

Gray Weekly News



Week Leading to Sunday, July 10, 2022



Don't Forget Wonderful Wednesday!

Bring your lunch and join us for fun and fellowship!

12 noon – Wednesday, July 6

**The Good Samaritan story: What does it mean
to love your neighbor as yourself?**

www.compassionuk.org

Loving your neighbor as yourself is something we all want to do. It's the second greatest commandment. And one of the most quoted verses in the Bible. *Mark 12:30-31: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'* The second is this: *'Love your neighbour as yourself.'* *There is no commandment greater than these.*

But in a world full of need, it can feel like an overwhelming call. If I'm honest, I struggle to follow Jesus' call to love my neighbor as much as I love myself.

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Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



Colossians 1:1-14

Psalm 82

Luke 10:25-37

“The Compassionate Samaritan”

News and Notes

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 10

Please join us on Sundays at 11 am. If you are unable to come in person, you can watch our livestream at graymemorialumc.org/facebook.com or graymemorialumc.org/youtube, at 11 am or any time after that at graymemorialumc.org/



If you have prayer requests, please contact Norma Adams, Jennifer Skinner or Gail Teems.

You may also call the church office at 850/385-6441 or send a text to 850/933-8469.

Prayer Requests

Art and Betty Varnadore – his son, Art Varnador, Jr.

McEnally Family – Jennifer Skinner’s relatives-9 mo old baby with COVID

Gibbons Family – Pastor Beth’s nephew’s condition of baby has improved

Sam and Norma Adams

Patsy and Betty

Sylvia Morrow

Jack, Randy, Jim & Jane Workman

Joyce and Bob

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- What if my neighbor is someone I disagree with?
- What if my neighbor is different to me?
- What if my neighbor is antagonistic towards me?

But praise God, He is grace-filled and compassionate as we learn the lesson of how to love others again and again. Thankfully He gives us His word, including the Good Samaritan story, which gives us powerful and practical lessons about how to love our neighbor:

1. The Good Samaritan: He chose to see the need - The Good Samaritan was moved in his soul by the need in front of his eyes. When he saw the stranger, he took pity on him – he didn’t just look away. This is exactly what Jesus did – He saw the need of others:

- **Matthew 9:36** “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
- **Luke 10:20** ‘While he was still a long way off his father saw him and had compassion on him’

Loving the Lord God with all our heart means allowing Him to touch our emotions and saturate our soul with compassion. This way, when we encounter brokenness, the love of Christ wells up in us and we respond rather than retreat. When you encounter broken humanity, do you close your eyes out of fear or open your eyes in faith that God can use us to bring healing into someone's life?

2. The Good Samaritan answered the cry - But it wasn't enough to see the need and have pity, the Good Samaritan chose to answer the man's cry and take action. The Samaritan was aware of the danger and the inconvenience of helping the robbed man, but he reached out anyway – the parable describes how “he went to him.” It's one thing to have faith but the Bible tells us that, “faith without deeds is dead”. What simple and decisive action can you take to help the poor today?

3. Who is my neighbor? The Good Samaritan overcame difference - The Good Samaritan wasn't hindered by the fact he was different to the man in need, he simply had a heart to make a difference to him. I have clear memories of hearing the command “love thy neighbor” in Sunday School and singing “when I needed a neighbor were you there” in primary school.

At the time I always thought Jesus was calling me to show love to my nextdoor neighbor. But our neighbor isn't just the person next door. Our neighbor is the person God has placed right in front us. And no matter how different, how inconvenient or how unexpected, we're asked to love.

The Good Samaritan was willing to cross political, racial, cultural and social barriers and risk prejudices and the fear of the unknown because he saw someone with a need and he had the resources to meet that need. How can you help your neighbor? Both the person in need on your doorstep and your global neighbor who you've never met. What has God placed in your hand to help the poor?

Verses 34-35 of the parable tell us that the Good Samaritan didn't just patch up the injured man on the side of the road and move on. Instead, he put him on his donkey and took him to an inn where he took care of him. What's more, he was willing to pay the price by giving two day's wages and then promising to pay for any further expenses when he came back.

So often when we seek to love people we start off with good intentions but we struggle to follow through. Instead of becoming half-hearted, we need God to do a work in our lives: when we love God with all our strength we will follow through in our commitment by doing whatever it takes. Don't give up, even when things get tough.

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SPECIAL HYMN SING PLANNED FOR JULY 31!!

Please help us plan a hymn sing during the regular worship service on Sunday, July 31. We want to include everyone's favorite hymn, so we need input from you to be sure this happens. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for the next few weeks so that you can tell us your favorites. We will include as many as we can when we finalize the church service for that day! Thanks for helping us plan this enjoyable event!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 6	12 noon 7 pm	Wonderful Weds Brown Bag Lunch Bible Study with Todd Clark
Thursday, July 7	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study with John Rogers Choir Practice
Sunday, July 10	11 am	Worship Service
Wednesday, July 13	7 pm	Bible Study with Todd Clark
Thursday, July 14	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study with John Rogers Choir Practice
Sunday, July 17	11 am	Worship Service