



February 2019

"Salute one another with a holy kiss.
The Churches of Christ salute you!"
Romans 16:16

The Relator

Volume LXXI – EDITION 6



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

Writer: Paul in AD 55

Context: Corinth was a large, sophisticated city, a seaport and trade center, and easily the most important city in the southern part of Greece. The fledgling Christian church there was made up almost entirely of Gentiles and had been established by Paul during his second missionary journey across the Mediterranean Sea. Its followers were struggling with their environment in that they were surrounded at every turn by corruption and every conceivable sin. They felt pressure to adapt but knew they were new creations in Christ Jesus. They wrestled with big

questions of idolatry and sexuality, love and marriage, faith and hope. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to answer some of their questions, address their problems, and heal the divisions that had formed among them. In his letter, he confronts them with the clear and simple gospel message and how it pertains to their sins, their need for correction, and their need for clear commitment to Christ.

Connect the Dots: This verse from 1 Corinthians is read at so many weddings across the United States and the world. Even for non-Christians, it represents all that is good and true about the love between a man and a woman. It's an ideal that we can spend our entire lifetimes trying to reach.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. -John 13:34

But we, as believers, are called to something more than simple romantic love. We are called, in John 13:34, to love one another, especially other believers (but also non-believers) as Christ has loved us. What did Christ do for us exactly? He gave His entire life up for us in the ultimate act of generosity and kindness and love. He endured ridicule, mockery, abuse, and torture for us. He gave up all of heaven to endure hell for us!

Christ's love is an outward love, focused on others. It is utterly unselfish and the kind of love that goes against our natural inclinations. Who among us thought recently about giving up his/her life for someone else? No one I know, certainly not in my cushy middle class American life.

This kind of love is hard. It's downright impossible unless you ask God to help you to set aside your own selfish desires so that you can love truly without expecting anything in return. The more you become like Christ, the more love you can show to others.

Take a look again at the awesomeness of love as described in 1 Corinthians 13: First, we are told what love is and what it does.

Secondly, we are told what love is not and what love does not do.

Thirdly, we are told what love always does.

Then love is described in the best phrase of all when we are told what love **never** does: **Love never fails!**

With so many let downs in life, isn't it good to participate in something that always provides success. This is how we know it is of God, who never lets us down.

**From One Well-Loved
To Those Equally Loved**

reflections..

The first Valentine

St. Valentine's Day
 A time for love
 And no more lonely hearts,
 We're sending cards
 That say, "Be mine,"
 For some, a place to start.
 But we forget
 The story of
 The world's first Valentine —
 But not by mail
 Did this one come.
 By way of sacrifice
 It wasn't words
 But deeds of love
 Of one who gave his life —
 The one who died
 With arms outstretched
 And simply said, "Be mine."
 —Brian Roush



February Calendar

- Feb 3rd ... 8:00 am Trustees Meeting
- Feb 10th ... 8:00 am Meet for prayer in minister's office
- Feb 17th ... 8:00 am Board Meeting
 ... Italian themed Fellowship luncheon following worship service



19 Bill & Missy Opsitnik



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 3 | Jack Vincent, Sr. | 8 | Glen Huston |
| 3 | Gail Lea Phillis | 9 | Karen Benson |
| 5 | Bill Wildman | 15 | Jack Vincent, Jr. |
| 6 | Mike Phillis | 17 | Kaylie Shinn |



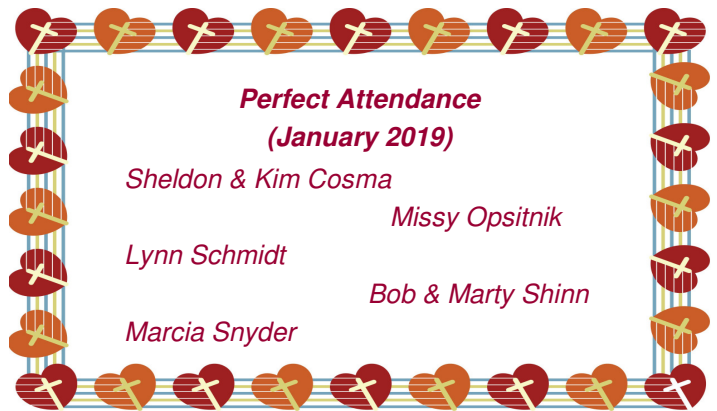
All of us who have ever loved or been loved know that the words "I love you" can never be spoken too often. For some of us who have weathered the hurts of broken relationships, saying, "I love you," for the first time again is one of the most frightening things we will ever do.

Saying "I love you" out loud is an important milestone in any relationship — whether you are

- whispering it to a new sweetheart,
- promising it to a new child,
- admitting it to an estranged parent,
- offering it to a lonely friend,
- revealing it to a rival sibling.

Saying "I love you" once is never enough. It is just the beginning. We must say "I love you" over and over again — we must hear "I love you" over and over again — before we begin to trust the reality of those words and before we can feel the weight of the love that lies behind them.

—Homiletics



Perfect Attendance (January 2019)

- Sheldon & Kim Cosma
 Missy Opsitnik
 Lynn Schmidt
 Bob & Marty Shinn
 Marcia Snyder



On Sunday, January 20th we had a soup and sandwich luncheon after church. Even though we had a lot of snow on the ground, we had a great turnout at the luncheon. There was great food and good fellowship. We will be having our February fellowship luncheon on Sunday, February 17th. It is Italian themed. Bring a dessert -AND- your Valentine for church services and lunch after. Fellowship luncheons will be on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

-Dorothy Faloba

PRAYER LIST

OUR SHUT-INS

Pat Kalbfell, (Essex); Wanda Huston, (Allay); Ada Bailey; Nita Floor, (Courtyard); Nick Cosma, (Crandall)

Northeast Ohio Bible College

George Faull (strength)

Steve Singer (blood condition)

Buster Woolf (health problems)

Mandy Fitch (dialysis; needs kidney transplant)

Jean Fluharty (health issues)

Tom McKenna (recovering from 2nd brain surgery)

Bob Stein (continues to heal)

David Stein (health problems)

June Toalston (cancer)

Our Nation
Our Leaders
Our Congregation
Lost Souls
Our Unspoken Needs

Mary Lou Eberhart (health problems)

Jim Eberhart (health problems)

Charles Hippley (doing well, PTL !)

Jim Webber (heart problems)

Shirley Bartholow (health problems)

Michael Barnhart (cancer)

Zac Carter (2nd leg amputated from cancer)

Nathaniel Davis (immune system problems)

Bill Wiley (health issues)

Elizabeth Thatcher (health problems)

Loni Grisez and her Family

Gladys Laughlin (health problems)

Our Missions

Canton Christian Home
Elkhorn Valley Camp

Hasten

Lifeline

Noah

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Joe Phillis & Family, Fort Benning, GA; Joel Newburn & Family, back in the USA; Kyle Stephenson & Family, Germany; John Lathrop



This is a very belated thank you to the Phillips Christian Church family for all the prayers and sympathy following the death of my son "Larry". It was a very bleak period for our whole family but with support of many friends and the "Grace of God" we'll all make it through. Thank you for all the cards, calls and the beautiful basket of flowers. God Bless you all!

Love,
Nita Floor and Family

Dear Phillips Christian Church,
Thank you so much for the Wal-Mart card. I really appreciate it.
Thank you also for all the prayers throughout the last year.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year !
Michelle

During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us...

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement, the prayers, the cards and phone calls. I am blessed to have my church family. May God bless you all.

In Christian Love,

Robin Janofa & The Janofa Family



Come in

Herb Caen reported an exchange between a mother and her young son. The little boy was acting especially pesty and his mother, exasperated with his antics, snapped, "How do you ever expect to get into heaven?" "Well," fidgeted the little boy after some thought, "I'll run in and out and keep slamming the door till they say 'Come in or stay out!' and then I'll go in."

—Bob Olmstead in the sermon "Many Mansions"

PHILLIPS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Sheldon Cosma, Minister

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Email: phillipschristianchurch@hotmail.com

SERVICES:

SUNDAY

9:00 am ... Sunday School

10:00 am ... Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm ...Adult Bible Study & Youth Group

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.phillipschristian.org



NEIGHBORLY LOVE

As an ordained minister, Fred Rogers harnessed the power of television to tell children they were loved — and to show them how to love others. In *You Are Special*, he writes, “When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong along with the fearful, the true mixed in with the façade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way.”

In a review of the touching documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* a writer for *Variety* notes: “Rogers’ real secret was ... that the call to love your neighbor as yourself isn’t a slogan to hang in your kitchen with flowers around it — it’s a decision you make at every moment, to view every man, woman and child on earth as your neighbor. If you don’t see and feel that, and act on it, then you’re just another narcissist with a kitchen slogan.”

Last October, when a synagogue shooting shattered the peace of Rogers’ real-life former neighborhood, residents of all religions embraced one another as neighbors. Afterward, the Fred Rogers Center stated, “We long for a day when there is no more tragedy born from hatred.”

Puzzle!

Love is a fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Identify another fruit that can make Valentine’s Day — and every day — special. First, write a word that fits each clue below. Then unscramble the letters from the bold, vertical column to find another fruit of the Spirit.

Write it on the blanks below.

LEAVE

CHAPEAU

TRANQUILITY

BECOME MATURE

RESPOND

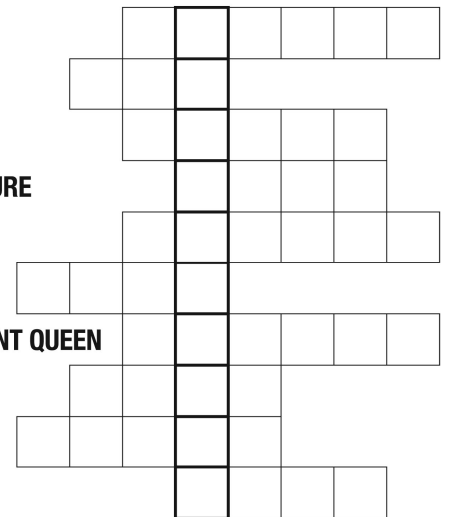
SPHERE

OLD TESTAMENT QUEEN

DISCOVER

CONFIDENCE

ALWAYS



Answer: depart, hat, peace, grow, answer, ball, Esther, find, trust, ever, gentleness