

## *SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS*

[Pastor Gene Henderson with edits by Pastor Pier]

Of all the holidays we celebrate, the one we in February has to be a favorite. Even if we're not one of those living with our heart's connection, we know what that means. We men at times, watch romantic movies and listen to love songs and have our emotional times which touch us. Before we go all masculine, we have to remember that love comes from God, and the best words about love come from God (1 Corinthians 13).

The Hallmark Channel has gone "*woke*" so we don't ever hear about God and love. We get romantic scripts with good looking actors and actresses, where a kiss is the big deal. Shakespeare wasn't "*woke*", and he wrote Romeo and Juliet where the two young lovers end up dead because of the war between their families. *Now that's a script!* Homer wrote the Iliad and the Odyssey, two incredible stories of adventure where love drove the players. "*Troy*" introduces us to Helen who runs away to a far country with her lover. Her jilted husband chases after her with all the ships and armies of Greece. For ten years they fought on the battlefields surrounding the city until, finally, they use trickery to get inside the walls. Everyone dies – even the great warrior Achilles – except Odysseus and a few Greeks. The Odyssey tracks his travel home to his wife Penelope, and ends with the two of them in each other's arms. That's one of the best stories of love in all of human literature.

Your story may not be the subject of epic poems or Shakespearean plays or Hollywood movies, but it matters. As did Adam and Eve, and Boaz and Ruth, and Ahasuerus and Esther, and Joseph and Mary. Yours may have had bumps and trouble and interruptions. You may have lived through lost love and a struggling marriage. That's humanity. But love survives, and your best memories carry you. Why? **The greatest of these is love.** 1 Corinthians 11:4-7 (New Living Translation):

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

# Welcome!

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025



*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."*

### **SERVICES**

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity in Prayer: 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM; Kid's Club

Prayer ½ hour before services

## *SERMON NOTES*

Rev. Arthur Henderson Jr.

### *ANNOUNCEMENTS*



**Wednesday Bible Study** – we continue our study of the Rapture of the church.

**Prayer** – every Sunday evening from 6 to 7. We join together to pray in an informal way, come as you are and pray as you wish. God honors the church that prays together.

**Flagging Practice** has begun again on Wednesday nights at 6:00 PM. For more information, please see Debbie DeVries.

**Free Music CDs & DVDs** – in the foyer, on the pulpit there are numerous CDs and DVDs which are free. Please take a look and see what you might want.

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