10-25-26 For the Journey this Week

"Love is the overarching command that makes all the other commands fall right into place.
When you are loving someone, it is harder to judge them, harder to listen to wrong,
and easier to desire a gentleness for them over fear when preaching the gospel.
Love is the greatest commandment because it informs everything else we do."

Heather Hanson

Matthew 22:34-46

Questions for Reflection —

- What does it mean for you to love God with your heart, soul, and mind? In how much of your life does God have first priority? How do you presently express your love for God? What are some ways you need to grow in love of God? What practices will help you nurture a deeper personal relationship with God?

- How do you understand the link between loving God and loving neighbor? Who are your neighbors where you live and work? How are you expressing your love for God through tangible actions of love for the people you encounter in your daily life? What interferes with your ability to be a good neighbor? What spiritual habits will help you grow in love for neighbor?

- How can we as a congregation come to better understand the struggles faced by our neighbors in the community around our building? Through what expressions of mercy, justice, and compassion might we seek to alleviate those struggles? How might we address both the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors? What would it mean to let love of God and neighbor inform all that we do in our programs and ministries? What can we do to make the local community around our building a safer, more loving and caring environment for all?

Daily Household Prayer

God of love, help us to see ourselves with the eyes of love, to see all that is in us that is loving, and all that is not loving. By the grace that we know in Christ, receive us, forgive us, heal us, and perfect Your love in us. Amen.