THE ACORN FEBRUARY 2026

Oakland BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

February 14th is Valentine's Day. There is a really neat legend behind this holiday. It happened during the third century. How much of the legend is fact and how much is fiction is something of which we can't be sure. Plus, there were many people named Valentine in that time. But I think there is truth at the core of the legend.

The man who came to later be known as St. Valentine was a priest or a bishop. The emperor of Rome, Claudius II, had forbidden his young Roman soldiers from marrying. He thought that a married soldier made a poor soldier, because he would be worried about and tied to his wife and children. Obviously, it didn't bother Claudius that this encouraged bad behavior

Some Roman soldiers were Christians, who wanted to be true to the teachings of Jesus. St. Valentine sympathized with the soldiers, and believed the Roman edict was unjust. He ended up marrying and ministering to several Christian couples in secret.

Eventually St. Valentine's actions were discovered, and he was arrested and put in prison. While in prison he made good use of his time, getting to know the jailor. The jailor had a daughter who was blind. St. Valentine prayed for her, and she received her sight. The jailor's whole household converted to Christ.

This seemed to be the final nail in St. Valentine's coffin. He was tortured and beheaded on February 14th, probably in the year 269. But before he was executed, he was able to get a note to the jailor's daughter that read, "From your Valentine."

It's wonderful to know that there is a Christian legend behind this holiday, in which we celebrate the love between a man and a woman. It's also wonderful to know that there have been multitudes of people who loved Jesus so much that they were willing to be martyred for His sake. It's most wonderful to know just how much God loves us. Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:17b-19, "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

TABLE OF CONTENTS & REFERENCE INFO

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PG
Pastor's Pen	1
Upcoming Events	2
Mission Opportunities	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Weekly Deacons	3
The Good News Club	3
Monthly Calendar	4
Prayer Concerns	5

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Send information for the bulletin, newsletter, website or Goshen News to:
communication@oakland-baptist.com

Deadlines:
Bulletin – Noon on Thursday
Newsletter, Website, Goshen – 15th

For updates to personal information please notify any member of the Deacon Fellowship or log into ChurchTrac (link on church website) and update your information.

Contact Information:
Reverend Mark S. Davis
Cell: (540) 292-4668
Email: revmsdavis@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Tues-Fri 10am – 2pm

Deacon Fellowship:
Chair: Ron Taylor: (804) 339-6067
Vice Chair: Tom Sutterfield: (804) 405-4046
Bill Groome: (804) 556-6482
Ricky Harper: (804) 514-6985
Sandy Harper: (804) 514-3871
Frank Smith: (804) 624-0633
Ann Taylor: (804) 339-6085
Church Office: (804) 556-3550

2965 Oakland Church Rd
Gum Spring, VA 23065
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 99, Gum Spring, VA 23065
Website: www.Oakland-Baptist.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

REMINDER!	**Note the new schedule on Wednesday Nights!** Choir practice at 5pm; Supper from 6-6:45pm; Prayer Meeting from 6:45-7:15pm and Group Bible Study at 7:15-8pm. The Prayer Meeting has moved from Sunday to Wednesday.
February 7	**Brunswick Stew Fundraiser for Armenia Mission Trip** - Pickup 12pm-2pm Donations for stew ingredients are appreciated! Sign up sheet is located by the kitchen. Stew will be $10 per quart – pre-orders are encouraged.
February 14	**Valentines Day**
February 15	**Baptist Women's Day** – 11:00am
February 15	**Women on Mission** – After Worship service
February 19	**Seniors Meeting** – Elpis Christian Church – 11:00am
February 19	**Good News Club** – 2:30pm
February 21	**Mission Stitchers** – Goshen Baptist Association
February 22	**Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** – 8:00am
February 26	**Good News Club** – 2:30pm

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES: TOGETHER – SERVING OTHERS – MEETING NEEDS – CHANGING LIVES

WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US. 1 JOHN 4:19

Mt. Gilead Food Pantry - Please continue to support this joint ministry program with your donations of non-perishable food items, plastic grocery bags (white, blue, gray, yellow or brown).
THIS MONTH'S EMPHASIS: Soup, canned pasta, canned beans, canned fruit, cereal. Drop off box located in the main hallway.

Glasses for Guatemala – We are collecting prescription eyewear, new and/or gently used reading glasses and eyeglass cases/holders for a missionary in serving in Guatamala. Collection box in the Seekers Sunday School classroom.

Hope for Appalachia - Hope Box Item Collection
THIS MONTH WE ARE COLLECTING: Lip gloss, chapstick, nail polish and deodorant. Collection box located on the table next to the church office.

See the Goshen Monthly newsletter, "The Goshen News" for additional ministry needs.

Goshen Mission Action Project

- Focus on WMU
- Baby Bottle Project – collecting change, cash or checks to help support the crisis pregnancy ministry at the **Paul Stefan Home** in Orange, VA. Special collection containers will be available in each Sunday School classroom and in the vestibule.
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Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love. Mother Teresa

Let's Celebrate!

BIRTHDAYS

Nancy McKinney	Feb 2
Debra Hollenberg	Feb 2
Jamie Sprouse	Feb 2
Wayne Troy	Feb 2
Kaleb Kincaid	Feb 3
Brian Hollenberg	Feb 3
James Wright	Feb 3
Lonnie Kincaid	Feb 3
Becky Sutterfield	Feb 6
Diana Wagner	Feb 9
Janet Kincaid	Feb 12
Sandy Harper	Feb 12
Sharon Marker	Feb 15
Jena Bath	Feb 17
David Hawk	Feb 17
Michael Priddy	Feb 18
Chloe Wiltshire	Feb 19
Travis Harrow	Feb 19
Daniel O'Rourke	Feb 20
Harry McClurg	Feb 20
Tony Wade	Feb 22
Lillie Rosson	Feb 23
Staci Harpster	Feb 24
John Matysek	Feb 25

ANNIVERSARIES

Gallaher, JC & Cheryl	Feb 15
Dillon, Michael & Linda	Feb 25

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

Sandy Harper	Feb 1
Ron Taylor	Feb 8
Bill Groome	Feb 15
Frank Smith	Feb 22

STAY INFORMED!

In addition to the monthly newsletter, you can get up-to-date information on our website, Facebook and Instagram – Follow Us!

Website: www.Oakland-Baptist.com
Facebook: OBCGumSpringVA
Instagram: oaklandbaptistgumspring

ARMENIA MISSION

Since 2021, Oakland has partnered with other Goshen churches to support church planters in Armenia through annual financial gifts of $200. These funds help cover essential expenses, allowing local pastors to focus on sharing the gospel and discipling believers as they establish new churches (Matthew 28:19).

In 2023, Goshen further strengthened this partnership by sending a team of eight volunteers to Armenia. The team supported church planters by teaching Vacation Bible School, completing needed construction projects, and ministering to refugees displaced by conflict. Through both practical service and gospel witness, God's love was shared in ways that brought encouragement and hope (Matthew 5:16; Psalm 34:18).

This year, Goshen plans to send **two mission teams**. One team will support the ongoing ministry in Sisian in southern Armenia, while the other will partner with a new church planter in Armavir, west of the capital city of Yerevan. Both teams will continue the ministry by helping strengthen the local church and build a lasting gospel presence (Romans 10:14).

Through prayer, giving, and service, this ministry meets real needs and reflects God's heart for the nations (Galatians 5:13). **To support this mission trip, a Brunswick stew fundraiser will be held on February 7.** Please prayerfully consider participating as God uses our generosity to advance His work (2 Corinthians 9:7).

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **The Lord's Supper** *11:00 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Deacon's Meeting** *12:30 pm*	2	3	4 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Group Bible Study** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	5	6	7 **Brunswick Stew Fundraiser** *12:00 pm – 2:00 pm*
8 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	9	10	11 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Group Bible Study** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	12	13	14 **Valentine's Day**
15 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Baptist Women's Day** *11:00 am* **Women on Mission** *12:30 pm*	16	17	18 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Group Bible Study** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	19 **Seniors Luncheon** *11:00 am* **Good News Club** *2:30 pm*	20	21 **Mission Stitchers** *9:00 am – 2:00 pm*
22 **Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** *8:00 am – 9:30 am* **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	23	24	25 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Group Bible Study** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	26 **Good News Club** *2:30 pm*	27	28

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Tyler Adams
Lesley Alford
Steve Alford
Scott Andrews
David & Beth Biles
Dennis Braswell
Mike Carden
Charlie Childress
Ronnie & Virginia Cook
Debbie Crowder
Debbie Cutchin
Diane Davis
Roy Edwards
Taylor Ferguson
Carolyn Ferris
Frances Gillend
Jorge Gomez & family
April Grant
Robbie Green
Alex Guardino
Judy Gunter
Sandy Harper
Stewart Hicks
Jeannie Hyatt
Angela Lewis
Dot Lloyd
Joan Lloyd
Mary McCullough
Jessie Magana
Barbara Mayberry
Hazel Morgan
John Nunn
Susan Parker
Casey Ralston
Jane Salo
Frank Smith
Steve Smith
Donnie Tate
Judy Trouch
Kathy Wade
Martin Walton
Anne Wells
Gordon Whitehurst
Hannah Williams
Sandy Williams
Ernie Wootton

Continue to pray for:
Bobby Fields
Jane Morgan Jones
Riley Saunders
Betty Jane Smith
Leah Stiles
Billy Walton
Our Pastor & Church
Our Country
The Holy Land
Outreach Project
Pianist for Oakland

Prayers for the families of:
Brenda Snead
Jill Snead
Alfred Willis

Remember our Servicemen & their families:
Nathan Alford, Stateside
Gabe Edwards, Stateside

Please email any additions or changes to communication@oakland-baptist.com by the 15th of each month to be included in our Sunday bulletin

The Acorn

P.O. Box 99
Gum Spring, VA 23065

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Oakland
BAPTIST CHURCH