

NORTONVILLE NEWS

"Christ's Love For His Bride"

From Romeo and Juliet to Ozzie and Harriet, love stories abound in the literature and media of the world. And though we find those stories entertaining or even encouraging, there is no love like the love that Christ has for His bride. The Christian church is the bride of Christ (John 1:29). Let's notice how much He loves His church.

I.Christ's Love Sent Him From Heaven to Earth

Just seven week ago we remembered the birth of Christ. That first coming of Christ happened because of God's love to us in Christ. Christ chose to enter humanity through Mary's womb. He chose to leave heaven out of love for naturally sinful people like you and I. He humbled Himself by adding humanity to His full deity when He took on human flesh. 2 Corinthians 8:9 explains God's love this way:

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich

Christ was rich, having completeness as the eternal Son of God. But for our sakes He became poor by entering humanity. What we are to rejoice in, is that it was for us, for our sakes, because of our need of salvation, that He left heaven for His earthly sojourn. He became poor so that we might become rich through Him. That is true love.

(Continued on page two)

Stay Connected

Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School

10:45 am Sunday morning

6:00 pm Sunday night

6:00 pm Sunday Youth Group

Tuesday

Small Groups at 6:30 pm

in Spring Lake and

Grand Haven

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting at 6:30 pm

Olympians at 6:30 pm

II. Christ's Love Sent Him From Earth to the Cross

Christ came to earth in the body that His Father had prepared for Him (Hebrews 10:5). And when the exact right hour had come, Jesus offered Himself as the complete and perfect sacrifice for sin. His death on the cross was the ransom payment for our sin (1 Timothy 2:6). His death is the satisfaction for our sins, and releases from bondage all those who put their trust in Him.

The Bible teaches us in Ephesians 5:25 that it was out of love for the church that Christ went to the cross. It was because of His love that He willingly sacrificed Himself as the precious Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Notice also that Christ's love for the church is an example of how husbands are to love their wives:

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

Christ's love for His church is to be demonstrated in a Christian marriage through the husbands sacrifice, care, and cherishing of his bride. And the wife's response to the husband is to respect, honor and submit to her husband. When the Christian couple obeys the Lord in this regard from their hearts, they demonstrate the eternal relationship of Christ and His church!

Out of love, Christ died for us, His bride. He paid the purchase price for us, and now all who believe in Him are His! Believers are connected to Him in the new covenant in His blood. Yet, though we are His betrothed bride, we are waiting for Him to come and take us to His Father's house.

III. Christ's Love Will Send Him From Heaven To Earth To Get His Bride.

The Christian's salvation is one hundred percent secure in Christ. But our salvation will not be completed until we are given a new body fit for heaven. Our present body is made for this earth, so we need a completely new one that is fit for heaven.

The Bible teaches us in Philippians 3:20-21 that we will receive our heavenly body when Christ comes and takes His church to His Father's house.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Christ also teaches us in John 14:3 that since He has already gone to prepare a place for us in His Father's house, He will come again and take us to His Father's house:

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

(Continued on page 3)

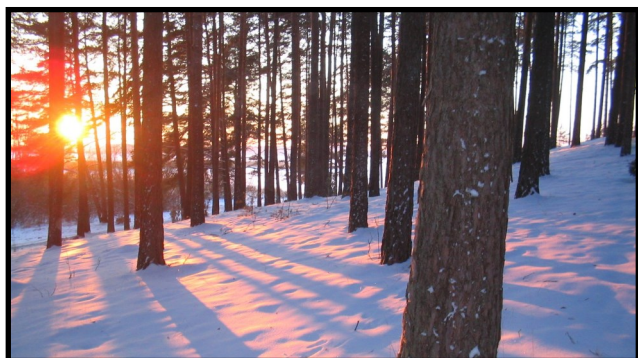
Just as the husband who prepares a room in his father's house for his bride, then comes on the wedding day to bring her to her new home, so the Lord Jesus will come back to the earth and take His church, His bride, to her new home in heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). We call this event the rapture of the church, because the Lord will take us in our new bodies to our new home.

And this will surely happen because of the Lord's love for His bride. It was His love that sent Him from heaven to earth. It was His love that sent Him to the cross to die for our sins. And it is His love that will bring Him back to rapture us to His Father's house.

Let us always rejoice in that love and eagerly look forward to the completion of that love (1 Peter 1:13)!

Forty Plus Days of Prayer

February 22nd - April 9th



If you have internet and would like to watch our Sunday morning service, search for Nortonville Gospel Chapel on Facebook or YouTube. You can also see the video and discover more resources on our website www.nortonvillechapel.info.

No Internet? Simply call 616-846-7309 at 10:45 am on Sunday and you can listen to the whole morning service.

Church Ministries Conference



Fanning the flames of
PASSIONATE MINISTRY



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Christopher Weeks

March 10-11, 2023
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Chick fil A Lunch Included | Pre-Registration Deadline: March 3
www.churchministriesconference.org



CAMP AO-WA-KIYA
Christ-Centered Camping
on Stony Lake

**KITCHEN
VOLUNTEERS
WANTED!**

April 21 - 23
Volunteers wanted to help in the kitchen at Camp Ao-Wa-Kiya. Contact the church office for more information.

Spotlight:

Karen Huggins



Born in Grand Haven to Don and Bev Hudson, Karen was the oldest of six children. She calls herself "her parents experiment," because "they learned on her." Her dad worked for the C&O railroad as what is known as a "gandy dancer." Mom was the boss of the home and Karen can still hear her yelling in a negative way. Being the oldest, Karen had a lot of responsibility caring for the younger siblings.

Most Sundays, Karen and her oldest brother went over to her grandma and grandpa Van Hall's home. Their grandparents sent them to Sunday School at the Methodist Church. She doesn't remember learning much about God, but she went because she was told to.

After graduation from Grand Haven High School, Karen became a secretary at a machine shop called Ottawa Manufacturing. She married Dave Dean in 1969 and then began working at Pfaff Pharmacy, where she worked for the next 30 years. Dave and Karen moved to Spring Lake, and they were blessed with daughter Carrie in 1977 and son Christopher in 1981.

Because they didn't know the Lord, life was very hard for the Deans. But the good Lord had a plan! Dave and Sally Chittenden would pick up Carrie and take her to church. Then when son Chris was a toddler, Karen decided to go to Nortonville herself and find out what her daughter was learning. She remembers her first day there, sitting in the back pew, trying to keep her active toddler subdued, when Grandma Van Eizenga (Jerry's mom) saw her struggling, and kindly told her that it would all be O.K. Karen appreciated the kindness of people she saw at the Chapel. The kids were taught God's Word in Sunday School and Church and she herself was learning. But she had not yet put her faith in Christ.

One day at her home, Karen was feeling very low and unloved. Her husband was watching T.V. and didn't seem to care about her, and her kids were busy playing with the dog. Karen called out in desperation to the Lord from her heart and said, "Please Jesus, I need You."

Soon after that, there was a membership class at Nortonville, and Karen signed up. She was asked to give a public testimony of her faith in Christ. She was really scared because she didn't like standing up in front of people. She started crying and then told them her testimony: "I called out to the Lord because I felt that no one else wanted me, and I knew that Jesus wanted me to come to Him."

Karen got involved at the Chapel as a Sunday School teacher through the mentoring help of Sally Chittenden. To this day she calls Sally her mother, because she adopted Sally! Karen also worked with Awana, and was in the church choir. She was publicly baptized around 2006.

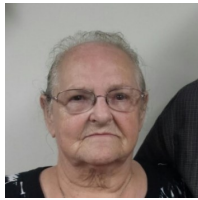
After her husband Dave died, Karen asked the Lord to give her someone who would love her. God answered her prayer, and she married Jim Huggins in 2008. Jim loved and respected her, and Karen blossomed with more confidence. She also gained more assurance in the Lord's love for her. Jim passed in 2019, and while she misses him dearly, she knows that God is with her and He is going to take care of her.

Karen's favorite Bible passage is Psalm 23 because she knows that the Lord **"Leads me beside the still waters and restores my soul."** She wants to thank the people of Nortonville who have supported her: the Chittendens, the VanEizengas, Dorothy Walker, and many others through whom the love of God shines.

February Birthdays



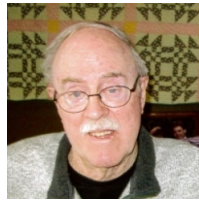
February 2
Rob Marshall



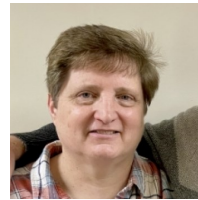
February 2
Betty Holman



February 7
Jerry VanEizenga



February 10
J Paul King



February 13
Dawn Vink



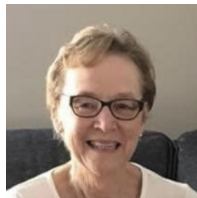
February 14
Joan Thompson



February 15
Lynne Chittenden



February 15
Tricia Barnes



February 17
Joann Chittenden



February 19
Jonathan Reynolds



February 28
Pete Pellegrom

February Anniversaries



February 28
Dawn & J Paul King

Upcoming Events

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 2/14 | Small Groups 6:30 pm. | 2/22 - 4/9 | 40 Plus Days of Prayer. |
| 2/15 | Heartwood Lodge Services 10:30 am. | 2/23 | SOS Craft Event 6:30—8:00 pm |
| | Olympians 6:30 pm. | | No Ladies Bible Study Zoom. |
| | Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm. | 2/26 | Elders Meeting 5:00 pm. |
| 2/16 | Ladies Bible Study Zoom 7:30 pm. | | |
| 2/21 | Small Groups 6:30 pm. | | |
| 2/22 | Robbinswood Services 1:30 pm. | | |
| | Olympians 6:30 pm. | | |
| | Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm. | | |

