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Jae Kim, Pianist

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In His Service, Robin Atkins



Brotherhood Breakfast Sunday, February 2nd 8:45 am



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February 9 Lorraine Norton February 9 Susan Moore February 10 Teresa Atkins February 11 Eloise Walker February 13 Trudy Byron February 19 Lindy Dunham February 27 David Holmes

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Chili w/ Beans
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February 19, 2025 Hot Dogs Baked Beans

6:00 pm

Dessert

& Bible Study

Kristin Frazier, Music Director music@swiftcreekchurch.com

Jae Kim, Pianist

Susan Moore, Financial Secretary finance@swiftcreekchurch.com

Debra Vick, Ministry Assistant office@swiftcreekchurch.com

Church Office **919.851.0112**

Dear Church Family,

As Valentine's Day approaches, a celebration typically associated with love and affection, it's important to reflect on the true essence of love as revealed in the Scriptures. This special day provides a valuable opportunity to contemplate the divine love that God has bestowed upon us and to consider how we can express that love to others in our daily lives.

Scripture teaches us that love is at the very core of our faith. In Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus was asked, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" His response was profound: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments." These commandments remind us that our relationship with God and our interactions with others should be grounded in love. As we celebrate Valentine's Day, let us remember to prioritize our love for God and to extend that love to those around us, reflecting the divine love we have received.

The Bible is filled with verses that express God's immeasurable love for us. One of the most well-known is John 3:16, which states, "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." This verse captures the depth of God's love—a love that inspired Him to sacrifice His only Son for our salvation.

Romans 5:8 highlights the depth of God's sacrificial love, "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." As we reflect on these scriptures, let us remember that God's love is both unconditional and everlasting. It is a love that surpasses all understanding, and we are called to emulate this love in our own lives.

True love is not just a feeling; it requires action. 1 John 3:18 encourages us, "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." As we celebrate Valentine's Day, let's find ways to express our love through our actions. This could involve acts of kindness, words of encouragement, or gestures of compassion. Our goal should be to embody the hands and feet of Christ in a world that desperately needs love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 beautifully illustrates what love looks like in action, "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."

Jesus commanded us to love one another as He has loved us. In John 13:34-35, Jesus states, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." This command encourages us to love others selflessly and sacrificially, just as Christ has loved us. As we celebrate Valentine's Day, let's take this opportunity to reach out to those who may be feeling lonely, discouraged, or forgotten. We should be intentional in showing love to our family members, friends, neighbors, and even strangers, embodying the love of Christ in all our interactions.

Love has the power to transform lives and bring healing to a broken world. 1 Peter 4:8 reminds us, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." When we choose to love, we reflect God's heart and become instruments of His grace and mercy.

Colossians 3:14 also emphasizes the importance of love in our relationships, "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." Love is the glue that holds us together and enables us to live in harmony with one another. As we celebrate Valentine's Day, let's remember that love is more than just a fleeting, emotion or a commercialized holiday. It is a divine principle that should guide our lives and relationships. This is a time to reflect on the love that God has shown us and to renew our commitment to loving Him and loving others.

May the profound love of Christ saturate your hearts and spill over into the lives of everyone you encounter. Let us strive to be a church of faith recognized for our deep compassion, selfless service, and the radiant light of Christ that we embody in all our actions and interactions. Together, let us cultivate an atmosphere where love flourishes, and we actively demonstrate the teachings of Christ in our daily lives.

DEACONS UPDATE

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