

# The Lily Pad



**“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.”**

Solomon 2:1



## *February - The Age of Aquarius*

Dear Members and Friends,

January is surely the most virtuous month of the year. In January, people eat healthier, exercise more, pray more, and spend less time on the Internet than at any other time of the year—even Lent. Why? Because in January, we're still trying to keep all of our New Year's resolutions. February? The year's second

month is less ambitious than its older sibling. By the time February rolls around, either our resolutions have established themselves as new habits or, more likely, they've gone by the wayside. The almond milk starts to go bad in the fridge. The in-home treadmill sits untouched. In order to develop new ways of thinking and living, we need regular disciplined exposure. Otherwise, we fall back into the same old default postures that we've developed over the decades.

*“We love because He first loved us.”* Those words from 1 John 4:19 provide the motivation, example and framework for loving others. Jesus told His disciples, “A new command I give you, love one another as I have loved you.” As **Valentine's Day** approaches this month, we focus on what do I need to do to make sure the others in my life know that I love them.

We usually start at the wrong place when it comes to trying to think of how to make others in our lives know that we love them. We first need to discover what love really is. Notice that many times, when it comes to our definition of love, it is self-centered and self-focused. That's not real Love!

1 John 3:16 says, *“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”* Real love is sacrificial and unconditional. This **Valentine's Day**, think of how you can show your love for others in the same way Christ loves you. This month take time most of all, to share the love of Christ with others.

Particularly, take time to share with them the Good News of God's love in sending Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. Invite others to come celebrate God's love with you on Sundays here at 5th Avenue United Methodist Church. Bring them with you to our Wonderful Wednesday Community Meal (12 February 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.).

We will mark the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday Service, 26 February 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend! All are welcomed! The name of the day comes from the custom that churchgoers are marked on the forehead with a cross of ash to symbolize death and regret for past sins. The pastor will accompany the marking with a recital of Genesis 3:19 - *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"*.



Black History Month (1 – 29 February 2020) is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month. The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States.



*Jeannette Rankin and Crystal*

Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

The Black History Month 2020 theme, "African Americans and the Vote," is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) granting women's suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) giving black men the right to vote.

**From OUR Hearts to *YOURS***

**Happy Valentine's Day**

*Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martín*



*Mart, our anniversary is not just a celebration of our wedding day. It is the celebration of being married to an awesome guy like you.*

*February 17th: thank you for 37 amazingly incredible years and for all the big and little ways you make our life together so great!*