

theWill

February 2020 | Monthly Newsletter of God's Will Christian Church

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday School: 9AM
Service Time: 10AM

Happy Birthday to those born in February

Memory Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:16 -18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

A Valentine's Devotional

Read This: "Love is patient, love is kind, it is not envious. Love does not brag, it is not puffed up. It is not rude, it is not self-serving, it is not easily angered or resentful. It is not glad about injustice, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (I Corinthians 13:4-7)

Think: There are a lot of expectations for Valentine's Day. Someone, probably a Hallmark employee, decided that February 14th would be the day to declare and demonstrate your love to that special someone. Cards, flowers, and chocolates caught on quickly and became a near requirement even for preschool children. But what gets lost in finding the perfect card or gift is the very essence of what love is and how we can best share that with those around us.

I Corinthians 13 is the famous biblical love chapter in Christian circles and beyond. It's beautiful because it describes the kind of perfect love that God has for us and through him we are able to love our spouses, children, extended family, co-workers,

A Valentine's Devotional Cont'd

and neighbors this same way. It's an active love; a love that is more committed to that person than our own feelings at the time. Gift giving isn't even mentioned because this love, God's perfect love, is worth so much more than anything money could ever buy.

Sometimes a gift is a hit and sometimes it's a miss. In any case, as either the giver or recipient, let's not fool ourselves into thinking the gift is the sum of how much we love or are loved. We can enjoy Valentine's Day as a good excuse to spoil the ones we love and share God's love in a special way with those who are lonely and hurting. But let's stay focused: no material thing or sentimental card can ever replace the simple gestures of God's love expressed every day.

Ask: Reading over the key passage, what aspects of love are your strengths? Weaknesses?

Pray: Ask God to show you practical ways you demonstrate his perfect love to others on a daily basis.

Member's Corner



This month, we shine the spotlight on Deacon Cliff Mutts.

Who introduced you to Christ?

"Some water and some plant". As a child my mother would take me to church. Not until I became an adult through the teachings of Bishop Joseph H. Thomas that I was introduced to Christ; and God brought the increase!

When did you join GWCC?

I joined God's will Christian Church in the spring of 2014.

What do you do for a living?

Currently, I drive a bus for Prince George's County Public School.

What ministries do you participate in?

Presently, I participate in the Deacons, Trustees and the Men's Fellowship Ministry and anywhere else where I might be needed.

What are your hobbies?

Playing chess, watching TV, reading and working with my hands (light-duty).

What have you found most rewarding about being a member of GWCC?

What I have found most rewarding about being a member of GWCC is being able to help, build and equip this body of Christ. To be part of the vision that was given to Pastor Adgerson for such a time as this. There's still a lot to do. "The Harvest is plentiful but the labor is few".

REMINDER:
Please remember to download
our App in the App Store or
Google Play!

Recipe Corner:

Italian Sausage and White Bean Soup

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. Italian Sausage
- 1 Onion, diced
- 4-6 Cloves, minced
- 1 15 oz. can on Cannellini Beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 28 oz. can of Diced Tomatoes
- 1 tsp Dried Basil
- 1 tsp Italian Seasoning
- 6 c Chicken Broth
- 1/2 c Elbow Macaroni, uncooked
- 1 6 oz. package of Baby Spinach
- 1/3 c Grated Parmesan
- Salt and Pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Add some oil to a soup pot and place over medium/high heat. Allow the pot to get hot.
2. Add the Italian sausage to the pot and cook until brown and no longer pink.
3. Add the onion and garlic. Cook until the onion is tender and translucent and you can smell the garlic coming from the pot.
4. Next add the basil and Italian seasoning, chicken broth, beans, and tomatoes. Bring to a simmer and cook for 10-15 minutes.
5. Add the macaroni and simmer for another 8 minutes.
6. Add the spinach, grated parmesan, and taste for seasoning.
7. Serve and Enjoy!

Full Attention

1 Thessalonians 5:12–28

Technology today seems to demand our constant attention. The modern “miracle” of the internet gives us the amazing capacity to access humanity’s collective learning in the palm of our hand. But for many, such constant access can come at a cost.

Writer Linda Stone has coined the phrase “continual partial attention” to describe the modern impulse to always need to know what’s happening “out there,” to make sure we’re not missing anything. If that sounds like it could produce chronic anxiety, you’re right!

Although the apostle Paul struggled with different reasons for anxiety, he knew our souls are wired to find peace in God. Which is why, in a letter to new believers who’d endured persecution (1 Thessalonians 2:14), Paul concluded by urging the believers to “rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances” (5:16–18).

Praying “continually” might seem pretty daunting. But then, how often do we check our phones? What if we instead let that urge be a prompt to talk to God?

More important, what if we learned to exchange a need to always be in “the know” for continual, prayerful rest in God’s presence? Through relying on Christ’s Spirit, we can learn to give our heavenly Father our continual full attention as we make our way through each day.

By Adam R. Holz

Weekly Activities

Morning Prayer Conference Call
Daily 7:00AM

Men’s Bible Study Conference Call
Tuesday 7:00-8:00pm

Conference Number:
712-775-7031 Access Code: 443-268-839