

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

(Ephesians 4:32)

The Scripture verse above is one we often sang in youth group at Grove Park in the late 1970’s. We sang it because it had a catchy tune and a message that we needed to get into our heads in the (even then) “complicated” world of high school.

As relevant as that message was for the world of high school in the 1970’s, we could have never conceived how much more it would be needed for the world of today. I don’t need to go into details about how much things have changed over the last 50 years or about how more complicated life is in 2024. You see it for yourself in news coverage, on social media, and just by watching people around you.

Friends, the message of Ephesians 4:32 needs to be proclaimed to today’s world. More than that, the world needs to see Christians living out this message. Believe me, if we live out this message, people will see it - because they don’t see it anywhere else. And if they truly see it, they will be drawn to it.

Be kind to one another - simply put, treat people the way you would like to be treated yourself. None of us wants to be the recipient of harsh words or negative actions, so we need to make sure we don’t treat others that way. How radical it is simply to put other people’s needs ahead of our own!

Tenderhearted - this rightly follows after being kind to one another. Being tenderhearted means we feel for others, but more than that, we feel along with others who hurt. We come alongside them and feel with them, not just for them. But we must be determined to put kind actions alongside tenderhearted feelings. One without the other is not enough, just like sending “thoughts and prayers” without taking any actions to address the issue is not nearly enough.

Forgiving one another - this builds upon being kind and tenderhearted. Forgiving is much more possible when it comes from a place of kindness and tenderheartedness. True, it is possible and even necessary to forgive while we are a place of anger or hurt. But, when we are willing to step back from that and move our hearts into a more kind and tenderhearted place, forgiveness is easier for us to give and to receive as well.

As God in Christ forgave you - this is our motivation and the power that makes our kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness possible. The world around us is full of selfishness, violence, and pain, and we often are on the receiving end of that. But, to be honest, we all have treated God with selfishness, rebellion, and doubt - and yet He has responded with forgiveness. If He can and does forgive us of our sins, we can and must forgive others.

This month, I encourage all of us to put Ephesians 4:32 into practice. Let’s live out kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness. As we do that, people will notice. (And, if you want to get Ephesians 4:32 stuck in your head, visit our Facebook page for the version we sang in youth group.)

Dale



Please wear **red** in observance of Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024



Please join us for Grove Park Elementary’s Graduation on June 6th at 5:30pm

May Food Pantry Needs

Thank you for your continued generosity to our Food Pantry. Our needs for this month are canned hams, canned chicken, spam, tuna, instant potatoes, stove top stuffing, peanut butter, saltine crackers, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. Please drop them off by the church office or place them in the food pantry bin located in the vestibule.



Please come dressed in your country best for our SIA event, “Name that Hymn”. Thursday, May 16th at 11am.



Ministers On Call for the Month of May:

May 2 thru May 5

Deacon Beth Canada

May 9 thru May 12

Deacon Derek Denard

May 16 thru May 19

Deacon Benjy Overby

May 23 thru May 26

Deacon Caleb Warren

May 30 thru June 2

Deacon Matthew Byrd

(Our Known)

May Birthdays

James Rudd May 5

Tommy Forrester May 9

Gene Willets May 9

Jeanette Deutsch May 10

Hazel Latham May 10

Charlotte Fitzgerald May 11

Jevon Moore May 11

David McMillan May 12

Nathan Reich May 19

Ron Hall May 21

Ivey Toy May 22

Rodger Roach May 23

Judy Roach May 25

Lynette Warren May 28

Steve Shambley May 31



If you are celebrating a graduate this year please call the Church office.