



First Christian Church

Christian Connection



Helping you find and follow the SON - Luke 9:23

Winter Edition
2018

By This We Know Love

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A former United States Senator did something most would admire — and perhaps should consider doing ourselves. They donated one of their organs to save a life.

Recent studies show a high percentage of people approve of organ donations, but a much smaller percentage actually make some kind of arrangement to donate their organs.

This particular Senator didn't wait until their death to donate a kidney. His 27-year-old daughter suffered from progressive kidney failure due to diabetes. Her condition deteriorated fast and she needed a transplant immediately.

The Senator and his sons were all compatible, but this father insisted in being the one to give his kidney, saying "Her mother carried her for nine months and I'm honored to give her part of me."

Shortly after this six-hour surgery, there were news broadcasts running with doctors noting that the Senator was awake, happy and peaceful. But the truth was, he was in great pain. And yet, the doctors truthfully reported his great big grin.

That grin could only mean one thing — no regrets (in spite of the pain and the loss and the suffering). How was this possible? His love for his daughter and her life was far greater than what he lost.

We've just finished celebrating a time when Jesus left heaven in order to come to earth, to live as one of us, and yet go to a cross and die for something he didn't do. This is real love. The kind of love that would shed His own blood to purchase our redemption from sin. Without any regrets and of His own choosing.

1 John 3:16-18 (ESV) — *"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."*

Those around us need to see and experience this love for themselves — by our words and actions. What a year it would be if we lived out this!



A Moment with Michael

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Thank You

I didn't want to start this New Year without telling you once again how very thankful I am to you and your family. Thank you for all the generosity you've shown me and my family this past year and especially at Christmas time. Thank you for letting me serve you and our Lord here in Plainville. May God continue to bless this church family for 2018 and beyond.

Finding Jesus

Some years ago now, I came up with a simple saying to keep me motivated and focused on an important and biblical goal — to help people find Jesus. To help those who have never known Him and those who need Him back in their lives. And once we help people find Jesus, we must then help them follow Him the rest of their lives.

I've spend a lot of time — through lessons and sermons and counseling — on the second part (following), but without the first part, its kind of hard for the second part to be very effective.

For the month of January, we're going to jump back into Acts and bring some attention to finding Jesus. Here's the sermon titles, see if you can figure our where we're going:

- *Obstacles to Finding Jesus* (Acts 10:1-33); *Something to Tell* (Acts 10:34-48); *Criticized for Finding Jesus* (Acts 11:1-18); *A Jesus-Centered Church* (Acts 11:19-30)

Take some time this week and read through Acts 10 & 11 and get ready to find Jesus.

Loving Like Jesus

Once we find Jesus, we must follow Jesus — wherever He leads. To follow Jesus is to know Jesus and to love Jesus, but to also love others like Jesus loved you.

I'm real excited about this February and March series out of the gospel of Luke. We are not only going to be challenged in the way we love people but also given way in which we can reach out with that love.

We may not be able to change the whole world, but each of us can help to change at least one person. To show one the ONE who can change their life.

We are open every Sunday this year! We gather around God's Word in Bible Class every Sunday morning at 9:00 am. And there's a place for you and your family. We gather as a family to worship God and honor Him through praise, giving, communion, and in hearing God's Word and growing our faith in Him.

As always, your brother in Christ

Michael



Family Ministry

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We have been busy with BLAST on Wednesday nights. We average 50 kids on Wednesday nights. They are busy learning scripture through rhyme and song, learning Bible truths about such topics as the Trinity, Angels, Sin, and Love, making crafts, hearing stories about Missionaries, and getting their energies refueled with games. Also, every child is fed supper before BLAST. It is a fast paced evening on Wednesday, but after sitting in school all day, they seem to really enjoy moving to different stations. If you are not participating with us in BLAST - We would love to have your family join us - bring the kids and we can always use adult volunteers. It is a BLAST!!

The kids practiced during Children's Church for a Christmas program which we performed on December 17th. The kids really learned a lot about the birth of Jesus and enjoyed learning their lines. We were joined by the preschool class on Sunday morning as sheep and they really added to the presentation. Special thanks to Miss Phyliss for making the great costumes!

It takes a village to run a children's and youth program in a church. This cannot be done without volunteers. PFCC has the best volunteers we have ever seen. A shout out to all of you that volunteer your time in the Nursery, Sunday School, Children's Church, Blast, Youth Group, etc!! By giving of your time, children and youth are being ministered to. Once the word of God is planted in their hearts, no one can ever remove it. As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:6-8: "I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work." Although, you may not see this reward until heaven, we want you to know that YOU are important to us - THANK YOU!!

This is our first year as family ministry coordinators for FCC and we would like to THANK you for your support and encouragement. It has been a little bit of a rough year for our family, but you have supported us, prayed for us, and gave financially to us. Your support has been overwhelming and we thank God for you daily.

Daryl and Shona Sherraden

Some Things to Think About

A Prayer for a New Year — from “A Treasury of Bible Illustrations”

Lord, I confess before You that: I have had longings and nudges from You which I did not translate into action. I have made decisions without consulting You, then have blamed You when things went wrong.

I have said I trusted You, yet have not turned everything over to You. I have been greedy for present delights and pleasures, unwilling to wait for those joys which time and discipline alone can give.

I have often sought the easy way and have consistently drawn back from the road that is hard. I have been fond of giving myself to dreams of which I am going to do something, yet have been so slow in getting started to do them. Forgive me for all the intentions that were born and somehow never lived.

And now I claim Your promise to change me. Do for me what I cannot do for myself. Lead me into a new tomorrow with a new spirit. Cleanse my heart; create within me new attitudes and new ideas, as only You can. Amen.

“I have never heard anything about the ‘resolutions’ of the Apostles, but I have heard a great deal about the Acts of the Apostles.” — Horace Mann

A Good New Year’s Resolution:

During the coming year I will go nowhere I can’t take Jesus with me. I’ll say nothing I wouldn’t want Him to hear. I’ll do nothing I wouldn’t want Him to know about. I will be the best example to others that I possibly can, for His sake.

Translate resolutions into definite deeds or you will forget them.

“Life has but two ends, and one end has been used. Take care of the other end.” — Holmes

“Love” by Rosie Krain

Love that pure and holy,
Love that’s strong and true,
Love to save the sinner
And make his heart like new,
Love that’s everlasting,
Love that will not fail,
Love to keep us happy
Through every stormy gale,
Love that keeps us faithful,
Love that drives out fear —
Such love comes from Je-
sus,

“Love Listens” by Helyn C. Nelson

Love listens when someone talks.
Self’s too busy when someone talks.
Love pauses and then walks.
Self runs and often balks.
Love hears when someone calls.
Self is deaf when someone calls.
Love lifts when someone falls. Self

