

Thoughts for Our Journey: February 2012

Did You Say, "I Love You"?

"Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

Let me begin by asking a couple of questions for a challenging reflection. Do you express your love, or just assume that your love will be seen in your actions? How are you doing in expressing love?

In the highly acclaimed musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, the central couple of the plot, Tevye and Golde, come to a revealing moment. The theme of the song is introduced by Tevye, the milkman husband, but is echoed by Golde. Both are products of an arranged marriage now far along in years. Tevye asks Golde the question, "Do you love me?" Golde answers, "Do I love you? For twenty-five years I've washed your clothes, cooked your meals, cleaned your house, given you children, and milked the cow. After twenty-five years, why talk about love right now?" Tevye responds again, "Golde, the first time I met you was on our wedding day. I was scared." Golde chimes in, "I was shy." Tevye, "I was nervous," and Golde agrees saying, "So was I." Tevye then says, "But my father and mother said we'd learn to love each other. And now I'm asking, Golde, do you love me?" Golde retorts, "I'm your wife." Tevye persists, "I know, but do you love me?" Golde now reflects, "Do I love him?" "For twenty-five years I've lived with him, fought with him, starved with him, twenty-five years my bed is his, if that's not love, what is?" Tevye responds excitedly, "Then you do love me?" Golde happily replies, "I suppose I do." Then Tevye softly says, "And I suppose I love you too." At the end of the song they both sing together, "It doesn't change a thing, but even so after twenty-five years it's nice to know."

Beloved, John wrote, "My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality" (1 John 3:18, *The Message*). John did not mean that we are not to express our love. He does so himself, referring to his readers as "beloved" five times in this small letter of 1 John. There is perhaps no one in human history who has openly repeated the sentiment of love like the apostle Paul. Over and over again, he speaks of it. For example, he said the following to the church at Thessalonica, 1 Thessalonians 2:8, "We loved you dearly. Not content to just pass on the Message, we wanted to give you our hearts. And we did." Here is love demonstrated in word and deed. We should learn from Paul's example, especially showing love to those we care for the most – like our spouse, our children, friends, and church family. Let's live our love, certainly, but also say it often.

Blessings for the journey,

Rev. Chuck

The VOICE

"Working together to make the difference that matters."

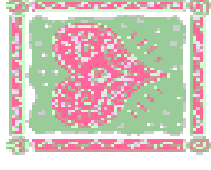
TO WIN TO COMMIT TO GROW TO UNITE

(440)748-2230

Visit us at: www.neccdisciples.com

Valentine—Grams

The Christian Education Team will be sponsoring Valentine-Grams again this year. After both services on Feb. 5 & 12, Valentine-Grams will be available for sale in the fellowship hall. The cost is only \$1.00 per gram and will come with either a cookie or fruit. Those who wish to purchase several may want to let Melissa Folk know so they can be made ahead of time and ready for you. They are an inexpensive, yet special way to say THANK YOU to someone at church, work, family or neighborhood.



North Eaton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Grafton, OH 44044
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DATE— February, 2012
Minister: Rev. Charles Butcher
Director of Christian Education & Youth: Polly Tallos
Secretary: Londa Blaine
Music Director: Miki Saito
Pathways Counseling & Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson

Update on JIM MUTH

To our friends at NECC,

Abby & Josh are enjoying the Advent Calendars with candy from Rev. Chuck and Carol. Thank you for being so thoughtful. Jim's health continues to be good — it is only the brain that is still in need of healing. Most of the swelling is gone, now we just need it to fire up and begin sending messages to the healthy parts. In God's time.

I am obviously sending this long after it was initially written—for that I apologize. I would like to add—I am overwhelmed with the outpouring that has been sent to my son and family members. Times seem so ugly—daily news is mostly negative, so many conversations seem confrontational, daily lives for so many seem a struggle—and out of all this comes all this love and caring and thoughtfulness—it makes me cry gratitude! Thank you again and again.

Thank you, friends, for your love and prayers, Sandie

North Eaton Christian Church Hosts a Fine Party

We've all been to a party where the host had everything pristine. The home was organized and clean. Tables were ready and there were plenty of chairs for people to sit. There were resources available so food could be easily prepared and served. The hosts were kind, resourceful and often asked the guests if there was anything else they could do to make them happier.

North Eaton Christian Church has hosted such a party for all of the Scouts of 111. For 60 years the party has been great. The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts have used resources offered by the Church for all of these years. We are very, very thankful guests and we help clean up before we leave and at times provide food for the host's pantry. We offer any support to the host that is requested because we want the party to continue.

Scout Sunday is March 4. The Scouts will be there to show their reverence to God. This is one way we show appreciation to our host.

THANK YOU,

Ed Carter, NECC SCOUT REP

Secret Sisters' Unveiling Tea Party Sunday, March 4, 11:30 a.m.



**Clementine's Tea Room
8092 Columbia Road (Grand Pacific Junction)
Olmsted Falls, OH**

Clementine's won the 2011 Award for the Best Tea House in North East Ohio by Fox 8. Clementine's is in the heart of Grand Pacific Junction. It is connected to other interesting shops by brick walkways in this beautiful historic district.

High Tea—finger sandwiches, pastries and tea. The cost is \$22 per person, which includes tax and gratuity.

Please RSVP to Robin Galvin at (440) 748-6051, by February 19. This event is open to all women of the church, but seating is limited to a group of 30 to 40 people. The sooner I can get a head count, the better. **Payment is due by February 26.**

World Day of Prayer—Friday, March 2

Prayer warriors! World Day of Prayer is the largest ecumenical movement in the world organized and led by women. It was started by Mary Ellen James in 1884 when she became very aware of the problems faced by many women around her, particularly new immigrants to America in NY. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer.

For the first time here at North Eaton, we will be a part of this movement, along with fellow prayer warriors in over 170 countries! Our service will take place on Friday, March 2 at 3 p.m. Every year, worship services focus on a different country and a specific theme. This year, Malaysia is our "focus" country with the theme of, "Let Justice Prevail." The women of Malaysia invite us to work with them, with God and with the people nearest to us to create a world in which each gender, race, culture, religion, and state is honored, nurtured and empowered. For our church service, we will also have a speaker from Cornerstone Among Women so that we can be more aware of the issues local women face in Lorain County. We will be collecting money and baby items for Cornerstone. We will have refreshments and a time of fellowship after the service. Don't miss this enlightening international bonding experience!

Birthdays & Anniversaries-FEB.

If your birthday or anniversary is not on the church calendar, PLEASE call the church office and let us know. THANK YOU!

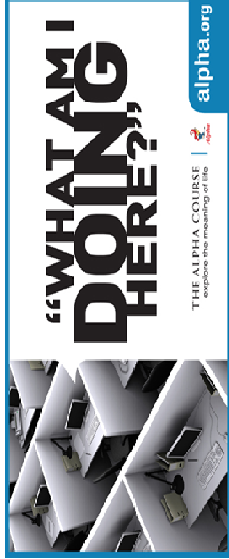
- 2 Loretta St. Andre
- 3 Joyce Johnson
- 5 Eleanor Smith
- 6 Fran Walker
- 7 Linda Ickes
- 7 Beth Wilson
- 8 Marie Ternes
- 9 Linda Johnson
- 9 Susie Naylor
- 12 John Haupt
- 14 Bonnie Hicks
- 14 Tim Tyler
- 14 Mary Bengough
- 15 James Hensley
- 15 Kristen Hicks
- 15 Jacob Zawoywski
- 17 Glenn Swartz
- 17 Chrissy Baughman
- 18 Amanda Klein
- 19 Gene Yost
- 20 Stu Hicks Sr.
- 21 Royce Klein
- 22 Madeline Blaune
- 23 Breanna Bokar
- 24 Dale & Sally Botson
- 24 John & Karen Vilevac
- 25 Jim Bokar
- 25 Laura Carpenter
- 25 Brian Insley
- 26 Jeff & Chris Hensley
- 28 Taylor Baughman
- 29 Edna Carpenter
- Chuck Butcher

TWO Ash Wednesday Services

2:30 and 7:30

This year at NECC, we will have an Ash Wednesday Service on February 22 at 2:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. The Worship Team is offering offer this service for those who are unable to attend an evening Ash Wednesday Service. If you would like to attend this service but **need a ride**, please call Carol Butcher (641-757-0052) or the church office (748-2230) and we will provide transportation.

We also have an opportunity to worship together with our sisters and brothers from Disciples congregations in our district (2A) at our annual Ash Wednesday Service on February 22 at 7:30 p.m. This service will be hosted by **Christian Temple in Lorain**. The Rev. Jerry Murphy will be preaching at this service. A dessert fellowship will follow after the service. Please plan to join us as we prepare our hearts and spirits to enter the Lenten season.



Week of Compassion 2012

The Week of Compassion special offering will be collected February 19-26, but did you know that you can donate to Week of Compassion year 'round? Week of Compassion funds several programs through the year that deal specifically with poverty and hunger around the world. In addition to donating February 19-26, money can be given after any natural disaster (such as an earthquake or tsunami), or any other emergency or urgent world event where there are unexpected needs.

In 2011, \$471,449 was donated to the Response Fund, which is the largest item in the Week of Compassion budget. \$287,030 of that stayed in the United States; the rest went to countries around the world. A full list of countries and amounts donated can be found at www.weekofcompassion.org in the 2011 Final Response Fund Report.

One of the programs Week of Compassion funds is the **Souper Bowl of Caring** which is a canned soup drive that you have already learned about during the Sunday morning announcements. It has also established the Women's Empowerment Program which works towards educating and training women in the Congo and the Middle East. Week of Compassion has also launched a program called Wine to Share, Water for All, which supports global water projects such as building cisterns, water delivery and hygiene systems.

Please keep this offering in mind, not only on **February 19**, but throughout the year, and especially after a national or international emergency. **Week of Compassion is not merely a week, but an ongoing ministry that supports people in need everywhere, including the United States.** (Envelopes are always available on the table in the Narthex.)

JUDY PONTING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The funds raised will help commissioned (licensed) ministers increase their education and skills in serving churches. Judy Ponting served Christ and His church at North Eaton for many years. She worked hard to increase her skills in ministry for no other reason than to be a better servant. She did this on her own. The new order of ministry provides people like Judy with more direction and opportunities to learn and grow. Your support to the **Judy Ponting Memorial Scholarship Fund** will honor Judy but, most important, it will greatly enhance the quality of the ministers who serve in this new order. The funds raised will be sent to the Regional Office of Ohio to be disbursed to those Commissioned Ministers who qualify for assistance. Please send your gift to the church or place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please give generously to this important ministry. **We will be focusing on the contributions to this fund and a fellowship hour in her memory on MARCH 18.** Dr. Paul H. Durbin

New Wednesday Night Bible Study—Alpha

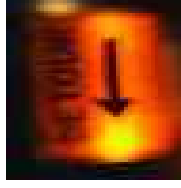
Beginning Wednesday, **February 29 at 6 p.m.**, Pastor Chuck and Polly Tallos will begin the Alpha Course for adults.

The evenings will start with a light dinner and fellowship before moving on to a short talk about different aspects of Christian faith, followed by a time of small group discussions.

This Bible study is open to all NECC adults as well as their friends, families, co-workers, and acquaintances. See the “Alpha at North Eaton Christian Church” article in this month’s and January’s *Voice* for more information. If you are interested in joining this Bible Study or would like more information, please contact Pastor Chuck or Polly Tallos, or call the church office to register.

“Laugh Your Way” on hold... The “Laugh Your Way To a Better

Marriage” Bible study is going to be put on hold for now. The CE Team has decided that, as 2 great opportunities were scheduled to start around the same time (this and the Alpha course), we didn’t want people to have to choose between the two. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to attend the ALPHA course and then, in the future, the “Laugh Your Way” study.



The CHURCH COUNCIL met on December 11. The major business was the approval of the 2012 budget. Other business included accepting the nomination of **ANGIE CARTER** as a Deacon for the 8 a.m. worship service. A motion was made and accepted to give the paid staff Christmas gifts this year. The **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** to vote on the budget was held on January 8. *Please remember that everyone is encouraged to attend the Council meetings whether or not you are a voting member. We want everyone to be informed of what is going on and we value your input.*



A Weekend to Remember

Sunday, February 19—**8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.**
Improving Family Relationships

Sunday, February 19—**6 p.m.**
Family Learning Made Fun and Easy

Monday, February 20—**7 p.m.**
Names and Faces Made Easy

Basketball Hall of Fame member Jerry Lucas will be coming to North Eaton Christian Church to share his Christ-led ministry with our entire community. **Jerry Lucas, also known as “Dr. Memory”**, will be sharing his world-renowned learning system with us on Sunday, February 19 and Monday, February 20. His ministry focuses on family relationships, family learning and remembering names and faces. Mr. Lucas brings incredible energy and passion with these messages. This ministry promises to provide memories for all who attend. This is an opportunity to revitalize your memory and explore a fascinating process of memory improvement. Your children will be captivated with Jerry’s system of learning and memorization skills designed especially for them. This is truly something that your entire family will enjoy! Mr. Lucas’ presentation and service to Jesus Christ will inspire anyone with a beating heart. Please join us for any or all of these presentations. His amazing testimony and programs to improve your memory could change your life forever! All are welcome. No sign-up needed. **Please join us for A Weekend to Remember!**

Alpha at North Eaton Christian Church

New Wednesday Night Bible Study—Starts February 29, 6 p.m.

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. At each session, people enjoy great food, laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile—questions like, “Is there a God?” “Why am I here?” “Where did I come from?” “Where am I going?”

Alpha is for anyone.....anyone who thinks there may be more to life than meets the eye. Alpha is for you, your friends, your family, and your coworkers, anyone you would like to invite.

The Alpha course usually lasts 10 weeks, with a day get-away in the middle. People usually stay in the same small groups for the duration of the course so they can get to know each other, continue discussions and deepen friendships. The emphasis is upon exploration and discovery in a relaxed and informal environment.

For more information, please visit [The Alpha Course website at www.alpha.org](http://www.alpha.org).

NECC CHILI COOK-OFF— February 26

IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN TO START GETTING YOUR CHILI APPETITE READY FOR ANOTHER FRIENDLY COMPETITION BETWEEN CHURCHES. THIS YEAR, NECC WILL AGAIN HOST THE CHILI COOK-OFF ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 AT 5 P.M. (ENDING APPROXIMATELY 8 P.M.). THE WANAW YOUTH RETREAT CHURCHES (Christian Temple, Franklin Circle, Lakewood, Washington Avenue, and Westlake) HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT WITH NO ADMISSION CHARGE, BUT A GOODWILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN FOR THE CLEVELAND CHRISTIAN HOME. EACH CHURCH SHOULD TRY TO PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE POT OF CHILI PER 8 PEOPLE ATTENDING. DIG OUT YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE



AND ENTER IT IN THE COMPETITION. A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR CHILI, DESSERTS, AND OTHER ITEMS WILL BE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ENTER THE COMPETITION, YOU CAN STILL COME FOR THE FOOD, FUN AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT. **THIS YEAR WE WILL BE ENTERTAINED**

BY THE MIDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND. WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!



NECC Tobogganing Event

- THIS Friday, February 10, the NECC family and friends are invited to go tobogganing at The Chalet in the Metroparks. We will meet there at 6 p.m. (or whenever it is convenient for you to arrive); the chutes are open until 10:30 p.m.
- Admission is \$8 for adults and \$6 for children under age 12. You may also purchase a one-time-only ride ticket for \$3. Children must be accompanied by an adult and at least 42 inches tall to ride.
- Toboggans are provided (do not bring your own). Everyone riding on a toboggan is required to wear gloves or mittens and make sure your hat fits snugly. There is a special promotion that night being sponsored by the Cleveland Monsters. They will be there 6-8 p.m. and will have a special race at 8 p.m. (This might get you in the mood for our March event which is attending a Monsters Game!) The Chalet is located in the Mill Stream Run Reservation on Valley Parkway between State Routes 42 and 82.

Serving In February 2012

- 8:00** Maureen Cromling, Scott White
 - 9:30** Melissa Folk (TL), Brad Stevanus, Carol Butcher, Micah Butcher, Jerry Mullins, Mark Carpenter, Mike Mott, Polly Tallos, Chrissy Baughman
- ELDERS — Maureen & Bill Cromling**



Miki Saito – Music Director

Hello, everyone!

I want to thank you all for the warm welcome I have been receiving since I started to work for North Eaton Christian Church as your Music Director in November. It has meant so much to me when you tell me how much you enjoy the music I create during the service. Thank you very much!

I thought I would tell you a little bit about myself. I have a Master's Degree in Opera Performance (I know, I would like to do more solos during the service, but it is a little difficult because I don't have a pianist to accompany me!). I am a faculty member at Tri-C and have sung with Opera Cleveland. I began studying the piano when I was four and was accepted to a conservatory in Japan at the age of twelve. I came to the United States when I was nineteen to further my music studies in American colleges. I have sung as a soloist with many organizations around the country, such as Gulf Coast Opera (Biloxi, MS), Quincy Orchestra (Quincy, MA), Canton Comic Opera (Canton, OH) and Mercer Community Band (Mercer, PA).

Although music has been a very important part of my life, what has been more important—absolutely essential—in my life is Jesus Christ. All of my musical skills and experience were given to me by Him and I am very grateful. I am also very grateful that He has given me the opportunity to serve North Eaton Christian Church and to spread His unending love through music. It humbles me that God has decided to use me to serve you for His purpose. So, the next time you kindly compliment my music, let's just praise the Lord, because it all comes from Him!

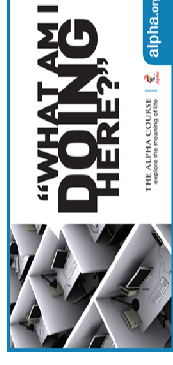
- Miki

Thank you for your support!

“Thank you” to everyone who supported the Youth on Super Bowl Sunday by donating to the Souper Bowl of Caring and buying Hoagies. The money you donated to the Souper Bowl will be given to Dunham Avenue Christian Church to help support their Free Meal Program. The food items donated will be placed in our own Food Basket Pantry. The money raised from the hoagie sales will be used to support the mission and ministries of the NECC Youth, including Wandmu Madgesh from Ethiopia, the Summer Mission Trip, the SCOOP Offering for summer camp, and Mid-Winter Retreat.

Polly Tallos, Youth Director

OUR SYMPATHY to Susie Naylor and her family on the sudden death of her daughter in law, Jan Naylor.



DPM!

What are they? DPM's are Dumb Polly Money. (Polly's not dumb, the money is!) DPM's are \$5 coupons that the Youth receive/earn to use to pay for outings, retreats and camp. They were named after DPG's (Dumb Polly Games).

How do I get some?

- 1) Be in the 3rd through 12th grade
- 2) Attend Youth Group fundraisers and service opportunities such as (but not limited to):
 - Christmas Cookie Sale*
 - Election Day Bake Sale*
 - Cleveland Christian Home service project*
 - Food Scavenger Hunt*
 - All-church event like Bethlehem at Eaton, VBS, etc.*
- 3) Watch Youth postcards, emails, Facebook notifications, etc. for way to receive free DPM's



When can I use them?

Any time the youth groups are going somewhere (laser tag, movie, Winter Jam concert, Camp, or a Retreat). You just need to let Polly know you will be paying with a DPM so that she has enough cash on hand to pay for the outing.

How is the DPM program going?

The DPM program has worked very well over the last year and a half. Because the North Eaton Christian Church Youth Groups are fully funded by the congregation, we don't need to have fundraisers to pay for our programs. We do have fundraisers to help support the mission and ministries of the Youth such as: the Summer Mission Trip, Wondmu Mangesh (a young Ethiopian boy we sponsor through World Vision), the Cleveland Christian Home, etc. The DPM's are a way to acknowledge and thank the youth for their time and energy spent on a project, as well as help the youth and their family pay for extra events. Even with the DPM's, families still need a little help. All they need to do is ask: *No child or youth will be left out of a Youth Event due to lack of finances.*

At the Youth New Year's Overtnight on January 6 & 7, 10 youth were able to pay for themselves and friends with their DPM's. Some youth paid for the January 20-22 WANEW Retreat with DPM's.

WANEW Retreat

Five youth and three adults spent the weekend of January 20-22 at Camp Christian with youth and adults from other area Disciples churches. The retreat theme was, "Totally Twisted Priorities" and was based on the book of Ecclesiastes. Youth took the time to reconsider their own life priorities as they studied what the book of Ecclesiastes has to say about what's truly important in life. During one of the lessons, each youth was given a piece of a puzzle. They were asked to imagine the puzzle piece was the part of their life they are familiar with. Then they were shown a completed puzzle to represent the "big picture" which is what God sees. The youth were encouraged to learn to focus on God's big picture for their life to help them reconsider their priorities.



Needed: Candy for Easter Egg Hunt (April 1)

The NECC Christian Education Team will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 1. We are asking the church family to donate individually wrapped candy to stuff in the plastic eggs. Now is the perfect time to buy up the leftover Valentine's day candy. The kids won't care if the candy is wrapped in red foil or covered in hearts.

We also need prizes to hand out. For example: stuffed animals; \$5 or \$10 gift certificates to Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Burger King, etc.; and, toys, books, paints, kites, etc.

Did you know that McDonald's still sells booklets of \$1 gift certificates? Please bring all donations to church and place them in the box in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Polly Tallos or Melissa Folk.



News Among the Pews :

Please continue to keep in prayer for healing and strength: Eileen Weber, Lisa Woodby, Dawn Schieferle, Brandon Baughman, Barb Koerner, Nelta Tripphahn, Jim Muth

Congratulations to Cameron Castro on making the DEAN'S LIST for Fall, 2011 at Lake Erie College for his academic achievements.

Congratulations to Helen Literati who celebrated her 90th birthday. Eve Circle surprised her with a birthday cake and fellowship hour in her honor.

"THANK YOU" to Barb Colvin for all the beautiful baby afghans she has made and keeps making for CORNERSTONE.

"THANK YOU" to all who continue to make the beautiful prayer shawls and lap robes. If you know of someone to whom you'd like to present one, contact the church office or Sharon Mullins.