



## FIRST CHURCH MINISTRY TEAMS

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**Worship** – Worship is central to our life as Christians. The Worship Team provides the best environment for disciples to enter into personal and corporate worship. Includes: ushers, acolytes, weddings, funerals, seasonal events, music, altar guild, children's church, communion stewards, baptisms, and healing services.

**Hospitality** -- offer the love of Christ to our guests and welcome them in such a way that they would be transform from strangers into friends.

**Mission** -- Being mission-driven means that we **Love by Serving**. We believe that every member is "sent" to share. Mission is participative rather than simply representative. At FUMC, we want missions to be the essence of the church rather than the expression of the church.

**Visitation** -- a spiritually gifted group of volunteer caregivers who connect shut-ins with the Body of Christ. Caregivers provide visitations, greeting cards, phone calls and prayer.

**Children** -- partner with parents and the church family to lay a biblical foundation upon which children can build their lives in Christ.

**Youth** -- provide a safe welcoming environment for youth to come to a transforming relationship with God, accept God's purpose for their lives, serve others with gratitude, and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Adult** -- encourage greater discipleship through all stages of life

**Prayer** – encourage greater participation in prayer so that First Church will become a house of prayer. [Matthew 21:13]

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Core Values – *Love by Serving*  
First United Methodist Church



## Love comes with Work Boots

Making a Difference

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*Love will always find a way.  
Indifference will find an excuse.*

### Signs of Indifference

**Self-centeredness** – my ease gets in the way of someone else's need

**Perfectionism** – my inability to do everything stops me from doing anything

**Materialism** – love of money prevents me from loving others **with** my money

### ▶ Love is **messy**.

"The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people." G.K. Chesterton

### ▶ Love doesn't **quit** on anyone.

"Simon son of John, do you love me?" (John 17:21)

### ▶ Love always has more than **enough**

"God so loved the world that he gave His one and only son" Jn 3:16

### Love by Serving at First Church

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**Catch Fire** – What are you passionate about seeing accomplished? **bushel**

**Share the Light** – What experiences have you had that enable you to help others.

**True Joy** – Serving in the right place, at the right time, for the right reason

**Volunteer** – contact a ministry rep. and say, "Here I am, how can I help?"

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# NEW BEGINNINGS

## 1 John 4:7-12 (Message)

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My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!

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*Break my heart, O God, with what breaks your heart. Help me to see how my everyday actions affect people in need. Open me up so that I can be full of your love for others. Amen.*

**Happiness paradox:** "the more directly one aims to maximize pleasure and avoid pain, the more likely one is to produce a life bereft of depth, meaning, and community." One article listed eleven separate facets of the happiness paradox. Another explained the principle of indirection: happiness, by its nature, cannot be obtained by direct pursuit. You have to sneak up on it. Or rather, you have to let it sneak up on you while you're pursuing something more important.

*If love is the soul of Christian existence, it must be at the heart of every other Christian virtue. Thus, for example, justice without love is legalism; faith without love is ideology; hope without love is self-centeredness; forgiveness without love is self-abasement; fortitude without love is recklessness; generosity without love is extravagance; care without love is mere duty; fidelity without love is servitude. Every virtue is an expression of love. No virtue is really a virtue unless it is permeated, or informed, by love. -- Fr. Richard P. McBrien*

**Love is messy.** It is rarely what we think it should be, and we are rarely what we would like to be when we are in love. On one hand we want love to be enough. Yet, on the other hand, we rarely satisfied with the love we have. So fear and love battle it out.

We become silent when we desperately want to connect. We jump in too fast when we know we must slow down. We act cool when we feel hot. We wake up in the middle of the night to snuggle next to the one we love, yet we barely touch each other during the day. We shout in anger as we pray for patience. We put on an act, then worry we won't be loved for who we really are. We reach out. We shut down. We cry. We run. We doubt. Yet we can't live without it.

**Love is messy.** It won't be confined to our preconceived ideas. We want love to just happen but love isn't convenient. Its highs are higher and its lows are lower than we are ever prepared for.

Love requires more of us than we think we can give. It pushes us past our breaking point, and yet we don't break. It is unpredictable, then sedate. It tears us up while making us better. It is never what we expect.

**Love is messy** because our desire for love is driven by our fears...

We fear being rejected, so we become people-pleasers and call it love.

We fear seeming inadequate, so we look for a partner who is perfect and call it having high standards.

We fear looking stupid, so we keep to ourselves when our soul yearns to open up. We fear we are unlovable, so we hide our true self from those we love. We are afraid to be w/o love, but how many times we are more afraid to be in love...?