

Message from Pastor Scott

The Power of Love

I know I am dating myself when I tell you I remember listening to *Huey Lewis and the News* as they sang a song called, "The Power of Love". And it was catalytic to me for many reasons. I was in a time of my life where I had very little direction. If I am being honest, my years at The School of Music at ECU were not short of difficulty, hurt, and much confusion for me. Yes, there were times that seemed really good, but I remember the "emptiness" that often surrounded me. Something was missing; something I could not put my finger on, yet deep inside me, I was struggling. Like many people, I looked for love in all the wrong places. I had something inside me that I wanted to get out to others, but I felt trapped in a culture and environment that was completely contrary! I KNEW the path I was on was not right. I experienced so much darkness in those days; my alcoholic mother had "disowned" me, I had to work several jobs to make ends meet while taking 18+ hours of classes. I felt so alone. I was drowning.

Each day, I walked to campus in the early mornings. I had no vehicle like many of my friends. It was roughly 2 ½ miles, and it gave me time to reflect deeply on the matters of my heart. Oddly, I enjoyed that time to myself. One morning, on the way to campus, I noticed that I was walking past the Catholic Newman Center; this was the Catholic Campus Ministry Center at the University. As I walked by, someone in that house was playing that song "The Power of Love." Very suddenly I was filled with a peace. I could not absorb enough of it... "The peace that passes all understanding" (See Phil. 4:6-7) Yeah, I know. This story would be better served if I had heard a sacred hymn coming from a church belfry...like "Amazing Grace" or "How Great Thou Art" and was suddenly captured by the love of the Holy Spirit... but no, it was Huey Lewis and the News. (Sigh)

And I felt the "something" I was missing. I knew it immediately. I was missing the love of God. I had, by all accounts, not thought about the things of God in several years. I knew I was experiencing what John Wesley spoke about...Prevenient Grace...the grace that "woos" you into the loving relationship God wants for each of us. My walks to campus from that day forward were times of prayer, and my soul was being re-kindled to the reality of Love...the power of Love...from the Creator of Love.

So, my friends, I share this only to remind you that God is still very near, very real, and I believe wants nothing more than to share with you the comfort, peace, and forgiveness that comes from the Author Himself: The complete and beautiful Love of God.

Huey got it right – it is indeed, *powerful*. I hope you will stop and hear His calling; it IS the most powerful thing in this broken world!

LOVE and Blessings,

Pastor Scott



FALL REGISTRATION

School Year

2022 ~ 2023



Christ Centered



Nature Focused



Play Based

Preschool Hours: 9am - 12:30pm

Ages: 3 - 5 years

Monday - Thursday

Tours available.

Call to schedule a tour or for more
info. 704-821-1365

stallingspreschool@gmail.com

*Train up a child in the way he should go;
and when he is old, he will not depart
from it. ~Proverbs 22:6*

Overview continued...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Clayton Broadway	02-01	Deloris Rogers	02-09	Jack Gray	02-17	Jason Graham	02-26
Henry Gray	02-01	Jake Forwerck	02-10	Brian Smith	02-17	Ronnie McNeill	02-27
Alleine McLean	02-01	Michelle Duncan	02-11	Allison Drye	02-18		
Glenda Christopher	02-02	Robert Inman	02-11	Randy Mosley	02-18		
Emma Lauzon	02-03	Tom Cook	02-12	Heath Guion	02-19		
Terry Lauzon	02-03	Debbie Menichelli	02-13	Tyler James	02-20		
Megan Bennett	02-06	Garrett Efird	02-15	Silas Bigham	02-22		
Grace Morris	02-08	Tommy Stilwell	02-15	Paul McKechnie	02-23		
Margaret Rabon	02-09	Amanda Broadway	02-16	Marie Garris	02-25		
Janet Danhoff	02-09	Gwen Howlett	02-16	Sharon Manies	02-25		

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

- John 15:12-13

Giving

Date	Budget/Tithe	Building Fund
Jan 02	\$ 1,745.41	\$ 3,224.00
Jan 09	\$ 2,426.79	\$ 670.00
Jan 16	\$ 5,652.24	\$ 530.00
Jan 23	\$ 4,006.49	\$ 370.00
Jan 30	\$ 5,837.22	\$ 430.00

*Please do not forget your church when you go out of town, on vacation **OR** during this pandemic.

2021 Tithes and Offerings

Looking back on 2021, you can see many changes that took place in our church. Many are back to worshipping in person and some still faithfully worship online. We look forward to the day when our sanctuary is full again. Our worship leaders, staff and worship teams do a **remarkable** job each week, and we are grateful for them!

Our current economy has reflected inflation and higher prices. We know this taxes our "pocketbooks." We have a unique situation where workers are becoming more and more scarce causing some of you to work harder and perhaps longer hours than several years ago. Others have been working in risky and difficult positions as their jobs are considered "essential". And you ARE! To God, we are **all** essential. This is where our *faith* becomes *essential* as we continue to support our church financially, even though the times are financially difficult. We know we can count on you!

We had 174 giving units who supported the church during 2021. Several of these are persons who are not church members, but donated in memory of a loved one who passed during the year. The breakdown of those units are as follows: 33 gave less than \$100, 46 gave between \$100 and \$500, 17 gave between \$501 and \$1,000, 47 gave between \$1,001 and \$4,000, 24 gave between \$4,000 and \$10,000, and 7 gave over \$10,000.

With all that being said, it is amazing news that we were able to pay off the debt on our building and become a debt-free church once again!!! "Hallelujah" goes right there! The final payment was made on our building loan this month. Paying off the loan early has saved us 21 months of interest! We can all be very proud at the incredible accomplishment of doing this. Let us keep in mind, however, as our buildings age, there are many updates and repairs that need to be made. We ask that you continue to donate to the "building fund" so these needs can be met. We will simply "repurpose" this account to allow us to perform much needed upgrades and maintenance. So, don't change anything – keep on giving so we can ensure we are good stewards of what God has so graciously given us! We remain grateful for you and for the faith we are sharing together as a church family in 2022 and beyond.

*The Church Office will be closed **Monday, February 21st** in observance of Presidents' Day.*

In Loving Memory
-of-



In Memory of Dennise Matzke:

- ◆ Robert and Rita Peck
- ◆ Dick and Donna Shaffer
- ◆ Joseph and Beverly Stewart

In Memory of Jerry Keene:

- ◆ Janice Limburg

The United Methodist Men will meet on Saturday, Feb. 12th at 8am in the Fellowship Hall for their monthly breakfast. Golf Tournament to be discussed!!!



Happy **75th** Birthday
NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD

Tommy Stilwell

is turning

75!

You are invited to a
Birthday Party
Saturday, February 19th
SUMC Fellowship Hall
Drop-in
2pm - 5pm