

Parkside Nazarene Church

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FEBRUARY MESSENGER

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Comments on Lamentations, Hope & Love

Written by Pastor Don Lain

The Book of Lamentations is not a book most of us decide to turn to, especially if we are looking for encouragement. The book itself begins with, *“How deserted lies the city, once so full of people. How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave. Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are upon her cheeks. Among all her lovers there is none to comfort her; they have become her enemy.....”* (Lam. 1:1-2) Line after line the writer talks about afflictions and wanderings and groaning and weeping. Page after page the writer...well...laments! If you're looking for encouragement, let me suggest the Psalms.

If you have enough endurance to continue reading, suddenly, without notice, a moment of hope dawns. It only lasts a few verses, but there it is, half way through the fourth page of Lamentations in my Bible, half way through the third chapter. The author returns pretty quickly to his lament, but for a shining moment he catches a glimpse of HOPE. Listen to the words of Lam. 3:19-24: *“I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. **YET THIS I CALL TO MIND AND THEREFORE HAVE HOPE:** Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, ‘The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.’”* Skipping down, hope rises again for a couple verses: *“For men are not cast off by the Lord forever. Though He brings grief, He will show compassion, so great is His unfailing love.”* (3:31-32)

I think it safe to say that we all can have what is often referred to as, “One of those days!!” What we mean by that is it's one of those days where we may wish we'd never gotten out of bed. It's one of those days when nothing seems to go right. We all know what it means:

It's one of those days!! When something bigger happens, it can become “One of those weeks,” OR “One of those months,” OR “One of those years,” OR more. It can become an easy thing to become the author of a book called Lamentations.

But the constant call of God's Word is out of darkness into light. While only briefly, Jeremiah, the author of Lamentations, catches a ray of light. And that ray of light comes in the form of an awareness of the enduring quality and quantity of God's LOVE,

This is February, and it's the month that many of us are reminded of LOVE. Feb. 14th is all about romantic love in whatever form it may come in. It's good to have a day to stop and be thankful for the ones God has brought into our lives whom we love and who love us. It can also be a good day to stop and remember the greatest love of all: God's steadfast love toward us.

Whatever your status might be in life and in love, let me encourage all of us during this month – maybe while reading this article – to pause, like the writer of Lamentations did – and recall this great truth that is our cause for eternal hope: *“Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed”* – we're going to be alright. God loves us and even when things don't look all that good, we will not be consumed; OUR GOD LOVES US. *“His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is His faithfulness...so great is His unfailing love.”* Praise the Lord!!

Weekly Services: (services: in person & online)

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Go to: www.facebook.com/parknaz/
www.youtube.com Parkside Nazarene Church

Life Groups are weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays!

Go to: <https://parknaz.org/ministry-news/> for details

Weekly Prayer: Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. (Currently at Home)

The February Messenger Continued..

SIGNIFICANT FEBRUARY DATES:



Groundhog Drive Begins/Groundhog Day

09: Finance Committee Meeting

14: Valentine's Day



16: Church Board Meeting

17: Presidents' Day



18: Pastor Don's Surgery

23: Alabaster Offering Sunday



25: Gals w/Grace

28: NCO Discipleship Dinner

February Birthdays

LaVerne Kling	05
Sydney Kolpien	11
Randy Whitney	21
Brian Murphy	24
Cheryl Szczepanski	26

February Anniversaries

Geri & Aaron Burnham 9

ALABASTER OFFERING

February 23 is Alabaster Offering Sunday. Please take a box from the foyer and begin collecting loose change, if you haven't already. We also accept cash and check donations made payable to Parkside Church with "Alabaster" in the memo line. If you would like more information on how these funds are used, go to:

<https://nazarene.org/alabaster>.

See Frances Cooney with questions.

WE LOVE SNOW



The month of love is here! Children have settled beautifully into their new classrooms and are doing wonderfully. We're excited to welcome new babies to our Infant 1 classroom and are so happy to have them join us.

When possible, the children have been enjoying the snow by playing outside—and even bringing it inside for some extra fun!

We are closed on Friday, February 14, for a Staff Inservice Day.

If you have any questions regarding the Child Care Center, please contact Cheryl Szczepanski or Nancy Lain in the school office.

FOOD DRIVE



Parkside Church & Child Care Center are hosting a Food Drive in the month of February for the Westlake Community Services Food Pantry. **A box will be in the foyer every Sunday in February, 2-23.** There will also be a box in the Child Care Center February 3-28.

Some of the preferred items to be donated are:

Canned Fruit, Oatmeal, Pasta Sauce/Noodles, Tomato Products, Canned Meat, Canned Soup, Peanut Butter, Jelly or Jam, Hot Cocoa/Coffee/Tea, Popcorn, Crackers, Snacks, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent, Cleaning Supplies, Body Wash, Toothbrush/Toothpaste, etc..

If you would like to donate food towards their upcoming Easter Distribution, they accept bags of Easter Candy, Chocolate Bunnies/Eggs. They also accept Grocery Gift Cards. If you would like to donate these, please give to Joanne in the Church Office, or Nancy or Cheryl in the School Office. Please don't place gift cards in the donation boxes.

Please check expiration dates before donating. The pantry is not permitted to distribute expired foods.

Contact Joanne in the Church Office if you have any questions.

SMALL GROUPS



The Tuesday night small group is still on hold. See Pastor Kasey before heading out.