*IMMC Conference Sunday June 19, 2022*

Love One Another

Scripture

1 John 4:7-21

Focus

Because God is love, God loves us, and love casts out fear we are enabled and empowered to love one another.

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us bask in the lavish   
love of our Creator!

**People: Teach us, O God, to receive   
love**

Leader: Come, let us learn what it is to   
love more fully and deeply

**People: Teach us, O God, how to share love**

Leader: Come, let us practice the way   
of peace and love with our siblings in Christ

**People: Teach us, O God, how to live   
love**

***All: O Love Divine, guide us to   
your Truth, to your Grace, and to the fellowship to your Compassionate Spirit. Amen.***

Music

*Voices Together*

7 Come, let us all unite to sing

802 Draw the Circle

834 Thuma Mina

162 The love of God

156 There’s a wideness in God’s mercy

779 You’re not alone

*Hymnal: A Worship Book*

12 Come, let us all unite to sing:

434 Thuma Mina

156 There’s a wideness in God’s mercy

Invocation Prayer

Beloved, we are united together in the Spirit of love by the One who has first loved us. Nothing can contain this love, nothing can diminish it, nothing can squelch it as it breaks through every boundary, line, and wall we put around it. As we gather this morning for worship, help us to remember that we are worthy of this extravagant love. Remind us that there is no limit to it, and that there is always more. Guide us in the ways that help others around us see, know, and understand this Gift that you so freely give us. Amen.

Confession

Leader: O God, we are human, and we, as the hymn says, make your love too narrow

**People: Forgive us, Lord**

Leader: For our competitive nature, fighting to be the first and greatest

**People: Forgive us, Lord**

Leader: For our fear of your love running out, for there not being enough

**People: Forgive us, Lord**

Leader: For those of us who have decided who is lovable and who is not

**People: Forgive us, Lord**

***All: God, have mercy on us, as we see through a glass dimly. Show us how to draw our circle wide. Amen.***

Words of Assurance

You, beloved, are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are fully received, and you are fully forgiven. Allow us to be baptized in your love.

Children’s Time

Gather some of your favorite things and bring them in a bag or box. When the children gather around, tell them that you want to show them some of the things you love most in the world. You can talk about why they are important to you or even tell a story of a memory that comes to mind when you look at the things.

Then have them turn toward the congregation and name some people that you love that are seated in the sanctuary or show pictures of people you love. You may invite the children to name people they love also.

Have the children turn back to you and talk about how even though we use the same word “love” for both things and people, we mean different things.

Ask the children the following questions:

1. Can things love you back?
2. What kinds of actions help you to feel loved?
3. How could you show love to other people?

Remind the children that they are loved by God and by the congregation, and that we want to be a people who love one another as an example of God’s love for us.

Sermon

You can access a video sermon from Conference Co-Minister Sharon Yoder using this link: <https://youtu.be/o-MIQ_pFovQ>

Benediction / Sending

May the God of love, joy, strength, and peace be in your hearts, in your fellowship, in your home, in your neighborhoods, and in our world. Amen.