



Chepachet Union Church

Our Church Life

Volume 64 Issue 2

February 2022



Thrift Shop News

The Thrift Shop is into its second year at the parsonage building and is still going strong. We are grateful for all the donations that continue to come in steadily and for all of our volunteer workers. Our customers seem to love the shopping opportunity and every week brings more compliments.

Our next goal is to raise enough money to have the outside of the building repaired and painted.

This month's sales include ladies leggings for \$1.00 each and fancy winter ball dresses for \$4.00 each. Children's clothes, as usual, remain at \$1.00 per item. A real bargain for jeans, shirts, and sleepwear.



IT'S WINTER TIME!

Bad Weather? Don't know if Church or Sunday School is cancelled?

The Chepachet Union Church will notify you as quickly as possible. So check your local television station, or favorite internet station,. Check your email and the Facebook page for notices.

Please it would be very helpful if you know someone who isn't connected online, please reach out to them and let them know when church is canceled.



Trustees

Winter is here and in Chepachet that means snow and ice.



The Trustees would like to urge everyone to drive and walk carefully in the parking lots and walkways.

Also, there is a shovel located outside each entry for anyone who would like to help with the shoveling.



A big thank you to Phil Laiho and Chris St.Onge for keeping the church driveways and parking lots plowed and sanded.



SERVICE CANCELED

When the Worship Service Canceled

what do we do?

Our Tech Team is going to pre-record the Sunday Service whenever possible. So if we cancel service due to weather, you will be able to watch a brand new service online.

Don't forget, even though we don't meet in-person, we still have our regular expenses. Please remember to send in your offering.

Did you know you can send your pledge and offering to us ONLINE? Go to our website: ChepachetUnionChurch.org and click on the offering plate or click on any of the places it mentions online giving on our site. Then just follow the directions to make you offering through PayPal.

Thank you to everyone who uses PayPal now as their regular giving program.



Adult Bible Study Class

February celebrates love with Valentine's Day. Because of that most people think of February as love month. The sad truth is that the kind of love that is commonly associated with that thinking is very shallow. Love as the bible defines means something much, much deeper. God shows us in Philippians how much deeper when He says: *"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."* (Philippians 2:3-4 NKJV). If anything at all, the current pandemic in which we find ourselves is a prime example (there are many others as well) clearly demonstrating that this kind of love for others is lacking in the majority of people. There are disease prevention protocols and procedures which, unless the government mandates it, we refuse to follow. What we forget is that any government rule or regulation is the minimum standard to protect us and others not the maximum one to follow. This is something that not only happens out in our society, but it is happening right in our own church congregation. We feel we have rights, have our shots, and therefore the right and liberty not to have to follow these most basic of prevention protocols. This is not love as God intends it to be amongst His people.

You see the passage in Philippians is not

speaking primarily about ambition or conceit, these things are just the manifestation of the lack of love (notice the word selfish in the passage). It is the love for others which is the true meaning of the passage. Putting others first above our own interests or even our own liberties. In Romans God tells us that *"We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."* (Romans 15:1-2 ESV). (When you read *"Strong"* in the Romans verse, think *"having a liberty."*) You see if you are a Christian liberty comes with responsibilities, the first of which is that liberty must be exercised with love as God defines it. Just because we have the right to do or not do something because we have liberty does not necessarily make doing or not doing something right. We must with liberty choose that which is for the good of the other person.

Make February the month that celebrates the kind of love God defines and who knows maybe we will have a better church, community, state, and nation. The Adult Bible Study class normally meets every Sunday morning at 10:30 am, unless the level of COVID prevents it. Everyone is invited and welcome.



Christian Ed had their meeting Thursday, Jan 27.

They will resume Children's Church starting Sunday, February 6. Classes begin at 10:30 am.

We also elected our officers:

Chair Julie DeMello

Vice- Chair Jean Carlson

Treasurer..... Nora Barrows

Secretary..... Jan Steere



This year we want focus on the driveway and parking areas.

Traffic should be ONE WAY.

ENTER at the Fellowship Hall end

EXIT by the Sanctuary.

And PLEASE use great care and slow speed when driving through.

During the week, with the Thrift Shop in full swing, we need to be sure our driveway and parking areas are safe.

On Sundays, we want everyone coming to worship and Sunday School to be safe.

Be wary of snow and ice in the parking lots and walkways.

Rho Delta News



Rho Delta's December meeting was on December 14th and there were 17 ladies present. We took 5 cards off of the giving tree and spent \$50.00 on each child. We sent flowers to Fern Rylah who is at Bayberry Commons and is dearly missed by the ladies of Rho Delta. We purchased a small TV for our friend Russ who's TV was out of date and he couldn't watch his DVD's.

We sold 10 wreaths that were donated to us by Bob Balme. Thank you Bob for doing that for Rho Delta... it is greatly appreciated. The Thrift Shop is thriving and we would like to thank all of the volunteers who help make it possible.

The evening was hosted by Jan Steere at her home... we had a potluck, a Yankee Swap and an ugly sweater contest, Nancy Boucher was the winner.

Our January meeting was held January 11th and there were 9 ladies present. Devotions were read by Brenda Rene called Let It Go from July Freedom from Proverbs 17-9.

We would like to thank John Lewis for his generous donation to Rho Delta in memory of his loving wife, Lynn who will be greatly missed by the ladies of Rho Delta.

Rho Delta had two collations ... one for Lynn Lewis and one for our good friend Warren Sayward.

We had our election of officers:
President...Stephanie Kain
Vice President...Barbara Cady
Secretary...Jan Steere
Treasurer...Cindy Chace

Jan Steere has taken over Fern Rylah's Position as the Sunshine lady.

The evening was hosted by Brenda Rene. It was a Frozen theme ..we had pretzel mix, candy and punch during the meeting and cupcakes and ice cream for dessert. We played a game Pin the Nose on Olaf and Barbara Cady was the winner.



God's Great Love

February 14 is Valentine's Day. Originally, a feast day celebrating early Christian martyrs, in the 14th and 15th centuries it morphed into a holiday celebrating romantic love. Love is a major theme of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the campsite of our current sermon series each Sunday at Chepachet Union Church. (You can watch all these messages online at the CUC website.) In each of the first three chapters of Ephesians, Paul emphasizes God's love for us; in the last three chapters he urges us (in view of God's love for us) to love each other. Let's consider for a few moments what the apostle has to say about God's love for us.

Did you know that God loved us before the creation of the world? According to Ephesians 1:4-5 (NKJV), "before the foundation of the world . . . *in love* [He] predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself." In other words, before we were even born, in his love God determined to adopt us as his children and make us a part of his family. It's a wonderful thing to belong to an earthly family where parents genuinely love their children. How much greater to belong to God's eternal family and to be loved by our heavenly Father!

According to Ephesians 2 God has expressed his eternal love for us in time. It was "*because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, [He] made us alive together with Christ . . . and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*" (vv. 4-6). In other words, because of His great love for us, God has given us new resurrection life in Jesus Christ. Before we were spiritually dead, but our loving Father has made us spiritually alive!

Finally, in Ephesians 3 Paul prays that we might be able to understand the greatness of God's love for us. Specifically, he prays "that you, *being rooted and grounded in love*, may be able to comprehend with all the saints [God's people] what is the width and length and depth and height—to *know the love of Christ* which passes knowledge" (vv. 17-19). Notice the paradox: Paul prays that we may know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge! As someone has said, we may not be able to reach our arms around the world, but we can reach down and touch the ground. God's love is infinite (notice the four dimensions in verse 18) and beyond human comprehension, but we can be rooted and grounded in his love and on that basis love one another.

This month, as you celebrate Valentine's Day, ponder the infinite love of God for us. Pray Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19 for your own life. As we appreciate more and more God's great love, he will enable us to love each other more deeply—which will be our theme in March's newsletter.



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*Our Vision: Chepachet Union Church
 brings glory to God in worship as we
 welcome, witness, and nurture each other.
 We share the joy of God's love as one
 family in Christ.*

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PUZZLE



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

*Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows
 beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.*

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

Above all, love each other D , because love
 over a multitude of . Offer
 to one another without
 . Each of you should use whatever
 you have received to others, as faithful
 stewards of God's in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV