

## The Greatest of These Is Love: Love Your Neighbor

*And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

**Matthew 22:39**

During the week prior to His crucifixion, Jesus engaged in debates with religious leaders in the temple in Jerusalem. One of His critics, a lawyer, asked Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:5 about loving God with all there is within us. Then He went on to say the next greatest command was to love our neighbors, and He quoted from Leviticus 19:18.

"On these two commands hang all the Law and the Prophets," Jesus said (Matthew 22:40). In other words, one single syllable—love—when biblically understood, fulfills every single law of the Bible.

A few days later Jesus demonstrated these two laws by dying on the cross. He loved the Father and submitted to the Father's will. He loved us as neighbors and laid down His life for us. He was perfect in every way because He loved perfectly. He can love your neighbor through you. If there is someone you don't particularly like, ask the Lord Jesus to love that person through you today.

*When we give the Lord Jesus Christ more and more room in our lives, we cannot help but become more loving because Jesus will love others through us.*

Michael Youssef

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**Bethel United Methodist Church**  
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Reverend Tresco E Shannon



Our Christian Worship of God  
February 15, 2026  
Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

Transfiguration Sunday	Liturgical Color: White	
PRELUDE		
CHIMING OF THE TRINITY		
INTROIT	“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”	<i>arr.</i> Robert Lau
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
CALL TO WORSHIP	“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”	#334
INVOCATION		
*OPENING HYMN	“O How I Love Jesus”	#170
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	“Canticle of Love”	#646
GOSPEL LESSON	Matthew 22:34-40	
ANTHEM	“The Gift of Love”	<i>arr.</i> Hopson
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY		
HYMN OF PRAYER	“There’s Something About That Name	#171
PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER		
GIVING OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS		
OFFERTORY	“Wondrous Love Medley”	<i>arr.</i> Ham
*DOXOLOGY	“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow	#94
SERMON TEXT	John 13:34-35	
SERMON	“They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love	Rev. Ott
*HYMN OF INVITATION	“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”	#402
*CHORAL RESPONSE	“Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”	Fawcett
POSTLUDE		

**OUR PRAYERS:** **Buddy Creech**, Ben Barnett, Devin Crosby, Mike Fanchette, Stewart Goodwin, Lad Howell, Bobbie McLaine, Steve Murdaugh, Ed Newington, Debra Smith, Myrtle Socha, Gertha Stackley, Allie Utsey, Scott Wachter  
**OUR PRAISES:** **Marilyn Creech**, **Joe Ritter**, **Joey Ritter**

**NURSING HOMES/SHUT-INS/DISTANT MEMBERS:** Jane Brown, Nina Crosby, Sarah Anne Dean, Lynn Harrison, Joy Lawson, Vera Newington, Jeanine Price, Rusty Riddle, Kay Speaks, and Miriam Westbury  
**MILITARY SERVICE:** Cody Keeney, Elijah and Kaeleigh Forni, Jackson Long, Matthew Mangum, Jordan Ray, Tristan Ray

**The altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Arline Courtney, Tracy’s mom, by Tracy and Sharon Courtney.

**The UMYF** would like to thank everyone for their “Souper” Bowl donations. The Patriots collected \$245 and the Seahawks \$229. The entire donation will go to In His Name Colleton.

**We Welcome** Reverend Burton Ott as our guest preacher today! We’re so happy to have you with us!

**The UMYF** will meet today at 5:30PM.

**The church office** will be closed Monday, February 16 in honor of Presidents’ Day.

**Wednesday Night Supper**, February 18, 5:30PM – Menu: chicken (baked and fried), rice, tomatoes and okra, butterbeans, yeast rolls, and Blueberry YumYum. If you haven’t already done so, **please sign up** on the provided sheet in the vestibule. We hope you will stay for our Ash Wednesday service at 6:30PM.

There will be NO Pastor’s Bible Study February 18. It will resume the following week.



**Please join us for our Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30PM**  
**Our nursery will be open!**



**Birthdays for the week of February 15 - 21**  
**15<sup>th</sup>** Pam Whitacre **16<sup>th</sup>** Meredith Odum, Laverne Sanders **18<sup>th</sup>** Marilyn Creech – **19<sup>th</sup>** James Broderick, Carey Strickland, Janet Buckner - **21<sup>st</sup>** Chase McDaniel

**A Few Good Men** will have their oyster roast Tuesday March 3. All members of the church are invited to attend More information will be shared later.