

Mikes Monday Message

Advent Love

"Love is patient, love is kind"

I Corinthians 13:4

This Sunday we will light the Advent candle of 'love,' and we will hear the Christmas story told once again at our annual Children's 'pageant' during our 10:00 worship service. I love when the children are involved in worship because that means their parents will be sure to attend! Years ago I was PTA president in an elementary school in Hanahan and I learned that if we scheduled a class of children to sing or perform during the meeting, we would have great attendance because the parents would be there with their cameras and cell phones ready to snap pictures.

You know, I'm not a real 'mushy' or emotional guy, but I have to admit I have had a passionate 'love affair' with the church for more than 40 years. So much so, that I answered a call to full time ministry in my mid thirties. And here's the thing I have learned about love and the church: You have to be PATIENT. The apostle Paul was the first missionary or new church development preacher, so I suspect he knew a LOT about practicing patience when it comes to serving the church.

I love our reformed tradition and our emphasis on community. I love that Presbyterians do things 'decently and in order' but sometimes I wish we would just do things quicker, and when I get antsy, I refer back to Paul's chapter on love and quote verse 4 to myself... love is PATIENT and kind. So, because I love the church there is much I want to do, but I promise to be patient.

During this Advent season of hope, peace, joy and love, my prayer is that you too will love the church (and the Lord we serve) so much that you will be present at our worship services and fellowship events leading up to Christmas. After all, this is indeed a season of love, God's love for us by sending Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

May you find love in this holy Advent season.

Love,
Mike

Sunday, December 18	10:00 Children's pageant during the worship service 4:00 Carol Sing-Along - fun singing and fellowship for family and friends followed by refreshments
Saturday, December 24	6:00 Christmas Eve candlelight communion service
Sunday, December 25	10:00 Join us for a short service celebrating the birth of our savior