

GRADUATES

This is a wonderful time of year as we celebrate students who have graduated from high school and college. We would

like to recognize your graduate. If you have a loved one who is a new college graduate, please provide us their name, the school they graduated from, and the degree they received. Visit www.frontstreetumc.org/features to complete an online graduate form, or call the church office by **Tuesday, May 28**. We will include the list of 2019

graduates in the June newsletter. Thank you.

CLASS
of
2019

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LOVE ALONE IS CREDIBLE CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

Julian, wrote roughly a century later about how Christians were taking better care of the poor than his government and pagan priests were sharing meals and resources and medical care with those in need. Amazing! I think it's wonderful for us to stand in awe of these ancient witnesses so long as we don't romanticize them. It would be a mistake to think that same love doesn't also belong to us now since we belong to Christ just as they do.

John casts this same vision of how God's love grows in us, in our communities, in God's world: "Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts in God's presence." Christians are to love each other with action and truth, each other meaning anyone whom God places in our path, friend or foe. A serious challenge for sure, but the deeper challenge of this Scripture is that we learn first how to rest in God's first love for us, so that our very imperfect lives might become channels of God's very perfect love for others. God's love invites us to slow down and learn first who we are before we learn what we are to do.

Love is God's only, ongoing mission. Not many people know that they are loved without any conditions or limits. That should trouble us because some of those people are among us—they are us. They are also the people we encounter every day, as well as those suffering whom we ignore. Without God's shadow-less love leading me, no matter what I say, what I do, or what I believe, I'm bankrupt. Love alone is credible my friends.

– Pastor Patrick

FRONTLINE
(USPS 021-256)
Published bi-weekly except June, July, August &
December which will be published monthly.
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FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry
of Front Street UMC



May 2, 2019 Volume MMXIX No. 9

LOVE ALONE IS CREDIBLE

Read 1 John 3:1–24

"The person who does not love remains in death." These words mean exactly what they say: whoever does not love stays dead. John offers this challenge to his community of believers as they struggle to care for one another and stick together. If you read the letter we call 1 John at length, you pick up on the fact that he's writing to a church he deeply cares about, but that is also deeply flawed. The language John uses throughout the letter always circles back to God's love and our living or not living in that love.

Love as a word or concept is something we use loosely to mean many things. When we think "love," usually we mean love of the romantic variety. Portrayals of love come to us in the form of movies, television, internet, and real life experiences, and most of the time those portrayals teach us to see love in a very particular way. Love, however, encompasses a much broader reality than the practice of our sexuality or the sentimentality we feel in our emotional capacities. John wants us to understand that love as God means it encompasses a much more robust reality.

Yet so many good and so many really bad things are done in the name of love, and that begs the question of how can we trust the efforts of love we put forward?

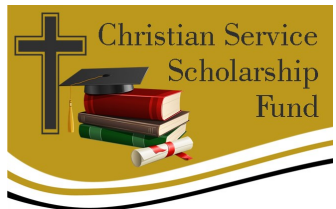
One of the earliest theologians of the church, a North African named Tertullian, notes the way that critics of Christian faith recognized the difference Jesus made in the way they lived. He quotes them as saying, "See how they love one another. See how they are ready even to die for one another." Another ancient voice, a Roman Emperor named

(continued)

A LOOK AHEAD:

KNOWING CHRIST

CHRISTIAN SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY, MAY 26

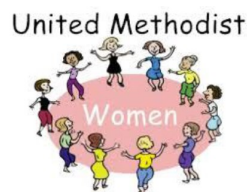


Rev. Audrey Cecil Wilder, a former recipient of the scholarship, will deliver the message. Since 2002, your contributions to the Christian Service Scholarship Fund have provided more than \$139,000 in assistance.

GROWING IN CHRIST

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Circles 1, 2, and 4 will meet on **Monday, May 6** at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. A musical program will be presented by the children with our luncheon following in Aldersgate at 11:30. Circle 5 will meet on **Tuesday, May 14**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Center. The meeting will include a salad supper. All women are invited to join us as our guests at both meetings. Contact Doris Jefferson at 336-228-0130 for additional information.



SHARING CHRIST

WHEELCHAIR RAMP MINISTRY

Join our Wheelchair Ramp Ministry Team on their next build scheduled for **Saturday, May 4** at 8:30 a.m. All youth and adults are welcome. On-site training is provided and no experience is necessary. Contact Tom Sineath for details: tom.sineath@gmail.com.

CEREAL SUNDAY



Don't forget **May 5** is Cereal Sunday at FSUMC! Please deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center. Thank you for helping stock the food pantry at the Salvation Army.

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING



Please support the Mother's Day offering on **Sunday, May 12**. This offering raises funds to provide benevolent care to those residents within the United

Methodist Retirement Homes communities, whose resources have been depleted. Offering envelopes will be provided.

GREETERS NEEDED

Front Street UMC is hosting a conference for rural pastors on **May 14 and 15**. We are still in need of four more greeters from 8:30-10:30 a.m. on Wednesday. A small team of volunteers is needed to help serve lunch. Contact Cynthia Powell at cdpowell54@gmail.com or text 336-2147699 for details or to volunteer.



OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

We are searching for someone to assume the duties of head collector at the 11 a.m. Sunday service for the months of May, September, and January. This person needs to be in the narthex between 10:45 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. on the aforementioned Sundays, and sign up collectors as they enter the church. The task is not difficult. Anyone who applies is more than capable. Please call Phil Minton for more information, 336-584-1722.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS



The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one: **June 30, August 11, and September 1, 8, and 29**. For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or kpaul5@triad.rr.com (email).

FRONTLINE—SUMMER EDITIONS

In the months of June, July, and August, we will publish ONE edition of Frontline monthly. Our online newsletter, the Front Street Happenings, will continue on its regular schedule. Please submit any article for inclusion in *Frontline* by the following dates:

June 5 ♦ July 3 ♦ July 31

Please email information to pamela@frontstreetumc.org or drop the articles by the church office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Prayers

Continued prayers for:

- **Cathy Jones**
- **Tina Manning**

Thank You

Front Street UMC,

Thank you so much for your very generous and on-going support of the Salvation Army and our mission. A lot of people would go hungry without your love and support. Thank you so much!
The Salvation Army

Special Gifts

Allied Churches

*In memory of Stewart Crank by
Don & June West*

Children's Ministry

*In honor of Marcy McAdams by
Buddy & Lisa Smith*

Haiti Student Sponsorship - Genesis Class

*In memory of Stewart Crank by
David Hedgecock*

Youth Missions

*In honor of Chris Huneycutt by
Buddy & Lisa Smith*

FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE

YTD Actual Giving - \$417,970.08
YTD Budgeted Giving - \$425,365.16

STAFF

Senior Pastor
Ross Carter

Pastor of Discipleship
Patrick Murphy

Youth Minister
Chris Huneycutt

Director of Children's Ministry
Marcy McAdams

Organist/Director of Music
Matt Brittain

Choirmaster
Laura Sam

Director of Aldersgate Music
Clay Stevenson

Finance Manager
Tammy Page

Administrative Assistant
Pamela Shields

Communications Coordinator
Joanna Strelow

Office Assistant
Heather Carson

Building Superintendent
Jackie Long

Maintenance
Joe Peloquin
Zach Mace

Playschool/Babies Morning Out Director
Rebecca Hurdle

Afterschool Director
Catherine Mills