



The Connection

Monthly Newsletter of
South Point Community Church
February 2024 ~ Volume 75



A Word from Pastor Dave

*“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
(Matthew 5:48, NIV)*

Here comes Valentine’s Day. Do you love, hate the commercialism, worry the stupid Cupid might miss again and you will be left with all the chocolates to eat alone? These Hallmark holidays that clog up the calendar often get a bad wrap but what do we know about the inception of Valentine’s Day?

Turns out the Feast Day of Saint Valentine is actually a very old holiday originating within the Christian church. Tradition has it that starting with Valentine of Rome and Valentine of Terni, both in the 3rd century, there were a handful of church leaders all with the name Valentine who were murdered for their faith. The first Valentine was a church leader of Rome who was imprisoned for aiding persecuted Christians and soon after martyred under Emperor Claudius II in 269 AD. The earliest documents now available report that the Emperor was impressed by Valentine and hoped he would adopt a standard Roman practice of worshipping all the Roman gods equally. However, Valentine refused and in fact attempted to convert Claudius to Christianity instead. Hence his swift and decisive decapitation.

Yet before his execution, Valentine is reported to have performed a miracle by healing Julia, the blind daughter of his

February Dates

- 3rd Pastoral Team Meeting
- 4th Worship Service 10:30
- 6th Celebrate Recovery 7pm
- 7th Prayer 10:30 am
- 11th Worship Service 10:30
- 13th Celebrate Recovery 7pm
- 14th Prayer 10:30 am
- 17th Men’s Breakfast 8:30 am
- 18th Communion Service 10:30
- 19th Happy Family Day
- 20th Celebrate Recovery 7pm
- 21st Prayer 10:30 am
- 23rd & 24th ONMB Convention
- 25th Worship Service 10:30
- 27th Celebrate Recovery Monthly Meal 6:00 pm
- 28th Prayer 10:30 am
- 28th Catalyst Meeting 7 pm
- 29th Far East Broadcasting’s Friendship Dinner 6 pm
- March 3rd Worship Service/ Annual Meeting & Potluck

jailer Asterius. The jailer's daughter and his forty-six-member household of family and servants reportedly came to believe in Jesus and were baptized. Thus, the Feast Day of Valentine was originally to celebrate the faithful love of this man simply because of the marvelous way he served his Lord and Savior; with such a reckless love that he would even pray for the healing of his own jailer's daughter.

Of course, from there the legend has grown and grown to a point that is nearly unrecognizable. Nevertheless, this year if you happen to be thinking about who you could have as your Secret Valentine; who you could pray big, positive, beautiful blessings for; who you would perhaps seek to encourage with thoughtful anonymous gifts; perhaps the question might be who is closest to you that you like the least? Don't worry you can still also have a non-secret Valentine that you like very much but if Valentine of Rome took Jesus' challenge to heart (pun intended) why can't we? "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:43-48, NIV)

8 Different Types of Love

According to the Ancient Greeks

1. **Eros** or Erotic Love
2. **Philia** or Affectionate Love
3. **Storge** or Familiar Love
4. **Ludus** or Playful Love
5. **Mania** or Obsessive Love
6. **Pragma** or Enduring Love
7. **Philautia** or Self-Love
8. **Agape** or Selfless Love

Lord, when you say you are "Love" in your word, it's difficult to understand or measure just how high, how wide, how long, or ever fathom how deep your love is for mankind.

But from the highest of heaven, like an arrow, you sent a message that not only lit up the darkness but struck our hearts with hope.

Jesus, God with us.

A heart that never stops beating for us, never stops searching for the one who will become the next one he calls his own. You call us by name to the foot of the cross where your love flowed out. Where we find forgiveness and cleansing. Never will we be the same after an encounter with this kind of Love.

Barnabas Notes



Faith & Love

Where does love come from?

1 John 4:19 tells us, “We love because He first loved us.” It is the love of God that first changes our hearts in order to make us capable of love and it is His example of love that reminds us again and again of our need to love other people.

This sounds very simple but very few people realize that they are loved without any conditions or limits. This unconditional and unlimited love is what is known as God’s first love. “Let us love,” He says, “because God loved us first”.

God chose to love us before the foundation of the world. This is the amazing love of God. Before we even existed, He chose to love us and He chose to adopt us. This serves to highlight that man’s salvation begins with God.

Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God’s love, and provision for us is revealed. Because of Jesus, we can know that God loves us. He humbled Himself to become one of us and took our place to spare us from the worst fate.

In order to understand all of this, we must have the faith to believe what we’ve just read. We must believe there is a God who loves us. We must believe there is a God who sacrificed His only Son to save us. And we must believe that His Son Jesus really did die on the cross to take all our sins upon Him so that we could have eternal life in the presence of God our Father. We must have the faith to believe that this is true. Hebrews 11:1-3 says “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that

the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

God commands us to love others as He loves us, John 15:12-13 says “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Jesus also said, “I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another” (John 13:34)

There’s a song that I love to sing along with, especially when I’m alone driving in my truck. The song is titled “For the Love of God” and here are the words in the chorus:

Where would I be?

Where would I be if it wasn’t for the love of God?

This song of Victory is, now mine to sing

Hallelujah for the love of God

Has set me free

Know that God’s unconditional love allows for our freedom and abundant life. This love can go with us every day because “God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” – Romans 5:5.

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

Barnabas



Pecan Crescent Cookies



INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups All-Purpose Flour
- 1/4 cup Sugar
- 1/2 tsp Salt
- 1 cup of Butter, softened
- 2 tsp Vanilla Extract
- 1 cup Chopped Pecans
- Confectioners Sugar

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.
2. Sift together the flour, sugar and salt.
3. With a mixer, cream the butter until light and fluffy. Slowly add in the flour mixture and the vanilla.
4. Once blended well, stir in the chopped pecans.
5. Using about a teaspoon of dough, shape into crescents and place on ungreased cookie sheet.
6. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes or until pale brown.
7. Let cool slightly and then roll the cookies in powdered sugar.

LET ALL
THAT
YOU DO
BE DONE
WITH
LOVE.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 NKJV



LOVE
CHOCOLATE
CANDY
VALENTINE
FRIENDS

CUPID
HUG
FLOWERS
HEART
ROSES

Happy Valentine's Day



B A F L O W E R S E
Z D R K H U G Q E V
Y U I X M M Q T V A
Q D E P O C A B S L
R W N X U L V M E E
O E D A O C L R S N
H P S C C K O D O T
K A O P F B V E R I
N H A I Q G E P E N
C T R A E H J F A E

February Birthdays

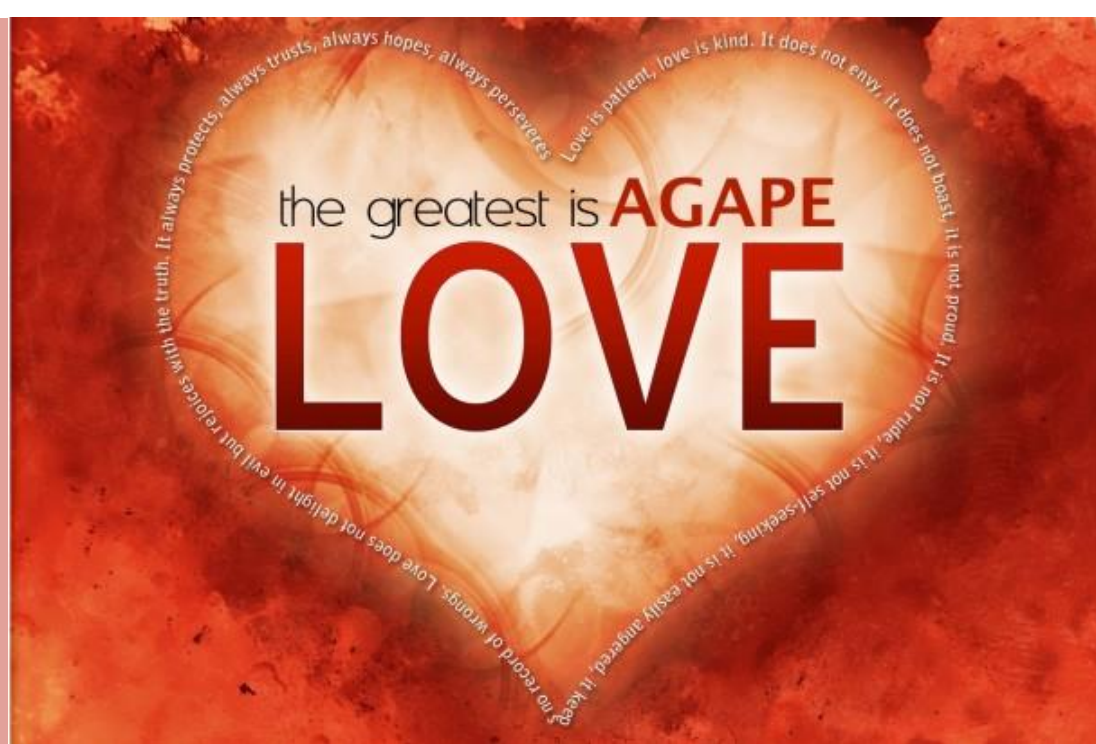
1 st	Diane	14 th	Calia
5 th	Zack	15 th	Gussy
6 th	Chris	17 th	Anna
6 th	Sara	18 th	Jessica
7 th	Victoria	20 th	Dana
8 th	Remy	21 st	Kellen
9 th	Jenna		

For by me your
days will be
multiplied, and
years will be
added to your
life. Proverbs 9:11

Reflections

by

J'Aime



These two statements are true: “I love autumn” and “I love Autumn.”

Without context, you may think I am repeating myself but, if you look carefully, the word ‘Autumn’ in the second statement is capitalized. Without knowing that I have a daughter named Autumn, the first part of this article makes very little sense. Let me rephrase: “I love the season of fall” and “I love my daughter.”

Context, background and understanding are important. Which leads to the concept of love. That one word expresses a wide range of emotional depth. You can apply it to anything that brings you joy, regardless of the context, and verbalize that happiness in a quick and easy way that others understand.

It doesn’t take much of an intellectual leap to grasp the idea that my love of fall is absolutely not the same as my love for my daughter. Yes, coloured leaves are pretty. Crisp mornings are amazing and apples are my favourite fruit. But my kid... that deep, powerful, parental bond is a sensation that I struggle to adequately put into words. In fact, I am confident in my failure to accurately describe that feeling.

The word ‘love’ is all over the Bible. I can’t make broad generalizations because I haven’t read every translation of the Bible ever created but I can tell you that, in English and Portuguese, the type of love expressed by that single word can sometimes get lost in translation.

The Bible wasn’t written in English. The Greek language featured a number of words for ‘love’ that implied

different understandings of the emotion. ‘Philia’ in Hebrews 13, refers to what we understand to be ‘brotherly’ love. “Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.” The apostle Paul talks a lot about love in his writings. Romans 12:10 uses philia as well. It says, “Be devoted to one another in love.”

Another word for love is ‘agape.’ Dave has actually talked about this word in sermons. It’s a deeper, more spiritually connected word that pops up when the Bible refers to God’s love for us. We all know John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” It is powerful and unconditional. It’s the type of love we’re encouraged to show to the world.

Both philia and agape are important. The existence of one doesn’t cheapen the other. Using multiple words to express a similar idea with slightly different contextual meanings adds depth and structure. Knowing the background of the passages you read helps you better understand things.

Valentine’s Day is coming up. It’s one of those greeting card holidays that doesn’t mean a whole lot. Our society would have you believe that love is expressed by the presentation of chocolate, jewelry and oversized stuffed animals. Yes, it is possible to express your love for others with trinkets and food, but don’t let commercialism tell you how to love others. For the true understanding of love (in all of its meanings) simply open your Bible and dig in. You will not be disappointed.

Is there a Bible verse, a song, or a word of encouragement that you could share with someone to remind them of God's love and faithfulness?

Paul:

Matthew 13:31-32

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

This verse has always given me comfort. There are times that I feel that my faith is inadequate to help comfort, or lead someone to The Lord. I am always looking at my life from man's point of view. There are so many times that I have become angry, lost my temper, said the wrong thing, or didn't say anything. I have learnt that even in these times God can and has used me, but more than that still loves me the way he made me. The mustard seed of faith is more than enough!...

Beloved,
let us love one another.

- 1 John 4:7

Wendy:

Song- "What Love, My God"
by CityAlight

Ruby:

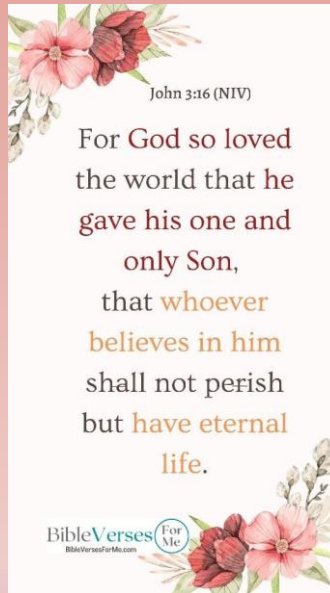
*So these three things
continue forever: faith,
hope and love. And the
greatest of these is Love.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

Amanda:

Song- "You Never Let Go"
by Matt Redman

Roger:

The prodigal son.
Luke 15:11-32



Ministry Highlight

Love GOD PEOPLE

This month our newsletter theme is "Faith & Love". In the Bible, Jesus says "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 'The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." At South Point our volunteers share God's love to others through their service. Each one of you makes such a difference and adds so much to our church family -thank you! I have the privilege of getting to serve alongside many of you and the fellowship we get to share with each other is such a gift. If you are newer to South Point or have not had the opportunity to serve in one of our ministries, I would like to encourage you to find a place here where you can give back and use the gifts God has given you. I would love the chance to sit down with you and help you find out how you could volunteer. There are many different areas to serve: Greeting, Kids Wing, Nursery, Prayer Team, Maintenance, Sound, Media, you could bring a snack for GST or help make coffee in the morning, prepare Communion, Celebrate Recovery, etc. If you would like to learn more about our different ministries or even try one out alongside one of our other volunteers, please call, text or email me and we can arrange something (Tracy- 226-347-0033, tracy@southpointcc.ca).

Volunteers are love in motion.

- Author Unknown



SPCC Christmas Banquet



Kids Christmas Play



SPCC New Years Eve Party



AND OVER ALL THESE
VIRTUES PUT ON LOVE,
WHICH IS THE BOND OF
PERFECT UNITY.
- COLOSSIANS 3:14



LEVERAGING MEDIA TO REACH MILLIONS FOR CHRIST

FEBCanada provides critical financial support and life-transforming Christian audio content for broadcasts in the world's most remote corners.



Friendship Dinner February 29 at 6pm
South Point Community Church

ONMBC
ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF
MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

CONVENTION 2024

SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY 23-24, 2024
Scott Street Church
St Catharines, ON

CrossCards

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:13