

Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



What Is Love?
February brings to mind the colors of red and pink, candy hearts, and valentines, and of course - LOVE. This month I am going to delve into the romantic notions, potions, and feelings of what we all call LOVE.

That ambiguous 4-letter word, LOVE, has flown on the darts of cupids into the hearts of many unwary bystanders, and announced itself with a lingering glance or trail of perfume wafting under the nose. A moonlit night, music in the air, eyes meet, and bam! Love at first sight, they say.

Puppy love? True love? Infatuation? Friendship vs. love? It can all be so confusing.

What is LOVE?
Remember those little black and white cartoons that used to be in the newspapers (1970ish) with the chubby little naked boy and girl couple, drawn by Bill Asprey; there was always a line underneath that said - Love is....., and then a different saying every week. My sister collected those and pinned them up on a bulletin board in our bedroom.

Love is...a song in your heart.....a kind of heaven, only better.....taking one day at a time.....and so on.

Sounds dreamy. Not reality though. Little did we know, as young girls, that LOVE was more like....taking care of your partner when they are sick....admitting you were wrong....cleaning up other people's messes sometimes....not pointing out faults even if you can.....choosing to be wrong rather than to hurt someone's feelings. Love is...a feeling that starts to change when the bills come due and the baby runs out of diapers and the only place you go out is to get the paper in the morning.

The reality is that life isn't a bowl of cherries, and LOVE is not as simple as a poetic line in a comic strip. LOVE is complex, has many layers, and has been interpreted thousands of ways. Love is complicated. I heard it explained once that, "Love is a serious thing, you can't let your emotions get involved!"

The way I see it, LOVE is like a blobfish. It's a kind of a LOVE blob, per se. Think back to when you and your partner first fell in love, it's like you each gave a little piece of your heart and put it in a glass bowl, and they merged into one unit. And that glowing pink blob started growing and throbbing with life. That is your LOVE blob. Together you made it, and

together you must take care of it, to handle it carefully, and not kill it.

That is why couples need to spend time together to connect and care for their LOVE blob. It doesn't take long for neglect to kill a Love blob. You kind of have to think of it as a real blobfish, and imagine what would happen if you didn't take care of a blobfish every day; if you didn't feed it, clean it's tank, look after it, protect it from your cats, check the water temperature, etc., how healthy is it going to be in a few weeks time? This precious and special one of a kind creature that you and your mate created would soon be shriveled up and dying if not completely dead if not cared for daily. Same thing goes for your real Love blob between the two of you.

This philosophy also works with friends, family, and pets. If you ignore these precious connections you have created, they will wither up and die too.

We all need LOVE. So take good care of your LOVE blobs. We really can't afford to lose a single one.

Feel free to do this with me: As an exercise to see how well I am taking care of my Love blobs, I am going to; Get a fishbowl.

Paint rocks and write the names of those I love on them, & put inside fishbowl.

Take each rock out at least once a week and check up with that loved one to care for the connection.

Become BETTER at knowing and showing what LOVE is.

Cont. pg. 4

Hook, Line and Sinker

With Tony Hooker

perspective
/pəˈspektɪv/
a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view.

"most guidebook history is written from the editor's perspective"

I was sitting here last week, feeling sorry for myself because I was on quarantine because of Covid 19. I had a sniffle and a sore throat, and I was tired and grouchy and upset that I couldn't go to my office.

Wahhhh. Since the start of the pandemic, 6137 people have tested positive in Douglas County, and 55 were positive when they died. It's nasty, and some of the toughest people I know have been debilitated by it.

What I should have been was grateful that my symptoms were mild and not life threatening. What I should have been was grateful that we live in the greatest country

the world has ever known, with ready access to technology that was hardly imaginable 50 years ago, except for the Jetsons. Hanna-Barbera were all over that stuff 60 years ago. Smart watches? Yep, they had them. Flying cars? You bet. Flat screen TV's? Sure. Rosie the Robot? Robots are here to stay and help, at least for now. I'm watching you, Cyberdyne Systems. No Skynet in these parts, capiche? Drones? Holograms? Tablets? video calls? Check, check, check and check.

Now for my next "Gee, I'm old" moment. The Jetsons was set in 2062. That's only 40 years away, meaning my kids and their kids will be around then. Ouch.

But I digress. Because that's what I do when I'm allowed to spill these random thoughts out on paper.

Through the miracles of modern technology, I was able to meet students via

zoom. I maintained constant communication with my boss and students through email. Heck, I even attended a few video conferences. All while keeping friends, students, colleagues and family safe through the wonders of today's tech. I should be grateful, indeed.

For a final word on perspective, my front-page article this week is about a Villa Grove girl and her family's need for help.

This little girl hasn't rolled many 7's or 11's in her life, but she and her family constantly demonstrate a resolve, without seeking pity, that's hard to put into words.

Perspective? You're danged right. In the words of one of my colleagues, it's time for me to suck it up, buttercup. My struggles pale in comparison to about 99% of the world's population, and all it took was one tough little girl to show me that, again.

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois to Kick-Off 2022 Cookie Season

Cookie Season begins February 4 with NEW brownie-inspired Adventfuls™ alongside other favorites

Customers can purchase Girl Scout Cookies through DoorDash in Champaign, Bloomington, Peoria & Springfield

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois are getting ready to kick off the 2022 Girl Scout Cookie season and the new cookies are already creating quite a buzz. New this year, are Adventfuls™, brownie-

inspired cookies topped with caramel flavored crème and a hint of sea salt. This Cookie Season Adventurefuls™ join the flavor-packed line-up of Girl Scout Cookies including the French-toast inspired Toast-Yay!™, Thin Mints®, Caramel deLites® and Lemonades®

Girl Scouts will once again be selling cookies in creative, socially distant, and contact-free ways to keep themselves and their customers safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Digital Cookie online platform allows for direct shipment or local delivery of cookies and a partnership with Door Dash will allow customers in Champaign to add boxes of their favorite cookies to any order.

In addition to virtual sales, many Girl Scouts will be back out in their communities running outdoor cookie booths.

"The last two years has taught us that our girls are ready and willing to meet the toughest challenges creatively to accomplish their goals," said GSCI CEO Pan Kovacevich. "After the lessons learned last Cookie Season, Girl Scouts throughout Central Illinois are ready to kick off the 2022 season safely and ensure all our cookie customers are able to find and purchase their favorite cookies and whether virtually or in person."

Every Girl Scout Cookie purchase fuels local Girl

Scouts' adventures throughout the year: exploring what interests them, discovering their passions, and taking action on issues they care about. Whether they're using their STEM skills to solve a problem, changing a law to help their community, having a courageous outdoor experience, or starting an innovative nonprofit, Girl Scouts build a better future for themselves and the world. And through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, including by earning new Cookie Business badges, girls get a taste of being entrepreneurs and learn important online and offline business skills that set them up for success in life.

To purchase Girl Scout Cookies this season:

If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to her to find out how she's selling cookies. If you don't know a Girl Scout, visit www.girlscout-cookies.org, text COOKIES to 59618*, or use the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder app for free on iOS or Android devices to find socially distant or contact-free cookie booths in the area.

Add onto your Door Dash order (available in Champaign)

Beginning February 18, enter your zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at www.girlscoutcookies.org to purchase from a local Girl Scout troop online for shipment to your door.

Villa Grove BINGO
Every Friday Night
VFW post 2876

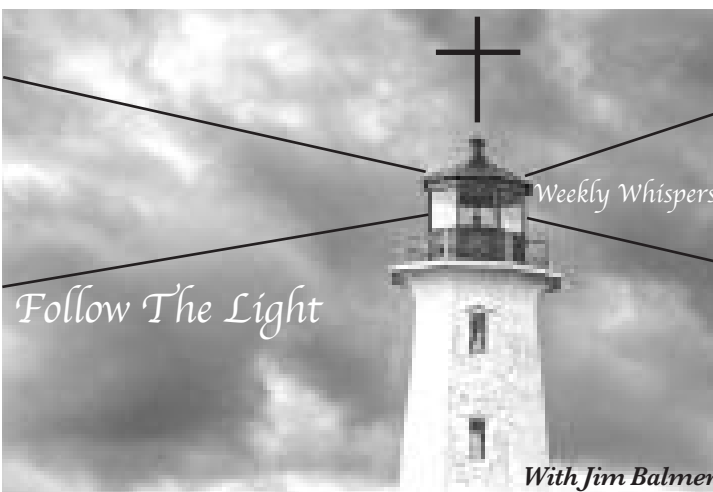
6:30 pm- Early Bird
7:00 pm- Regular Bingo

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Bingo Lic# B1934
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Psalm 67
Good News Translation
A Song of Thanksgiving
67 God, be merciful to us and bless us; look on us with kindness,
2 so that the whole world may know your will; so that all nations may know your salvation.
3 May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you!
4 May the nations be glad

and sing for joy, because you judge the peoples with justice and guide every nation on earth.

5 May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you!

6 The land has produced its harvest; God, our God, has blessed us.

7 God has blessed us; may all people everywhere honor him.

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•Youth Group•Sewing Circle•
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"Come Rejoice With Us"
701 N. Sycamore Street
Villa Grove, Illinois
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Fax (217) 832-9348
website: www.fccvg.com
e-mail: fccvg@frontier.com
Minister—Mike Zylstra
e-mail: fccvgmin@frontier.com
Morning Worship—9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Celebration 9:30 a.m.
Age 4-5th Grade
Sunday Morning Celebration Leaders:
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Sunday School—10:45 a.m.
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1st & 3rd Sunday 5-6pm
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Pastor Catherine Thomas
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e-mail: tolonomethodist@msn.com
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Sunday School: Jr-Sr High 9:30am

COUNTRYSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1807 County Road 1000N
Between Sidney and Philo
Rev. Jeff Stahl
E-mail: cumc.office99@gmail.com
www.countrysidemethodist.org
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