

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

August 2025

Love and Peace

“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting, unfailing love; with lovingkindness, I have drawn you to Myself.” This verse is found in Jeremiah 31:3; it is just one of the many times that the Bible speaks of God’s amazing, unfailing love.

His love is everlasting, given freely to all who are willing to receive it. How thankful I am for God’s love, grace, generosity, and sacrifices; given so that all of us can find true peace—a peace-- that passes understanding. Jesus has a number of names, one of which is “the Prince of Peace.”

In Philippians 4, under the subtitle “words of encouragement,” it speaks of love, joy, peace, not worrying, and being thankful. We are encouraged to fix our thoughts on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and excellent. We are also encouraged to let our gentleness be known and seen by others. God’s Word encourages our minds and hearts, comforting, strengthening, and supporting us; supplying peace, perseverance, and endurance to face the challenges of each day. What a kind and generous God to know and provide exactly what we need, moment by moment, as we face the trials and difficulties found in our broken world.

Serving our county as chaplains, we often encounter just the opposite of peace and gentleness— anger, aggression, confusion, hatred, strife, and division. We do our best to reflect God’s kindness and care in traumatic situations, helping and serving those who might be experiencing one of the worst days of their lives. We never know exactly what we are stepping into— a natural death, an accidental death, a suicide, a drug overdose. This may involve a death at home or a death notification to the next of kin. In the overshadowing uncertainty of every situation, we are thankful for the assurance that God desires to bring hope, comfort, and peace with in-depth healing, as only He can. Sadness and grief are heavy burdens to carry alone.

As chaplains, we offer initial support for those suffering deep loss. We may be on the scene for two to sometimes six or more hours. Our hope is to provide a glimpse of God’s peace and care while present, knowing we serve a mighty, loving God that desires to linger with the broken hearted, and pick up those who are low and hurting. We desire to reflect the Prince of Peace who walks with us through the pain life can bring.

Remember that He loves you with an everlasting and unfailing love. He reaches out to draw you to Himself—the Prince of Peace.

Sam and Janet LaPore

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