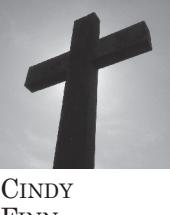


# RELIGION

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### Love one another



CINDY

FINN

UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH, SPIRIT LAKE

didn't like her anymore.

We talked about what had happen and she concluded that she wanted to force them to like her. So, she wished for magic fairy dust to sprinkle on them so they would do as she wanted.

Thinking about it now, I believe this came from watching too many Disney films. As we talked, I asked her, if she sprinkled fairy dust,

how would she know if her friends really liked her or if they were being forced to like her? By the end of the week, as young friends do, they made up quickly and she didn't have to force them to like her after all.

And she reported later, "I didn't need fairy dust at all. They love me for who I am, and I love them for who they are."

One of my favorite scripture passages comes from the Gospel of John.

"When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:31-35)"

Jesus called the disciples "little children," not

to belittle them but to remind them that they are God's children, precious and loved. Jesus knew that he would be with the disciples only a short time. In preparing for when he would return to heaven, he no doubt reflected on his ministry and teaching. The meaning of his parables were often difficult for people to grasp. Above all, Jesus needed the disciples to know and live ... "love one another."

In following Jesus' life, we know that great troubles challenged the disciples. The disciples struggled with concerns over who was the greatest, being in competition with each other, having doubts about their faith and the power of God and having wondered what will happen in the future. Jesus taught them, guided them and needed them to be strong and in all of it he knew love would prevail.

The commandment to "love one another" seems so simple. You can easily memorize it and tell others about it. However, it is much more difficult to put into practice. How one loves another starts with the love we have for ourselves and

the love that others have shown to us. Often that love is taught by the way a parent, grandparent or guardian loved and loves us. Loving another comes through trial and error. Our experiences teach us how to love.

Jesus said, "They will know you are my disciples if you love one another as I have loved you."

Are you up to loving one another as Christ has loved us?

My daughter graduated from high school in 2010. The love and friendship she had with her best friends is just as strong as it was when they were in elementary school. Two of the friends have moved out of state. All have children who know each other and are friends. It has taken effort for them to stay in contact with each other, just as it takes effort for us to love and be lovable.

I challenge and implore you to love as Jesus loved with grace, mercy, justice, and forgiveness not just with close family and friends but all of God's children.

May you be filled with love, and may you offer love to all you meet!

## AREA CHURCH LISTINGS

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

#### Foundation

#### Church, Spencer

Rev. Nicholas Hanges,  
Senior Pastor

1410 W. 18th St.

712-262-6292

foundationspencer.com

• Sunday School K-12, 9 a.m.

• Sunday Prayer/

Fellowship, 9 a.m.

• Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

• Kids Church Sunday,

10 a.m.

• Wednesday All Ages,

6:30 p.m.

#### BAPTIST

#### Baptist Church,

#### Sioux Rapids

Rev. James Marshall

• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.

• Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

#### First Baptist

#### Church, Spencer

Rev. Tim Smith

1200 Grand Ave.

712-262-1325

firstbaptistspencer.com

• Sunday School,

9:15 a.m.

• Sunday Upward Look —

KICD 1240 AM, 10 a.m.

• Sunday Worship,

10:30 a.m.

• Sunday AWANA, 4 p.m.

• Sunday FBC Youth

Group, 6 p.m.

#### CALVARY CHAPEL

#### New Life Worship

#### Center, Spencer

Rev. Tracy Baugh

1217 Fourth Ave. W.

712-262-3125

• Sunday Bible

Church, 10 a.m.

• Wednesday Prayer,

6:30 p.m.

#### CATHOLIC

#### St. Joseph's Catholic

#### Church, Hartley

Rev. Kevin Richter

260 N. Fourth Ave. W.

712-928-2626

• Primghar St. Anthony,

Sunday, 8 a.m.

• Hartley St. Joseph,

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

#### St. Joseph's Catholic

#### Church, Milford

Rev. Brian Hughes

1305 Okoboji Ave.

712-338-2274

Sacred Heart Catholic

#### Church, Ruthven

Rev. Paul Kelly

1801 Rolling St.

712-852-3187

Sacred Heart Catholic

#### Church, Spencer

Rev. Kevin Richter

1111 Fourth Ave. W.

712-262-3047

• Saturday Service, 4:30 p.m.

• Sunday Service, 11 a.m.

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