



“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. - Ja. 1: 27

What might a valentine to God look like? What would put a smile of appreciation

on Jesus’ face? And I’m not talking about some generic Hallmark card but something truly personal from *your* heart. What might that look like?

I think James helps us in the right direction. When we can care for those who are vulnerable and needy, God smiles. When we can reach out a hand to lift up a hurting human, Jesus smiles. When we can humbly throw off the tyranny of ego-based protectionism so rampant today and truly embrace the “lepers” in our midst, the Holy Spirits smiles.

Can we put a smile on God’s face this Valentine’s Day?

Your Friend in Jesus,

*Scott* 🕶️

1 Jn. 4:18

### KEEPING YOU INFORMED:

- **Spaghetti Night** on Friday night, **Feb. 20, @ 6 pm, Lighthouse Church.** Church provides the noodles/meat sauce and you bring a side dish or dessert... and invite a neighbor!
- Grow with us on our Facebook **DAILY BIBLE READING GROUP!** It’s only about 10 minutes a day but the rewards are huge! Discussion and question-asking is encouraged, all in a non-judgmental and supportive environment. A downloadable daily reading plan is available [on our website](#) for you to use. Participate as you

are able. No requirements and no Bible background necessary!

- **ICE SKATE RENTAL** available to the community at no cost. Simply return skates when done using them. Spread the word!
- **WINTER GIFTS:** Please consider a special financial gift this winter to help with seasonally slowed giving. Your investment in the GOOD NEWS is deeply appreciated - THANK YOU!



Our **Fourth Quarter Mission’s giving** totaled \$2220.18, supporting our Romania mission and the outreach to Kenya, “Love Matters Most”. Well done!

Our **1st Quarter Missions’ focus** will center on [Healing Art Mission](#) in Haiti and [Food for the Poor](#). Check them out! Ingathering is Sunday, **March 29th**.



As a nurse, I’ve had the honor of caring for people at all stages of life and with various conditions, from families welcoming new babies to those facing unexpected traumatic accidents. These experiences have given me the opportunity to demonstrate love to complete strangers. At times, I’ve had to acknowledge and cast aside my discomfort, looking past the intensity of grim situations to focus on the needs of the person I’m trained to help.

While clipping fingernails, cleaning wounds and changing bandages, I’ve also been able to listen to stories and catch glimpses of my neighbors’ lives. Because of my presence, even for short periods, others have shared with me what is important to them, what they wish they had accomplished, and what they still hope to achieve. I’ve been able to pray for (over)



and with others, display empathy, and ensure each person in my care doesn't feel alone in what they are going through.

These opportunities can also present themselves when you offer to take out a neighbor's trash, pick up their groceries, keep a watchful eye on their children, cook them a meal, or slow down long enough to have a conversation with them before going about your day.

*"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: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mk. 12:30-31).*

My friend, loving your neighbor isn't always convenient. It often occurs at unexpected times when you already have plans. It can feel uncomfortable, requiring you to get involved with the very personal, usually unseen aspects of others' lives. It may cost you time and resources that go above and beyond what you allotted in your budget. It may require you to show up, listen to stories, serve in a variety of ways, and still only catch a glimpse into your neighbor's daily life.

Yet it's important to remember that loving your neighbor is both a command and a choice. This choice first requires you to know you are deeply and unconditionally loved by God, and your ability to love others is an extension and demonstration of your relationship with Him.

Maybe your neighbors speak a different language than you, have different beliefs or political opinions than you, or are living a different lifestyle than you. Deciding to righteously seek their well-being by extending God's love to them without condition will shift and shape you in beautiful and unexpected ways. You can love your neighbors because God first loved you. It's an action that

ultimately brings praise, honor and glory to Him.

*Dear God, thank You for my neighbors, the lessons we learn from one another, and the ability You've given me to demonstrate Your love to them. May You continue to guide my interactions with others, providing opportunities to love them as I pursue Your glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

- by [Tracie Braylock](#)

(From: <https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2025/02/28/love-your-neighbor>)

### **Pearls Of Wisdom**

"Our True Identity In Christ"

We are righteous and holy in Jesus Christ.

See: 1 Corinthians 1:30

- Ruth Wise

### **February Birthdays**

7 Mike Ogden

17 David Van Rhee

### **February Anniversaries**

29 Ron & Ann Green

(If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, PLEASE let us know!)

**ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY: TUESDAY, FEB. 17<sup>TH</sup>** (Email, if possible)



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