*“Above all keep loving one another earnestly since love covers a multitude of sins!”*



 1 Peter 4:8

This weekend the battery in our car died. The extreme cold weather must have been the final straw so it would not start without jumper cables. I was fortunate not to have this problem while we were in Minnesota this last January, even though the wind chill was 20-30 degrees below zero. Every morning I would say a prayer before I turned the key in the ignition and every morning by the grace of God the car started. One morning I wasn’t sure it would, but with a little extra TLC it did. I guess the northern states’ cold temps was the beginning of the demise for the car battery. Similarly, we too, are drained, exhausted from the many things we encounter in life. What strengthens us and empowers us is our faith and the love of family and friends. Like recharging a battery, our hearts need that kind of stimulation. We all need daily doses of renewal, restoration and a jump start to face the trials we might face. It is vital, then, that we listen to Peter who tells us to love everyone. Because we are broken people and live with sin we need the source of love that only God can provide; love that will continually charge our hearts and minds through the power of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. When times are tough we reach for these divine jumper cables. During Lent, we will examine our lives more closely to gain a stronger and better connection with God. We will *give up* something in honor of Jesus’ giving up His life for us. We are also encouraged to *take up* something that will improve our disposition. Something that will recharge our heart so that we can share God’s love with others. It is easy to love those who love us, but Jesus says that we are to love those who do not make it so easy or the strangers we encounter (Luke 6:32). Every person who crosses our path needs a little TLC. Be considerate of the outsider, those whose paths you cross, over the next 40 days. Consider the life of their battery, and ask yourself if they will be recharged by a loving gesture which might help them to get through the day. The Holy Spirit will use this Good Samaritan act in positive ways. God will make sure that one good deed generates another. We are not in control, God is. We are merely the jumper cables connecting the positive power of God to the drained soul of those who surround us. Let Lent be the time we clear our hearts and minds from earthly things so that we might be 100% charged with the love of God!! Take in God’s Word, pray for renewal and walk with Jesus so that you can love your neighbor.

*“We love because He first loved us”* 1 John 4.19

***Pastor Cheri***