

Thoughts For the Journey — FEBRUARY 2015

A Valentine – “Form Chuck”

Valentine’s Day brings back some strange and very fond memories for me. I’m especially haunted by the fear of hurriedly signing my batch of Valentines the night before our classroom exchange and ascribing my signature to some with, “Form Chuck.” That is why it helps to always double check after you sign them. Now I knew even then the difference between “Form” and “From.” However, it seemed my hand was destined to make this mistake at least some of the time. This was alright if the card went to someone who was not a friend. Then again, it was heart wrenching if the card went to some of my favorite people.

We all know that Valentine’s Day is more likely manipulated and designed by the greeting card companies. There’s nothing in the Bible about this event. But it doesn’t hurt to think about the warming thoughts of love on a cold day in February. After all love is a part of the definition of God himself.

Here is how Jesus laid it out. Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34) Why is it called a, *new* commandment? The initial standard of love for others was based on our love for ourselves – “Love your neighbor as yourself.” But on this matter, Jesus ups the standard and makes himself the measure of love – and this is brand new. Our love for ourselves is uneven, incomplete and sometimes distorted. But Jesus’ love for people is pure, sacrificial and unconditional. There is no higher standard to be found. Throughout the New Testament we find this standard before us. We are to also forgive as Christ has forgiven us, bear each other’s burdens like Christ did, give as Christ gave and accept others as Christ accepts us. St. Paul said something similar to Jesus, for example, “Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.” (Romans 15:7) Love doesn’t mean that we like everyone equally, or that we will spend the same amount of time with people whose mannerisms are difficult for us to respond to. It doesn’t mean that we give into everybody’s desires, or that we should not think through the best way to be with people.

Love is deeper than “like.” However, we must not shun difficult people. We must not be exclusive in spirit. Beloved, just as Christ welcomed difficult people we likewise are to welcome from depth of our hearts the difficult people around us. We must be ready and inclusive when God brings them for us to love. Christ accepts into his family all persons without condition. He did not accept us because we were something special. Christ accepted us in the same way we are to accept others, cooties and all. Beloved Valentine’s Day, whether it is in the Bible or not, is as good a starting place for this kind of love as any other day.

Blessings for Journey,

Rev. Chuck

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DATE— FEBRUARY 2015

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Christian Ed. & Youth Director: Polly Tallos

Secretary: Londa Blaine

Music Director: Miki Saito

Pathways Counseling and Growth Center: Dr. Ralph Thompson

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FEB. BIRTHDAYS & ANNIV.

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

CHINESE AUCTION — April 15th

Mark your calendar for this community family event. This is an evening that is enjoyed by all ages. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. More info as we get closer or call the church office, 748-2230.

Serving at the Lord's Table:

8:00 Angie Carter
Scott White



9:30 Jerry Mullins
Ken & Cindy Hicks, Mike & Paula
Krasnevich, Marlene Black
Erik Tallos

ELDERS—Melissa Folk, Glenn Swartz

MISSIONS —FEBRUARY 2015

Cornerstone Among Women — Pocket change on the small table display.

Food Pantry — Boxed food items

Salvation Army—Sample size toiletries

(soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.)

Ash Wednesday Combined Worship

February 18th 7:00 P.M.

Lakewood Christian Church

Lakewood Christian Church is the host church and Rev. Chuck will be giving the message. At this time, Lakewood leases space in Cove United Methodist Church @ 12501 Lake Ave. Cleveland.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

March 29th @ 2:00. Just a reminder that we will be asking for candy to fill the eggs. Look for it on sale or clearance now.



Family Meal: A Free Community Meal

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 24th—Dinner is served at 5:30 PM

On the 4th Tuesday of the month NECC serves a free meal to ANYONE in the community that is interested in coming together as a 'family'. Enjoy good home cooked food and good company for an evening. If you would like to help by donating or would like to help in any way please sign up in the fellowship hall.

NECC CHILI COOK-OFF 2015

It's time to start getting your CHILI APPETITE ready for another friendly competition between churches. NECC will again host the Chili Cook-off on SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST at 5:00 p.m. The WANEW churches as well as other area churches have been



invited to participate. This is a family event with no admission fee. All monies donated to the voting of the chili will go to the Cleveland Christian Home. A representative from the Home will be here. Dig out your favorite recipe or try a new one on us. All chili in the competition should be in a crock pot. Even if you don't enter a chili, please come and enjoy the fun, food and entertainment. Please bring a dish/dessert to share. Dave Carpenter will provide his house chili for the meal. The Midview High School Jazz Band directed by Josh Brunger will be here again this year to entertain us throughout the evening. We have extended the invitation to join in the cook-off to the band and their families.

The Wedding Celebration of Kathi Klotz and Micah Butcher

Rev. Chuck and Carol cordially invite you to join them in the joyous celebration of Micah and Kathi's wedding on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the North Eaton Christian Church.

Family Game Night —

What fun learning new games. Not one was on an I Pod or computer. We had a group working on a 3-D puzzle (which did not get finished), a group of guys talking football, another group playing the fast-moving Amish card game—Dutch Blitz and another group, the wild dice game of Farkle.

The children were busy playing Headbands and Pictionary. Then they went to the floor for an energetic round of "duck-duck goose." In-between games we were treated to snacks that ranged from healthier hummus and fruit to pizza, cupcakes and pie! Our thanks to Carol Bokman for arranging the Family Game Night. Good food! Good laughs!

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