

Morris

MEMORIAL

JUNE 2022

What is the Meaning of Agape Love?

Agape, and its verb form agapao, is one of the several Greek words for love. The Bible also mentions phileo, or brotherly love, and refers to eros, erotic love. The Greeks also spoke of storge, which is a love between family members.

Agape love is a little different. It is not a feeling; it's a motivation for action that we are free to choose or reject. Agape is a sacrificial love that voluntarily suffers inconvenience, discomfort, and even death for the benefit of another without expecting anything in return. We are called to agape love through Christ's example: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:1-2).

We are to agapao God (Matthew 22:37), our neighbor (Matthew 22:39), and even our enemies (Matthew 5:43-46). We are not to agapao money (Matthew 6:24), darkness (John 3:19), or men's approval (John 12:43).

Here are a few Scripture examples of God's great love for you!

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."
~ 1 John 4:7-8

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." ~ John 4:9-12

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." ~ 1 John 4:16-18

"We love because he first loved us." ~ 1 John 4:19

The New Testament has over two-hundred references to agape love.

(continued)

Although 1 Corinthians 13 is known as the chapter on love, there is no book that speaks more about agape than 1 John. Two important themes come out of 1 John. The first is that it is inconsistent and false to claim we agape love God while not agape loving other believers. We cannot love God without loving brothers and sisters who also love Him. The second is that it is inconsistent and false to claim we agape love God if we don't obey Him. It is impossible to love God while ignoring what He says. The two are inextricably connected, as Galatians 5:14 says: "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

God is love! If we want the perfect example of love, it is in our creator God. Often, God's love is referred to as agape love which is the highest form of love that is selfless and sacrificial. It is steadfast, unchanging, and unconditional.

The next time you say that God loves you, take time to reflect on what it actually means. Likewise, when you say you love someone or something, think about the intent or context of the meaning of that love.

Shalom-

**Adapted from articles contained in <https://www.compellingtruth.org/agape-love.html>, as well as <https://www.compellingtruth.org/agape-love.html>

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

Ingrid Smith	June 7	Ray Stonestreet	June 12
Robert Stigall	June 7	Cynthia Fletcher	June 19
Opal Hundley	June 8	Randy Dobbins	June 25
Gloriann Caudill	June 9	Cathy Dobbins	June 26
Candice Anderson	June 11	Gretta Skiles	June 27
Charlie Winter	June 12		

Anniversaries:

Karen & Jim Smith	June 1	Gloriann & Jim Caudill	June 16
Debby & Rick White	June 1	Sheila & Bob Wade	June 18
Mildred & Teddy Bledsoe	June 7	Linda & Chuck Yanov	June 20
James & Carissa McBurney	June 7	David & Marie Cole	June 21
Sharon & Tim Pittman	June 11	Patricia & Mike Duffie	June 22
Debby & Rick Johnson	June 16	Cynthia & Carl Fletcher	June 27



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mondays:	9:30 a.m.	Nurture in Action
Wednesdays:	10:00 a.m.	MEC Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Sundays:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	2:00 p.m.	Youth

- June 6 – MEC Board 6:30 p.m.
- June 7 – Trustees 6:30 p.m.
- June 10-12 – Annual Conference
- June 13 – Worship Team 1:30 p.m.
- June 14 – Finance
- June 20 – Special Charge Conference 6:30
- June 21 - Church Council 6:30 p.m.
- June 28– PPRC 6:30 p.m.

Financial Update

Needed monthly to meet our 2022 budget:	\$33,681
Received Year to Date (January 1-May 31):	\$149,926.54
Expenses Year to Dates (January 1-May 31):	\$150,166.54

Thank you for your dedicated tithes and offerings to Morris Memorial.
Your gifts are deeply appreciated.

Common Grounds News and Needs

If you were in the church service on May 8, Carolyn Ballard on behalf of our Nurture 'N' Action Team shared that they are sponsoring a food drive for Common Grounds on Saturday, June 4 from 10 AM – 2 PM. It will be held in our front church parking lot. Any donation, whether large or small, will be welcomed as the need for food to feed the needy in our community is ever-present. For more details and donation suggestions please see the Food Drive flier in the church Narthex.

One of the Thursdays in May we were pleased to welcome four new families. It's not unusual to welcome one new family in a day we are open; it is unusual to welcome more than that! Needless to say we're sorry they need us but we're oh so thankful we can be "here" for them in time of need.



In one of our recent articles we shared with you that we are offering "extras" to our families in addition to their monthly boxes. Lately we have been offering eggs and a breakfast meat (sausage, ham, or bacon) and these have been quite popular. In June we plan to offer ground beef for hamburgers and buns and in July we plan to offer hot dogs and buns as our "extras."

If you can help us this month, please bring **CANNED SOUPS, BOXED OATMEAL, AND/OR CANNED FRUIT** (preferably in its own juice). As you know we are grateful for whatever food you donate. Please place them in the woven trunk in the Narthex. If you would like to give a donation by check, please make the check out to **Morris Memorial Methodist Church** and in the bottom left-hand corner write Common Grounds. Thanks for sharing in whatever way(s) you choose! May God bless you beyond measure!

If you are interested in learning more about Common Grounds, have comments to share, or would like to volunteer with us, please contact Susan Vieweg, our Morris Memorial Common Grounds Coordinator, at (304) 344-2617 or (304) 549-6155. Thank you so much.

Morris Enrichment News

Congratulations to the Pre-K children who graduated on May 19 from Morris Enrichment Center! They are now ready to begin kindergarten in August. These children worked hard all year learning not just letters, numbers, social skills, & many subjects, but they learned the Lord's Prayer, pledges to the Christian and American flag, and stories from the Bible.



Congratulations also to Lisa Smith who has earned her Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education! This makes two teachers who have completed the

requirements this year! We are so proud of them for the hard work they put in to achieve this milestone! Both teachers were recognized during the program. Michelle Hudnall was the other teacher.



Each year the teachers vote for one staff member they feel has most impacted their lives and MEC. Georgeanne doesn't have a ballot, the teachers each submit a name to her. This year Donna Stover was the unanimous choice! She was honored with flowers, a gift, and lots of hugs!

Thank you to the numerous members of Morris Memorial who came to support and show love to MEC, Donna, and the graduates! Please take time when you are in the church to look at the pictures on the bulletin board outside of Erin's office from the graduation!

Congratulations!



Thank You, Friends!

A huge thank you to Pastor Ray, Georgeanne Leake, Erin Borchers, David Johnson, & Becky for rescuing a wedding rehearsal dinner looking for a location after being flooded out of the venue May 6th! My son Stephen & his bride Chelsey were married May 7th at Amma. The rain the day before flooded the Clendenin & Amma area blocking us from getting to the venue to finish decorating, rehearse, & celebrate our dinner. We had the food, part of the wedding party, but no way to get to the location. You, my friends made it happen in the Conference Room! Thank you from all of us!

Sarah Frail & Family



FINALLY! The Knit Wits will begin meeting again.

We invite you to join us on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 in the church library to knit or crochet.

Our main focus is to spread God's love by making items to be donated to those in need. In the past we have made lap blankets and shawls for nursing home residents, blankets, hats and mittens for infants, and dishcloths that are placed in the Thanksgiving baskets.



If you do not knit or crochet, we still invite you to join us for a time of crafting (such as cross stitch or needlework) and fellowship.

Our first meeting will be this upcoming Monday, June 6th. If you have any questions, you may contact Penny Batty at 304-550-4966 or Gloriann Caudill at 304-421-5592.