

Happy Valentine's Day.

My name is Lisa Girolamo, and now that First Parish and I are celebrating our 5th year together -- and the relationship is just getting stronger, and with each passing day I find myself falling deeper and harder in love with this place – I decided to write a Valentine's Day poem for it; for you.

Why I Love You, FPCOG

Like all cards and letters that come straight from the heart,
This love poem begins with "Where should I start?"

I suppose the best place to start is with a picture of me
Before I met you, FPCOG

I didn't know much about you, but knew enough about me
To be pretty sure that I wasn't your cup of tea

My car, house and hair are always complete, total messes
As a kid, my mom literally had to beat me into dresses

My favorite films, songs and friends toss the f word around
Me and wine have been known to team up after the sun has gone down

I can be sarcastic, irresponsible and excessively candid
And I cannot count the times that I've left my good judgement stranded

But the moment I met you, I started to see
That my faults weren't the things you'd look for in me

I knew right away you'd see all the good through the bad
And that I wouldn't have to subtract; that I could just simply add

And though our story begins with your love for me
I quickly loved you right back, FPCOG

And before long I realized (and this is all thanks to you):
That love isn't just something we feel, it's mostly something we do

And now when the world's getting heavy and I'm stuck in that lurch
I just pick out a trick I learned right here in church

When I feel like too much of my day has been filled up with labor
I take a moment to stand and greet one of my neighbors

When I feel disconnected from Cole, I read us a book for all ages
Because I know we'll meet up again while we're flipping through pages

Renewal of Giving Testimonial

When I can't hear my heart's words through all my head's noise
I go straight to my newsfeed to share in my friends' sorrows and joys

When my world's feeling empty, like I don't have enough
I know there's something nearby that needs more of my love

When I'm lost and confused by something I see
I know to find someone smarter to preach wisdom to me

And when all else fails and there's still something wrong,
I know to turn up my speakers and just belt out a song

And it's through all of those lessons that you've taught to me
That fill my heart up with hope, FPCOG

And in all my years on this earth there's not a thing I can think of
That's taught me more about life, or more about love

So for showing me love in all of your ways
I promise to try to bless and take care of our world every day

And I thank you so much for seeing the best parts of me
And I love you so much, FPCOG