

From the Pastor's Desk

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love" 1 John 4:18

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to walk through any store and not think about love this month. The Valentine's decor and cards seemed to arrive the day after Christmas and have been accompanying us through the new year.

Yet, as Christians, Valentine's Day invites us not to think of the people that we love (though we certainly all have people in our lives who we love and who love us) but first and foremost about the love of God.

Jesus, when asked what the greatest commandment is lifts up two - to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. But if you go back to the shema, the central prayer of our Jewish brothers and sisters, where this response of Jesus is lifted from, it starts like this, "Listen, O Israel".

To listen is a great act of love. To listen to our Lord. To listen to the cries of our brothers and sisters. To listen to the needs of our community, who God loves.

Here, in only the second month of the new year, I want to invite us to people who listen and listen in love. Who listen as a way to share the Good News of the Gospel. Let us be people who are marked by the ever-present and transformative love of our God.

Blessings,
- Pastor Michelle