

The Brethren Baptist Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren and an American Baptist Church, July / August Issue, 2023

DOES IT LOOK LIKE LOVE?

God is love. Jesus commands us “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Jesus treated the Samaritan woman in Sychar with respect and dignity. He treated her as a disciple, raised her to equality, revealed his identity as Messiah to her, and made *her* the evangelist to her people. Jesus gave her the opportunity to give her people—remember, Jews hated Samaritans, Samaritans hated Jews—the good news. Jesus led his twelve disciples to stay with the Samaritans for two more days, receive their hospitality, break bread with them at *their* table, and know them as people, not stereotypes nor hated enemies. The disciples saw these people who fed and housed them—now real people with names, friends, not just “Samaritans”—respond to Jesus and believe. *That's what love looks like.*

Jesus touched the man with leprosy who knelt before him and pleaded for help. Jesus healed the man by touching him, breaking Jewish law. “I am willing,” Jesus told him. *That's what love looks like.*

Jesus encounters Martha and Mary after Lazarus has died. He tells Martha that *he* is resurrection and life. But when Mary weeps over her brother, Jesus weeps with her. *That's what love looks like.*

Jesus stops the emergency rush to heal the daughter of the synagogue leader, because a chronically suffering woman is equally God's daughter. Jesus refuses to be rushed, refuses to be cajoled (“the crowd presses in on you”), and makes the time to lift this daughter up, to restore her to community as well as heal her physically. Jesus tells her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.” *That's what love looks like.*

Jesus is teaching us, every day, what love looks like. When we read the Gospels, we see love in action: love that crosses cultural boundaries, love that brings people together, love that raises up those who have been treated as less important, less valuable, less human.

We ask this question, “Does it look like love?” Always, our point of reference is Jesus. God is love and Jesus is the incarnate revelation of God. Is that how Jesus would treat someone? Is that how Jesus would respond?

Sometimes I know that how I am responding is *not* how Jesus would respond. Sometimes I am angry or stressed or frightened and I don't treat people with kindness, with patience, with gentleness and empathy. Being honest, sometimes I know how Jesus would respond and I can't find that in myself. What I do does not look like love.

Here is the Gospel of grace: I do not call myself a Jesus follower because I always love as Jesus would; I am a Jesus follower because when I fail to love as Jesus would, even when I knowingly choose *not* to love, I am still loved by God. And so are you. “God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. (1 John 4:10) In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.” *That's what love looks like.*

Pastor Mike

**FUTURE POSSIBILITIES
FOR VENTURES IN
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP COURSES**

Thanks to each participant in the Ventures in Christian Discipleship Course sponsored by McPherson College. One of our initial uses of our 'tech' room at our church. I serve on the Advisory Board of Ventures and want to give you an update on what is in the planning for Academic Year 23-24.

Some topics being considered are:

Refugee Re-settlement

Panel sharing from the "McPherson Welcomers" "Church of the Brethren on their efforts to serve Ukranian Refugees....offering service for two-year work permits for those wanting to return to their country.

Grief

Kathy Reid and Chris Whitacre

Prophetic Insights for the Church or Promise and Pitfalls or Where is the Church of the Brethren headed?

Current CoB Moderator Tim McElwey

Bible Study

Focus on a specific Book or theme.

Creative Worship

Each course is 1-2 hours in length serving to *equip people of all ages and education levels with skills and understandings for faithful and dynamic Christian living, action and leadership with special emphasis on small congregations.*

More information will be shared as we confirm our faculty and presenters.

Questions: Contact Colleen Michael

*Yesterday's the past,
tomorrow's the future,
but today is a gift.*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

- Mary Kintner
- Carolyn Storme

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Betty Radke
- 4th Mary Carter Pringer
Jane Shell
- 10th Aria Rumley-Wells
- 11th Jim Hart
- 21st Aleksandr Zaytsev
- 24th Tony Armstrong
- 27th Estelle Acord
- 28th Dayle Rushing
- 31st Mary Kintner
Cheryl Short



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 10th Shawn Fletcher
- 20th Connie Mitchell
- 25th Maria Holland
- 27th Melissa Fletcher

JULY ANNIVERSARIES


- 1st Shawn & Melissa Fletcher
- 3rd Warren & Evelyn Eikenberry
- 12th Keith & Cathy Madsen

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 8th Aleksandr & Tanya Zaytsev
- 14th Dan & Jan White
- 21st David Morin & Cheryl Short
- 25th Lael & Linda Vickery



2 CENTS WORTH OFFERING
Sunday, August 27
The 2 Cents Worth Offering is where every person sets aside 2 Cents for every meal every person eats in their home to go toward world hunger and the Heifer Project. Until we can meet in person again, please send a separate check for the 2 Cents offering. Thank you!



KAREN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEATTLE

Two years have passed since the Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Church (WBBC) and the Karen Community Church have gathered in-person to celebrate Judson Day. The Karen people, a largely Christian ethnic group in Myanmar, are persecuted there, and many have sought refuge in the United States. There is a large Karen community in the Seattle area. July 2021 Pastor David Morrow had just retired when a group from the Karen Church traveled here and shared their last in-person service with us. In 2022 we were together via a virtual worship service. In a previous year a group from WBBC traveled to be with them in their church. All of those have been special meetings for our two churches.

The Karen Church is an inspiration to us. They are committed Christians, have suffered much, and still celebrate the joy of the Lord. We are currently in conversation with them about having a virtual celebration this summer. We will keep you posted.
Joe Roy, Co-Moderator



HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECYCLE GLASS IN WENATCHEE!!!

On Saturday, July 15, from 10:00am - 2:00pm you can recycle glass right here in Wenatchee. This is a one-day glass collection event in partnership with ZEWA, a Seattle-based glass reuse company. Bring your rinsed out bottles and jars upright in boxes to the parking lot of Grace Lutheran Church, 1408 Washington St. in Wenatchee. Get your name on the list for future events and updates on potential curbside pickup.

Creation Care Team

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES: AMERICAN BAPTISTS IN MISSION

On the American Baptist International Ministry's 209th Anniversary, we want to pause and return to the courage and togetherness that the mission society displayed in 1814.

At the time, the British Baptists had written to the fledgling American Baptist churches and invited them to take responsibility for sending out their own missionaries. That May, churches from from the United States got together and signed an agreement to form the mission society known today as International Ministries. **They recognized that few individuals or even individual churches had the resources it took to support missionaries on their own. But, together, they could do so much more.**

In the centuries that followed, American Baptists have remained faithful to that commitment. We gathered in prayer meetings all over the U.S. and Puerto Rico and bathed our global servants in prayer. We sent items our global servants requested (I remember purchasing solar panels, generators, and several bottles of Ranch Dressing in preparation for one short-term mission trip!). We sacrificed the things we thought "our" money could buy and, in God's kingdom stewardship, gave those funds to support global servants and their ministries.

During this anniversary month, we commit ourselves again to continue to invest in God's global mission through 120+ global servants, 250+ international partners, and hundreds of short-term volunteers working in partnership with them.
(Excerpted from the International Ministries newsletter)

Pray for the Williams family as they have returned to the mission field in Thailand and Myanmar. Our church board voted to send funds through International Ministries to Kyle and Katrina Williams who must raise their own support.



