

PASTOR'S CORNER



John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL!

In 1986 Whitney Houston's powerful voice declared that "learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all" through her chart-topping cover of the song Greatest Love of All. While this sentiment is still very common today, the Bible presents a different story. The greatest love of all was displayed by Jesus Christ who surrendered Himself to death in order to redeem humanity from our sin. The greatest love of all is to sacrifice oneself for someone else.

Whenever we encounter instances of people voluntarily risking – let alone sacrificing – their wellbeing or life for someone else, we are awed. And we should be. Such sacrifices are not common. But Christ's sacrifice for us super-exceeds any human example that exists. In order to die for us, Christ – the Infinite God of the universe – squeezed

himself into a tiny human baby's body and lived among us. Despite the fact that He did nothing but good, we despised and rejected Him. Ultimately, we falsely accused Him and sentenced Him to death by the most excruciating and disgraceful method at our disposal. None of this took Christ by surprise. He knew all along that this would be His portion. And He was willing to do it.

Even as He poured out His life on the cross, His love for us never wavered. As He beheld His captors and tormentors ridiculing Him, He summoned His waning physical strength and with profound grace and mercy asked His Father to forgive them. He was both dying for and praying for His executioners. Christ did all this because He loved us even when we were His enemies (Romans 5:6-8) because He wanted to res-

cue us from the awful consequences of our sin.

When we surrender to Jesus and receive Him as our Savior, His love invades our lives through the indwelling Holy Spirit. As we grow in love for Christ we become willing to sacrifice ourselves for Him and others.

As we think about love this week, may Christ help you to get a deeper grasp of His love for us. May He help us to embrace the greatest love of all. No one loves us the way Christ does. No one ever will.

If you haven't already, receive Him as your Savior today.

God bless you,

Pastor James

WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM**

FEB 13

Join us via Zoom video

Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP

FRI @ 6:45 PM

FEB 16

In-person at church.

For teens ages 13 and over

**EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd SUN @ 6 PM**

FEB 18

Join us in-person at church

**KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM**

FEB 18

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

**GROWTH GROUPS
THU & FRI @ 7 PM**

FEB 15 & FEB 16

In-person at church.

**WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM**

FEB 18

In-person service and Livestreaming on Facebook, Youtube and our webpage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thelma Hubbard and Vaughn & Jenica Edwards are to be received into membership shortly. If you have any comments, please speak to Pastor James.
- Growth Groups continue this Thursday and Friday at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Counter or online to attend one convenient to you.
- Want to become more competent and comfortable sharing your faith? Join us for 3-Circles, a six-week evening training to help us have more and better gospel conversations. Sign up at the Information Center so we can ensure adequate materials are available.
- Explore Mountain Stream classes for those interested in becoming members or just finding out more about Mountain Stream begin Sunday March 3, at 10am. Please sign up at the Information Center to attend.
- We will be having baptism on February 25th immediately following the morning service.
- Baby Bottle Fundraiser: grab a baby bottle from church and fill it with coins, cash or a check and return it by March 3 to support the work of the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos.
- If you'd like a one-year Bible reading plan for 2024 you may find Pastor Jimmie Van Sant's at PJVS1.blogspot.com.
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 3:15pm at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.

WAYS TO GIVE

Traditionally during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website.

Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes.

Thank you!