

*"My commandment is this: Love each other as I have loved you"-John 15:12*

Hello Friends of Rennerdale,

I hope each and every one of you are having a great week. It was pretty joyous to feel the warm temps this weekend and see the sunshine. I don't know about you, but I am sure tired of this gloomy weather. I am ready for summer and the warm weather...and the hope that this virus will be over soon. I wanted to share with you all how much you have helped my neighbor. You might be confused by that statement, but let me explain...

As each of you know, this church organized an outreach program for people in the community who are unable to shop for themselves. Different people from the congregation and even the community of Rennerdale have been stopping by the church and dropping off donations to help those in the community who are having trouble going to the store to get items like food, toilet paper, soap, and other household needs. Early last week, my grandma was telling me about our neighbor who is battling lung cancer, and cannot get to the store with fear that he will get the coronavirus. He lost all hope and did not know how or where his next meal would be. How will he get food? Will he get food? Will he eat today? All these questions this elderly gentleman was worrying about, on top of battling lung cancer. Knowing that the church was doing an outreach program, I asked Pastor Jodi if I could take my neighbor a bag of food from the church (which of course she said yes!) On Thursday afternoon I went to the church, filled a bag with your donations, and delivered it to my neighbor. When I handed my neighbor the bag with food and other essentials, I watched his worry go away from his face and tears of pure joy fill his eyes. My neighbor was filled with great joy over the gracious donations from the church. He repeatedly told me over and over again "thank you, and thanks to your church for helping me". It was in that moment, the words from John 15:12 popped into my head, ***"My commandment is this: Love each other as I have loved you"***.

Today we see many different people and various organizations simply helping each other out during this difficult time. People helping each other out of love and compassion for one another. The words from the Gospel of John show exactly what we all need to be doing in not only the coming weeks and months, but forever...simply **love each other** just as **Christ has loved us**. Friends, this week I give you a challenge to simply love each other or do something simply out of Christian love. Call someone and check in on them to see how they are doing, ask your neighbor if they need anything if you choose to go to the store, send a letter to someone, or even simply donate to a local organization (like the Food Bank). All of these examples show not only love to each other but the love Christ gives to the world.

Love, Peace, and Blessings to you all!

Your Sister in Christ,

Cassie