

Valentine's Day

Many people know that Valentine's Day is named after St. Valentine. But did you know there are actually two St. Valentines? Nobody knows for sure if the holiday originally celebrated St. Valentine of Rome or St. Valentine of Terni, both of whom were martyred. Legends say that St. Valentine of Rome was a priest who defied the Roman Emperor Claudius II's ban on soldiers getting married and continuing to marry couples in secret. Other stories say that he helped Christians escape Roman prisons and fell in love with the jailer's daughter, writing her a letter signed "From your Valentine."

The origins of Valentine's Day are murky. But it is thought to have been made a holiday in the fifth century. It wasn't until much later that it became associated with romance. In the Middle Ages, it was believed that February 14 was the start of birds' mating season. Chaucer cemented the connection between Valentine's Day, birds and romance with his 1375 poem "Parliament of Fowles," writing,

*"For this was on Seynt Valentynes day,
Whan every foul cometh ther to chese his make."*

The rest, as they say, is history!



The Parliament of Birds, an 18th-century oil painting by Karl Wilhelm de Hamilton

Here are a couple of "fun" facts about Valentine's Day in America:

- ♥ We take red roses for granted as a Valentine's Day staple. But roses actually don't grow in February weather in the U.S. because it's too cold. Instead, millions of flowers are grown around the world and shipped to the U.S. specifically for February 14th. Most of the roses we gift for Valentine's Day come from Ecuador, Kenya and Columbia.
- ♥ According to Hallmark, a whopping 145 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged every February 14 (and that's not even including all those kids' Valentines exchanged in classrooms!). This makes Valentine's Day the second biggest holiday for exchanging greeting cards after Christmas.

Valentine's Day is wrapped around the idea of "love," so we should never forget that the concept of love originates in God. In fact 1 John 4:16 teaches us that "God is Love." Love as God loves, His love is unconditional and never stops flowing.

Happy Valentine's Day. I Love you all and GODS NOT DONE!

Pastor Chris



Let's Pray!

How Can I Love Like Jesus?...Start with prayer.

"Jesus loves me! This I know" is something we've been singing since childhood, but maturing means, in part, thinking not just of how He loves us but also about how we can love like He does. As the Bible says, "Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us" (Ephesians 5:2) characterized by joy and gratitude.



While His love was most evident as He endured the Cross, His love was also evident in His acts of healing, teaching, sharing, feeding, liberating, and even in His praying. Yes, imitating His prayer life can help us love as Jesus loved and still loves. That's why we want to be like His disciples and say, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

Jesus knew something we all need to learn. Loving requires emotional and spiritual strength; therefore, He sought time alone with His Father to be refreshed and restored so He could continue to love.

Prayer is communication with the Father, and Jesus prioritized time in prayer throughout His ministry. We know Jesus spent time with His Father in prayer while already knowing the outcome of what was to come, so how much more must we as believers make prayer the foundation of our lives?

We, too, must seek communication with the Father. Pray God would strengthen your prayer life.

~ Copied

MISSIONS

OUR FEBRUARY PROJECT: SAFE AND WARM CAMPAIGN

Would you consider being a "HEARTWARMER" this month? Many Buncombe families live below the Federal Poverty Level and work low wage jobs. Heating costs have risen since last year and these folks go to **ABCCM Crisis Ministry** for heating assistance. This year donations are needed more than ever. With January starting off as one of the coldest on record, the importance of keeping all our neighbors safe and warm is greatly underscored.

Our **FEBRUARY** emphasis will be helping those residents in need by providing **heat assistance, blankets, coats, hats and gloves**. We will collect these items through the month of February. Please specify on your offering envelope any money you give as **ABCCM Safe and Warm**.



Thank you for being a generous, mission-minded "HEARTWARMER" this month!



NATIONAL MAKE A FRIEND DAY FEBRUARY 11

Some say that the measure of our lives can be seen in our friends.

We have all sorts of friends, best ones, long-distance ones and even ones that we call acquaintances. They help us through the bad times and dance along in the good times with us.

There are friends who are the family that we choose and we would lay down our lives for. These are the bindings on our hearts that we would never want to get rid of. On **National Make a Friend Day**, we can take the time to perhaps add another to this list of buddies!

It does not matter whether you have one friend, ten friends, or more; making friends is important! A new friendship can bring new experiences to our lives. They can bring out sides of our personalities we never knew existed. They can open doors to new interests and activities, and they can help us when times get tough. There's no denying it; new friends are good for the soul, and Make A Friend Day encourages you to talk to someone new in the hope that a great friendship could blossom.

Friendship is also important for our emotional help. There have been a number of studies that have shown that people with good friends feel less stressed and happier than those who don't have any friends. Loneliness can make life difficult, and you deserve to have great people in your life to share it with.

Always observed on February 11th, National Make A Friend

"There are no strangers in the world, just friends you have never met."
~ William Butler Yeats

Day is a fantastic opportunity to meet someone new and make a new friendship. Friends serve a vital role in everyone's lives. They are one of life's most valuable assets.

We must never stop making friends. A new friendship can open you to new experiences. Friends can help us through challenging times. They provide us with the comfort of a safe emotional space where we can be ourselves. Good friends are one of our biggest treasures.

"Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light."
~ Helen Keller

"Friends are those rare people who ask how you are and then wait for the answer."
~ Ed Cunningham

New friends can broaden our horizons by helping us to see new perspectives, challenging us to try something different, or connecting us to opportunities. Meeting new people can help sharpen our social skills and keep us from becoming lonely.

So...what are some good ways to make new friends?



♥ Flash a smile and say "Hello."



♥ Sign up for a class. You'll meet people who have the same interests as you do.

♥ Volunteer. This is a great way to give back to your community and meet others doing the same.



♥ Meet your neighbors. Many of us don't know our neighbors well, but they sometimes turn out to be the best of friends.

♥ Revive old friendships. Out of touch...has it been too long since you spoke to your childhood friend? Maybe today's the day!



♥ And when you meet someone new, invite them to Enka Baptist Church where GODS NOT DONE!



hope your birthday is as awesome as you are!

TUESDAY MORNINGS AT EBC

Join us at 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday morning for Group Bible Study: Currently studying the book of Judges, by David Jeremiah.

Prayer Meeting follows at 11:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT EBC

Ladies, please join us at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening for Bible Study and fellowship around the table. Facilitated by Polly Stanberry, these studies will change each quarter and will always be something that can help you in your walk with the Lord.

If you are interested in attending, or if you have any questions, please contact Polly Stanberry at 828-335-5100 or email pstanberry@bellsouth.net. All are welcome!

February 2025 *Small Groups meet every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)*

FEB 02	6:00 p.m.	Brief Business Meeting Bible Study with the Pastor CIA / Youth
FEB 04	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
FEB 05	6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
FEB 09	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	2nd Sunday Celebration Bible Study with the Pastor CIA/Youth
FEB 11	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
FEB 12	6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
FEB 14	Happy Valentine's Day	
FEB 16 ABCCM SUNDAY	6:00 p.m.	Adults on Mission CIA / Youth
FEB 22	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
FEB 23	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study with the Pastor CIA / Youth
FEB 25	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
FEB 26	6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study

In the event of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, tune in to WLOS-TV13 after 7:00 a.m. for our schedule on that day. Closings will be displayed across the bottom of the screen. If no morning service is held, all other regularly held services will be cancelled that Sunday. On Tuesday mornings, if there is no school, Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are cancelled.

Happy Valentine's Day

