

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Loving God & Loving Others = worship + missions

HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY OF LOVE

Article by Perry Noble, www.crosswalk.com

Do everything in love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14 (NIV)

Our world is confused about love – what true love is and how it makes a difference. Too many of us have equated love with a feeling and based it on emotion. The only problem with that is as soon as the feeling is gone, the love follows. We’ve made it flowery and feeble when it’s actually the greatest gift that God gave us! (1 Corinthians 13:13)

If we step back and look at the bigger picture of what love is – what God created it to be – it changes everything. The thing I’m realizing about life is no matter where you are or what season you’re walking through, you’ll find yourself in spaces that require you to lead, which come hand-in-hand with challenges to love.

Career changes, new life phases – whatever it may be, we all get thrown into situations where we have to make decisions and choose to grow in who we are and how we love.

The key to leadership is love, so I want to make sure that as I go through life, I leave traces of love behind me. Like our key verse says, I want to “Do everything in love.” I’ve been thinking about what that looks like in everyday life, and here are three ways each of us can leave a legacy of love:

1. Seize opportunities to lead.

No matter who you are or what you do, you are a leader.

It’s hard for a lot of people to wrap their minds around that. They think they are too quiet or too loud, too unique or too ordinary, too opinionated or too meek, and the list goes on. The fact is God uniquely designed each of us with gifts and abilities to lead and love others. That includes YOU!

- If you’re a mom, you are a leader to your kids.
- If you’re the boss at work, you are a leader of your organization.
- If you’re a student, you are a leader at your school.

If we want to leave legacies of love, we need to welcome these opportunities and love the people who come along with them.

2. Understand the power of your words.

How different could our relationships look if we just committed to saying positive things like “thank you” and “great job” more often? A LOT.

Our words carry more weight than we know.

As leaders, our words can speak life into the people around us if we’re willing to run them through a filter of love. This doesn’t mean that we have to sugarcoat everything or shy away from the truth. It simply means we should be slow to critique and quick to compliment.

3. Commit to helping others succeed.

If I am successful in life, then good for me. But if those around me are successful? THAT will define me as a leader. It will be the legacy I leave.

Our friends, coworkers, spouses and kids won’t remember us for what we accomplish, but instead what we helped them to accomplish and how we cheered them on along the way.

They’ll remember how we loved them.

I SERIOUSLY want everyone around me to live a life that exceeds their dreams as they become who God created them to be. That’s why I’m committed to seeing the people around me reach their goals.

When people in our lives know we have their best interest at heart, they can trust us. That trust allows them to experience what true, unconditional love feels like – that love leaves a legacy!

So as you go about your day, do everything in love. When you’re shuttling your kids around, do everything in love.

Continued on Page 2.

HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY OF LOVE

When you're at your job, do everything in love. When you're taking care of small details you're convinced no one will ever notice, do everything in love. When you model what you consider important, those around you take notice. Celebrate love. Display it. The most lasting thing we can do with our lives and leadership is to love because love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8). That's why leaders who love are leaders who leave a legacy. Heavenly Father, thank You for lovingly leading us. Help us to love and lead others in a way that honors You and leaves a legacy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TRUTH FOR TODAY:

1 Corinthians 13:13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (NIV)



COMBINE SERVICE AND FAREWELL FOR PASTOR WERNER

A combined service will be held on **June 25th at 9:00 a.m.** at the Virginia UMC with potluck to follow for a farewell for Pastor Bill Werner. Please join in the fellowship with friends for Pastor Werner's last worship service with us.



Better Together

**Wednesday,
June 21, 2023
2:00-4:00 p.m.**

The Virginia Community Senior Center would like to welcome all seniors, 55 years and older, to participate every third Wednesday. Please join us at the Virginia United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall.



WELCOMING

#BeUMC
ResourcesUMC.org/BeUmc

Hebrews 13:1-3

Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place.

The Prayer of St. Francis (UM Hymnal 481)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Being a welcoming person of God entails more than inviting people into spaces where we feel most comfortable. Christ also compels us out into the world, to meet people wherever they are, and to serve as a welcoming presence to others.

Read Hebrews 13:1-8

- What images stand out for you in the passage?
- Have you ever hosted an angel without knowing it? What does that mean to you?
- When we view others as angels in disguise, how might we treat them differently?
- Many people in our communities have been separated from others—prisoners, those suffering from illness, caregivers, and others. How can you be a welcoming presence to them?
- Early Christians, sometimes subjected to the threat of persecution, must have been tempted to withdraw from society. This passage appears to be directly confronting that instinct. Today, we may be tempted to do the same. How does this passage speak to our instincts to isolate from those who may threaten to harm us? How might this influence our social media habits?
- How does this passage challenge us to expand our definition of hospitality?
- This passage concludes with a statement of faith, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!" What do those words mean to you?

Read the Prayer of St. Francis

- What do you know about St. Francis of Assisi?
- In the opening section, we pray to be a peaceful presence in the midst of negative forces. How might that make others feel welcome in our presence?
- In the second section of the prayer, we ask God to help us put aside our own desires so that we might attend to the needs of the other—to console, understand and love. Which of those comes naturally to you? Which is the most difficult? How are you a welcoming person of God?
- How might God be asking you to stretch out of your comfort zone to be a welcoming presence to those who feel alone and separated from church, society, others?

Closing prayer

Lord Jesus, we know of your radical hospitality. You were sometimes criticized for spending time with people who others would not welcome. Even as you were dying, you were ready to welcome into paradise one on a cross next to you. Strengthen us, O God, as we confront our temptations to separate. Teach us the joy of welcoming others, that we might discover the joy of hosting angels without knowing it. Amen.



OUR STAFF AND SERVICES AT A GLANCE

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3135 N. Cr 800e
Bath, Illinois 62617

10:00 AM Fairview Sunday School
10:50 AM Fairview Worship Service

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