

## *Who Loves Ya Baby?*

February is known by many as the month of Love and Hallmark cards. February 14th is the day we celebrate Valentine's Day. A day in which men gather the night before huddled in front of the card aisle at Publix. In our house, however, February 14th is known as Amanda's birthday and the week before as our anniversary. I simply call February, "the fiscal cliff." However, through it all is that wonderful theme of love. The words "I love you" flow with abundance in our family. There are many hugs and kisses, especially by our daughter. She now seems to be going through a Rocky Balboa phase so I might get a kiss or I might get a punch in the stomach. But she is our daughter and we wouldn't trade one kiss or one love punch for all the money in the world. I love my child and nothing can change or take this love away. I tell her I love her all the time. A couple of years ago I decided to ask her if she knew "how" I loved her. She answered, "You love Mommy!" I said, "Yes, I do. And that is one way that I love you, but there are other ways too." I went on to tell her that I love her by playing with her, taking care of her, and buying her toys. She perked up at that one. I told her that I love her by making her meals, reading stories, letting her give me makeovers, and helping her with homework. I explained that there are many ways that I love her. I then asked her if she knew how she loved me.



What does a child of this age do to show a parent they love them? She can't take care of me. She can't protect me. She can't buy me toys or feed me. I sat there for a second after asking the question and then I told her how she loves me. I told her that she loves me by trusting me to take care of her and provide for her. She loves me by the excitement she shows when I come home, by inviting me to play with her and her toys. She loves me by depending upon me and desiring my attention. She loves me by responding to my love.

In Luke 15 Jesus tells a parable we have traditionally called the "Prodigal Son." Though it does chronicle the lives of both the younger and older sons, the story really reveals the powerful love of the Father. The word prodigal means recklessly extravagant. The story is really about, as author Tim Keller writes, a prodigal God: the story of a God who loves us with reckless intensity. God loves us simply because we belong to him. This is no passive love, but an intense love that pours out with each Godly breath. He loves us by caring for us, empowering us, healing us, clothing us, and giving us himself in Jesus Christ. What can we return to God? There is nothing we can give God to earn his freely given love. There is nothing we can give him that he needs. God delights in the fellowship of our play and our laughter. Jesus delights in the invitation to our everyday living. He delights in our trust and reception of his guidance and love. In this kind of love there is nothing on our part to "prove." It is an action that requires no scheming. It is a love that requires us to be still and know that he is God. With no anxiety to prove that God loves me and that I love him, it certainly opens up room for me to love others. Sydney was right; I do love her by loving her mommy. That's also how I love God.

Pastor Cory Britt

## MLK Day- Thank you!

Thank you to all who came out for the MLK day of service! Together we picked up, sorted and stocked close to \$4,000 worth of food that will serve our local children who receive backpacks for the next 9 weeks. Also a big thank you to those who donated peanut butter, jelly, Capri Suns and more. You have all made a difference in the life of a child.

### From the pen of Kathy Brogli

Executive Director of Family Promise of Greater Brandon

Family Promise is a mission that serves homeless families in our community by providing hospitality, home-cooked meals and a safe place to stay while they are working towards self-sufficiency.

*I would like to thank each volunteer, donor and supporter of Family Promise of Greater Brandon, Inc. YOU are the HEART of Family Promise! Because of your wonderful efforts and our dedicated Board of Directors and Staff, 14 children and 11 parents - 7 families - have moved from homelessness to stable housing! We look forward to helping even more families in 2015! We need volunteers at the Day Center and to help plan Box Car City 2015, our homelessness experience event scheduled for May 2, 2015! To find out how you can volunteer with Family Promise, contact me at [executivedirectorfp@gmail.com](mailto:executivedirectorfp@gmail.com).*

South Shore's next FP week is March 1-8 please prayerfully consider being a part of this great ministry. Sign up at the information desk by February 15th!

### Thanks again!

Thank you to all who served at the Wal-Mart Health Fair on January 24th. Many free screenings were provided, and it was a blessing to be able to give back to one of our community partners who have been so generous with their time, finances and willingness to serve alongside South Shore and its ministries.

## Scout Sunday

February 8th is Scout Sunday and some members of our chartered troops will be present and serving in worship that day. Please show encouragement to them by a smile, a handshake or a high 5 for their efforts! They will be handing out bags for their annual "Scouting for Food" mission for you to take home, fill up and bring back on February 15th. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

### United Methodist Women's Brunch

On Saturday, February 14th from 10am-12pm, you are invited to come and enjoy great food and fellowship with the United Methodist Women of South Shore. Come and get to know what this group of ladies are about. Food will be provided.

### UMW Spring Rummage Sale

The United Methodist Women will host their semi-annual Rummage Sale on March 14th from 8am-2pm. Help support our church missions by bringing your friends and family members to the sale! This is also a great time to donate your unwanted items from Spring cleaning. For donation information please contact Sharron Brunk at 813-672-3553

### Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Yes, folks, it's that time of year again! This year's Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 21st from 8:30-11:30am. Mark your calendars - bring the whole family - ask your friends, neighbors, co-workers to join you. This is the perfect time to be invitational to those who may not know God or who have fallen away from their faith as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

If you like to cook, host/hostess, take pictures, greet people or simply enjoy helping children with crafts or finding Easter eggs, this is the place for you to get connected in service! Please contact Kathi Sheehan at 813-787-6198 or email at [kathi@southshoreumc.com](mailto:kathi@southshoreumc.com) to let her know of your willingness to serve!

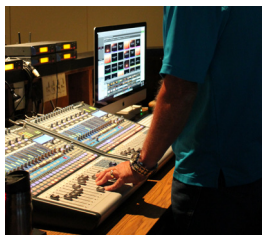
# SOUTH SHORE Youth

## YOUTH PROGRAMMING

### Sunday Night Live

#### Sundays from 5-7pm

SNL is our main, weekly program for 6th-12th grade students. This is a night filled with games, music, dinner and small groups.



### Youth Band and Tech Team

Every week, worship during our main youth events is led by our youth band and tech team. This is comprised of musicians and technicians that lead by playing instruments, singing, running lights and sound and projecting our lyrics. If you're interested in leading worship this way, email [chris@southshoreumc.com](mailto:chris@southshoreumc.com).

For all the latest details visit: [southshoreumc.com/youth](http://southshoreumc.com/youth)

## WORSHIP MINISTRY



### Join The Worship Support Team

This team is the bones of our worship services. They help people find seating, pass out attendance pads, and are responsible for the offering and the elements of communion. If you are interested in becoming a worship support team member please contact Chris Haden, [chris@southshoreumc.com](mailto:chris@southshoreumc.com) (813) 677-9482.



South Shore United Methodist  
**252 BASICS**  
 CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**JOIN US FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH AT 6:30 PM FOR:**

**FREE**

**POPCORN, DRINKS &**

**MOVIE**

**ROOM 114**

**BRING A FRIEND!**

**COME IN YOUR PJ'S!**



**FEBRUARY LIFE APP: KINDNESS**

When you look at the life of Jesus, He demonstrated kindness all the time. But He not only showed kindness to others, He actually flipped the whole idea of kindness on its head and redefined it for not only His disciples, but all of us.

He showed kindness to all people. People who were marginalized. People with bad reputations. Children, beggars, the sick and outcast, all people—regardless of whether they could return the kindness given to them.

In the month of February, it seems like everyone is talking about how they're going to show their friends and family how valuable they are with cards and candy and flowers. But it could be that the simplest way we can make the most impact is by showing kindness the way Jesus did and the way He taught His followers.

We live in a world that most often seems like it's anything but kind. Kindness is so rare that the acts of kindness like what happen in Florida

make national news! And just think about the arguments that break out within our own families.

But what would happen if kindness didn't seem so rare? What would happen if we decided to live out what Jesus said about showing others they are valuable?

That's why we're taking the whole month to look more closely at kindness: showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**MARCH 21ST**

**4 8:30 AM-11:30 AM**

**SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING:**

10:00 am = FX in Room 114 for All Ages!!  
 (children under 3 must be accompanied by an adult)

11:15 am = Children's Small Groups:

\*PreK (ages 3-5) meet in Room 116

\*K - 1st Grade meet in Room 115

\*2nd - 3rd & 4th - 5th meet in Room 114