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*The Flame*  
of Burns Memorial United Methodist Church

## On Fire for Christ

Issue Number 205

## From The Pastor

February 14 is Valentine's Day, so let's talk about love. Do you ever catch yourself getting angry or impatient with others? Or do you sometimes find yourself to be rude or judgmental? What is our problem? What we need is more love! But is love simply a choice, like a choice of food we eat or what to watch on TV? Or is there something more to it? In other words, what is the source of Christian love? The Bible suggests that Christian love is really a gift to us from God. Notice this verse in Romans 5:5b:

*“the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*

We would expect the Holy Spirit to be poured out into our hearts by God, and surely He is, but here, the Spirit is the vehicle by which God pours His love into our hearts. So, at least in this case, God is the source of our love. Paul makes this even more clear with his list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23:

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

Notice, these are the fruit of God's spirit, not simply our choice. Love, and all these other wonderful qualities, come from God. Or, is love the fruit, and all the rest a list of how love is expressed? This seems like how Paul writes of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

So what is the point? If what we need is love, and God is the source of love, then what we need to do is go back to the source. Like thirsty children, let's go back to the spring of living water and ask for more. Jesus said this is permissible (Luke 11:9, 13)

*“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ... If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”*

Our prayer might simply be, “Lord, by your Holy Spirit, pour out more of your love into my heart, so that I might love others as you would have me to love them.” It may well be that God is holding this blessing, waiting on you to ask for it.

Grace & Peace, Pastor John

## Sweetheart Banquet

Sponsored By The Burns United Methodist Men

February 27, 2023 7:00 PM

C. R. Family Life Center at Burns UMC

There will be a delicious steak dinner and

Entertainment by

## The Garden City Quartet

*Tickets: \$15 per person Child Care is available*

## *The Flame* Deadline: February 21st

**FELLOWSHIP MEALS: BECAUSE FAMILIES EAT TOGETHER!**

**The Family Night Supper** this month is February 18 at 6 PM. The menu is Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Le Sueur Peas, Rolls and Banana Pudding. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 4-12, and children 3 and under are free. Please RSVP with the form in the bulletin or call the church office.



We are having a **Fellowship Lunch** following the Worship Service on Sunday, February 12. The meal is free, with participants asked to bring a side dish to share. This month we will be having Pork BBQ.



**WEDDING SHOWER FOR JORDAN & THOMAS**

Following our Fellowship Lunch, there will be a Wedding Shower for Jordan and Thomas Donaldson. We want to congratulate them and bless them in honor of their marriage last month on January 14.

**MISSIONS FIELD TRIP**

One of the ministries that Burns Memorial UMC supports is the **Augusta Rescue Mission**, at 526 Walker Street, Augusta. Their Mission Statement is “to continue the legacy of helping break the cycle of homelessness in our community by offering the opportunity for life transformation through Christian discipleship and life skills.” The Director, Chris Jones, has invited us to take a tour and to learn more about the ministry. We will be meeting at the church at 12:30 PM on Wednesday, January 8, to ride down together on the church bus for the tour. Please call the office if you are interested in joining us.



**EMAIL**

The church regularly sends out emails with church news -- bulletins, calendars, etc. If you have email, and do not receive church emails, please email [burnschurch@comcast.net](mailto:burnschurch@comcast.net) to be added to the official email list.



**VALET PARKING TEAM**

Are you interested in being part of a **rainy day church valet parking team**? If so, email or text the Pastor for details.





# Valentine's Day



F	E	B	R	U	H	E	R	Y	A	C	B	O	X	E
W	I	G	E	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	O	C
O	M	A	P	R	A	O	E	R	E	N	L	O	V	A
M	A	I	L	O	V	E	L	C	K	D	E	W	A	N
F	I	H	E	T	E	R	T	I	J	Y	S	E	L	Y
L	L	U	S	C	E	M	P	I	D	O	X	R	E	D
P	B	G	E	W	M	A	I	L	B	A	N	O	N	Y
A	O	X	S	F	E	B	R	U	A	R	Y	X	T	A
W	X	A	M	L	C	E	D	E	S	T	H	O	I	D
I	T	H	W	I	Y	U	T	I	P	E	P	I	N	K
N	C	A	R	D	D	O	P	H	O	L	H	O	E	O
G	O	H	D	W	A	G	E	I	E	M	M	U	B	V
S	C	H	O	C	O	I	T	E	D	A	T	H	G	E
A	R	R	O	W	G	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	I	S
S	T	A	R	W	A	T	U	H	E	A	R	T	E	H

ARROW	FLOWERS	MAILBOX
CANDY	GIFT	PINK
CARD	HEART	POEM
CHOCOLATE	HOLIDAY	RED
CUPID	HUGS	SWEETHEART
FEBRUARY	LOVE	VALENTINE



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