

MEDITATIONS FROM FEBRUARY 2018 SUNDAY BULLETINS

AN EMPTY VESSEL

February 4, 2018

Rev. Janet Friedline

It is interesting and helpful to learn about things that we have never considered before. A fresh idea, or concept, brings the opportunity to look at something in a new way, revealing information we may not have been aware of. And then it is a matter of what to do with it. We may begin by integrating it into what we already know and accept. But mingling what is new, with the old belief, dilutes it. And in time, we may forget its newness, allowing the old view to remain the established belief.

The Bible reminds us that we cannot put new wine into old bottles. This also applies when we try to merge the new idea with the established way of acceptance. When looking at something with “new eyes,” we truly must release all that belonged to the prior conviction. Let us become the empty vessel. An empty vessel stands ready to be filled with new information, new insight and belief. When we rid us of “what went before,” we find us in a state of receptivity that allows for growth and unfoldment. This is the way – walk ye in it.

A GOD OF LOVE

February 11, 2018

Rev. Janet Friedline

We read a great deal about love. Poets write about the quality and value of love. Musicians pay homage to love through songs of praise and adoration. As human beings, we have the desire to love, and to be loved. And we do so, in a personal way. We decide what, or whom, is worthy of our love, picking and selecting our object of affection. And we usually expect something in return. Many times we attach strings to our show of love, and when our expectation is not met, we are disappointed, feeling betrayed in some way.

Jesus told us that God is a God of love. God’s love is universal, available to all mankind. God does not pick and choose which of his children is deserving or worthy of his love. He knows us as his only begotten child, in whom he is well pleased. He pays no attention when we “act up” in a human way. The child, of human hood, is an invention of material existence, and there is nothing to support this being into eternity. God knows us as his own, and he loves and supports what he has put into place. Let us be still, so that we may hear him call our name. It is how he knows us; it is who we are.

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

February 18, 2018

Rev. Donna Gatewood

The feeling of loneliness is a debilitating problem that pervades the very fabric of our society. Loneliness has very little to do with the presence of people; it is possible to be lonely in the midst of a crowd.

The secret in overcoming the feeling of loneliness lies in our willingness to accept the true reason why we are lonely. We are lonely because we do not have a relationship with the very source of life itself, God. The root cause of loneliness is a sense of isolation from life and others, the result of the belief that one is separated from

God. Deep within each and every one of us is an inner longing to experience an intimate relationship with God and discover the abiding, unfailing love of God.

“How lovely is thy dwelling place, O, Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.” Psalm 84:1-2

It doesn't matter what person we have in our world or how many people are a part of our living experience; loneliness does not go away until we begin our movement toward God. Become aware of God's presence within and we will feel the overwhelming warmth and love of God that is always with us. He is always ready to listen and to comfort.

A THANKFUL HEART

February 25, 2018

Rev. Donna Gatewood.

“Rekindle the gift of God that is within you...” (II Timothy 1:6) That gift of which we speak is the ability to be like God, to be the very Spirit of God manifest. God is love. Cultivate love and its attributes and you will unlock and open the doors to health, happiness, prosperity, joy and kindness.

Love accomplishes its ends easily. But those who have always labored for what they get often ignore love. They strive hard and long for what love would quickly bring to them in response to thanksgiving and gratitude.

Most people express gratitude and thanks to those who do them a favor or give them something they like, but very few remember the Source and Creator of everything we desire and can't live without. “Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to the sons of men!” (Psalms 107:8)

The gift that God has given us is life. The joy of living is beyond all words. Be thankful for every blessing that you gain, and as deeply grateful for every demonstration as for an unexpected treasure dropped in your lap. This will keep your heart filled with love and thanksgiving.