

We Want You To Know

**Sunday Morning
January 3rd, 2021**

We welcome our visitors! Thank you for joining us in this Worship. We invite you to join us Wednesday Evenings at seven o'clock for our Livestream Bible Study. You'll find a link on our website listed at the bottom of this page.

As COVID-19 continues, worshipers are to: Wear a Mask except during communion. Maintain Social Distancing. Sit as family units. Exit the door nearest

your seat (Front or Back). Visiting should be done outside. Thanks!

Getting things back to normal...

- We continue our Wednesday Evening Livestream with a live audience. We begin sharply at 7PM.
- Our Evening Ladies Class will meet this Wednesday at seven.
- The Morning Ladies Bible Class starts meeting again next Wednesday the 13th.
- Our Track Folding Ministry resumes their work sessions this Thursday.

Those Needing Our Prayers & Visits

- We're saddened in our loss of Charlene Ward. Remember Phil, the children, along with extended family. Her Memorial Service will be Wednesday here at the building at 11AM with visitation beginning at 10 o'clock. Our usual COVID precautions will apply.
- Margaret Wicker's surgery went well. She and granddaughter, Abby, are both recovering from their procedures at home.
- Katherine Mowry is now at home after her setback with the heart ablation. Thanks for your prayers.
- We ask your continued prayers for those still traveling, for Sharon Franklin, Ron & Margaret Beaty, Bob & Pat Musson, Rich LaPorte, Kenneth Whittington, and George Bowman,

Notes & Other Announcements

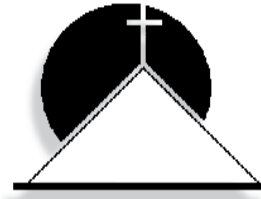
"Dear Bella Vista Christian Family, thank you for the beautiful Christmas Gifts you provided for my children." —Love Alexandra Bratt (This card from the Women's Shelter, Nicole's House, in Rogers)

"Time moves on, our blessings continue to be so abundant. Georgia and I are blessed to be a part of such a loving family. Thank each of you for the expressions of love and best wishes this Holiday Season, and for all the gifts and goodies. We are treated well beyond measure! As we look forward to a more normal time, let us say we love you and want to go to heaven with you." —Randall & Georgia

"Our Year's End Fund Raising continues to go well. God has blessed us richly. Thank each and everyone who has participated in this Ministry Outreach." —Robb Hadley, Director, Gospel Tracts International.

We're still struggling with Livestream and Sound Issues. If you will assist in these areas, please talk with Dallas or Tracy. Thanks!

Remember to visit us online @ <bellavistachurchofchrist.com>



WELCOME!



Bella Vista Church Of Christ

989 NORTHWEST MCNELLY ROAD — BENTONVILLE AR

THE LIFE & LETTERS OF JOHN

"Love One Another – For God Is Love"

June 25th, 1967 – All You Need Is Love...

This has been God's cry since the beginning

Paul tells us how important this love – 1 Corinthians 13.1-3

The word Love dominates the Book of First John

Learning About Love From The Pen of John...

Loving others is an old command...

From the beginning - Cain – The Ten Commandments

Leviticus 19.18 – Micah 6.8 – From the lips of Jesus - Luke 10.27

God is love – His DNA – His most prominent gene

We are born into God's loving family – Love matures over a lifetime

The Godhead makes this a new command by modeling it for us...

John 3.16-17 & 1 John 3.16

Romans 5.8 - God loved us while we were yet undeserving

Biblical love is not a feeling – But a behavior...

1 John 4.9 – God showed His love by sending His Son

1 John 3.17-18 – Do not love in word but with action & truth

James 2.15-16 gives us the same message

If you love Me - Keep My commandments argues for a behavior

Examples of a loving behavior...

The Good Samaritan – Luke 10.25-37

The sheep & goat Judgment – Matthew 25.31-46

Our words are important – But proof is found in our behavior

What kind of Gospel are we writing

Agape love is proof of our discipleship...

Agape is a Willful – Decisive – Unconditional – Sacrificial Benevolence without regard for the feelings or behavior of the recipient

Agape is placing the interest of others before our own

1 John 4.7-8 – Unless we Agape others - We neither know or love God

John 13.35 – All will know you are My disciple – When you Agape

When doctrine trumps love – Something is wrong with our doctrine

Time to test our love...

1 John 4.20-21 we cannot love God unless we love our brother

1 Corinthians 13.4-8 – Love's Litmus Test

Our Invitation & Challenge

1 John 2.7-11

7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. 9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

1 John 3.11-18

11 This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And

why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. 16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Select Verses From 1 John 4.7-21

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love... 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit... 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him... 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

