

CENTRAL Chimes

Central Presbyterian Church

P E T E R S B U R G , I L L I N O I S



God is Love: 5 Implications of This Amazing Attribute of God

Cortney Whiting, May 17, 2021

1 John 4:8 describes one of God's primary attributes as love. "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." This verse does not define God as love; it describes God's love as permeating His essence in all He is and all He does. As for today's headlines tout stories of scandal, tragedy, and war; believers can be confident knowing all they need is God's love. Theologian A.W. Tozer once stated, "Nothing God ever does, or ever did, or ever will do, is separate from the love of God." Everything He has ever done has been out of love. Here are several key implications that this attribute – God is love – that is for all people today.

1. We can trust in God's Love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 gives several descriptions of love: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

At the core of these qualities is the unwavering and unfailing aspect of love. God has proven this nature about Himself to humanity throughout the ages. He has maintained a covenantal relationship with humanity since creation. Even in our sinfulness, God continued to maintain patience with us and show us mercy. When Adam and Eve sinned, before they had to leave the garden, God lovingly provided clothing to cover their nakedness. Even through the Israelites rebellions, God maintained His covenant relationships with them. After Jonah fled from the Lord, God delivered him from death through the big fish. By looking at the faithfulness of God's love throughout history, we can trust that He will continue to act accordingly in our lives.

2. Our salvation is an expression of God's love.

The greatest demonstration of God's love was this gift of His Only Son. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believed in Him shall not perish but have eternal life," John 3:16.

God did not send Christ as a reward to the obedient, but rather as a ransom for the defiant. We see Jesus display His love throughout His life and ministry. He healed the sick without requirement of gratitude. He displayed humility even though He was King of Kings. Even while on the cross, Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of the ones who placed Him there

(John 3:16, 1 John 3:16, 4:10, Romans 5:8). Salvation is open to all who believe in Christ. God's love does not discriminate.

3. Our ability to love is enabled through God's love.

Jesus set for us the example to love and gives us the command to follow in His example (John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:16-20). When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He took the role of a servant and placed the needs of others above His own dignity. He instructed His followers to do the same. He tells to love our neighbors as well as our enemies. Yet, this task is not burdensome, for love is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). When we rest and abide in God, love outpours onto others as a result (1 John 4:7). It is through our love that the world will know that we belong to Christ.

4. We can rest in God's love.

Because God's nature is love, His love is unconditional. As He knew before creation that we would be disobedient, He chose a path to save us from our sins (Ephesians 1:4-5). This gives us hope as His children. We do not have to view God as our "Punisher-in-Chief," but rather as our Heavenly Father who has a plan and purpose for our lives. Jesus personified this message and called people into rest (Matthew 11:28-30). When we recognize that Christ is our Advocate, we can rest in assurance of God's love.

5. We Can Have Confidence in God's Love

Psalms 136 beautifully describes the love of God as unfailing. The psalmist recalls (26 times!) how in His sovereignty, the Lord upholds His creation and people in love. As we look back upon His loving faithfulness from the beginning of time, we can grow in our assurance that God will continue to vindicate His children and promote His kingdom until His plan and purpose comes to full fruition.

A prayer on Love

Father God, In the middle of the chaos we call life, may we be still enough to recognize the love you have for your creation. May we trust in Your unfailing and unconditional love. As You have loved us, may we love one another. Forgive us for the times when we have forgotten the cost of Your love, the life of Your Son, Jesus. I pray that we will live confidently today, knowing that we are Your children who You have chosen with a plan and purpose in mind. Help us live for You. In Jesus; Name, Amen. God's Love – Spoke Over You.

Salvation is How We know God is Love

Trillia Newbell talks about this in her article, "Why is Real Love So Rare?" "To truly love, we must first know God. Love starts with God and ends with God because God is love. We see this in 1 John 4:7-8. God is not physical love, but it is one of his attributes. All God does is out of love. He cannot and does not do wrong. His display of love the purest and truest there is. He loves perfectly. And because we are made in God's image, we can love. Love isn't something that is derived from within us. It is radical. It is supernatural. For the kind of love that God calls us to – the love that loves our neighbor as much as we love ourselves- that must come from Him. We cannot love like that without first being born of God."

What Do We Do With This Ability To Love?

Garry J. Williams talks about our proper response to God's love in his article, "10 Things you Should know about the Love of God." "God's love truly perceived always draws out from us a response of love. The contemplation of divine love in its biblical fullness is never something that ends in itself. Our rest in God never finds its fulfillment in ourselves but always leads us out of ourselves toward Him and toward others. The love of God is to be lived as well

as learned. The love of God for us begets love in us for Him and for others. The true word of love that we have in the bible, if we have it truly, will abide in us, and will not return empty as, by miracles of grace, we make glancing reflections of the immeasurable love of God visible to others in our own lives.”

All We Need Is Love

When life seems to spin out of control, we can look to this amazing attribute of God and realize that He holds us in His loving palm of His hand. While we could look to many other devices for comfort, satisfaction, or distraction, we must remember: All we need is love.

Cortney Whiting is a wife and mother of two wonderfully energetic children. She received her Masters of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. After serving in the church for nearly 15 years, Cortney currently serves as a lay-leader and writes for various Christian ministries. You can find her at her blog. Unveiled Graces.

Highlights of June 2021 Session Meeting

No regular Session meeting was held in June.



Committee News

Administration

No regular Admin Committee meeting was held in June. The following is a summary of the financial information.

- Pledges received are above budget this year but the overall income year to date is \$1,226.80 below budget. YTD expenses are well below budget by \$4,697.83.
- Treasurer's report and financials were presented.
- General, MMF, and Endowment funds were also presented.

Steven Territo & Jane Stephenson
Administration Committee Co-Chairs

July 11 - Fellowship Hosted By Your Deacons

Please join us July 11 after worship for Fellowship with cookies and lemonade. We will meet outside in front of the church building! Hope to see you there!

Your Deacons
Camilla Long, Chair

Experience *Adventure Island!* Coop Vacation Bible School

This year's Coop Vacation Bible School will be hosted by Petersburg United Methodist Church, July 26-30, from 6-7:45 p.m. and will kick off with registration on Monday at 5:30. The theme is "*Adventure Island.*" Bible story, music, science, and crafts will held indoors; snacks and activities will be held outside. Wild Times Exotic will bring creation story animals on Monday, Tuesday through Thursday there will be a T-shirt making craft, and all will meet at PORTA for a Pool Party on Friday night to wrap up the week.

VBS is open for children who have completed pre-K through 5th grade this past school year. Sixth through 8th graders can be junior leaders; high schoolers and adults can serve as group leaders or station leaders. Volunteers will have food provided at 5:30 each evening.

A final planning meeting will be held after church on July 18 at UMC. Wearing of face masks will be up to the parents' discretion. Registration information will be available soon. Please contact Linda Claussen or Jenna Davis (call or text 217-414-0898) with any questions or to volunteer.

Emergency Contacts

Although Central does not now have an installed pastor, members are encouraged to continue to stay connected with the church family. If you have an emergency or are in need of assistance from Central, please contact: Church Office, 217-632-2651
Camilla Long, Deacon Chair, 217-306-8086
Jane Stephenson, Clerk of Session, 217-341-7599

You are also requested to inform the church office of changes in addresses and phone numbers.

2021 Per Capita

Have you made your contribution to Per Capita for 2021? Payments to Presbytery for Central's commitment were made March through June. The Per Capita amount for each member for 2021 is \$35.25.

Chimes Deadline

Please have your articles and photos for the August *Chimes* submitted to the church office no later than **Monday, July 19!** A Microsoft Word file attached to an email is the preferred method of submission. Our email address is centralpreschurch@sbcglobal.net.

Every Sunday is Food Pantry Sunday

At this time, the Menard County Food Pantry is open only on a limited basis. The Food Pantry is staffed by volunteers on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 1 to 3 p.m.

New procedures have been put in place upon their reopening. In order to receive a food order, persons in need must contact the Menard County Community Services Office located in the Menard County Courthouse at 217-632-4412 to schedule an appointment to receive a food referral.

Food donations are needed for the two Petersburg area Food Pantries, especially the Pop-Up Pantry at County Market. Please put food items in the large basket in the Narthex to be taken to the Pop-Up Pantry.



Diaper Bank Needs

The Diaper Bank, located at the Menard County Housing office, 101 W. Sheridan Rd., Petersburg, IL 62675, is once again open to the public as of June 1. If there is a need for diapers or diaper supplies, you can either come in person or call the office at 217-632-7723.

The Senior Services Center recently moved into the Menard County Housing building and they have combined their supplies to now include adult briefs and pads. They are currently well stocked with infant diapers but are in need of size 4 and 5 diapers as well as baby wipes. Rather than purchasing items to donate, a monetary donation is always accepted.





Harvard Heart Letter

Fruit of the Month: Berries

By: Julie Corliss, Executive Editor - June 1, 2021



Even though you can buy berries year-round in most supermarkets, often these tasty fruits are even better when they're in season and freshly picked. That means summertime for many places around the country. If you're lucky, you can buy baskets of strawberries from farm stands and farmer's markets starting in June. Other berry varieties –raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, and others – ripen throughout the summer.

Strawberries and blueberries are rich in beneficial plant compounds known as anthocyanins, which give berries their vibrant red, blue, and purple hues. Several studies have linked diets with anthocyanin-rich foods to better heart health, including the landmark Nurses' Health study. Researchers found that women who ate more than three servings of blueberries or strawberries per week had a 34% lower risk of heart attack compared with those who ate fewer. Anthocyanins appear to make blood vessels more elastic and help lower blood pressure.

Berries make a delicious snack on their own, but they're also great in fruit salads, smoothies, yogurt, cereal, or even green salads. Try sliced strawberries with baby spinach, crumbled goat cheese, and toasted almonds with a raspberry vinaigrette

Image: © egal/Getty Images

July is National Ice Cream Month

From Wikipedia the free encyclopedia

National Ice Cream Month is celebrated each year in July and National Ice Cream Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in July, in the United States.

The celebrations were originated by Joint resolution 298 in the United States Senate, which was sponsored by Senator Walter Dee Huddleston of Kentucky on May 17, 1984 and Joint resolution 543 in the United States House of Representatives, which was sponsored by Representative Kika de la Garza of Texas on April 11, 1984. The resolution proclaimed the month of July 1984 as "National Ice Cream Month" and July 15, 1984, as "National Ice Cream Day". It was signed into public law^[2] by President Ronald Reagan on July 9, 1984 with Presidential Proclamation 5219.

Even though the resolution only mentioned a specific month and day in 1984, the celebrations have held up in the years ever since, publicized by ice cream manufacturers.



Grilled Pineapple Chicken

INGREDIENTS

- 1 c. unsweetened pineapple juice
- 3/4 c. ketchup
- 1/2 c. low-sodium soy sauce
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp. freshly minced ginger

- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 tsp. vegetable oil, plus more for grill
- 1 pineapple, sliced into rings & halved
- Thinly sliced green onions, for garnish



DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, whisk together pineapple juice, ketchup, soy sauce, brown sugar, garlic, and ginger until combined.
2. Add chicken to a large reseal able plastic bag and pour in marinade. Let marinate in the fridge at least 2 hours and up to overnight.
3. When ready to grill, heat grill to high. Oil grates and grill chicken, basting with marinade, until charred and cooked through, 8 minutes per side.
4. Toss pineapple with oil and grill until charred, 2 minutes per side.
5. Garnish chicken and pineapple with green onions before serving.

YIELDS: 4 SERVINGS PREP TIME: 10 MINS TOTAL TIME: 2 HOURS 25 MINS



Celebrate 74th anniversary

Raymond and Alia Montgomery celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary this week. They were married at Central Presbyterian Church on June 15th, 1947. Alia Anna Sewell was attended by her sister, Dorothy Sewell King and Raymond's best man was his brother, Kenneth Montgomery. This photo was taken in the yard of Walter Sewell, Alia's father in Petersburg after the wedding.

Cards and well wishes may be sent to the couple at PO Box 13 Petersburg, IL 62675.



On Sunday, June 27, lifetime Central member, Mary Ella Allen, was honored by her family and friends at an Open House Birthday Party. Mary Ella celebrated her 100th birthday on Tuesday, June 29.



<i>Church Attendance</i>			
June 6	26	June 20	18
June 13	20	June 27	23
Average Worship Attendance: 22			



Members:

Mary Ella Allen
 Barb Churchill
 JoAnn Morris

Ken Morris
 Matt Roberts
 Dale and Mary Rose Satorius

Marilyn Schafer
 Janet Scheina
 Linda Williams

Friends of the Congregation:

Stacy Acton (J. Stephenson's niece)
 Dale Blout (B. Satorius' dad)
 Alan Bronson (S. Wilson's friend)
 Carolyn Carr (J. Tice's friend)
 Ron Carter (Rev. B. Carter's dad)
 Harry Godbey (J. Godbey's brother)
 Mike Hance (husband of Kristi Hance; PES teacher)
 Marlene Hartsook (R. Ford's sister)
 Dorothy King (A. Montgomery's sister)
 Bob McLin (B. Winkelmann's brother)
 Andrew Raes (R. Plaeger's cousin)
 Dee Ring

Sheila Smoron (Pastor M. Smoron's wife)
 Gary Sorenson (L. Williams' friend)
 Larry Spencer (L. Claussen's friend)
 Stahl family (S. Carlson's neighbor)
 Cindy Thomas (R. Ford's niece)
 Family of Virginia Alexander Thomas
 Don Wells (S. McCullough's brother-in-law)
 Family of John West
 Carol White (J. Morris' friend)
 Mike Whitehurst (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)
 Lauren Woodley (J. Satorius' friend J.D. Proehl's granddaughter)

Please pray for all we know who are homebound, residing in care facilities, undergoing surgery or medical treatment, serving in the military or who are away from their family and friends.

In Our Communities and In Our World:

Victims & families of Miami building collapse
 All who are affected by COVID-19
 Pray for racial equality
 Peace between nation neighbors

Victims of gun violence
 Displaced peoples in the world
 Pray for our country

Please continue to keep our healthcare workers and those in the educational field in our prayers. Over the past many months, they have been a guiding light to all of us in their courage and dedication to keeping us safe and helping the future generation. Thank You!

During our time of social distancing, we desire to keep those in prayer who are in need. Please keep the church office informed of members or friends that need to be placed on our prayer list by sending an email to centralpreschurch@sbcglobal.net.



Nonagenarian

July 31 Dale Satorius 10953 Smith Avenue, Petersburg, IL 62675

Octogenarian

July 23 Robert Sampson 16747 Tice Rd., Petersburg, IL 62675

Happy Birthday!

July 1	Stephanie McCullough	July 20	Ethan Stephenson
July 2	Kyle Winkelmann	July 22	John Buehner
July 3	Brianne Satorius	July 23	Ruth Stark
July 8	Gail Horn	July 24	Gene Horn
July 8	Barbara Sampson	July 24	Ethan Satorius
July 9	Laurelyn Roberts	July 28	Stephanie Wankel
July 13	Kyle Stark	July 30	Carrie Winkelmann



Happy Anniversary!

July 8	Rich & Chris Ford	July 23	Steve & Rhonda Plaeger
July 10	Tim & Melissa Groh	July 24	Kyle & Stephanie Wankel
July 21	Mark & Pam Albrecht	July 30	Brent & Peggy Carter
July 22	Ron & Susie Sanert		



	<i>Usher/Greeter</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>
Sunday, July 4	Linda Claussen	Pat Claussen
Sunday, July 11	Brian Satorius	Brianne Satorius
Sunday, July 18	Beth Kiningham	Ben Kiningham
Sunday, July 25	John Godbey	Sherri Roberts
Sunday, August 1	Jan Costello	Chris Ford
Sunday, August 8	Marilyn Montgomery	Coleen Janssen
Sunday, August 15	Rhonda Plaeger	Ron Sanert
Sunday, August 22	Pat Claussen	Linda Claussen
Sunday, August 29	Brianne Satorius	Brian Satorius
	Ethan & Ava	

If you cannot fulfill your duty as usher/greeter or liturgist, please find someone to take your place. Also, let the church office know of the changes as soon as possible.