

### LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

Rev. Dr. M. Bruce Irwin

### Isn't that the very definition of love: "Love that will not let me go"?

February is traditionally the month when we celebrate LOVE. The Greek language has three words which are translated into English as love. First is "eros" which is romantic love. Second is "philos" which is brotherly love. Third is "Agape" which is self -giving love that was best seen in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Of all of the words explaining the nature of Christianity, the word "LOVE" is the most important.

Jesus teaches us that all of the laws of the Old Testament are best kept by obeying two new commandments: "Love God and Love Your Neighbor". People throughout history have always found ways to get around, or argue against, laws. But by loving God and others all of the time, you will always act correctly. You can't make a mistake loving. Yes, your love must be pure and not influenced by other motives. Often love gets complicated! Love is not just mushy. Sometimes love is misunderstood. Love is not always easy. Many times, love is hard! Jesus teaches us to even love those who disrespect us. Jesus tells us to love our enemies! Jesus teaches us that "agape" love often requires forgiveness, reconciliation, and acceptance. Living a life of Love is the Way of God that brings hope, peace, justice, and new life on earth and in the time to come.

"For God so LOVED the world that God GAVE God's only begotten Son." (John 3:16.) God's love for us is a gift that we can count on every hour of every day no matter what we do or what happens to us. God's agape love is a love that will not let us go. Look at page 606 in our hymnal. The words of this hymn speak such important truth. "O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee." God's love heals us, rescues us, and sustains us throughout all of our journey of life.

Just as God gave Christ to us, we need to give back to others: LOVE GOD and LOVE ALL OTHERS no matter what! This is the new WAY of living that Jesus taught us.

### REDISCOVER THE MEANING OF LOVE THIS FEBRUARY!

Glades Presbyterian Church 21121 Judge Winikoff Road Boca Raton, Florida 33428

## **Glades' Events for February 2023**

Men's Group, 7pm
Bible Study, 1130am
Boca Helping Hands, 830am
Worship, 1030am
Healing meeting (after Worship), 1145am
Bible Study, 1130am
Boca Helping Hands, 830am
Worship, 1030am
Bible Study, 1130am
Bible Study, 1130am
Boca Helping Hands, 830am

## **Glades' Celebrations for February 2023**

- 6. Laura Dorn's birthday
- 13. Gretchen Schrieber's birthday
- 15. Bob Garlanger's birthday
- 24. Beth Diente's birthday
- 26. Jackie Berman's birthday
- 27. Don Hulse's birthday

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### **DEACONS' CARE GROUPS**

#### Laurie Jenkins - 561-487-4255

Lisa Roubian Jim & Celeste Hamilton Terri Dorsey Marilou Lehner Wayne & Hortense Walker Laura Dorn

Linda Williams - 954-240-4785

Edith Vislocky Bill Eltringham Laurie & John Jenkins IV Ryan Bullock Carmen Gomez Gretchen Schrieber Ellie Wan

Tracy Garlanger - 954-471-3443

Eric, Ellen, Addison & Ryan Armstrong Lee Henderson Mimi Dookhan & Family

Karen Sanchez - 561-573-6380

Linda Fabiani

#### Pat Wilkins - 561-299-8793

Terry, Cheryl, & Ryan Crout Gail Bower Linda Williams Beverly Newland

Edith Vislocky - 561-406-5730

Neyda Rodriguez Ed & Brenda Romeo Tracy Garlanger Jackie Davies Frank & Liz Romeo Karen Sanchez

#### Carmen Gomez - 561-768-6442

Cathy & Dan Wantz Pat Wilkins Rowena Avrich Lauren Romeo Ozcan Feyziolglo Santosh & Lalitha Mathen Dawn Williams-Colozzi Didi Dreary Beth Diente Francisco & Ann Presuel

#### Dawn Williams-Colozzi - 704-787-3761

Babbs Dahms Don & Elaine Hulse Renata Trager

### **Elders:**

<u>Class of 2023</u>: Rowena Avrich & Ed Romeo <u>Class of 2024</u>: Bill Eltringham & Marilou Lehner <u>Class of 2025</u>: Jim Hamilton & Gretchen Schrieber

#### **Deacons:**

<u>Class of 2023</u>: Carmen Gomez & Laurie Jenkins <u>Class of 2024:</u> Tracy Garlanger & Edith Vislocky <u>Class of 2025</u>: Linda Williams & Pat Wilkins & Karen Sanchez & Dawn Williams-Colozzi

### If you have any needs or questions, please contact your Deacon.

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# **Healing Prayer Meeting:**

A monthly healing prayer meeting (on Communion Sundays) will be held immediately after the service. All who need healing prayer or support are encouraged to attend. The meeting should last approximately 15 minutes. It is facilitated by Elder Terry Crout.

# Men's Group:

Every other Thursday evening at 7pm, men from Glades and other nearby churches meet at local restaurants to discuss Christian topics. To find out where the next meeting will be held, please call or text Jim Hamilton at 954-621-5993.

# **Boca Helping Hands:**

Every Saturday at 830am, Glades' members and other volunteers gather at CrossBridge Church (located at the corner of 441 & Judge Winikoff Rd.) to hand out bags of food to the needy. Please consider becoming a part of this important food ministry.

Prayer contact: gladespc.usa@gmail.com

Emergency contact: Laurie Jenkins, 561-488-9434

<u>Glades Presbyterian Church</u> 2<u>1121 Judge Winikoff Rd.</u> <u>Boca Raton, Florida 33428</u> 561-477-4898 <u>Email: gladespc.usa@gmail.com</u> <u>Website: www.gladeschurch.com</u>

## **Photos From January 2023**

We thank Pastor Karla Dias for being our Pulpit Pastor on New Year's Day!

Here, Pastor Bruce Irwin is listening to a prayer request from Linda Williams.





Everyone is enjoying the flutists who are accompanying Renata's organ and piano music. Thank you Dawn Colozzi-Williams and Lydia Trager!



