

February Tartan Talk

February Greetings!

I hope all is well with you and your family this day. Usually this time of year we see a sea of **red** and **pink** ...cards, flowers, gifts- all related to Valentine's Day. Our true love comes not in colors or cards but every day in the form of the love, grace and presence of Jesus Christ. What a gift to behold. I will say though, that I still treasure the sweet Valentine cards my grandmother used to make for me. She would sit at her kitchen table and make handmade cards for each of her grandchildren. She lived to be 103 but oh, what I would give today to see her soft hands carefully cut out those hearts and doilies and intentionally arrange them on a card. Sweet memories! I'm not opposed to Valentine's Day- in fact, I still send our children and give Bart Valentine Cards. Every day affords us an excellent opportunity to show those we love how much they mean to us. And because of God's love for us, we have love to share. Do you have creative ways your family shows love for one another? If you do, please share, I'd love to hear about them! God's love is perfect and helps us learn to love our imperfect selves and others.

Joyfully, Suzy

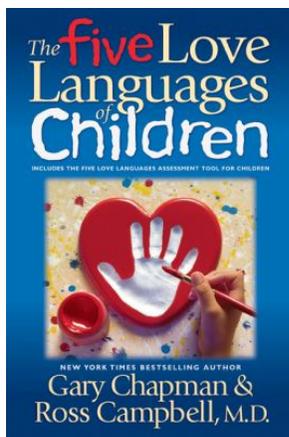


“Love God above all and your neighbor as yourself.”

Mark 12:30-31

Following the theme of LOVE...

Every one of our children is different. In thinking about the many ways we show love to our children and the unique ways they receive our love, I want to highlight Dr. Gary Chapman’s (and Ross Campbell, M.D.) book, *The Five Love Languages of Children*. As we were raising our children, we read this book and found it to be helpful in many ways. (AND helpful in our marriage... it’s great to know your spouse’s LOVE LANGUAGE) It is beneficial for children to receive love in all of the ways mentioned- but particularly helpful when you can identify your child’s primary love language. Practice all of the ways often, but emphasize your child’s primary love language and see what happens. The author also has books about teenagers and more! The following is how Dr. Gary Chapman describes the love languages in his book.



What
is
your
child's
LOVE LANGUAGE?

Physical Touch

Hugs and kisses are the most common way of speaking this love language, but there are other ways, too. A dad tosses his year-old son in the air. He spins his seven-year-old daughter round and round, and she laughs wildly. A mom reads a story with her three-year-old on her lap. For children who understand this love language, “I love you,” or giving a present, fixing a bicycle, or spending time with them will not hold as much value as your physical touch. Of course, they receive love in all the languages, but for them, the one with the clearest and loudest voice is physical touch.

Words of Affirmation

In communicating love, words are powerful. Words of affection and endearment, words that give positive guidance, and words of praise and encouragement all say, “I care about you.” Such words are like a gentle, warm rain falling on the soul; they nurture the child’s inner sense of worth and security. Even though such words are quickly said, they are not soon forgotten. A child reaps the benefits of affirming words for a lifetime.

Quality Time

Quality time means focused attention time. It means giving a child your undivided attention. Quality time is a parent’s gift of presence to a child. It conveys this message: “You are important. I like being with you.” It makes the child feel that he is the most important person in the world to the parent. He feels truly loved because he has his parent all to himself. When you spend quality time with children, you need to go to their physical/emotional level of development. The most important factor in quality time is not the event itself but that you are doing something together, being together.

Gifts

The giving and receiving of gifts can be a powerful expression of love, at the time they are given and often extending into later years. The most meaningful gifts become symbols of love, and those that truly convey love are part of a love language. Most children respond positively to gifts, but for some, receiving gifts is their primary love language. You might be inclined to think that this is so for all children, judging from the way they beg for things. It is true that all children—

and adults—want to have more and more. But those whose language of love is receiving gifts will respond differently when they get their gift. Remember, for them, this is love’s loudest voice. They see the gift as an extension of you and your love.

Acts of Service

Some people speak acts of service as their primary love language. If service is your child’s primary love language, your acts of service will communicate most deeply that you love Johnny or Julie. When that child asks you to fix a bicycle or mend a doll’s dress, he or she does not merely want to get a task done; your child is crying for emotional love.

If your child’s primary love language is acts of service, this does not mean that you must jump at every request. It does mean that you should be extremely sensitive to those requests and recognize that your response can help fill the child’s love tank. Each request calls for a thoughtful, loving response.

THIS MONTH’S ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



.....**Adult Sunday School Classes...**

Mere Christians:

This year we are using “The Bible Project” (www.thebibeproject.com) as our guide - providing an entertaining video summary of each book of the Bible (one per week), its associated history and general themes/lessons for life application. Special topics may be covered from time to time using such external resources as questions from class, news stories, blog posts, podcasts, etc. We are comprised mostly of couples with children from infants to college graduates. Class structure is very conversational from week to week, with a brief lesson and lots of good discussion as class members share related impacts upon their lives and families.

Room 233... Leaders: Clarissa and Greg McKenzie and Hayley and Jon Carter

Ours for Today:

We are studying Ron Greer's book, *If You Know Who You Are, You Will Know What To Do*. This is a class designed for parents who want to come together each week for discussion, encouragement, and fellowship with one another.

Room 228...Leaders: Caroline and David McLean

Wired Word:

We use **The Wired Word** Bible study curriculum. With it you'll have everything you need to link the latest headlines and current events to appropriate Scripture — with minimal preparation time! Each weekly email includes everything you need for your adult bible class or group meeting: Gain insights at a glance to the importance of the weekly lesson topic. Get a quick summary of the news item, plus tips on where to learn more. Challenge participants with the 3-6 critical questions provided that are sparked by the study lesson topic. Discover 5-6 Scripture verses drawn from both Testaments to help students see how the news fits into a biblical context. Generate in-depth discussions with additional questions provided that relate to the lesson topic. Conclude the session by addressing God about the issues raised.

Room 234 (Conference Room) ...Leaders: Ann and Bob Dukes

Explorer's Class:

This class is for people who like in-depth study of topics relevant to Christians. Our class is conducted like a seminar, but without required reading assignments. Come-as-you-are works well. For the past several years, we have read our way through transcripts of various Great Courses from The Teaching Company. We specifically do NOT simply watch videos, because that does not promote discussion. Typically, one of the teachers reads a bit at a time from the transcript, perhaps presenting some additional material, and the class jumps in with comments and questions. It generally takes us two or three sessions to work our way through the transcript of a single half-hour lecture. We are currently reading "The Grammar of God", by Aviya Kushner.

Room 229... Leaders: Boyce Cox, Darlene and Richard Daehler-Wilking

Covenant Class:

The focus of the Covenant Class capitalizes on the experience and the education of the adult participants. They contribute ideas, and we usually vary the content and instructional methods, including relevant DVDs, to meet the interests of the class members. We have, in the past, studied and discussed the lives and works of some major reformers and authors. The latter have included C.S. Lewis, Dallas Willard, John Ortberg, Nabeel Qureshi and Lee Strobel, to name a few. One of our guiding principles is "spiritual formation," trying to learn how others have striven to be more Christ-like so we may follow and grow from their examples, according to our needs. Group discussion is often and lively. We recently finished MIRACLES: What They Are, Why They Happen, and How They Can Change Your Life by Eric Metaxas.

Room 202... Leader: Barbara Buckley

Dan Adams:

The Dan Adams Class is named for the late Dan Adams, a long term member of First Scots who ably led this class for many decades. Many members of the present day class were members during his tenure as our teacher. We are a bible focused class but are embarking upon a six week study of a text on Dietrich Bonhoeffer starting now. We are blessed to have many long term members of First Scots but welcome all to join our active group of members. We are couples, singles, widows and widowers. I would note that very little home work is required but we do enjoy our substantial discussions. Please do come join us. We are currently using the study: *The Great Ends of the Church*.

Room 203 ... Leaders: Chris Hawk and Bob Baldwin

8 Themes in the Bible Everyone Should Know :

This class is currently studying *8 Themes in the Bible Everyone Should Know* by Barry Ensign-George. Come join this lively group as they discuss and learn more about the Bible every week.

Room 227 ... Leaders: Steve Harth and Martha-Jane Hudnall

If you haven't found a Sunday School class yet... come and visit one. Visitors are always welcome! Feel free to call me if you have any questions about our current class offerings.

We have wonderful classes for the children and nursery for the youngest members of our families.

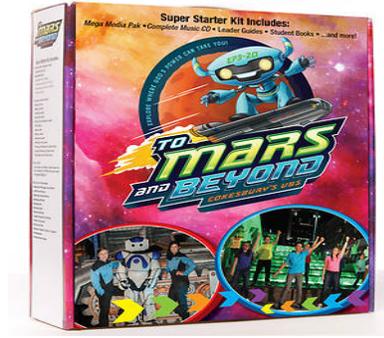
HIGHLIGHTING...



February 6	Chinese New Year!	John 14:27
February 13	Valentines	Matthew 28:7
February 20	NO KIRK CLUB	WINTER BREAK!
February 27	(Welcome back!) Theme: TBA	Philippians 4:4

THIS SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 3rd) is **YOUTH SUNDAY** and our **KIRK CLUB children** have worked on writing their own **Prayers of the People** to share at both services this Sunday! Their prayer was created during Worship Skills and is a true reflection of their care for God's people. Listen carefully... they wrote beautifully!

VBS!



Get ready... **SAVE THE DATE!**

VBS dates are June 17th-21st

The Bible stories for this summer will include:

TRUST: Daniel Trusts God;

BOLDNESS: Queen Esther Takes a Stand;

KINDNESS: The Good Samaritan;

THANKFULNESS: Jesus Heals 10 Lepers;

HOPE: Jesus Comforts Friends on Road to Emmaus

This summer's VBS theme is ...

To Mars and BEYOND: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You!

*Updates and registration information for VBS will be coming soon in the Kirk News and bulletin!

COMING SOON... SACRAMENT CLASS!

In early March, we will be having a **Sacrament EDUCATION** class on the **Lord's Supper** for **1st** and **2nd** graders and their parents. We'll stay after church, enjoy a pizza lunch together, and learn what it means to participate in the **Lord's Supper**. In the class, the

children and their parents will be able to participate in activities designed to help them learn more about:

- Jesus' last supper
- How we celebrate the Lord's Supper in worship
- How to prepare yourself to receive the Lord's Supper

Watch for more details and be thinking about your child's readiness to participate in the Lord's Supper. Please call or email with any questions regarding children and their participation in the Lord's Supper.

Grace and Peace,

Suzy