

Theme: Reflections on Love and Marriage: God’s Chemistry of Love

Text: 1 Cor.13:1-13

Rev. Dominic Tommy

Intro: A Deeper Look of Love.

- 1. **Love is enriching (vv. 1-3).** "Speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15).
- 2. **Love is edifying (vv. 4-7).** "Knowledge puffed up, but love edifies [builds up]" (1 Cor. 8:1). The purpose of spiritual gifts is the edification of the church (1 Cor. 12:7). This means we must not think of ourselves, but of others; and this demands love. Forgiveness means that we wipe the record clean and never hold things against people (Eph. 4:26, 32).
- 3. **Love does not rejoice in iniquity**, yet the Corinthians were boasting about sin in their church (1 Cor. 5). Love "shall cover the multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). Like Noah's sons, we should not seek to hide the sins of others, but help them make things right (Gen. 9:20-23).
- 4. **Love is enduring (vv. 8-13).**

Three Graces of the Christian for the journey, however, faith shall be sight. When all three are working in us through the Holy Spirit, the results are Unity—diversity—maturity; and maturity comes through love.

Lenten Bible Study by Pastor Dominic Tommy

Topic: **NAMES OF GOD—Investing and Appreciating God’s Name**

In the Bible, God reveals Himself to us through various names. In this 13-lesson study of the names of God, the names will be studied in order, as God progressively reveals Himself through dispensations. From studying these 13 names of God, you will have a wonderful "Lenten journey into knowing God."

Lesson titles include: *The God Who Created You, When You Are Afraid, A Name You Need To Remember, When You Really Know God, When You Feel God Doesn't Care, Experiencing God's Power, When Life Seems Unfair, Don't Worry—Trust God, Receiving God's Healing, Enlisting God in Life's Battles, Finding Inner Peace, When You Feel Guilty, and When You Feel All Alone.*

This will be a part of the Lenten Experience for you. We’ll divide it into two parts for 6-weeks of learning and fellowship. **Class begins at 10:30 AM on Tuesdays from February 20** through March 27. Each session will last 90 minutes. We will meet in the Sunday School classroom upstairs.

Welcome to



Central Church

Our Mission

Central United Methodist Church Glorifies God through the Work of Ministry and the Making of Disciples of Jesus Christ.

912 Fourth Ave., PO Box 485, Lake Odessa, MI 48849
www.centralchurch-lakeo.org (616) 374-8861

Rev. Dominic Tommy, Pastor
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CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Celebration Service

February 18, 2018

1st Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

Large print hymnals and bulletins are available. Please ask an usher.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign, pass, and return red friendship pads in each pew at this time.
Also prepare Prayer Request Sheets during this time.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP (in the words of Phillip P Bliss)

I will sing of my Redeemer, and His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered, from the curse to set me free.
**I will sing of my Redeemer, and His heavenly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me, Son of God with Him to be**
I will praise my dear Redeemer, His triumphant power I'll tell,
How the victory He giveth over sin, and death, and hell
**Sing, oh sing, of my Redeemer, With His blood, He purchased me.
On the cross, He sealed my pardon, paid the debt, and made me free.
Let us tell of His boundless love and mercy—the true love of God!**

*OPENING HYMN "The Love of God" On screen
Ushers will collect Prayer Request Sheets

INVOCATION PRAYER (in unison) (be seated)

**O Ancient God, we come with hesitant steps and uncertain motives
to sweep out the corners where sin has accumulated, and uncover the
ways we have strayed from Your truth. Expose the empty and barren
places where we don't allow you to enter. Reveal our half-hearted
struggles where we have been indifferent to the suffering of others.
Nurture the faint stirrings of new life, where your spirit has begun
to grow. Let your healing light transform us into the image of Your Son.
For You alone can bring new life and make us whole.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen**

ANTHEM "I Love Thee, I Love Thee" Chancel Choir
arr. Patricia Hurlbutt

SHARING PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus be with You!

And Also with You!

(Please take this time to greet one another in the Name of Christ by saying,
"Peace be with you" and your neighbor says "And also with you")

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Children age 4 & under are welcome to leave for the nursery
downstairs after the *Children's Moment*.

INVITATION FOR OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise" TFWS 2031

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS (1 John 4:7-21)

**Mighty God and Father of all, you overwhelm us with your great mercy.
At the time of our greatest need, you surprised us with your wondrous
love as Jesus offered his life for us to remove our dreadful curse.
As you draw us into this renewing relationship of love, may we
respond with gratitude as we offer the substance of our labors to
continue the ministry of Christ here at Central. For his name and glory,
we pray, and present our gifts. Amen!**

PRAYER CONCERNS, PRAISES, PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER

Please stand for the reading of God's word, as you are able.

*SCRIPTURE I Corinthians 13:1-13 Pew Bible Page NT 164

SERMON Reflection on Love and Marriage: Rev. Dominic Tommy
"God's Chemistry of Love"

*CLOSING HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Hymnal 384

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE The Family of God (Gaither)
I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His Blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
The Family of God.

POSTLUDE

**Please stand as you are able.*

Looking Forward to Lent and Easter

- **Six-week Lenten Bible Study** – Begins this week, Tuesday, February 20.
- **Palm Sunday Service** – March 25, 10:30 am Celebration Worship. *Parents and grandparents: Please bring your children for the Palm Sunday Parade.*
- **Holy Thursday Service** – March 29 at 6 pm
- **Community Good Friday Service** – March 30 at 1 pm
- **Community Easter Egg Hunt** – March 31, 10:00 am to Noon, Lake Odessa Park; family-friendly activities for children.
- **Easter Sunday Service** – April 1 at 10:30 am

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If you did not get a February Newsletter last week, copies are available on the ushers' tables or in Fellowship Hall. You will also find Prayer Calendars to use in your daily prayer practice. Camping brochures have also just arrived!

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FAT SUNDAY!
TODAY, following Worship



You are all invited to join in our Fat Sunday Celebration, sponsored by our Education and Fellowship and Caring committees. You can start off with a Soup Luncheon for something warm and delicious before our competition begins for *Confectioner of the Year*.

Everyone will be given 5 tickets to be used as “votes” to determine our winner. Additional tickets will be available by donation. The creator of the winning entry will be announced in the afternoon and will receive untold notoriety and a wonderful “traveling” trophy!

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- MINISTER: *Every Member of This Church*
- PASTOR: *Rev. Dominic Tommy*
- SECRETARY: *Kim Stoepker*
- ORGANIST: *Marilyn Noffke*
- CHOIR DIRECTOR: *Jackie Spagnuolo*
- CUSTODIANS: *Mike McCartney / Rolando Varela*
- TODAY'S SERVICE:

Worship Assistant
Tom Reiser

Audio/Visual

- Today: *Chuck Rayner / Kay Barcroft*
- Next Sunday: *Tony Barcroft / Kay Barcroft*

Coffee Fellowship

- Today: *Fat Sunday Celebration & Soup Luncheon*
- Next Sunday: *Marilyn Noffke*

Greeters

- Today: *Marcia Bytwerk / Del Kostanko / Warren Courtney*
- Next Sunday: *Same*

Nursery

- Today: *Char Kendregan / Marcia Bytwerk*
- Next Sunday: *Kay Goodemoot / Jean Cook*

Ushers

- Today: *Dick Nelson / Warren Courtney*
- Next Sunday: *Same*

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*Altar flowers this morning are presented by
Philip and Betty Shetterly
celebrating their 62nd Anniversary on February 18th.*

**In case of a pastoral emergency, please call
Pastor Dominic at the parsonage (374-8294) or on his cell
(269-941-3787) or the Church Office during office hours.**

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS

Thelma Curtis Kay Unspokens

Our love and prayers of sympathy to Bonnie Leak following the death of her brother, Ron Walkington.

Continued in Prayer

Sgt. Branden Curtis	Karl Klynstra	Gary Smith
Sr. Airman Lloyd C. Corston	Phylis Armstrong	Ed Hilliker
PFC Steven Wakley, Jr	Dale Patterson	Hank Minenna
1SG Nicholas Ludema	Terena Galaviz	Susan Steele
PFC Jason Hilley	Pam Coleman	Sharon Brink
Sgt. Nathan Sparrow	Travis Tucker and family	Ross McDowell
Brian Rayner	Judi Brandon	Kim Seese
Patti Coorman	Armrose LaBine	Mary Shoemaker
Peg Cusack	Family of Bonnie Haskins	

Our Special Friends

Leah Abbott	Margot Bailey	Ada Dennie
Lois Goodemoot	Joanne McDaniels	Phil Shetterly
Ed Reiser	Peg Faulkner	

Our Partners In Ministry

Our Missionary, Paul Webster, Zambia, Africa
Freeport UM Church, Freeport
Kilpatrick United Brethren in Christ, Woodland

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

02/24 Barbara Wareing

Anniversary

02/18 Philip and Betty Shetterly – 62 years

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Soup Luncheon and Fat Sunday Celebration will begin this morning in Fellowship Hall, following worship. We hope you will all join us!

EVENTS

Mon 2/19	Finance Committee – Front Room	6 pm
	AA Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	7 pm
Tues 2/20	Lenten Bible Study begins – Lounge	10:30 am
Wed 2/21	<i>No Choir Rehearsal</i>	
Thu 2/22	Respite Care – Lounge	1:30 pm
	Souper Thursday Community Dinner– Fellowship Hall	4:30-6 pm
Fri 2/23	<i>Office closed – For an emergency, Pastor can be reached at 269-941-3787</i>	
Sun 2/25	Sunday School - Classrooms	9:30 am
	Worship Service – <i>Noisy Offering</i>	10:30 am
Mon 2/26	AA Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	7 pm
Tues 2/27	Lenten Bible Study – Lounge	10:30 am
Wed 2/28	Friendship Group – Fellowship Hall	9 am
	<i>Choir Rehearsal</i> – Sanctuary	7 pm
Thu 3/1	Respite Care – Lounge	1:30 pm
	Souper Thursday Community Dinner– Fellowship Hall	4:30-6 pm
Fri 3/2	World Day of Prayer <i>Office closed – For an emergency, Pastor can be reached at 269-941-3787</i>	
Sun 3/4	Sunday School - Classrooms	9:30 am
	Worship Service – Sanctuary	10:30 am
Mon 3/5	AA Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	7 pm
Tues 3/6	Lenten Bible Study – Lounge	10:30 am
	Fresh Food Distribution – back parking lot	2 pm
	Worship Committee – Front Room	7 pm
Wed 3/7	<i>Choir Rehearsal</i> – Sanctuary	7 pm

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