



First Baptist Church of Spring Hill

The Messenger

February 2021

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In 1 John 4:8, John says "God is love." E.Y. Mullins, the great Baptist theologian, called this verse "the supreme utterance of the New Testament regarding God's love." It does not say that God has love or that God displays love. It states that God is love! He is not sometimes loving and sometimes unloving. Love is His nature.



How are we to understand this love of God, and how should we respond? Let's begin by trying to understand the character of God's love. The first thing we see is that God's love is a surprising love. When God revealed His love through Jesus Christ, it was totally underserved on our part. The Living Bible says it we: "When we were utterly helpless with no way to escape, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners who had no use for him" (Romans 5:6). To love someone who loves us, someone who desires our company, someone who says nice things about us — that kind of love we understand. But for God send His son to die for us when we were still in our sins and rebellion; that is a surprising love.

Secondly, God's love is a seeking love. Jesus said in Luke 19:10, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." God loves us so much that He seeks us out to draw us to Him. God's love is not a passive love, but an active love. God's love doesn't wait until we come to Him. He is seeking to come to us, right now.

Thirdly, God's love is a selfless love. One of the most comforting, liberating, thrilling messages of the Bible is that God loves us so much He is willing to forgive our past. It is made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13). He willingly lay down His life so that we might be forgiven!

Fourth, God's love is a saving love. Paul says in Ephesians 1:4-5, "But God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us...made us alive together with Christ and raised us up with him." God's love not only takes care of our past. It also takes care of our present. When God's love takes hold of our life, it has the power to change us from what we are to what we should be.

Fifth, God's love is a sustaining love. Deuteronomy 7:9 says, "Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy (steadfast love) for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments." God's love does not come and go. It is not here today and gone tomorrow. It will be with us today and tomorrow and through a million tomorrows.

How then should we respond to God's love? In response to the love of God, we are to love each other. 1 John 4:20-21 says, "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." Because God loves us, we are to love each other. The love of God is both the measure and motive for our love. His love for us should motivate us to love others in the same way He loves us. Our love for others is the clearest evidence that we ourselves have been touched by the love of God.

Bro J

From the Library...

Happy Birthday to You!

February

People of God, look past the red and pink decorations, pretty cupcakes, candy hearts, and long-stemmed roses. Look within the hearts of those you care about and consider ways you can show them the love of God today and always.

So, Lord, on this day and throughout the year may we remember Your love for us and those we care about. Then given us the ability to consistently express it and allow your love to flow through me and overflow on to others.

1 Corinthians 13:8: *Love never fails.*

Here are a few books from our library...

Our Unmet Needs by Charles Stanley. The author offers sound biblical teaching and real life examples that will encourage you to tap into God's gracious supply for your life. Dr. Stanley focuses on root causes of why our needs go unfulfilled. He confronts the habits and addictions that separate us from God's promise to meet our needs while demonstrating how to align our lives with God's plan.



The Eye of the Storm by Max Lucado.

The author dips the brush of his verbal artistry in the most vivid colors yet to paint a picture of Christ's calm in what he calls "the second most stressful day in the life of our Savior..." Max shows us the secret of transforming panic into peace, stress into serenity, and chaos into control.

The Prayer That Changes Everything by Stormie Omartin. One of the most wonderful things about God is that He lives in our praise. He's a loving God who wants to be with us. And when we worship Him, He is with us. Isn't that amazing?

Yours in Christ,
Mary Robertson & Joan Frank



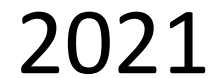
By comparing **love** to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love's practicality in everyday life: "Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way." He also calls love "the WD-40 of relationships" because it "can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can't seem to penetrate."

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God's help, can change hearts and lives. "Love all [people], even your enemies," he advises. "Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother."

3	Zachary Owens
	Alivia Easton
4	Mary Robertson
6	Melba Mainord
8	Gena Barbre
10	Misty Robinson
	Barry Huntzinger
13	Daven LaRose
14	Katie Owens
16	Samuel Gray
19	Andrew Vaughn
23	Ben Barbre
28	Melanie Brandon
29	Debe Hahn



Thank you for your generous support of The Well. We continue to collect food for this local food pantry – bring items when you come to worship on Sunday or if you are not attending "in-person" worship yet, feel free to drop by the office during office hours and we will come pick up the items from your car. We are also taking monetary donations – mark your offering "The Well". ****You may now give to The Well designated fund via online giving, text giving, or the Church Life app.**





OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2021

As in the past 2 years, we will again be collecting items on a monthly basis for OCC Shoeboxes. The collection basket is in the Senior Ladies

SS Classroom. Below is a list of the items suggested for each month. Please remember that items must be fresh & new.

February: Small, reusable water bottles



Gift Card Campaign To Benefit the Pregnancy Centers of Middle TN Goal: \$1500.00

The Women's Ministry of FBCSH is sponsoring this benefit as the annual fundraiser for the pregnancy centers, a valuable pro-life, non-profit, community ministry in Columbia and Spring Hill. Free services are provided to women/men/families facing an unplanned pregnancy, or in need of post abortion counseling support and healing.

Through the month of February, we ask our church family to purchase \$10 gift cards to local grocery stores (Kroger, Walmart, Aldi, Food Lion) or anywhere gas and/or groceries may be purchased. These cards are used by PCOMT staff as incentives for clients to participate and complete a 2-year parent education program once they make the decision to parent. Clients need gas to attend classes and groceries to feed their baby/family. Clients receive on-going support, education in parenting skills, budget & financial management, and other valuable family support information, including referrals as necessary.

Add a \$10 gift card to your regular shopping activities and place the card in the envelope in the basket in the lobby. Cash donations may be given in a separate envelope. We ask you to prayerfully support this important community ministry. ***We have an anonymous donor who will match up to \$1500.00!!



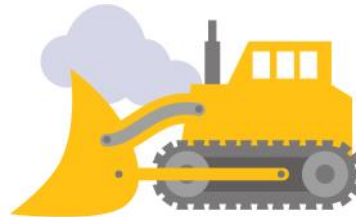
You may also contribute to this fundraiser via online giving, through the Church Life App, or via text giving (FBCSH to 73256). Designate your gift to "Pregnancy Center". These funds will be used to purchase gift cards.

Questions about this fundraiser? Please contact Vivian Bowen (vivana1@bellsouth.net) or Beverly Williams (bevwm1998@att.net).

fbckids
Spring hill

Builders 2021

Nehemiah 2:18



And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

2020 was a rough year. Satan has tried to tear us down, but God has given us everything we need to rebuild. Join us this year as we build our faith and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Sunday, February 7th Show Love Sunday

Kids come dressed in red, pink, and hearts. We will have a card creation station and a "lovely" photobooth from 10-10:15 am.

Sunday, March 7th Pajamas and Poptarts

Kids can wear their pajamas to church! Poptarts provided!

Do you need offering envelopes? Please see Jim Fultz on Sunday, or contact the church office. A box will be prepared for you and placed at the Welcome Desk for you to pick up.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering-2020

A Great *MultiFide* + You
Rom. 1:19

**Thank you for your generous giving!
We surpassed our \$3,000 Goal!
Received to Date: \$3,107.00**



Future Growth Funding

\$20,1461.62 in a Construction Acct.
at First Farmer's & Merchant's Bank
\$364,128.29 in a Building Fund at the
Tennessee Baptist Foundation.