

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

February 2026

LOVE

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, 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.” ^{NIV}

1 Corinthians 13

In this month of February we are drawn to thoughts of love. We seem to be surrounded by these sentiments; from Hallmark movies, beautiful cards and candy, to flower shops filled with pink and red. But is this really what love is all about, the love given to us by our Lord? When I dwell on the Scripture above, I think not.

Many things are done in the name of love, but I tend to think that they are often not truly representing love. The Word tells us what love really is. It is patient and kind, for starters. It is not easily angered or self-seeking. It rejoices in the truth! These are just a few of the attributes of real love. What a different world it would be if we all chose to use God’s Word as a benchmark for all of our behaviors! I can only imagine.

I think our chaplains are a great example of this kind of love, real love. Being willing to leave the warm comfort of home, to venture out into the unknown to be of service in a crisis, is love. Being willing to sit patiently and listen to the pain, confusion and devastation, is love. Being willing to bear the brunt of harsh words and emotions without defense, is love. And being willing to do it all over again and again, to persevere through the difficult experiences, is love.

As we get to the end of the chapter in Corinthians, it ends with this: *“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”* Not to deter you from showing your love to someone special with a sweet gift this month, but I encourage us all to give the greater gift of love. Giving the kind of love that Jesus gives truly is the greatest love gift we can give.

As always, thank you for your support of this ministry. Happy February and may all we do be done in love.

Jan Richards

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