

# GOOD NEWS OF SHARON

A PUBLICATION OF SHARON METHODIST CHURCH

## Let's Talk About Love



February is here, and the Valentine's season is in full swing. "Love" is in the air, for sure. For Christians, its important to know what the Bible means when it speaks of love. Did you know that in Greek philosophy there are seven different kinds of love? In our Bibles, there are three kinds of love used that are translated into the English word, love: eros, phileo, and agape. Eros love is romantic love, most appropriately displayed within the context of a monogamous relationship between a woman and a man who are married. Eros love is passionate and often expressed in physical ways. Eros was not used by any of the New Testament writers addressing the Church who wrote primarily in Greek, but eros love can be seen throughout the Old Testament. Any adult who reads the Song of Solomon, for example, will not miss the eros love being described by the author toward his lover. I think that Song of Solomon might be the first Valentine ever written.

Phileo love, most displayed within the context of a deep friendship or siblingship, is the love of close friends for one another. Phileo can be defined as deep affection and commonness of spirit. In the Old Testament, phileo love can be seen in the relationship between the warriors David and Jonathan who pledged their love for one another with an oath. In the New Testament, members of early church communities were encouraged to greet each other with a holy kiss in the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood and to serve one another. This is phileo love in the church.

It is important to note that phileo love is often conditional. For example, in a relationship someone might have the attitude, "I will love you as long as you provide for my needs," or "I will love you as long as you always agree with me and support my choices." The recent social media practice of people "unfriending" others is a good example of how phileo love can work. On a personal note, I have recently experienced several people who used to tell me that they loved me make the choice to unfriend me, both on social media and in real life. Evidently, our love was that phileo kind of love to them. My heart hurts a little about this, but the Lord is helping me to heal.

... continue on reading on page 2

## Upcoming Events

**February 2**  
**Methodist**  
**Men's Mtg**

**6:00 PM**  
**(Fellowship Hall)**

**February 9**  
**Methodist**  
**Men's Break-**  
**fast**

**8:00 AM**  
**(Fellowship Hall)**

**February 9**  
**Missions**  
**Outreach Mtg**

**6:00 PM**  
**(Choir Room)**

**February 14**  
**Gratitude**  
**Journaling**

**4:30 PM**  
**(Fellowship Hall)**

**February 16**  
**Methodist**  
**Women's Mtg**

**7:00 PM**  
**(The Crossing)**

**February 22**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**Service**

**7:00 PM**  
**(at SMC)**

Agape love is the gold standard kind of love for disciples of Jesus Christ. The best way to define agape love is unconditional love. It is a love that is made by choice of will and is not easily breached by life circumstances the way phileo love can be. Agape love puts the needs of others ahead of our own. It is the kind of love that most parents have for their children, and it is the kind of love that Jesus has for us. Agape love was on full display in Jesus' Parable of the Prodigal Son found in Luke Chapter 15. After taking his inheritance early and leaving his father to waste his inheritance on wild and loose living, the prodigal decided to return to his father and beg to be made his father's slave. When the father saw his son, he ran out to meet him, ordered a ring to be put on his finger, a robe to be placed on his shoulders and a welcome home banquet thrown in honor of his return. This kind of grace is what unconditional agape love looks like. Of course, the cross is the ultimate act of agape love ever shown. Hear it in Jesus' own words found in John 15; "Greater love has no man than this, to lay down one's life for his friends."

I pray that you will experience much love during this month of February and beyond. We have all freely been given love by the grace of God. Let's freely offer God's unconditional love to the people in our lives and see what God does with that.

In God's Love,  
Pastor Jim

### **OUTREACH from Debbie Kirby. Team Leader**



God tells us to follow him and be fishers of men. Jesus only asks of us to share the good news of God's love to others. We have so many who are hurting and some of those have never reached out to God's love. As God's church, it is his will for us to demonstrate that love and reach out to let them know that we are a church family that cares. Prayerfully consider and pray for the ways that Sharon Methodist Church can best serve those in need of God's love and for him to send us those individuals.

So Come and See what God has in store for us this year. If you served on Evangelism Outreach last year or want to join this ministry in 2023 just come and see at our February 9th Planning Meeting in the Choir Room at 6:00 PM. I am so excited to focus more on this ministry 2023. Get ready to be blessed !! "Come and See," Debbie Kirby, Team Leader





## The Lay Person's Corner

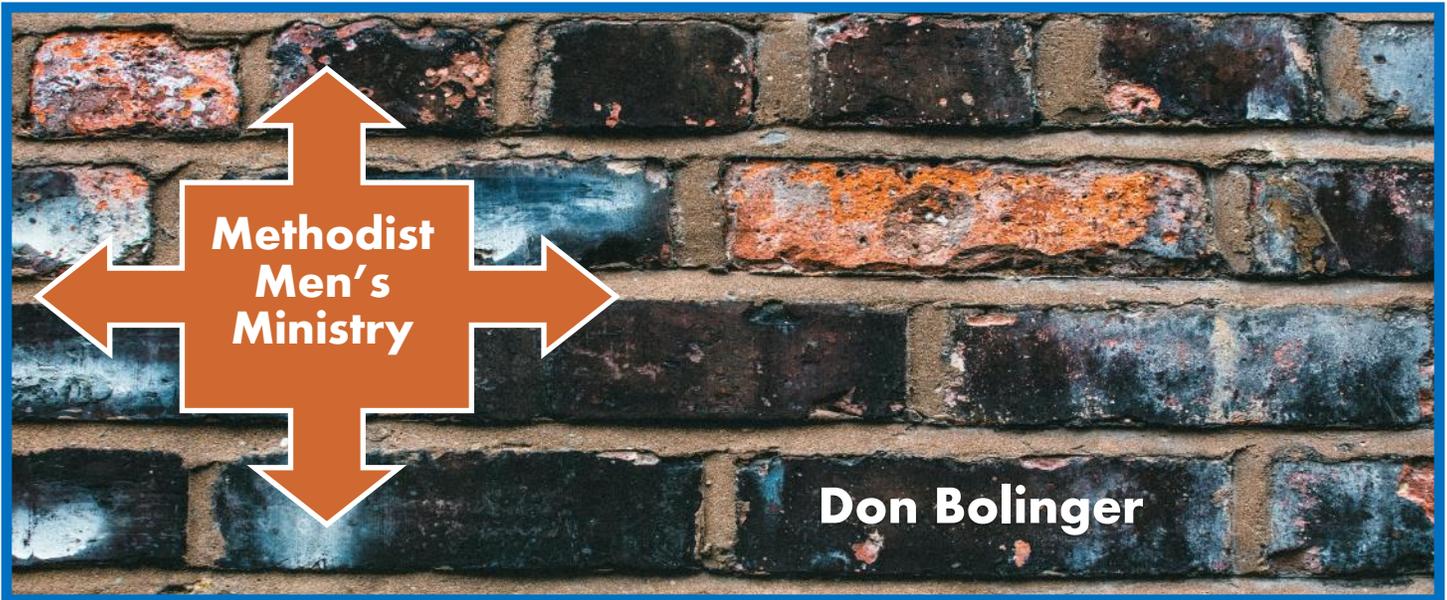
Don Bolinger

The holidays are behind us and we are now a little more than half way through the first month of 2023 and one would think that we can take a breather. Wellllllll! Not so. Even though all requirements for disaffiliation have met UM Conference requirements and we have been accepted into the fledgling Global Methodist Church, the work is just beginning. Along with other information about our new affiliation in the newsletter, I will try to keep you up to date with new happenings in the Lay Persons Corner.

I have heard some questions about how much the various programs in the past will change and what will it mean in worship and volunteer opportunities. During our discussions at the January Leadership Board meeting, it became apparent that there will be even more opportunities to not only take part in worship, but there will be outreach activities and options to serve in even more areas as this year progresses and the years to follow. One of the main thrusts for the whole of Sharon will be to come up with ways of effective communication church wide where we can inform each other, as well as our visitors, of what it means to '....reflect the character of Christ' through our programs of outreach in the Church and community. As it has been said, 'no man is an island,' it will take all of us to make Sharon Church be all that God wants us to be.

You may have noticed some of the changes in regard to our Sharon Church logo taking place. To name a few, the lettering on the van and bus now read Sharon Methodist Church, the flame is gone from the cross on the Sanctuary outside wall, church printed materials now carry the logo of the Global Methodist Church. What hasn't changed is that we are still a caring, loving congregation full of hugs, handshakes and smiles and let's keep it that way. Yes, this is a time of 'New Beginnings,' as the hymn says, and Sharon Church will be the recipients of blessings coming down as our prayers go up while following the pathways of life sharing the love of Jesus.

Thirty and Thanks.



### **CATCHING THE VISION 2023**

It looks like the Sharon Methodist Men (SMM) has a tall order to fill this upcoming year if we are to live out our charge as given in our January devotion to, "...respond to God's call to be faithful in our works to fellow Christians and to the community that he has placed Sharon Methodist Church in".

The voted for funds to be transferred to assist in the Sharon disaffiliation costs were to be transferred to the church accounts this month. Our past and current treasurer(s) are to meet with the finance committee to make this transfer. There are other tasks ahead as we are in the process of getting new checks ordered and we'll be banking at First in Shallotte, retitling the van and bus and helping where we can to complete the tasks associated with becoming a member of the Global Methodist Church.

With changes being made in our affiliation status we will also be looking into expanding the camp funding ministry to include new camps which will be under the GMC umbrella. It was suggested that we work to develop a brochure describing all available church camp opportunities. A church camp committee has been started with Pastor Jim Pegan and B. Swaggy heading up this team.

Our fund raisers are the backbone of what we can do to help out the missions of Sharon. There were two other committees started with Larry Sellers and Doc Ferrell taking on the task of securing 3 new deep fryers and Scott Anderson and Berry Cook are heading up the Boston Butt project. There will be more to come in the coming months on these teams and there will be a call go out to the congregation of Sharon to help pull these off. Participation by Sharon folks has been great in the past and I know people will step up again.

Again, I would like to invite the men from our church family to come out and join our group. We meet every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month for a meal and fellowship starting at 6pm. If you are a morning person, please join us on the second Thursday at 8am for breakfast and prayer discussion. Yep! We do live up to the Methodist tradition that, "when the Methodist met, the Methodist et and if they hadn't et they wouldn't have met" Come join us on February 2nd and February 9th.

## Sharon Methodist Women

The Sharon Methodist Women had their first meeting of the year, with new officers elected for 2023.

Pictured left to right are: (seated) Shirley Huffstetler, Treasurer; (standing) Teresa Anderson, Secretary; Kim Todd, President; Helen Hamer, Devotions; Suvon Simmons, Cards; (not pictured) Nancy Bollinger, Vice President.

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. Our Vision is to join God in a journey of bringing new life, reconciliation, and the presence of Christ to all people, and to helping each person reflect the character of Christ.



The Sharon Methodist Women will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. We would like to invite all of the women of Sharon Methodist Church to join us!



**NEW**

We are excited to share ... Our Daily Bread is a NEW devotional that is accessible to all and it's FREE. We have large print and small print available. Lives are being changed by readers just like you and around the world by participating in a daily devotional.

FINANCE FACTS  
January 2023

MATTHEW 25:21

Funds Defined:

Know before you give...

Pastor's Discretionary Fund - is for the pastor to confidentially help the poor and needy.

Policies and procedures are maintained by the Finance Team.

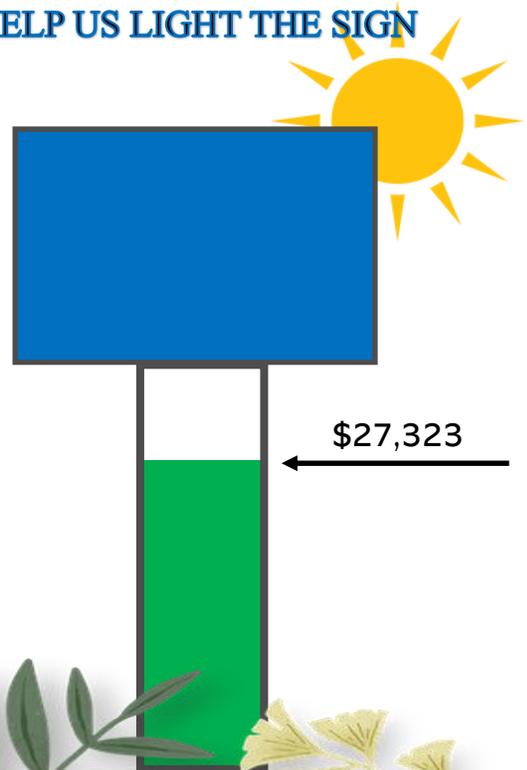


BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN A FAITHFUL STEWARD TO MANAGE A SMALL SUM, NOW I WILL PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF MUCH, MUCH MORE.

**HELP US LIGHT THE SIGN**

The Facilities Team continues to look for donations to replace our existing sign with a digital sign. We are Three Quarters of the way to our goal of \$35,000.

We request you prayerfully consider donating to this effort over and above your normal giving. Thank you!





UPDATE

Update your email contact information — the staff has New Email Addresses:

Pastor Jim:  
pastor@sharonmethodist.org

Jackie Leonard:  
finance@sharonmethodist.org

Myra Adams:  
admin@sharonmethodist.org

A mother had taught her lil' boy to always bow your head and pray, no matter where you are when you see horrific happenings.

The two of them were traveling one day when they came upon a bad accident in the middle of the road. Gasping, the mother asked her son to pray. His prayer... "dear God, please don't let those vehicles block the entrance to McDonalds."

Witticism from Belinda



Contact the Church Office:  
(910) 842-2929

# Nursery

Each Sunday the Nursery is staffed with a wonderful Volunteer that has completed our Safe Sanctuary training.

The Nursery is provided for children from babies to age 5 and is always open during Church Services. Parents are welcome to stay with their children in the Nursery, even though there is an assigned volunteer. Please know your child is always welcome in the Sanctuary during Church services as well. Your Church Family enjoys the sound of children! There are activity boxes located in the rear of the Church.

Many T H A N K S to the Volunteers who are staffing the Nursery during Sunday service at 10:00 AM.



Sit  
WITH  
Me

Cards are available at both entrances, please take and invite someone to "Sit With Me" for our Worship service.





February 22nd

A Combined Ash Wednesday Service with Brunswick Islands Baptist Church at Sharon Methodist Church - 7:00 PM

Sundays

9:00 AM Sunday School (for All Ages)  
10:00 AM Worship

Mondays

9:00 AM TOPS (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 PM Boy Scouts (The Crossing)

Tuesdays

8:00 AM Prayer Group (Choir room)  
9:30 AM KALEIDOSCOPE  
(Central Meeting room)  
6:30 PM Praise Band (Sanctuary)

Wednesdays

10:30 AM GMC Orientation  
6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper  
6:45-7:20 PM GMC Orientation  
7:30 PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Thursdays

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry  
(Central Meeting Room)

Wednesdays & Fridays

10:00 AM Noon "One-Can" Food Pantry Ministry

**The Rose of Sharon**

Tuesday & Thursday-Saturday - OPEN

10:00 AM-4:00 PM Rose of Sharon Thrift Store

Wednesday - OPEN

12:00 Noon -4:00 PM Rose of Sharon Thrift Store

Tuesday-Friday

10:00 AM-2:00 PM Rose of Sharon Thrift Store  
Donations are accepted, or by appointment

ONCE A MONTH ...

- :: **First Thursday**—Methodist Men Meeting at 6:00 PM (Fellowship Hall)
- :: **Second Thursday**—Methodist Men’s Prayer Breakfast at 8:00 AM (Fellowship Hall)
- :: **Second Tuesday**—Brunswick Family Assistance (The Crossing) 9:30 a. to 11:45 a.
- :: **Second Tuesday** Gratitude Journaling—4:30 PM (Fellowship Hall)
- :: **Third Thursday** Sharon Methodist Women Meeting at 7:00 PM (Fellowship Hall)
- :: **Third Monday** Facilities Team Meeting—7:00 PM (Sanctuary Conference Room)
- :: **Fourth Tuesday** Finance Team Meeting at 7:00 PM (Choir Room)
- :: **Fourth Thursday** Bowling at 7:00 PM Planet Fun of Shallotte

## CHECK US OUT ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB



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Opportunity!

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and provide your Email ad-  
dress to receive an invite from

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