



Fairfield Good News

WORSHIPPING THE LORD FOR OVER 300 YEARS!

February 2021

February

- Feb. 1
Consistory Meeting
- Feb. 7
Souper Bowl Sunday
- Feb. 14
Valentine's Day
- Feb. 17
Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 21
Baby Bottle return

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A Lesson in Love

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

"What a jerk," I thought as I hung up the phone. Not a very spiritual reflection for a pastor, but that's the way I felt nonetheless. I was just concluding a counseling session and was trying desperately to prepare a Bible study for the evening service on "Love One Another" from John 13:34-35. It wasn't coming together.

The caller had identified himself as Ernest F. Thomas, "as in doubting Thomas," he told me. He was traveling between Oregon and Phoenix, the 45 year-old unbelieving son of a minister, needing--no, demanding--a motel room due to medical problems. Because I couldn't listen to his story right then he rudely impugned my Christianity, as well as the faith of fifteen other ministers he allegedly had called. He was insulting, insistent, and, in spite of the 185 I.Q. he claimed, a real pain.

When he called back ten minutes later as we had agreed, I can't say I was looking forward to talking to him. But God had been talking to me. Thinking of Ernest as a jerk had jolted me. The verse I had been studying was starting to come home. "Love one another, even as I have loved you."

How did Jesus love? He taught us to love those who mistreat us. If He hadn't practiced what He preached, I would have had no chance. "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," He told His disciples (John 15:13), yet He exceeded man's best by dying for His enemies (Romans 5:8). Jesus doesn't love on the basis of our worthiness.

Transients who chronically call churches for help are perplexing. Must a person be deserving for me to love him with practical help? No. God doesn't operate that way--He loves radically. So must we. "Love one another, even as I have loved you."

We must love the underserving. Even Christians can be hard to love. Jesus' own disciples were incredibly self-centered sometimes. The miracle of love is that it continues--in spite of weaknesses, anger, sins, "blind sides," and grating habits.

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That quality of love, Jesus said, will be the sign to outsiders that we are His disciples. In our love they must be able to glimpse His surpassing love.

Yes, I helped Ernest F. Thomas get a room that night. But I learned a vital lesson as well: God loves jerks and so must I.

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February

- 3 Russ Safar
- 4 Margaret Wert



Tax Time is Here Again

If you need a receipt for your record of 2020 contributions/donations to the church, please call Roberta (phone 732-495-0344), leave a message with your name and envelope number and she will be happy to mail you the receipt.



February 7 is Super Bowl Sunday



We are participating in Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday again and will be taking a special offering on the 7th which will be given to the Good Shepherd Mission in Paterson.

Souper Bowl of Caring is a nation-wide effort to fight hunger and poverty in our own communities at the time of the Super Bowl football game.

100% of our S B of C donations will be given to GSM.

Ash Wednesday
February 17



Worship Services

Our worship services will continue to be held in person in our sanctuary Sundays at 1:00 PM for the foreseeable future. Going forward a couple of months Joe Cusack, Tim OHugh, Eric Farrar and Craig Kozan will rotate bringing the message.

The usual social distancing precautions will be in place and masks are required.

For those who cannot attend our in-person services, First Reformed in Lincoln Park livestreams their service on their website: <https://www.frc-lpnj.org/page/180007493/180121159/Live-Streaming> <https://>

and facebook page: [https:// www.facebook.com/1stLP](https://www.facebook.com/1stLP).

Or you can watch it later on their YouTube site:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy27VJQiqsgZgEvSWKkpxWA?view_as=subscriber



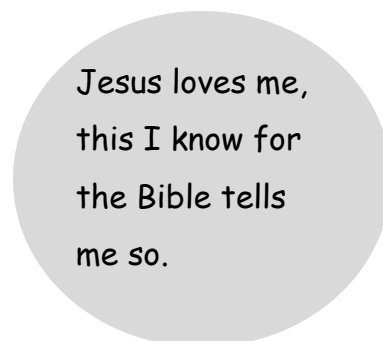
Old Sturbridge Village

Charlie Peters has generously given the church a gift membership to



Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) for 2021. If you are planning a trip to Massachusetts and would like to visit OSV, please contact Deb Petersen for the membership card.

To check out their website, click [here](#).



LENT WORD SCRAMBLE

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*The
Season
of
Lent*



A letter from Chris and Carolyn West (CRU)

Dear Friends at Fairfield Reformed,

Today I went to the mailbox and found your most generous support gift! We are overwhelmed by your kindness! Thank you SO MUCH for your very generous gift, and especially for your longstanding, faithful support of our work. We are truly privileged to an extension of your ministry. Every campus we touch, and every life that is shaped through our work traces back to you.

We hope that all is well back at Fairfield Reformed. During Thanksgiving my whole family went to breakfast at the West Essex Diner several times. So good! And we thought of you as we passed right by the Church! Sometime in 2021 it would be good to reconnect with you all. As you know, I'm a Fairfield native, and my Dad STILL lives in the home where I grew up on Kevin Terrace. Mom & Dad (Ann & Jack West) bought that house in 1960 before I was born! It's good to have roots.

You have blessed us so much. And your gift really made my day! Thank you again for investing so generously in our ministry.

Sincerely,

Chris & Carolyn