

Ladies, please add Ella Hoogendoorn to the Lydia Circle membership in your women's Ministries pamphlets.

### Reflections for January 10, 2021

If I were to ask you the question right now, "Do you believe that God likes you and delights in you?" ... how would you respond? My experience is that most people who call themselves Christians hesitate when asked that question. Because I am not asking do you believe God loves you because theologically God *has* to love you. I am asking if you believe God delights in you being born and likes you for who you are. I think for most the idea of God liking and delighting in us seems "too much" for some reason. God maybe tolerates us in our humanity. Or maybe is ready to judge us constantly because we are such mess ups. Or maybe does not even remember us because there are so many people. But to delight in us...like us? I do not know.

Brennan Manning in his book, *Abba's Child*, tells one of his favorite stories about a priest from Detroit named Edward Farrell who went on his two-week summer vacation to Ireland. His one living uncle was about to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. On the day of celebration, the priest and his uncle got up before dawn and dressed in silence. They took a long walk and stopped to watch the sunrise, standing side by side with no words exchanged and staring straight at the rising sun. Suddenly the uncle turned and went skipping down the road. He was radiant, beaming, smiling from ear to ear.

His nephew said, "Uncle Seamus, you look really happy."

"I am, lad."

"Want to tell me why?"

His eighty-year-old uncle replied, "Yes, you see, my Abba is very fond of me."

What if you could respond with a gut level honesty to the question, "Do you believe that God likes you and delights in you? By saying, "Oh yes, I believe that my Abba is very fond of me." I think you receive a calm tenderness filling your soul, to know you are not only loved, but delighted in. This coming Sunday we are going to be thinking about identity. Who are you at the core of your being? Most of the time when we think of identity, we think of three things: What do you do? What do people think of you? What do you have? The truth is these are all false premises to build your identity on. How about trying this on: I am a child of God; loved by God; and delighted in by God. By looking at the baptism of Jesus and the proclamation made over his life we are going to think about our identity as well. Some passages to read: [Matthew 3:13-17](#); [John 1:29-34](#); and [Zephaniah 3:17](#).

Grace upon Grace,

Verlyn

### **NURSING HOME & ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS:**

Whispering Heights: **Verna Boer, Adriana Dykstra, Faye Gort, Marilyn Van Holland**. The Legacy Living, Gillette, WY: **Mary Boer**, Pleasant Acres, Hull: **Cornie & Ann Jansen**; Bethany Home, Brandon, SD: **Bill & Alma Landegent**.

### **CHURCH SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES:**

**Brian and Elizabeth Bruxvoort** in AK; **Amy and Seung Kim** in Bangladesh; **Tom and Aichatou Johnson** in Pella, IA; **Brian and Donna Renes** in Sioux Center; **John & Lynn Hubers** in Ethiopia.

***If you or a family member have a prayer concern and would like to have either the elders or the whole church to pray with you or for you, please contact your calling elder or a member of the consistory.***

## Identity

### Matthew 3:13-17

- The world says:  
  
You are what you do  
  
You are what people say about you  
  
You are what you have
- Courageous Leaving (Matthew 3:13-14)
- Consecrated Identification (Matthew 3:15)
- Unchangeable Identity (Matthew 3:16-17)

## Good News Truths

# 1: We are sons and daughters of God

#2: We are loved by God

#3: We are delighted in by God

## Announcements

**Shepherd's Table:** We will have a Food Share on January 11 at Justice For All's south parking lot from 5:00-6:00pm. If you or someone you know would be blessed by some additional food, please come and pick some up. We look forward to seeing you!

A new *Love & Learn* class session is starting on Tuesday, January 19th at 6:45 to 8:15 PM at Trinity CRC in Rock Valley. Classes available this winter are:

- **Boundaries (NEW!)** – learn how to set healthy boundaries in all your relationships including yourself.
- **Faith & Finances** – a common sense approach to managing day to day finances. Gain knowledge and learn skills of good financial practices and systems.
- **GriefShare** – led by caring people who have experienced their own journey of grief, this support group will offer biblical concepts for healing.
- **“Have a New Kid by Friday”** – practical tips and tools in parenting to create a loving, God-centered environment for life’s greatest blessing: your children
- **Affirming Potential** – evaluate the physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual areas of your life.
- **Redemptive Compassion** – interactive Bible study that explores HOW to love and serve effectively as God’s people.

To learn more about these classes or register call Love INC at 712-476-5990 or email

[loveinc3@premieronline.net](mailto:loveinc3@premieronline.net)