

Journeys

A PUBLICATION OF CARVERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



THOUGHTS FOR THE SOUL FEBRUARY 2023

Compassion

“Our duty is not to see through one another, but to see one another through.”

The statement is another of those now anonymous observations that someone once created in hopes of distilling our lives to the essence. When enough of the right people heed its message, the course of human history will change for the better.

This is, of course, a hope—not an expectation.

Yet, something interesting is happening in our culture. The academic world has dramatically increased in the last 30-40 years an interest in themes we might in-

clude under the umbrella of the “common good.” A noteworthy example is the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (CCARE) at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

The School of Medicine created the Center because it recognized how “science has made great strides in treating *pathologies* of the human mind. Far less research exists, however, on *positive* qualities of the human mind, including compassion, altruism and empathy. Yet these prosocial traits are innate to us and lie at the very center of our common humanity.”

Given that our capacity to feel compassion has ensured the survival and thriving of our species over millennia, researchers decided to learn more about it. ¹

A writer drawing on the Center's work speaks of compassion as "... a sense of concern that arises when we are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to see that suffering relieved."

The Dalai Lama is quoted as saying in a much less academic way, "If you want to know what compassion is, look into the eyes of a mother or father as they cradle their sick and fevered child."

The noted Christian activist and writer Jim Wallis² relates a news report in the same vein.

"I recently heard a story on the radio. A reporter was covering that conflict in the middle of Sarajevo, and he saw a little girl shot by a sniper. The reporter threw down his pad and pencil, and stopped being a reporter for a few minutes. He rushed to the man who was holding the child, and helped them both into his car.

"As the reporter stepped on the accelerator, racing to the hospital, the man holding the bleeding child said, 'Hurry, my friend, my child is still alive.'

A moment or two later, 'Hurry, my friend, my child is still breathing.'

"A moment later, 'Hurry, my friend, my child is still warm.'

"Finally, 'Hurry. Oh, God, my child is getting cold.'

"When they got to the hospital, the little girl was dead. As the two men were in the lavatory, washing the blood off their hands and their clothes, the man turned to the reporter and said, 'This is a terrible task for me. I must go tell her father that his child is dead. He will be heartbroken.'

"The reporter was amazed. He looked at the grieving man and said, 'I thought she was your child.'

"The man looked back and said, 'No, but aren't they all our children?'

"Yes, they are all our children [Wallis says.]. They are also God's children, and he has entrusted us with their care in Sarajevo, in Somalia, in New York City, in Los Angeles, in my hometown of Perry, Georgia, and here in Washington, D.C.."

"The Biblical Hebrew word for compassion, *rachamim*, comes from the root word for womb, *rechem*. . . ." This emphasizes the importance of nurture in learning what compassion is and how to practice being compassionate.

We can also learn how to be compassionate as adults. Throughout our lives we need to develop our attitudes toward and abilities in compassion.

In the *Common English Bible*, writers use the word "compassion" 121 times. In the earliest gospel, Mark relates that "when Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd (6:34)."

In two of Jesus' best known parables, the Good Samaritan had compassion on the robbers' victim who had been beaten, and the father of the Prodigal Son was moved with compassion when he saw his son in the distance returning home.

Paul wrote to the early Jesus followers in Ephesus, "Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ (Eph. 4:32)."

Another anonymous proverb is apt: "When God measures a person, God puts the tape not around the head but around the heart." The heart is the starting point. The head becomes the servant to the compassion that originates in the heart.

1 Tutu, Desmond, Dalai Lama and Douglas Abrams. *The Book of Joy*. New York: Penguin Random House, 2016. Pp. 252, 255.

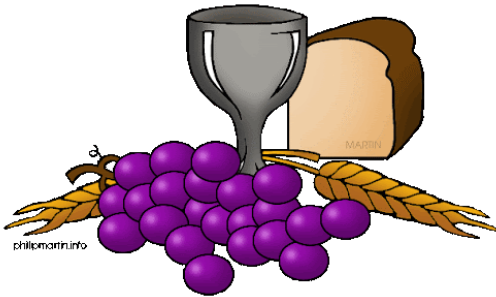
2 Wallis, Jim. *Who Speaks for God?* (New York: Delacorte Press, 1996), 72-73.



SCOUT SUNDAY

We will welcome the Boy Scouts of Troop 64 to our 10 a.m. worship on Sunday, February 5. Our church has long sponsored this active troop which meets weekly, and we are honored to have done so.

Linger after the service on February 5 to enjoy some coffee and conversation which the Scouts are providing for us.



FEBRUARY COMMUNION SERVICES

CUCC will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, February 12, during our regular worship service. If you are participating at home, please remember to have the elements ready for the live-stream service.

On February 22, we will gather in our sanctuary at 5 p.m. for our **Ash Wednesday communion** service. As you know this service helps us focus on repentance and prayer during the 40 days leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. We hope you will set aside

some time to participate in this quiet service of preparation.



We strive to have a smiling greeter on duty Sunday mornings AND we have a monthly coffee hour following worship, usually on the second Sunday of the month.

Opportunities exist for you to volunteer to be a greeter AND/OR to host a coffee hour. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board by the office. Many thanks for helping!



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

A heartfelt *Thank You* to the church members for the gift certificate to New Hope Photo and the gift card to the Pineville Tavern, one of my favorite restaurants, for Christmas. Both are much appreciated.

I would like you to know of the jobs I've had over the years, my job at Carversville UCC has been the most rewarding and fulfilling job I've ever had. While I'm not a member, you all have kindly treated me as one. Again,

much appreciated. You are all wonderful people, and I am so very fortunate, grateful and thankful for your presence in my life. Being at Carversville UCC has definitely made me a better person and you are all very special to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. As ever, Chris Ochadlick, your office admin.



PRAYING HANDS

Here is a list of those who would benefit from receiving cards. We encourage you all to reach out to these people as it will mean a lot.

Card List for February

Nancy and Jim Hale- 657 Spring Valley Road, Doylestown, PA 18901
Catherine Halper- P.O. Box 564, Lahaska, PA 18931
Judy and Frank Le Vien- 6264 Point Pleasant Pike, Doylestown, PA 18902
Sally Seeton- 1850 Lower Mountain Road West, Furlong, PA 18925
Gordon Keckeissen- 555 N. Broad St., #508A, Doylestown, PA 18901
Jack and Patsy King- 503 Windrush Bay Drive, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
DJ Kling- P.O. Box 195, Carversville, PA 18913
Jim Cleaveland- 26 N. Lafayette Ave., Morrisville, PA 19067
Lon and Pat Pritchard- 1131 West Kings Highway, Coatsville, PA 19320

"Sometimes," said Pooh, "the smallest things take up the most room in your heart."



WHAT'S THE BOOK GROUP DOING?

from Sue Wulf

We spent a lovely January morning watching Debbie Furst's birds and squirrels flit and frolic. Following a surprise written quiz on our book, Musical Chairs, given by Professor Debbie, we talked about the part a cello, a piano and a violin played in the book; whether a man and woman can simply enjoy a friendship without getting romantically involved; family relationships; and a happy ending for all the book's characters.

We're traveling to Belgium for our next book, The Omega Factor by Steve Berry. We'll be on the trail of a legendary panel stolen from the Ghent Altarpiece in 1934! Valentine's Day, February 14 (a LOVEly day), at 9:15 am we'll meet at Sue Wulf's house to discuss it. We'd LOVE to have you join us!



THANK YOU FROM MARIANO LAKE

Good morning, my friends!

I hope your noses weren't itching, as we were thinking and talking of you all this morning over here at Mariano Lake! We took all of your donations and inflated, organized and most importantly, played with your gifts! We are already looking forward to recess tomorrow to play with these again. I wish I would have taken a picture of the storage room before the janitors organized it with all of our new storage and equipment but I can honestly tell you in the almost thirteen years I have been here, I have never seen such a beautiful storage area! :)

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. We will continue to enjoy your gifts, especially during these cold winter months!

Below are a few pictures from today's work.

Blessings to every single one of you and I do pray that you all have a wonderful Christmas.

Take care,

Jerrod

PICTURES OF DONATED GYM EQUIPMENT



Good afternoon, friends!

I hope you all are doing well and staying safe with all of the snow I hear the East is getting! We passed out the stockings to the kids today

and they are absolutely thrilled! I have included a few pictures from today with second grade and kindergarten. The eraser boards and markers were a really big hit and the kids were very happy to have one to take home or to keep at school. Thank you on behalf of Mariano Lake students, teachers and staff. We are thrilled to share the joy of your thoughtfulness and generosity with the kids. I pray you all have a blessed Christmas and know that you and your friends are being thought of over here at the Lake! 😊

God bless you all and Merry Christmas!

Jerrod

PICTURES OF OUR STOCKINGS AND ERASER (WHITE) BOARDS



Please send articles for the March newsletter to Cathy at cathyprice2@verizon.net and Sue at slswulf@comcast.net by Thursday, February 16. Thanks!

CONTACT US!

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"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt!"

-Charles M. Schultz

Have a LOVELy month

