

Down Here What We Need Is Love

This the title of a song that I have been listening to all fall. It is on the latest Christmas album by the group Home Free. I have also been reading a book written by Bishop Michael Curry entitled Love Is The Way. Both the book and the song speak to me about what the Christian life should be about. LOVE. Not just during the holidays but everyday.

This year has been rough to say the least. And the holidays remind us that even in the worst of times we have much to be grateful for. And one of the best ways to show our gratitude is by loving our fellow humans. When we love one another we are showing our love for God.

We are all made in God's image and that should push us to try just a little harder to love each other. But Christmas reminds us that God loved us so much that he would sacrifice his child, his only Son for us. Now that is love.

This time of year as we are thinking about all the things that we need to get done and all the gifts we need to buy, what better gift can we give to the world than loving one another better. Maybe we can help by giving to an extra charity. Or maybe call or video chat with a senior who is having to remain isolated because of the pandemic. Order from a local restaurant to help them survive through this unpredictable time. I have gone back to old school writing letters to friends and family. Everyone loves to get mail.

This year what our world needs more than ever is love. People to push aside their preconceived notions and fears and just reach out and love one another. In the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew we have the story of the goats and the sheep. And both groups ask Jesus the same question. When have we seen you hungry or thirsty or in prison or naked or unloved. And Jesus said that if you have done it for the least of these you have done it for me.

It is easy to love those that are close to us. But we are called to love those that may seem unlovable. Those that are different than we are. Those who just make us crazy. And those that have hurt us. We are called to love. And this year we may need to love people just a little more. We have all had a hard time and can use a little extra love.

Down here what we need is love. The perfect gift to give to our Father. We can love our neighbors around the world. Because love is the answer. Happy holidays.

Grace and Peace - Jackie

Since the beginning of the coronavirus crisis, the people of the Rio Texas Conference have worked to share ministry in ways that protect the health of all the people in our communities, especially the most vulnerable. We are proud of your creativity, and we know it is easy to grow weary. Now, as many churches have returned to in-person worship, and the number of new COVID-19 cases begins to rise, we write to encourage your continued safe practices. Our leaders and ministry participants must remain committed to doing no harm to one another as we move into the winter. This means leaders will need to remain vigilant in monitoring local and county orders and data on the prevalence of COVID-19 in their respective communities. While final decisions should be made locally, in collaboration between pastors and congregational leaders, **Bishop Schnase and the Cabinet strongly encourage the use of social distancing and face masks as best practices for in-person worship services and gatherings**

Masks and distancing, along with hygiene and cleaning practices, have proven to be effective in slowing the spread of the virus. A great number of our churches are already doing an excellent job of providing these protections to their worshipers, both indoors and outdoors; we just have to stay on task. If you would like to hear how others are managing this work, please reach out to colleagues or to your district superintendent. We are approaching high, holy days, a season when the church typically revels in the retelling of our sacred story, through song, food, and all sorts of gatherings.

Advent and Christmas this year will challenge us to find new ways to celebrate and witness to the miracle of the Incarnation that do not put people at risk. For some, that will mean continuing to meet in person, distancing and wearing masks; for other churches it might mean returning exclusively to online worship. We trust your community to make the best decision. We need this story of life more than ever. The world needs this story. God has called us to this time, and God will supply what we need. Each of us sends our gratitude to you for your faithfulness and courage during this time. We ask that you remain committed to keeping our families and communities safe, and we join you in claiming God's promise of life in the days to come.

In Christ,
Bishop Robert Schnase and the Rio Texas Conference Cabinet



The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.



Christmas Poinsettias

The Worship Committee will be providing Poinsettias for the Christmas Season. The price for each poinsettia is \$10 and the ***deadline is December 13***. Forms & Envelopes in the Narthex. Please call Pam at the church office for more information.



UMW

No December Meeting



Operation Christmas Child

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Cuero First United Methodist Church filled 70 shoeboxes on Sunday, November 15.
Thank You, Thank You!



On Sunday, November 22 the filled Shoeboxes were blessed.



Thursday, December 24
4:00pm & 6:00pm

Call the Church Office to reserve your service time
Limit of 50 people per service

Church Office Closed
December 23 – January 3.



**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year**

December Worship Volunteer Schedule



Date	Liturgist	Ushers
12-6-20	Mildred Weldon	Tom & Emily Cheatham
12-13-20	Bob Wood	Mildred & Stayton Weldon
12-20-20	Bobby Jones	Sue Halbert & Jeanine Calliham
12-24-20	Colette Barth	Dorothy Brown & Jeanine Calliham
12-27-20	Tom Cheatham	Bobby & Charla Jones

Birthdays



Jeanine Calliham	1 st
Sonya Wolf	2 nd
Wayne Wolf	6 th
Darlene Welborn	15 th
Angeline Campbell	18 th
Dianne Westmoreland	18 th
Pastor Jackie Freeman	18 th
Sheldon Wolf	22 nd
Larry Wolf	24 th
Shirley Simpson	29 th

Anniversaries



Clifton & Lisa Langton	19 th
Wes & Sandy Dukes	20 th
Ray & Linda Sager	22 nd

C.A.M.A.L. House
Collection for
December:
Pancake Mix



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211 N. Clinton Street
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