

MCEA Report from Anthony Holdier: This is an interesting article on the 4 kinds of love - fitting for the month of February.

Last trimester, you may recall, we were discussing the Gospels and the book of Acts - essentially looking at the story of Jesus and His followers in chronological order. This trimester, the forty-odd students in this round of Christian Ed. Are switching things up considerably to focus on a topical study of love and what the Bible says about the sort of connections we make with other people.


I think that this is particularly important for two main reasons: firstly, high school students have a lot of questions about romantic love and the many different related topics that go along with that (dating, intimacy, same-sex relationships, etc.). In a culture where they are surrounded by all sorts of strange ideas on such questions, it's good that they can have a space to research what God's word says on such matters.

The second reason this is important lies in the fact that love is far more complicated (and interesting!) than simply that of the romantic kind. You can say that you "love" your parents or children, your spouse, your co-workers, and Jesus - but I sincerely hope that you do not mean that you love each of those people in exactly the same way! Like I said on the first day of class: if you "love" your mom exactly like you "love" cheeseburgers, then we've got a *big* problem! Part of this difficulty comes from the language that we speak: in English, we just have the one word - 'love' - to describe each of these very different relationships. However, in Greek (the language in which the New Testament was written) there are four completely separate words for these four kinds of love.

*Storge* is the word for the affectionate love felt among family members and very close friends who have built relationships over long amounts of time. That's a different thing from *phileo*, which is love among friends that's based on a common interest, not on an emotion (this kind of love might quickly fade away once the common interest disappears - think of coworkers you liked at an old job, but whom you don't really talk with, or maybe even think of, now that you never see them).

*Eros* is the romantic love based on attraction that grounds our love stories and our questions about dating, etc. Finally, *agape* love is the self-giving divine love demonstrated between the members of the Trinity and supremely to us by Christ's death on the Cross. Each of these loves are very important, so we're taking an entire trimester to discuss them! (If you'd like to learn more about this yourself, C.S. Lewis' *The Four Loves*, is a great book to read!) Remember to search "Minico Christian Education" on Facebook for more regular updates and to keep us in your prayers! Anthony Holdier ([aholdier@gmail.com](mailto:aholdier@gmail.com))

\*Anthony will be participating in Burley community theater's upcoming production of *Into the Woods!*, near the end of February, at the King Fine Arts Center. You will see him on stage as the Narrator.



# METHODIST DIMENSIONS

RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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FEEDING MIND, BODY, SOUL

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THOUGHTS FROM  
PASTOR DAVID

Lately, in Worship service, we have been discussing the concept of sin. I read an article on sin where St. Augustine (345-430) describes sin as having our "loves" out of order. I hope you enjoy reading about St. Augustine's ideas on sin as much as I did.

What do you think of when you hear the word "sin?" Some immediately think of immoral acts, like adultery. For others, the mind may go to illegal activities. And some may even conjure up images of indulgences, as in enjoying a "sinful" dessert. In short, there could be countless interpretations of the word, but as New York Times columnist David Brooks says, "there's one concept of sin that explains what it is in beautiful simplicity."

"That's a concept from this great theologian, Augustine, and he said, 'What is sin?'" Brooks says. "In traditional morality, it's the sense that we have something broken." What's broken, he continues, is something inside of us -- and not necessarily something dark or depraved. Rather, in Augustine's viewpoint, what's broken actually relates to our loves. "He had a beautiful formulation," Brooks continues. "He said we sin when we have our loves out of order."

Think about that for a moment. *We sin when our loves are out of order.*

"We all love a lot of things. We love family, we love money, we love a little affection, status, truth," Brooks says. "And we all know that some loves are higher. We know that our love of family is higher than our love of money."

"For example, if a friend tells you a secret and you blab it at a dinner party, you're putting your love of popularity above your love of friendship," he says. "And we know that's wrong. That's the wrong order."

However, when those ranks begin to shift, that's when sin comes in. "Our love of truth should be higher than our love of money. [But] if we're lying to get money, we're putting our loves out of order," Brooks explains.

In traditional morality, [sin is] the sense that we have something broken.

Under this definition, sinning doesn't have to be a life-altering event or a long-developed scheme, Brooks adds. Sin can occur even in the most relatable, everyday settings.

That's why Brooks suggests people take the time to examine their loves and literally rank them in highs and lows. This helps you remain conscious of your ordered loves and, in theory, can help prevent their disorder and subsequent sin.

"It's useful to sit down and just say, 'What do I love? What are the things I really love? And in what order do I love them? Am I spending time so I'm spending time on my highest love? Or am I spending time on a lower love?'"



January 1, led off 131 days of continual prayer for the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, which meets May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, Oregon.

"United Methodists from all over the world will come together in the spirit of Christian conferencing in Portland, said Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett of the North Alabama Conference and chairperson of the "Council Life Together" team, "We want those attending to know that their United Methodist family is praying for them and with them - that God will lead them in the decisions that they will make for the future of our church and that the event will be a positive Christian witness in how we conference together."

"We are encouraging people to pray for God to guide delegates and church leaders as they prepare for General Conference," said Bishop Al Gwinn, who chairs the Council of Bishops prayer subcommittee. "We hope they will pray that God would give them an understanding and loving heart; that all will have a spirit of humility and a desire to do God's will; and that the fruit of the Spirit would be evident in such a way that all who observe would sense that true Christian conferencing will take place."

Although the OR-ID Conf. was assigned a 24 hr. prayer time on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, we can still hold the General Conf. in prayer, individually and as a church, during this time leading up to the actual date.



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The pictures have been taken, and the contact information is in the process of being updated, so perhaps we can begin soon printing and putting together the new directory. You will know it is finished when you receive your copy in the mail.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Recently it has been brought to my attention that a person or two were not on the birthday and/or anniversary list. If you have not seen your name on either of these lists, it is most likely because your data has not been submitted to enter into the computer. You need not be a member to be on either list. Please contact the office with your info.

Jim & Barbara Rodgers really know how to put on a "Soup in a Bowl" lunch. They prepared two kinds of soup and served it family style after church on Jan. 17. We also need to thank those who made cookies and helped with clean-up. The free will donation taken in for the general budget was an astounding: \$618. Thank you all.



### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2016

Watch for our youth who will have soup pots collecting money for the Open Hearts Food Pantry. The shopping carts will also be available for donations of canned goods.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- 48 million Americans live in poverty?
- 1 in 7 Americans face hunger every day?
- More than 630,000 people in the US are homeless?
- 23% of those struggling went to college?
- 16 million children live in food insecure homes

*Souper Bowl of Caring* works to mobilize those looking to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. In the weeks leading up to or on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016, young people take up a collection (many use a soup pot), asking for one dollar or one item of food for people in need. They give 100% of their donation directly to the local hunger-relief charity of their choice.

Started by a youth group in 1990, *Souper Bowl of Caring* has since grown all over the world, collecting more than \$100 million donated back into their own communities.



We don't want a month to go by without letting each of you know how much we appreciate your support of the Open Hearts Food Pantry. Every canned good you give, every dollar you give, every hour of your time you give is deeply appreciated. We have said before, that this ministry just wouldn't survive without your generosity and commitment. For the year of 2015, we distributed 1,459 boxes of food, representing 4,764 individuals.



UMW General Meeting  
Tuesday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

This is a Mission Work Meeting. They will be making small quilts which will be given to an orphanage, and will supply the material and batting, you bring your sewing machine. There will be plenty of work for everyone to participate. The Wesleyan Circle will provide a substantial snack, which I'm told means almost supper, but not quite.



The Color Me Calm class is meeting every Tuesday evening @ 6:00 p.m. There is always room for more participants. Come join them. They recently sent some of their beautiful coloring art to the Veterans Home in Boise, and received this thank you:

Nothing warms the heart and brings a smile to the face of a veteran like being remembered. Your recent correspondence really brightened the day! Thank you for "Caring for America's Heroes!",

Phil Hawkins, Volunteer Coordinator,  
Idaho State Veterans Home - Boise

The family of Joe & Melba Merkey invite you to attend an open house in celebration of Joe & Melba's 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, on Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Wilson Theater. At this printing, time was not yet confirmed. Watch for announcement in a Sunday bulletin. Their actual anniversary date is Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>.



There are several dishes, pans, etc. in the kitchen left from recent potlucks or other events. You know what happens to these items, if not picked up by yard sale time, don't you? Please stop by the kitchen to see if anything belongs to you. Thanks.

The 2015 end-of-year reports are filled out, sent to the proper people, filed, never to be looked at again - unless - you might be interested in seeing how many members we have, how many we lost this past year, how many



members are female, how many are male, how much was donated, pledged and unpledged, how much was spent on salaries, how much was spent on all church programs, how much was received in memorials, etc. Lots of information is contained in just three or four pages, and it's all free for you to mull over. Also available to everyone is an audit of all funds.



### WHAT IS A MINISTRY TEAM?\*

Ministry teams are the places where people embody the ministry of Jesus in specific and concrete ways. Ministry teams are the literal expression of discipleship. Ideally, every person in a church will be in some ministry team. If you ask them, "What is your ministry?", they will immediately and confidently answer.

### WHAT ARE YOUR PASSIONS AND GIFTS?

It is about passion and gifts. As you seek to find the ministry and ministry team you are truly called into you should seek out those ministries that connect your passion and your gifts with the core purpose of your church and the specific needs of your neighbors. This is what it means to express the greatest commandments, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself." Disciples never say, "If no one else will do it, then I guess I could." Instead they will take on any responsibility in the congregation only with this conviction, "Yes, I feel that this is a responsibility that God is calling me to fulfill at this time, and I will undertake it as a holy calling."

I believe that a radical trust in God's presence with us sometimes requires that we step off one step before we are really sure where the next step is to be found. A wise guy once said, "you can't get to second base without taking your foot off first." Disciples need to be able to step away from their current ministry without necessarily stepping directly into another. Sometimes there will need to be a fallow season before the next calling is clear. But disciples never quit seeking a way to be engaged in the mission of Jesus, and they never quit engaging in the community of faith as a support and encouragement for that quest.

\*(2014-02-24). Leadership and Organization for Fruitful Congregations (Kindle Locations 2139-2141. Stephan W. Ross. Kindle Edition.)

#### WORKING MINISTRY TEAMS

- ✓ New Church Directory Team
- ✓ Parsonage Ministry Team
- ✓ Praying in Color Team
- ✓ Education Team
- ✓ Worship Team
- ✓ Elevator Proposal Team
- ✓ Military & College Correspondence Team
- ✓ Facilities Ministry Team
- ✓ MCEA Ministry Team
- ✓ Memorial Team (in the works - paper work not filled in)

#### THERE IS A NEED FOR THESE TEAMS

- Nurture and Care
- KUMC Radio
- Busy Bags for children
- I'm sure there are more - what is your passion?

Your ideas and needs are welcome - please share them with Pastor David.



Men, put on your calendar, Saturday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> for the monthly Methodist Men's breakfast. The guest speaker for this meeting will be Roger Juntunen, and you will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Roger will be giving a historical overview of the flags of our country beginning with the Grand Union Flag of Great Britain. There will be a large display of the flags he will be talking about. Come join in the fellowship and bring a friend and/or neighbor.