



LOVE IS ALWAYS THE END GAME

What do I say in my last missive? What's most important, of course. Love God. Love each other. My Christmas gift to you isn't something I can gift wrap. It's a word of encouragement to continue knowing and loving God in Jesus Christ more deeply and following Jesus's instruction more closely. In doing so, we are transformed through faith by the indwelling Spirit of God to **love** as Jesus loved us: sacrificially and selflessly.

Our lives are meaningless if they're not built upon the Cornerstone of love. In all we say, love. In all we do, love. In all we think, love. I heard someone say,

“Love – it's where we come from. It's where we're going.
And love is how we get there.”

I believe that with all my heart.

How do we do everything out of love? Follow in the footsteps of Jesus our Lord, and **love God and others – wholeheartedly**. In doing so, we will be transformed to do that which we are incapable of doing. Express your love in reaching out to the poor, the brokenhearted, the homeless. Help a neighbor. Encourage your children. Hug your spouse. Help out at church. You get it – it's doing what Jesus told us to do. (See, e.g., Matthew 25:31ff)

Keep running the good race. Stay focused on Jesus. Continue to gather together to spur one another on to love and good works. (Heb. 10:24-25).

It's been an honor to work alongside you these last five years as your Executive Presbyter. I'll see you all at the end of time if not before.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and all those whom you love both now and forevermore.

In Christ, I love you all,

Michael Mudgett



Merry Christmas from the Presbytery Staff:

Michael, Frances, Kari, and Jennifer