

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

February 2023

Give More Than Love

Valentine's Day is traditionally a romantic day on the February calendar to express our love to the ones dear to our hearts with starry-eyed cards, gifts of jewelry, candy, and flowers. It is a day set aside on the secular calendar to express our love to those we love with all our hearts – and it's all good!

You may have heard it said that love is the answer to the world's problems. If you are a baby-boomer, like me, you will remember the popular 1967 song, "All You Need Is Love" by the English rock band, the Beatles. Great song but is 'all we really need is love' really true?

The lyrics of this song sure sound good; but do nothing to stop all the hate, war, deception, and contention in this world. Couldn't we all use a little more love? What could possibly be wrong with love?

Actually, a lot can go wrong with 'love' without Jesus Christ. Love can be perverted, distorted, and used for evil.

For instance, who does not know that the love of money is the root of all evil? **"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, then have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through many sorrows."** (I Timothy 6:10).

The Corinthian's were living in love of fleshly indulgence: **"Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body."**

(Continued on Page 2)



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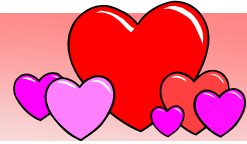
**Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims
Kathleen Smith, Editor**

All Are Welcome!

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday Messages available on website:
(www.avalongracechurch.com)
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM**

**"And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . ."
- Ephesians 3:9**

Give More Than Love *(continued from page 1)*



And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of a harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. (I Corinthians 6:13-16)

What's wrong with love and happiness, if it does not harm anyone?

Well, our apostle Paul called it sin that did not glorify God: **"Flee fornication; every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." (I Corinthians 6:18)**

The Scriptures declare that sinners can love each other without God, live darkened lives in love, and love pleasure more than God: **"For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? For sinners also love those that love them." (Luke 6:32)**

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19)

The truth is that, although Valentine's Day is a day to pause and express our love in very meaningful ways – the reality is that people – all around us – perish if they do not love the truth:

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." (II Thessalonians 2:10)

Christ alone is how God demonstrated his love toward us in Him: **"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)**

If you want to show someone godly love on Valentine's Day or any day – please share the love of our Lord Jesus Christ with them and pray for them; pray that God would open their minds and hearts to hear His Word. Pray that God would send 'workers' into their lives and that they would have ears to hear. Speak the truth to them gently in love and share how the LORD saved you and changed your life:

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ . . . " (Ephesians 4:15)

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them* . . ." (II Timothy 3:14)

Wishing everyone joy, peace, and our Savior's love this February of 2023.

Pastor Phil

Reflections

by Frances Gregory Pasch

My back may be a little bent,

But I'm thankful I can walk.

My words a little slow at times,

But I'm glad that I can talk.

My legs are full of spider veins,

But they get me everywhere

My hair has turned from black to gray,

But I'm glad that it's still there.

I need to wear my glasses

But I'm grateful I can see,

My bones, at times, are creaky;

But I have mobility.

But as long as I can get around,

I'm as thankful as can be.

And I still hope that I'll be here

When I'm a hundred and three.

Valentine Day Reflections . . .



As a baby boomer from Northeast Philadelphia, PA who went to parochial grammar school, classrooms were notoriously overcrowded and our teachers (mostly nuns) were strict yet caring. You learned respect, empathy, kindness, and how to share a desk. Children learned to value what little they had or received. Life was very simple; life was very good. Back then we had three pairs of shoes: one pair for church, one pair for school, and one pair of sneakers for play and hand-me-down rubber boots in the winter.

Valentine's Day activities in the classroom began a week before Valentine's Day. We would take turns decorating a large cardboard box with wrapping paper, paper doilies, cut-out colored hearts, and ribbon. The box was like a mail box where all the kids dropped their Valentine cards through the slot at the top of the box. It was an exciting and fun time for grammar school baby boomers. The decorated box would be placed in a prominent spot in the front of the classroom, and students were asked to drop their Valentine cards for their classmates in the box.

When Valentine's Day arrived, a specially selected student was chosen by merit to open the box and hand-deliver the Valentines to all the children at their desks. Such excitement and delight filled the classroom as we eagerly waited for our Valentine Day cards . . . laughing, giggling, and smiling as we all opened them together.

There was no party or refreshments on Valentine's Day back then; rather, our delight and joy was simply receiving these little gems of well wishes and love from our classmates and friends. I remember

getting cards from my friends as well as some who I did not know very well, then running home after school with all my Valentine treasures to show my mom!



Yep . . . love those baby boomer memories! Hope you have great memories too!

Blessings, Kathleen Smith

"And now these three things remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

(1 Corinthians 13:13)

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

"Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose." (Philippians 2:1-2)

PROPOSAL

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD. – HOSEA 2: 19-20 KJV

President's Day - How it all started

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation declaring February 22nd a day of remembrance and celebration honoring our first president, George Washington. A Federal holiday on February 22nd was officially passed into law in 1879.

Like Independence Day, Presidents' Day is traditionally viewed as a time of patriotic celebration and remembrance. In its original incarnation as President George Washington's Birthday, the holiday gained special meaning during the difficulties of the Great Depression, when portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln often graced the front pages of newspapers and magazines every February 12th (Lincoln) and 22nd (Washington).

A number of states also require that their public schools spend the days leading up to Presidents' Day teaching students about the accomplishments of former Presidents.

Until 1968, Washington's Birthday had always been celebrated on February 22nd. It was tradition and a powerful reminder of the man who helped create the country we have today in the United States.

On June 28, 1968, Congress passed the "Uniform Monday Holiday Act". This law was to provide uniform annual observances of certain legal public holidays on Mondays. The act was also created to provide federal employees with more three-day weekends. Under this new law, Washington's birthday would be celebrated on the third Monday of February, partially losing the value and identity of the importance of his birthday. Washington's birthday has not been celebrated on the actual day of his birth since the law took effect in 1971.

This year, President's day is Monday, February 20th. Banks are closed as well as all Federal offices, including the US Postal Service. Public schools are closed as well. It is interesting to note that Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin do not observe President's day even though it is a national holiday.



*President George Washington
2/22/1732 – 12/14/1799*



*President John Adams
10/30/1735 – 7/4/1826*



*President Thomas Jefferson
4/13/1743 – 7/4/1826*

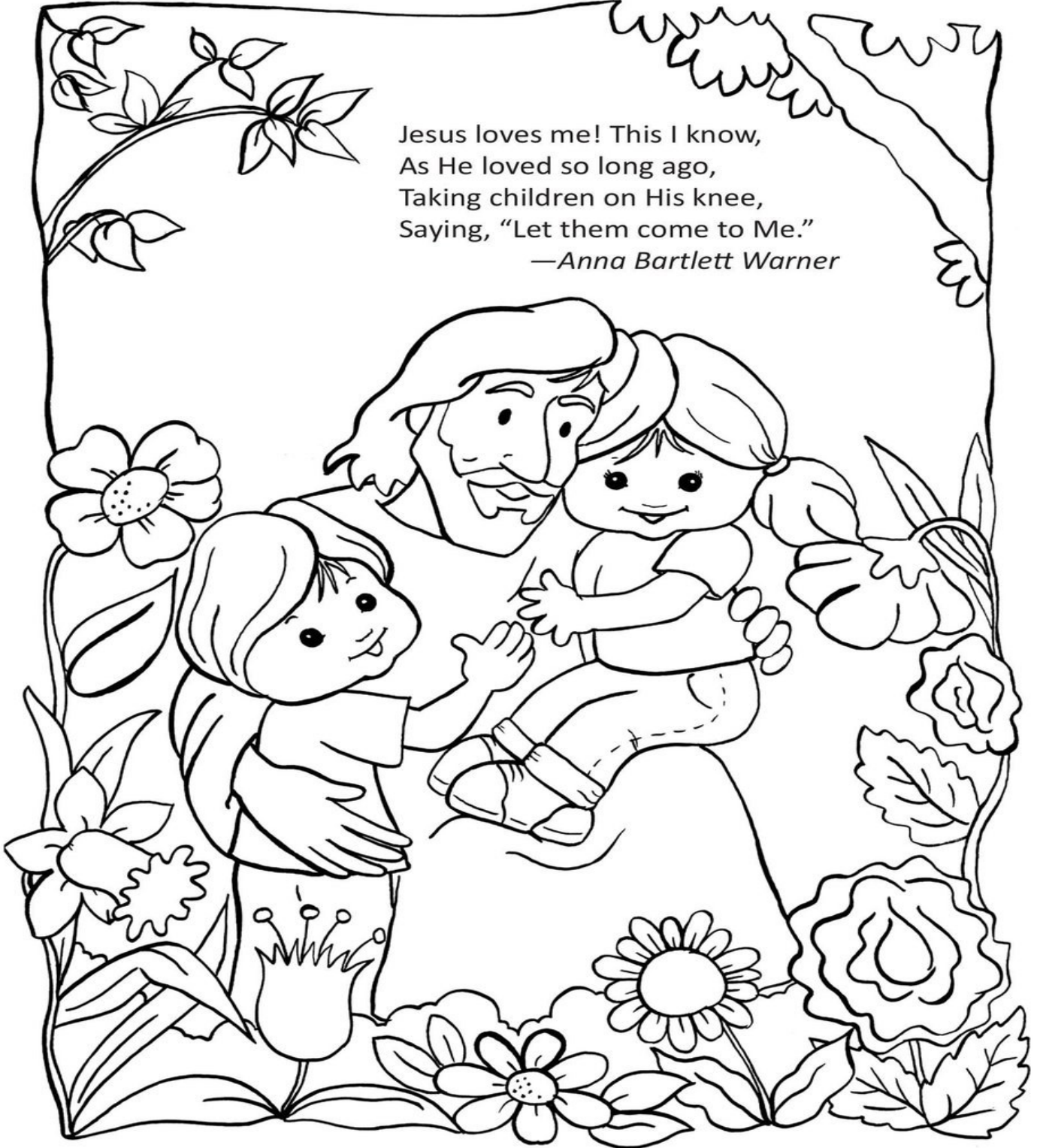


*President Abraham Lincoln
2/12/1809 – 4/15/1865*

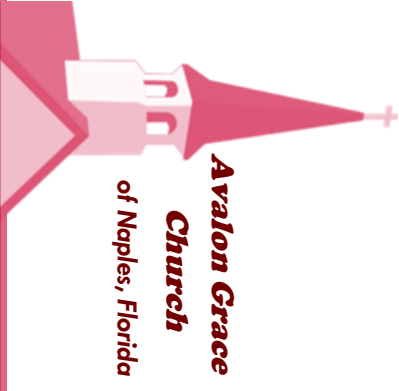
Coloring for Jesus

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me."

—Anna Bartlett Warner

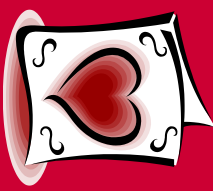


But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. - John 19:14



**Avalon Grace
Church**
of Naples, Florida

February 2023



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Groundhog Day

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**



5 9:45 Sunday
Breakfast
10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School

FEBRUARY

6th Phillip McClellan
26th Olivia McClellan



VALENTINE'S DAY

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School
**SUPER
BOWL**



1 2 1 3 1 4 1 5 1 6 1 7 1 8

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
The LORD'S Supper
Observed
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School



PRESIDENT'S DAY
OBSERVED



WASHINGTON'S
BIRTHDAY

2 6 2 7 2 8

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School

COMING IN MARCH 2023
5th 9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast