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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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The Church: Our Reason for Being

Mark 12:28-34

The Greatest Commandments

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NIV) — 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

- ❖ We exist as the Church, first, to glorify God in our community through our life together in worship, fellowship and service.

Matthew 5:14–16 (NIV) — 14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Romans 15:5–6 (NIV) — 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ❖ We most fully glorify God when we seek the good of our neighbors – those near us and like us, and those distant and different.

Leviticus 19:18 (NIV) — 18 "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, **but love your neighbor as yourself.** I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:33–34 (NIV) — 33 "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. 34 **The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself,** for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37

- ❖ The question isn't "Who is my neighbor?" But, "What kind of neighbor am I?"

Central Thought: As the church of Jesus Christ, we exist not for our own benefit, but rather, for the glory of God and the good of our neighbors near and far.

Questions/Homework

- ❖ Read and reflect on Mark 12:28-34 and Luke 10:25-37.
- ❖ Read Matthew 6:19-24. Prayerfully consider the priorities of your life and the affections of your heart before God.
- ❖ Prayerfully consider why you are or are not a regular part of a church family. Is your primary concern for yourself? For God? For others?