

February  
2021



# Central church of Christ

SERVING AS GOD'S HEART AND HANDS IN THIS COMMUNITY

## Mission

### Statement

To be God's heart and God's hands in this community and beyond.

## Vision Statement

As followers of Christ, our vision is to be a God-centered, relationship-driven, small-group church committed to equipping all people to live out the life of Christ.

## Contact Information

### **Address**

801 E. Airline  
Victoria, Tx 77901

### **Phone**

361-573-9133

### **Office Hours**

Monday—Thursday  
8:30-5:00  
Friday  
8:30-12:00

## Love is in the Air

In 1978 there was a group called the John Paul Young Band who had a hit song titled, "Love is in the Air." While their idea of love being in the air revolved around the romantic love many people are focused on during this month, the amazing thing is love has been present in the air from the beginning.

When God said, "Let there be light," love was introduced to the world. Since then, mankind has been on a quest to comprehend and follow the love initiated by God. This love is genuine, and when embraced in its purest form results in a fulfilled life.

So, what is genuine love?

Authentic love is known by its actions. It does not spring from the feelings a person has towards another, but rather seeks the welfare of another. It is a deliberate choice to do what is best for all mankind, no matter what affections we may or may not have for them. A love like this only comes from one source.

In I John 4:7-8 the Apostle John records these words, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love," (NIV). When John uses the word love here in this

passage, he is using the Greek word which refers to authentic love. John is exhorting us to express genuine love to each other, and he identifies the source of this love as coming from God. It is only natural for this to be so, because according to John, love is the very nature of God. In verse 10 of the same chapter, John shows us God's most powerful example of love by him sending his Son to die for our sins. Paul in his letter to the Romans, (Romans 5:5) stated, "... God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us," (NIV). Paul like John, acknowledges pure love in our life comes from God, and it is the reason we do not lose hope in the midst of whatever turmoil we may be experiencing in life.

Given love in its perfect form comes from God, how should it be expressed in our life? Jesus in Matthew 5: 44 said, "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," (NIV). This was in complete opposition to what the people during Jesus' time had been taught or thought they should be doing, and even today it remains the most difficult expression of love for us to manifest.

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## Bible Hour

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2/7 - Canceled

2/14 - Paul & DeLissa Spaeth

2/21 - Mandy Vahrenkamp

2/28 - Mealer Family

We need 8 Teams to volunteer. Each team will be responsible for 6 Sundays spread out over the year.

To Volunteer Sign up at the Info Desk or Contact **Mandy Vahrenkamp.**  
**mev031012@gmail.com**

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## Nursery

If you would like to help out with the nursery please contact Pam Taylor at [pam@churchofvictoria.com](mailto:pam@churchofvictoria.com)

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## Up Coming Events

- ◆ Dishwashing Soap for Sunny Glen by February 10th
  - ◆ 2/27 @ 10am Baby Shower Jana Baker - See Rachelle Cook for Details
  - ◆ Men's Retreat April 30-May 1, 2021
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Perhaps the most famous expression of how this love should be demonstrated in our life is found in Paul's letter to the Corinthians in I Corinthians 13: 4 – 8 where Paul wrote, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails..." (NIV). Notice in this passage, Paul's use of the highest form of love is found in doing, not feeling. It is not in our human nature to be patient and kind towards others, to rejoice with the truth, nor to protect, trust, hope or persevere with others, especially those whom we dislike. It is in our human nature to be envious, boastful, proud, to dishonor others, be self-seeking, become easily angered, to keep records of the wrongs of others and to delight in evil. Because this love is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, God changes our human nature into a spiritual nature and gives us the power to display the love Paul described. The love portrayed by Paul has always been in the air and will never fail to be, because it is from God. When we choose to allow God's Spirit to transform us into genuine loving people, we truly become a disciple of Christ and the world will recognize us as such.

So, in this month when many people are fixated on a romantic form of love, why not consider demonstrating the true love to others, especially those closest to you, and watch the transformation God can bring about in those you express this love to.