

# FBC CONNECT: CALLED TO LOVE



As our FBC family of faith enters 2019 together, the staff and spiritual formation advisory team invite you to consider our theme for the year, **FBC Connect: Called to Love**.

This new focus is a natural next step to last year's study of **FBC 263: A Call to Discipleship**. Jesus very simply but profoundly emphasizes that the most important commandment for all disciples is to love God with our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

We will use **FBC Connect: Called to Love** and the logo throughout the year on the website, facebook page, bulletin, newsletter and other social media. The topic will be in the forefront as we plan the many ministries of FBC and more importantly as we focus on strengthening loving relationships within our congregation and beyond.

Let's keep these critical questions in the forefront of all we do: How is my love for God and for others growing in 2019? How am I connecting more meaningfully with God and with others? How does being called to love change the way I serve in missions, teach Sunday School, lead in worship, visit the sick and homebound? When others encounter me, do they experience the love of Jesus?

To Jesus, the call to discipleship and the call to love were one and the same. He challenged his followers with this statement, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35



The symbol of a cross clearly illustrates our call to love and to connect with God and with others. The vertical beam stretches from heaven to earth, representing a disciple's ever deepening love for God. The horizontal beam reaches outward like the arms of Jesus to embrace the world, representing a disciple's growth in love for others.