

# Westside Community Church

## The Heart of the Matter

In February, pink and red are everywhere, and there are heart-shaped versions of almost every imaginable product, to celebrate Valentine's Day. While we treat it as a holiday of cards and candy, the day is named for a third-century priest who truly valued love. Legend tells us that St. Valentine defied an imperial decree by Emperor Claudius II, who had banned marriages, believing marriage made soldiers weak. Valentine continued to perform weddings in secret, believing that God's design for love was more important than the laws of an empire. He didn't rely on his own courage to face the consequences; he relied on a devotion that was deeper than his fear.

We often view love as a performance—something we must work harder at to "get right." We try to be more patient or more selfless through sheer effort, only to find our emotional reserves running dry. However, the apostle John reminds us, "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). This truth shifts the burden off our shoulders. The love doesn't flow out of our own, finite, human, hearts. It flows from the heart of God, and we allow it to flow through us. Trying to produce love and kindness from our limited resources inevitably leaves us empty.

This month, let's look past the sentimentality to the source of Valentine's strength. We aren't called to produce love out of thin air, but to simply pass on the love we have already received from God. When we stop trying to be the source of our own goodness and instead rest in His affection for us, we find a spring that never runs dry. True love isn't a task to be mastered; it is a gift to be mirrored.

## Navigating Challenging Relationships

God created us for companionship. Yet misunderstandings and unresolved conflict in relationships happens, creating stress, and impacting our well-being. If you're feeling challenged by one or more relationships, join us for a fun introductory workshop to learn tools for navigating relationship dynamics with greater clarity and confidence. Facilitated by: Sonalie Conflict Resolution Coach  
Call 403-381-7211 to register, or sign up online at [mywestside.ca](http://mywestside.ca).

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

<b>Men's Breakfast</b> Humpty's 205 Scenic Dr S Feb 7 8-10am	<b>Let's Jam</b> Feb 7, 7-8pm
<b>Young Adults Get Together</b> Feb 8&22, 7-9pm	<b>Alpha</b> Feb 2 & 23, 6:30-8:45pm
<b>Young at Heart</b> Feb 12 10:30am-12pm	<b>Navigating Challenging Relationships</b> Feb 22 12-1:30pm

## WEEKLY

<b>Weekly Prayer Meeting</b> Mondays 7-8pm Fridays 7:30-9am	<b>Grief Share</b> Tuesdays 2-4pm
<b>Ladies' Bible Study</b> Tuesdays 2-3:30pm 7-8:30pm	<b>Mothers and Munchkins</b> Thursdays 10-11:30am

**WCC Youth**  
Fridays 7-9pm

*"I have loved you just as the Father has loved Me; remain in My love [and continue to share in His love with Me]."*

*John 15:9, AMP*