewett



FAITH COMMUNITY

2969 N Lindbergh, St. Ann, MO 63074 - Pastor Rick (314) 607-1424

Spiritual. Biblical. Loving.



FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

2969 N. Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Ann, MO 63074 - Pastor Rick Jones - Telephone (314) 607-1424
www.FCCStLouis.org

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Welcome to FCC!

We trust you sense God's presence and that you feel very welcome here.
Please let us know how we may help you.

11:00 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP
& SUNDAY SCHOOL for
PRE-SCHOOL thru HIGH SCHOOL
FREE NURSERY

5:45 pm PRAYER

6:00PM
EVENING PRAISE &
PREACHING

Think **HIGHER**
LOVEDeeper
Live **GREATER**

- T H E A P O S T L E S C R E E D -

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth;
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; descended into the grave,
the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into
heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection
of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Scriptures of the Month

Each month we are encouraging God's people to memorize a passage of Scripture

**Wait on the Lord: be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the Lord.**

PSALM 27:14

FCC NEWSLINE

Important Announcements and Updates

■ **THANK YOU FOR COMING!** We are very honored that you have come and hope that you will feel at home here at FCC! We would love to keep in touch. Please text (314) 607-1424 or e-mail: PastorRick@FCCSt-Louis.org, or fill out a contact card on our welcome table.

■ **THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD** We are very grateful for all who faithfully support FCC with tithes & offerings. We are praying that God will increase our giving in the year to come.

Mon. of Feb	Monthly Need	2020 Total	2020 Goal
\$ 780.26	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 6,782.00	\$ 125,000

■ LET'S BEGIN THIS EVENING'S SERVICE WITH PRAYER

AT 5:45PM Bring your prayer requests and join us as we seek the Lord together on our knees. There is power in prayer. Praying churches are victorious churches. Praying Christians are victorious Christians.

■ **THE WEEKEND AFTER SLHC WILL BE TRANSFORMATION WEEKEND!** Hear THE JEWETTS singing, and special guest speakers. SAT. FEB 22, AND SUN, FEB 23 11a and 6p.

■ **MARRIED COUPLES VALENTINES DINNER** There were 24 attending this year's dinner at GINGHAM'S RESTAURANT in St. Charles. And there were 11 children at Heather's eating pizza and playing with Gracie! A great time was had by all! Great to see everyone.

WE WANT OUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS TO LOOK GREAT FOR THE CONVENTION If you have time this week or early next to work around the building we would be very grateful.



ATTENDING 2020 VALENTINES DINNER: Ron & Jane Feger, Gary & Jody Oliver, Jon & Nikki Hurlbut Gary & Reena, Jeff & Ashley Akers, Jimmy & Sherry Lewis, Craig & Amanda Bowen, Joey & Sarah Earles, Dustin & Christy Dodson, Josh & Katherine Bissey, Josh's Parents The Bisseys, and Pastor & Vickie Jones

FCC PRAYER & PRAISE

Reports of Answered Prayers and Your Requests

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> JOHN BIONDI (Elise) | <input type="checkbox"/> ANN MATLOCK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RON & JANE FEGER | <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTY DODSON |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TAMMY LEWIS | <input type="checkbox"/> JOE & BECKY GOBER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AL LOCKHART | <input type="checkbox"/> YVONNE MASON |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GRANNY FARMER'S family | <input type="checkbox"/> SIS. BEVERLY NELSON |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALBERTA WALKER | <input type="checkbox"/> KAYLA FEGER and her baby |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RUTH GEORGE | <input type="checkbox"/> KAREN MYER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEIL GOODRICH | <input type="checkbox"/> MARK JENNINGS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NORMA & JD GILLHAM | <input type="checkbox"/> HOWARD GERDES Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JANE FEGER | <input type="checkbox"/> HEATHER EVANS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JIM WILSON'S FAMILY | <input type="checkbox"/> CHRIS BLACK'S MOTHER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BILLY BARNES' FATHER | <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTY DODSON |

It was love that compelled our Lord from the splendor of heaven to our sin riddled earth. He tenderly called men and women to himself. He taught with authority, but never belittled them. He healed the sick, comforted the bereaved, and raised the dead to life again. He lived and died and rose again to save the lost.

So how then shall we love our neighbors, our families, our friends, and our enemies? We should love them like Jesus. And how can we do that? We cannot.

But if the Spirit of Jesus, that same Spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead, indwells our hearts, then "the love of God will be shed abroad in our hearts!" The apostle affirms, "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost who is given unto us." (Romans 5:3).

Last week we visited Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It was in that county, 14 years ago that Charles Roberts invaded the Amish one room school house and shot 10 school girls, killing 5. But the inexplicable wonder of the Nickel Mine Schoolhouse shooting came in the hours after the tragedy unfolded. Amish families arrived at the shooter's home to offer love and condolences to his wife and two children. Amish mourners outnumbered Charlie's family at his funeral. "Forgiveness" headlined the news from Lancaster County. That is not natural. That is super natural! And that is what I'm sure the Lord meant when He said, "love your enemies."

2020 CALENDAR

ST LOUIS HOLINESS CONVENTION

Thursday, February 20 & Friday February 21, 2020
Hear James Plank, The Jewetts, & Union Bible College

TRANSFORMATION WEEKEND
FEB 22,23 Sat 7pm Sun 11a 6pm

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Sunday, April 12, 2020