



February, 2025 Newsletter

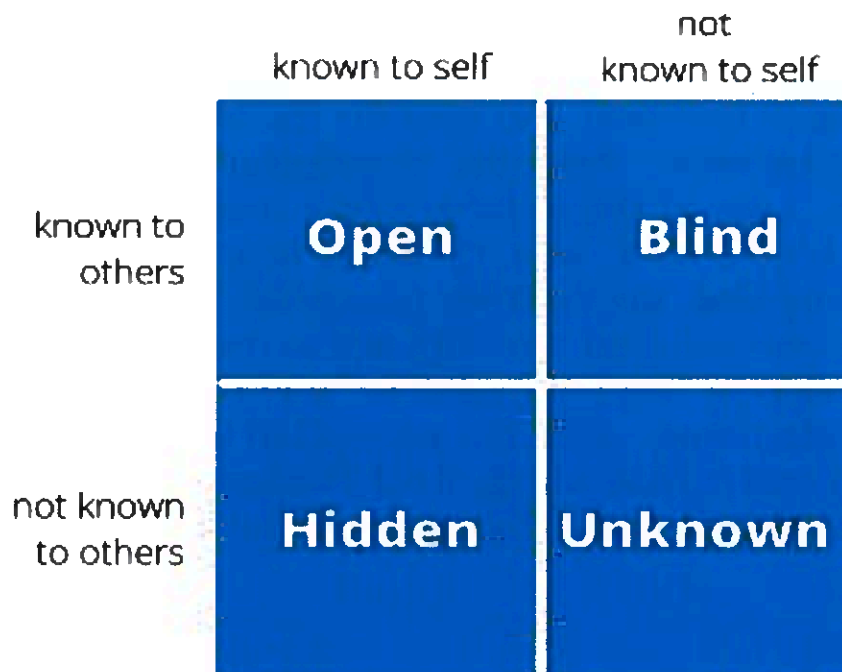
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Dear Friends,

"I know this is what I should do" is a voice that usually comes from wanting to serve God the way we choose, and not our desire to listen to God. When I have been obstinate and stubborn, it is usually my feelings that are taking priority. You know what happens when you have something that needs to be done at home, or at work, or with a family member, something you really don't feel like doing? Suddenly, other things pop up that take our primary attention. What was unimportant becomes urgent and we don't get the important stuff done. (Otherwise known as procrastination.)



A psychologist discovered the "Johari window." Imagine a window divided into four parts. Open - this box is the shared information and experiences we have with others, what we both know. Then there's part of the window - Hidden - that I know about, my knowledge and experiences, that others don't have. Others have some experiences and perspectives I don't have (including how I come across to them!) - my Blind spots. Finally, there are the areas of life neither I nor my friends know about - Unknown.

Our Annual Meeting questions revealed these four parts of our church window. We saw ourselves on the power point slides prepared by Michael (thank you very much!). The pictures showed our shared times of joy and laughter, our shared times of tears and sorrow. When I was asked to share some of my experience with St. Andrew Presbyterian Church where I served before it closed, that history was unknown to most of you - Hidden. This was my first Annual meeting to moderate at Westminster. This was Jim Benney's 59th annual meeting (maybe, if he attended them all!) Those meetings are unknown to me - my blind spots. Yes, I'm still learning about Westminster's routines, traditions and history.

Then came the fourth part of the Johari window, the unknown. In my sermon that day I quoted an author who called it "The Great cloud of unknowing", what God has not yet revealed to us. Paul put it this way: "One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal" (Philippians 3:13). Yes, God will provide. "...how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13). Come, Holy Spirit!

We need to thank God over and over for the blessings God has showered upon Westminster. Read the 19 pages of the Annual Report created by Melinda. Look at the pictures of our members and friends. "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart... I will sing your praise." After praising God, the Psalmist concludes "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me" (Psalm 138:1 & 5).

Let's pray for God to "open the window" and reveal what is hidden to us about our future together. The One who called you is completely dependable. If God said it, God will do it! (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Blessings and joy and patience to you all, *Jon*

Let me tell you a Property story...

As promised from the last newsletter publication that we would provide an update on the Backflow Preventer issues. We have finally reached out to a new company to do the inspection and determine if there is a repair required in hopes the price will more reasonable than the previous company. We are scheduled to have that done this month. More To Come On That...

So the story for this newsletter publication is...As many of you may know/or maybe some may wonder/or even others might not even think about it, but just how does the church get the snow cleared from the parking lots and sidewalks so that we can worship during the winter months!?! Well, let me give you some backstory on that first. About 7 years ago (give or take) we always contracted to have the parking lots plowed and salted. We had been able to secure plowing contracts at reasonable prices. Well, one day that that all stopped. It was hard to find anyone to do it under \$200 a snowstorm. The last company we contracted with charged \$200 even if all they did was salt the lots when it was a light snowfall. That year nearly wiped out the entire Property budget for the year. We realized very quickly that was not going to be sustainable long term. One of our congregants purchased their own plow and began plowing and salting only when needed and charged \$100 for both lots. This person coordinates with the sun and the severity of the storms and only plows and salts when the sun cannot not melt off the lots in time for our arrival, our renters usage, and the teachers who use the lots throughout the workweek. Great arrangement and saves the church money on the price of salt and unnecessary plowing! This person also handles getting the sidewalks and entryways cleared as well. Therefore, that's how it gets done! This person now just does it for free as one of their 'time' and 'talents' they can provide for the church. (The church still pays for the salt) Property does everything we can to ensure the church stays accessible in the winter and watches the expenses to get that done so we all can meet to worship on Sundays and enjoy all the other activities we engage in there.

As we prepare to spring into Spring for the next newsletter publication Property story will be about all the folks in the church who maintain the flower beds, trim bushes, and the upkeep to the grounds.

As always, thank you for supporting our little church on the lane.

~The Property Committee

Thoughts about Valentine's Day

Valentine's day is one of those days that can be filled with excitement, fun, and loving memories. Or, it can be a painful reminder of lost loves, unfulfilled love, or disappointments from others not meeting our expectations. This is how I've always seemed to view the day. Then, this year I had a revelation. Why focus on love from other human beings? Instead, Valentine's Day can be a day where we reflect on the unconditional, unwavering love God has for us. I remember reading a special write up that was taken from John 3:16. Today, I invite you to fill your name into the blank spots, as I did 35 year ago. Read it aloud, not once, but several times. This love God has for us surpasses all other humanly love we could ever experience. As you see the red hearts, flowers, chocolates, cards and all other secular celebrations of Valentine's Day, remember God speaking these words to you...

John 3:16-17 (put your name in the blank)

"For God loved _____ so much that he gave _____ his only Son so that _____, who believes in him, shall not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn _____, but to save _____."

What an awesome kind of love to have! Happy Valentine's Day!

~ Melinda Rowe

Galloway & Westminster Presbyterian Events

February 2nd – Women meet after worship for a planning time.(Galloway)

February 9th – Fellowship time before the worship service (**Westminster**)

February 11th – See *Ya Tuesday* group will meet at York Steak House at 5:30 p.m. We do ask folks to sign up for this – mainly so we can call if weather affects getting together. (Galloway)

February 12th -- Women of the church gather for informal lunch at Bob Evans in Georgesville Square at 12:30 p.m. No reservation required, just come and have fun! (**Galloway**)

February 16th – Joint worship service at **Westminster Presbyterian Church**. 10:30 a.m. Thom will be preaching.

February 18th – **Westminster Presbyterian lunch bunch** group meets at York Steak House 11:30 a.m.

February 23rd – Soup/sandwich luncheon after worship.(Galloway)

Feb 25th – **Westminster Book Club** meets, 1p.m. at Jean Wills' house.

Nook225

FROM THE NOOK

BLACK RIVER ORCHARD BY Chuck Wendig Fiction  Thriller/Horror
2023

There are two genres of literature not found among my books. Horror because it is too weird, and Science Fiction because I don't understand it. But there is always an exception—perhaps it was the lure of a delicious apple; the craving for a dish of warm apple cobbler that drew me in. Just as a special apple, tasting like no others, drew people into its power.

Hunters of vintage, heritage apples are searching for a very special one. That hunt may lead them to death. At the same time, an orchard owner has produced an apple so unusual that once eaten becomes addictive. The first bites are wonderful—compelling—then dangerous. Resident apple eaters become euphoric before being taken over by demonic desires.

The plot is exciting and absorbing even for traditional non horror readers. Characters are likeable and normal (to a certain point). History of the area (the three-state tip of Penn.) becomes an interesting part of the story. If you don't like the macabre parts, just turn some pages and dash toward the end. You will still get the intended outcome. The conclusion is complete—at least it didn't leave me hanging.

Light a fire, nestle in a comfy spot, and head for this orchard. Let the windows creak and the floor squeak (ambiance is fun). You might want to have cocoa at hand rather than hot cider though.

AN ASIDE A few summers ago I attempted to grow some heritage tomatoes based on a friend's recommendation. They supposedly came from the Revolutionary War days. This project was not successful! Maybe?????

Carolyn Moore

STUFF

Stuff comes in all colors, sizes and shapes.

It may be touchable, silent , imaginary, or draped

With feelings that keep it secure in its place.

Stuff fills our hearts, our minds and our souls

Just as our closets begin to overflow.

The car sits outside as its quarters are crammed

With assorted “necessities” which could have been banned!

The attic is packed—cannot hold one more box-

But I must find a place for that huge granite rock.

Each nook and cranny hold treasures so dear

There’s scarcely room for another, I fear.

Is there room at the top? Can I squeeze a bit more?

Only if I remove the back door!

But what if these heaps of stuff disappeared—

What would I do? How could I live?

Memories remain in our hearts and our thoughts.

Just call one up during an emotional drought.

Carolyn Moore written during a purge for moving!

“How my father shaped my life”

My father shaped my life without trying, by being in harmony with nature and kindness.

Adults don't experience the same feeling of splendor like children do. The most splendid time of my life was going fishing with my father.

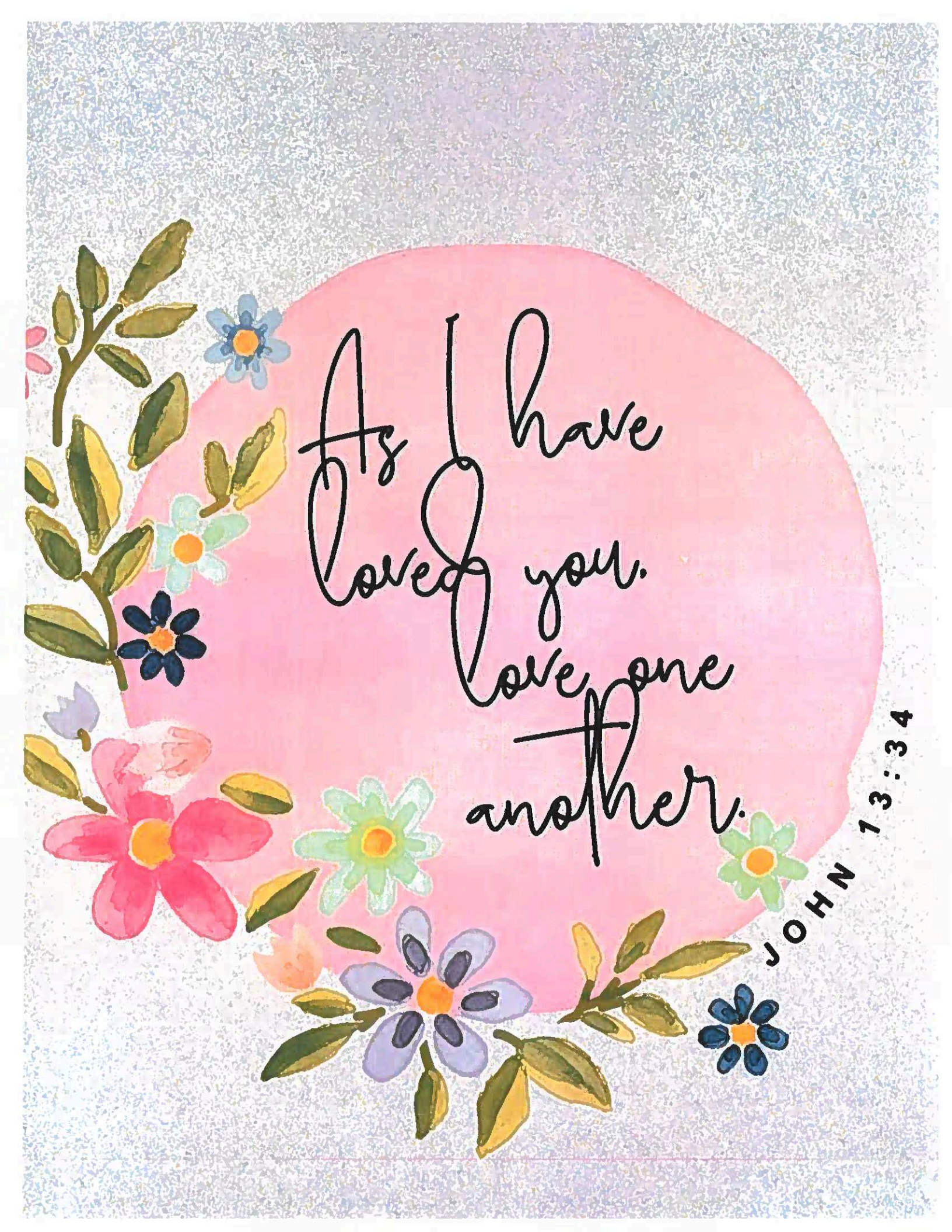
We walked in fields and he showed me wild greens you can eat. We followed the creek by the woods walking under a canopy of trees so thick, that the sun could barely filter through. He taught me about trees, purple violets and a jack-in-the-pulpit. He let me take off my shoes and walk in the green moss.

He carried our poles and worms and taught me to bait my hook and take off the fish. That day we shared a special bond.

Many years later I took my children to this magical place and taught them the things that changed my life.

Diane Lynn Trout

*Thank you
Diane Lynn Trout*



As I have
loved you,
love one
another.

JOHN 13:34