



Dear Family in Christ,
How are those New Year's resolutions working for you so far? If you want to do some deep personal change that will produce

long-lasting happiness, connect with our current sermon series on "Stepping into Healthy Habits with Jesus".

Keeping you informed:

- If you didn't get your "JOY card" from the **Christmas Eve Service**, there are still some extras on the tables in the sanctuary.
- **Soup Supper at Karin Benson's house, Friday, Feb. 16 @ 6 pm.** Bring some friends and your favorite soup to share!
- Our last quarter's mission collection for **Puerto Rican Hurricane Relief** came to a total of \$2764.23. Well done!
- Mark your Calendar for **Community Movie Night, Friday, Feb. 10, 7 pm.**
- We continue Tues. mornings @ 9:30 with "Alpha" where food, friendship, and open discussion can help people discover personal answers to their most important questions. Join us to begin your adventure! (Isaiah 43: 19)

It's all about shifting your attitude and awareness so that you can step into God's power for personal life change. You'll feel better about yourself and the world around you. Learn how the Holy Spirit can guide you each step of the way!

In the Change Wagon with you,

- Scott



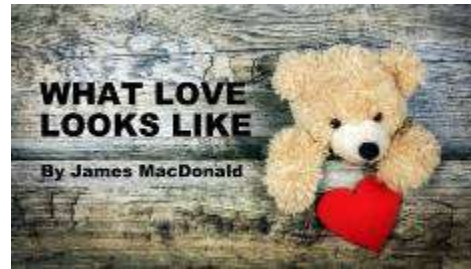
At our **Annual Meeting**, we decided to designate our missions focus at the end of the quarter. At that time we will know what amount of money we are working with and can better

determine if we should help one, two, or three different organizations, making maximum impact. We do know that our first quarter (Jan. – Mar.) will be dedicated to **global** mission (outside the U.S.).

We continue Tuesday mornings at 9:30 with a unique course called "Alpha". It begins with a "breakfast bar" and friends. There is a 30 min. presentation follow by an open discussion. This is for everyone, regardless of belief or background. Come experience this unique program! You can also click on link at www.alpha.org to find out more.

Community Movie Night continues on Feb. 10 @ 7 pm with "Nut Job 2". This is a fun way to reach out to our local community.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all



things. Love never ends (1 Corinthians 13:4–8a, ESV).

*What does real love look like?
The Apostle*

Paul tells us .

"Love is patient." It waits for people to change. It's long-tempered. It accepts people as they are, not as we want them to be.

Love is **"kind."** This doesn't mean passive endurance but active goodwill. Not just passively accepting people but actively accepting people. Not just standing on the other side of the room, thinking, *She drives me nuts—I'm going to steer clear of her*, but actually going across the room and finding ways to engage or embrace that person. Love looks for ways to express acceptance to people whom we might otherwise target with our harsh criticism.

"Love does not envy or boast." Love is not jealous. Even when those around us seem to prosper and succeed more than we do, love isn't jealous. Love does not say, "I was fine with my friend until she got ____." Love does say, "I am happy for your successes and will not let jealousy sour my love for you," and "I am for you. I have always been for you, and I will always be for you. I will not be caught up in comparisons, even when you are more successful, prominent, recognized, or rewarded than I am. I want the best for you."

When you love the people in your life, you won't let their successes—or yours—change the way you treat each other. When you're the successful person, do you continue to love the same people, or do you leave them behind?

Love **"is not arrogant or rude."** Love chooses not to make another feel uncomfortable by boasting about personal success or highlighting your own life in a way that would embarrass or belittle a friend. Love is accepting.

"Love bears all things, believes all things." Love bears the weight of misunderstanding and defends the heart of the other. Love gives the other the benefit of the doubt and regularly says, "That's not what she meant." It believes the best about the other person and defends him: "That's not why he did that. There must be more to the story." When Jesus taught,

"Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1), He was specifically referring to judging others' motives. Of course we have to judge actions, but we are not to judge motives. We don't know why others do what they do, and we should assume the best about them. Love always believes the best about people.

(OVER)

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things.” Love sees people not as they are, but as they will be someday, by God’s grace. We are not the people we once were—God is changing us. We need to extend the same grace toward others that we want extended to us.

Love **“endures all things.”** *Endure* is actually a military term for driving a stake into the ground. Love does that. Love won’t retreat or back away. Love will be there for the other person and will stand its ground.

“Love never ends.” Love will never fail to accomplish God’s highest and best purposes. If a relationship unravels, it wasn’t because of love. Love always takes things to a better place. If you love others wholeheartedly and embrace the people in your life as they are—warts and all, even when they hurt you—God will use that. Love never fails—not at home, at work, or in the church. That’s an unequivocal, absolute, condition-free guarantee: **“Love never ends.”**

*(Excerpted from:
<https://www.jamesmacdonald.com/teaching/devotionals/2014-10-29/>)*

Pearls of Wisdom: “Our True Identity in Christ”. We will be made alive at the resurrection.
- 1 Corinthians 15: 22.

- Ruth Wise

Ps. 91:1 & 4: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge.

This makes us invisible to all the evil forces that would be against us, unless we lift the shadow up to peek out, or move a feather to get a better look.

Just a thought. - Karin Benson

*(If we don’t have your **birthday** or **anniversary**, let us know!)*

UPCOMING FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

- 4 Potluck** following worship.
- 10 Movie Night @ 7.** *Invite a friend!*
- 11 Town Hall Meeting**, following worship. All are encouraged to participate.
- 16 Soup Supper** at Karin Benson’s house. 6 pm.
- 17 Men’s Breakfast @ 9 am**
- 27 Elders meet:** 7 pm, Church Library

JOIN US for
FRIENDLY SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP:

- **Tuesdays:**
 - **9:30 Discussion Group** in the Library on God, life, and the Bible. *Current study: “Alpha” series, exploring spiritual stuff in the company of friends. Join us!*
 - **11:30 Worship Team** in Sanctuary. *You’re invited to listen in as the Team prepares for Sunday.*
- **Men’s Breakfast**, every third Sat. @ **9 am**, in the Church basement. *Come for a great breakfast in the company of friends!*



(If you’ve got an idea that might gather a group together, let me know! - Scott)



ICE SKATES ARE AVAILABLE TO BORROW AS LONG AS YOU NEED THEM! Find them in the east entryway to the office. Skate donations are appreciated too!

ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY **TUESDAY, Feb. 20th, (IF YOU CAN SUBMIT BY EMAIL, IT IS APPRECIATED)**



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