



October 19, 2026

"Love"

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Our son got married at the end of August in the back yard of my family cottage, on the same spot where our daughter was married 19 years ago, and where Mike and I tied the knot 45 years ago. I don't think it is a stretch to say they were married in a sacred space.

Friends and family came from all over the world. Our daughter was the officiant. Their dog wore a wreath of flowers and pretty much behaved. It rained. An eagle flew by as the bride read her vows. I read the Mary Oliver poem, "A Summer's Day" and the bride's mother read the Corinthians passage in Italian to welcome her family who had traveled far for the celebration and ceremony.

So, as I take this quieter season to reflect on this past summer, I pause with 1 Corinthians that is so often read at weddings. Where did love enter in?

I had all summer to recover from surgery, to follow my doctor's orders to not lift heavy things, to walk but not get too tired, to eat protein, take my pills, get enough rest, to not go into a lake (that one was the hardest!) My patience was assisted by the anticipation of the wedding.

A wedding can demand so many things: Flowers, food and drink, sound system, transportation, speeches, dresses, suits, hair, makeup! Although those are just things, they matter, as do all the human interactions and relationships that go into a wedding, especially the relationship between the bride and groom. Leading up to the wedding, during the ceremony and celebration afterwards, I saw such kindness between the bride and groom. They were kind to each other, kind to their friends, kind to us.

Our daughter took the job of officiant quite seriously. She knew a wedding is sacred and a celebration, that marriage is a commitment. She knew the bride and groom wanted us to share in their love. She knew we all wanted to share our love with them. She brought in her faith to every bit of the ceremony. It was all about love.

Love is a tall order. Thank God that God is love. God always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. God never fails.

Let your faith extend today, be open to the love around you. And if you don't see it, bring it. Read the verse above again. And again. Let it sink deep.

And don't be too hard on yourself. We can only get glimpses, like I did with the wedding this summer.

~Written by Barb Perry

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