



The Good Tidings

Arena Congregational Church

February 2017

CELEBRATING OUR PAST-EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

Affiliated with the Wisconsin Congregational Association

Thoughts from here and There...The Power of Love

It is said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.¹

What this means is that the perception of beauty is in the individual's mind. What is beauty to one person may not be to another?

It could be also said that beauty is to be seen in the face and character of the beloved. This is because love contains the power of transformation.



We may not understand love. We may not apply love consistently. Love is a source of power to change. There is an old story that well illustrates these conclusions. It is an old African folk tale, one worth reading.

It is about a tribe whose men traditionally obtained wives by purchasing them from their fathers with livestock. Were a woman especially beautiful, a man might offer her father five goats. Were she were plain, only one or two.

One year, as the tribe met at the oasis for their annual gathering, one young man set his eye upon one rather ordinary-looking maiden. To the astonishment of all his friends, he went up to her father and bid for her the princely sum of ten goats. The girl's father was surprised and delighted with his good fortune. He accepted the young man's offer instantly, and the two of them were married straightaway.

A year went by, and the tribe gathered at the oasis once again. The young men laughed and pointed their fingers at their friend, newly arrived from the hills. "And how is your ten-goat bride?" they asked, snickering.

At that very moment, into their presence walked the most lovely woman any of them had ever seen. "What's the matter?" their friend asked. "Don't you recognize the woman I married?"

Truly, they hadn't. She had changed. What had changed about her was the knowledge that her husband loved

¹ Margaret Wolfe Hungerford (née Hamilton), under the pseudonym of "The Duchess". In Molly Bawn, 1878, there's the line "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," which is the earliest citation that can be found in print. Retrieved from <http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/beauty-is-in-the-eye-of-the-beholder.html>

her so much, he had paid 10 goats for her. It was this knowledge, this inner awareness, that made her truly beautiful.

Our awareness of the love of God transmits to us the same beauty. There is a chorus that was composed by Herb Brokering for a Vacation Bible School years ago. It goes like this:

It's about love, love, love,
It's about love, love, love,
Cause God loves us we love each other,
Father, Mother, sister, brother,
Everyone sing and shout, cause
That's what it's all about love.

God loves us and an inner understanding can create beauty or a personality that shines for all to see.

Sermons for February

February 5, Transfiguration Sunday, Black History

SERMON Month: Lesson: Matthew 5.13-29,
Sermon Title: Fulfilled



SCHEDULE

Jesus did not come to abolish the law and the prophets, but to fulfill the requirements that they posed for the nation. On the cross, Jesus cried, "It is finished." All was fulfilled.

February 12, Boy Scout Sunday: Lesson:

Deuteronomy 30.15-20; Romans 10.1-17,
Sermon Title: It Is Your Choice

Moses set before the people stark contrasts between serving God and not serving God. One way is life with the accompanying blessings, the other is spiritual death with all the curses that may be experienced. The question is, "What do you choose?"

February 19: Lesson: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18;

Matthew 5:38-48, Sermon Title: Kingdom People

Your kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and

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graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

February 26: Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9, Sermon Title: Appearances Can Be Deceiving

Two people on a mountain covered with the glory of the Father. Two people chosen by God for a particular purpose. Some appear genuine when they are false. The appearance of these two is genuine. We look, listen and are blest.

March 1, Ash Wednesday, Women's History Month: Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, Sermon Title: God's Chosen Fast

There is a time and place for starting a fast. God asks for a fast but not from food. What does God expect?

Special Days in the Secular and Church Calendar

February, Black History Month



February 12 (S) Lincoln's Birthday, Boy Scout Sunday

February 14, Valentines Day

February 19, (S), Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week (19-25)

February 20, President's Day

February 22, Washington's Birthday

February 26, (S), Transfiguration Sunday

March, Woman's History Month

A Promise and A Prayer

Promise

Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken, (Isaiah 28:16, NLT).



Thoughts

Jesus has just finished telling the story of the vineyard. The owner of the vineyard had sent many representatives to receive the profit from the vineyard but the tenants had rejected them all. Finally the owner sent his son (Jesus). They determined to kill the son and keep the vineyard for themselves. Jesus is the cornerstone on which a Christian life is built. This is what Paul writes in Romans 9:32-33: . . . Because they (that is Israel) pursued it (righteousness) not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone." As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame," (Romans 9:32-33, NIV). The one who has faith in him for righteousness is achieved not by works, but by faith.

Prayer

Dear God, Father, this is your child seeking you by faith to fulfill your promises in my life. Please bless me with all the benefits of your family. Help me to use them rightly to bring honor and glory to you and to Jesus my savior. Amen.



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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THE GOOD TIDINGS is a monthly publication of the Arena Congregational Church, 383 Oak St., PO Box 125, Arena, WI 53503-0125.

Editor: Pastor Leslie R. Shultz II

409 W. Daley St. PO Box 488

Spring Green, WI 53588-0488

Pastor's Phone: 608.574-0707

Email: les@lesandhelga.com

Web Site: <http://www.lesandhelga.com>

Church Web Site:

<http://www.lesandhelga.com/acc/acc.htm>

Church Office Phone: 608.753.2242

Contributors: Members, Friends and Officers of the Arena Congregational Church. Ideas and comments about this publication should be addressed to the editor and sent to his home address.

Spotlight on the family



If you really want to help me¹

Here's what a group of youngsters listed in a classroom assignment on how they wanted to be treated by their parents. The ideas could be applied to adult relationships as well.

- Don't give me everything I ask for. Sometimes I just test you to see how much I can get.
- Don't keep changing your mind. Decide what you want me to do and stick to it.
- Keep promises—good and bad. Make sure you recognize the good I do, and if you promise a punishment, make sure I get that too.
- Don't compare me with anybody else, especially a brother or sister. If you make me out to be better, somebody gets hurt. If you make me out to be worse, then I get hurt.
- Let me do as much for myself as I can. That's how I learn.
- Help correct my mistakes by telling me how to improve.
- Don't tell lies in front of me or ask me to tell lies to help you. I think less of you and less of myself.
- When you are wrong about something, admit it. It won't hurt my opinion of you. It will make it easier for me to admit it when I am wrong.

- Treat me just as well as you treat your friends. Just because people are related doesn't mean they can't be polite to each other.



Officers for 2017 - 2018

Governing Board

President: Jim Favreau, 753.2334

Vice-president: Joanne Brown, 753-2316

Treasurer: Steven Wilkinson, 753.2131

Clerk: Joe Hodgson, 753-2520

Financial Secretary: Ray Johnson, 753-2845

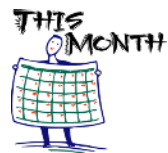
Church Secretary: Steve Wilkinson, 753.2131

Officers

Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Wilkinson, 753-2131

Choir Director, Leslie Shultz, 574-0707

Head Usher Jim Favreau, 753.2334 and Ray Johnson, 753.2845



Meetings

Governing Board: Second Monday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast: Third Saturday, February 18, 7:30 a.m., at Grandma Mary's.



Greeters

February 5 -Joyce Reimann

February 12 Ray and Colleen and Family

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¹ Reprinted from the August 1973 Congregationalist

Recipe of the Month

Chocolate Cherry Upside-down Cake

From the recipe files of Helga Shultz

21 ounce can of cherry pie filling	3/4 teaspoon salt
2 1/4 cups all purpose flour	1 1/2 cups water
1 1/2 cups sugar	1/2 cup cooking oil
3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder	1/4 cup vinegar
1 1/2 teaspoon baking soda	1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Spread the cherry pie filling evenly over the bottom of a greased 9x13 inch pan. In a large bowl stir together flour, sugar, cocoa, soda and salt, set aside.

In another bowl combine water, oil, vinegar and vanilla. Add the liquid ingredients to the dry ingredients all at once, stir just long enough to moisten. Pour batter evenly over cherry pie filling.

Bake at 350 for 30 to 35 minutes or until cake tests done.

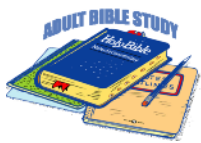
Cool 10 minutes in pan, invert and cool.



February 18 - Joe and Carol Hodgson

February 25 - Judi Salava

March 5 - Steve and Karen Wilkinson



Adult Bible Study

We are meeting at the home of Steve and Karen Wilkinson, 817 Brown St., Arena.

Our study is on World Religions from a Christian Perspective. Next we will be examining Buddhism. These studies are informative and helpful in understanding World Religions. They also help us to better understand our own Congregational Christianity.



Worship on Compact Disks

The Worship Services are recorded each week on a CD so that you may share in the fellowship and enjoyment of worship. If you would like to listen to a service to share the music, pray the prayers and learn from the sermon call either Steve Wilkinson, 753-2131 or Pastor Shultz, 574-0707 and a CD will be delivered to you. Let us know if you need a CD player.



Missions

We are supporting the Congregational Mission of Jardin America with a gift of \$40 a month through the missions program of the National Association of Congregational Christians. We also contribute \$50.00 a month to the Arena Food Pantry, and \$25.00 a month to the Food Pantry at the Spring Green Community Church. Thank you for your support of our local and foreign mission projects.



Something to Think About

What you thought before has led to every choice you have made, and this adds up to you at this moment. If you want to change who you are physically, mentally, or spiritually, you will have to change what you think.

~Dr. Patrick Gentempo



Humor

12 Reasons Why A Local Minister Stopped Attending Sports Events

12) Every time I went, they asked me for money.

11) The people I had to sit with didn't seem very friendly.

10) The seats were very hard.

9) The coach never came to call on me.

8) The referee made a decision I couldn't agree with.

7) I had to sit with some hypocrites who were only there to see what others were wearing.

6) Some games went into overtime and I was late getting home.

5) The band played some songs I had never heard before.

4) The games are scheduled when I want to do other things.

3) I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

2) My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.

1) Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches, anyhow.

From the book *Holy Humor* by Cal & Rose Samra.

Received from Herb Thiel. The Good Clean Funnies List <gcfl-info@gcfl.net>



Don't Give Up!

A little boy was fascinated as he watched his mother cold cream on her face.

"Mommy," he asked, "why do you put that stuff on your face?"

"To make myself beautiful," his mother replied as she began removing the cream with a tissue.

"What's the matter?" asked Little Johnny. "Are you giving up?"

- from Laugh & Lift pkaine@cox.net



No Bills Larger Than \$20

A friend and I were standing in line at a fast-food restaurant, waiting to place our order.

There was a big sign posted. "No bills larger than \$20 will be accepted."

The woman in front of us, pointing to the sign, remarked, "Believe me, if I HAD a bill larger than \$20, I wouldn't be eating here."

- from ArcaMax Jokes pkaine@cox.net



Helpful Book

A bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman - "Which book has helped you most in your life?"

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The woman replied - "My husband's check book!"

- from Anna Ruth pkaine@cox.net



A dog is so smart that his master decides to send him to college.

Home for vacation, his master asks him how college is going.

"Well," says the dog, "I'm not doing too well in science and math, but I have made a lot of progress in foreign languages."

"Really!" says the master. "Say something in a foreign language."

The dog says, "Meow!"

Received from Doc's Daily Chuckle. The Good Clean Funnies List <gcfl-info@gcfl.net>



Homework

A fifth grader looked downcast, so her teacher decided to investigate.

"What's the problem, Carol? I hope it's not homework again."

"Well... yes, it is." replied Carol, reluctantly. "I was stupid and made my homework paper into a paper airplane."

"Carol, you're right, that wasn't a very bright thing to do," said the teacher, "but this once I'll let you just unfold the paper and hand it in."

"Oh, but that won't work," said Carol, looking even sadder. "You see, the plane was hijacked."

- from Laugh & Lift pkaine@cox.net



About 90 fifth-graders piled into the airliner I was flying, on their way home from a school trip. Once we were in the air, and the crew began serving drinks, I could hear them pleading with the children to settle down and let the other passengers get some sleep.

No amount of reasoning seemed to help, until I thought of the solution that actually worked. I picked up the PA mike in the cockpit and announced, "Children, this is the captain speaking. Don't make me stop this airplane and come back there!"

Received from Thomas Ellsworth. The Good Clean Funnies List <gcfl-info@gcfl.net>



Onions

The minister brought his 4 year old daughter to bed and asked what she would like to pray about.

Promptly she answered, "Onions."

So they prayed about onions.

The next morning, the Reverend asked her why she wanted to pray about onions.

"Because you said in your sermon Sunday that we should pray for things we don't like."

- from Da Mouse Tracks pkaine@cox.net



Guy 1: "Has your little boy decided what he wants to be when he grows up?"

Guy 2: "Yes, he wants to be a garbage collector."

Guy 1: "That's a rather strange ambition, isn't it?"

Guy 2: "Well, he thinks that garbage collectors only work on Tuesdays."

[forwarded by Gretchen Patti] Mikey's Funnies <funnies-owner@lists.MikeysFunnies.com>

Grounded

Brendan had spent a week visiting his family in Kentucky. His sister-in-law and seven-year-old nephew went with him when he returned to the airport.

After verifying his seat number with the counter attendant, Brendan walked back to his relatives and stated that he'd have to wait an additional three hours in the airport.

"How come?," his nephew asked.

"My plane has been grounded," Brendan explained.

"Grounded?" the little boy said. "I didn't know planes had parents."

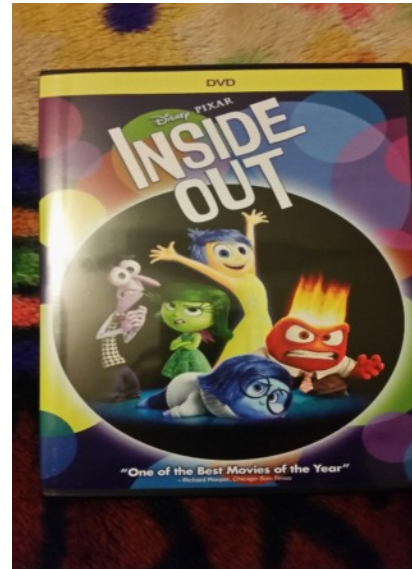
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FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
7:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11
ARENA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
ENTER UP THE RAMP
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Growing up can be a bumpy road, and it's no exception for Riley, who is uprooted from her Midwest life when her father starts a new job in San Francisco. Like all of us, Riley is guided by her emotions - Joy (Amy Poehler), Fear (Bill Hader), Anger (Lewis Black), Disgust (Mindy Kaling) and Sadness (Phyllis Smith). The emotions live in Headquarters, the control center inside Riley's mind, where they help advise her through everyday life, as Riley and her emotions struggle to adjust to a new life in San Francisco.



This movie is rated "PG" so bring the children, bring the grand-children, bring the great-grand-children. Invite the neighbors to bring their children. Everyone will enjoy this movie!

THE GOOD TIDINGS

Arena Congregational Church
383 Oak St
PO Box 125
Arena, Wisconsin 53503-0125

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

February is Black History Month.



BLACK HISTORY

Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.

~Martin Luther King Jr

February is Black History Month. We benefit from contributions in politics, music, theater, art, and dance. Please take a moment to remember

