



Dear Members and Friends of Allin Church,

November 12, 2020

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." - 1 John 4:7.

Martin Luther King once called love "the most durable power in the world." As he explained, "Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

In the United Church of Christ, we give ourselves to answering God's call to love. We hear God calling us to Three Great Loves. Love of Neighbor. Love of Children. Love of Creation.

Woven throughout the entire Bible, there are stories that compel us over and over to Love our Neighbor. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that the greatest commandment of all is **"Love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."** To this, Jesus added a second, **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** -**Matthew 22:37-38**. Our examples of love for our neighbor are the donations, time and dedication we give to our local food pantry and helping those in need through Missions and the church's recent support and co-sponsoring a refugee family from Burundi, Africa.

We show our Love of Children by having them take part in church activities such as Acolyte duties, Call to Worship, children stories and performing in our Christmas play. Children have a profoundly different perspective on how they see the world. If only we could see the world through their eyes! **Jesus tells us in our sacred texts that we must become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven. -Matthew 18.3**

Our role as Stewards of Creation can best be understood by our connection to creation, that it was made for our own sake which God created. One of the ways this must happen is in the gardens, in the waters, in the forests and the mountains of this world. We are invited to stand alongside those who can't access what we can access and help to make a way forward with them. We demonstrate our love of creation through recycling paper and plastic products and having our lighting changed to LED to save electricity.

If we want to know how to be faithful stewards, how to manage God's resources, and what God's vision and will for this world are, we can look to Jesus for answers, as he exemplifies the ideal steward. We can look at what Jesus said and taught, and how he managed God's ambitions including his time, talents, treasure, and life during his earthly life to show how we can and are called to faithfully manage God's ambitions, namely our time, talent, treasure, and life during our lifetime.

Pledges of financial support provide about 41% of our budget as a congregation. Without your gifts to the annual pledge campaign, we would not be able to engage in the programs, projects, ministry and worship experiences that define our community life and beyond.

Please renew your faith by pledging or making a donation to our church and fill the world with God's love through 3 Great Loves. A pledge equal to or greater than last year's pledge is greatly appreciated!

With Gratitude,
Your Stewardship Ministry

Beloved, LOVE

Beloved,
let us love one another,
because love is from God;
everyone who loves
is born of God
and knows God. 1 John 4:7

Andy Marcoux, Lori Purdy, Lisa Dwyer