



# MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## February 2024



Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Nights: Youth and Adult Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.  
(RAs and GAs meet on the second and third Wednesday of each month)

### **Upcoming Events**

- Wednesday, Feb. 7: Family Night Meal, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 9: Winter Jam, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 11: Choir Practice, 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 12: WMU Group 1 Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 17: Senior Adult Valentine Luncheon, 11:00 a.m.  
Game Night, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 18: Praise Team Practice, 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 19: Rise-Up Ladies Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 24: Ham and Egg Supper, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 25: Deacons' Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

BEJ Snack Pack Focus: Jelly (squeeze bottles)

\*Please send submissions for the March Newsletter to [christina@mtolivebaptist.com](mailto:christina@mtolivebaptist.com) by February 26th.

# February

## BIRTHDAYS

## ANNIVERSARIES

|               |    |                          |
|---------------|----|--------------------------|
|               | 1  |                          |
|               | 2  | Layden & Toni Brazington |
| Craig Dixon   | 3  |                          |
| Joseph Thomas | 4  |                          |
|               | 5  |                          |
| Abby Jones    | 6  |                          |
|               | 7  |                          |
| Linda Pickard | 8  |                          |
|               | 9  |                          |
|               | 10 | Bill & Brenda Zachary    |
|               | 11 |                          |
|               | 12 |                          |
|               | 13 |                          |
|               | 14 |                          |
| LaVern Judd   | 15 |                          |
| Carol Pickard | 16 |                          |
| Tom Judd      | 17 |                          |
| Evan Moore    | 18 |                          |
| Lisa White    | 19 |                          |
|               | 20 |                          |
|               | 21 |                          |
|               | 22 |                          |
|               | 23 |                          |
|               | 24 |                          |
|               | 25 |                          |
|               | 26 |                          |
|               | 27 |                          |
| Rhonda Thomas | 28 |                          |
|               | 29 |                          |



## *Senior Adult Valentine Luncheon*

*Saturday, February 17, 2024*

*@ 11:00 am*

*in the Fellowship Building.*

*Please contact Renee Godfrey or Rhonda Nunn  
by February 10, if you plan to attend.*

### 2024 Family Night Meal Schedule

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| January   | None    |
| February  | Group 3 |
| Mach      | Group 4 |
| April     | Group 1 |
| May       | Group 2 |
| June      | Group 3 |
| July      | None    |
| August    | Group 4 |
| September | Group 1 |
| October   | Group 2 |
| November  | Group 3 |
| December  | Group 4 |





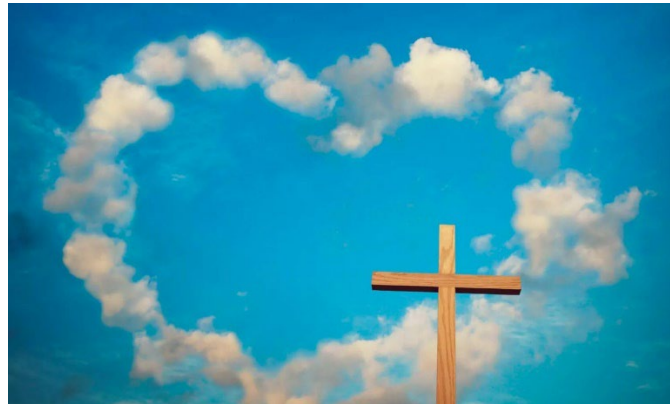
# **Bible Readings for February**

(Read through the Bible in a Year Plan)

|           |               |                 |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------|
| Thursday  | February 1st  | Leviticus 1-4   |
| Friday    | February 2nd  | Leviticus 5-7   |
| Saturday  | February 3rd  | Leviticus 8-10  |
| Sunday    | February 4th  | Leviticus 11-13 |
| Monday    | February 5th  | Leviticus 14-15 |
| Tuesday   | February 6th  | Leviticus 16-18 |
| Wednesday | February 7th  | Leviticus 19-21 |
| Thursday  | February 8th  | Leviticus 22-23 |
| Friday    | February 9th  | Leviticus 24-25 |
| Saturday  | February 10th | Leviticus 26-27 |
| Sunday    | February 11th | Numbers 1-2     |
| Monday    | February 12th | Numbers 3-4     |
| Tuesday   | February 13th | Numbers 5-6     |
| Wednesday | February 14th | Numbers 7       |
| Thursday  | February 15th | Numbers 8-10    |
| Friday    | February 16th | Numbers 11-13   |
| Saturday  | February 17th | Numbers 14-15   |
| Sunday    | February 18th | Numbers 16-17   |
| Monday    | February 19th | Numbers 18-20   |
| Tuesday   | February 20th | Numbers 21-22   |
| Wednesday | February 21st | Numbers 23-25   |
| Thursday  | February 22nd | Numbers 26-27   |
| Friday    | February 23rd | Numbers 28-30   |
| Saturday  | February 24th | Numbers 31-32   |
| Sunday    | February 25th | Numbers 33-34   |
| Monday    | February 26th | Numbers 35-36   |
| Tuesday   | February 27th | Deuteronomy 1-2 |
| Wednesday | February 28th | Deuteronomy 3   |
| Thursday  | February 29th | Deuteronomy 4   |



The season of LOVE. Did you know the girl says in the Wisdom Literature “Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised.” Song of Songs 8:6-7. Besides religious experiences, emotions we experience in relationships between girls and boys are the strongest feelings we will ever have. We often see them portrayed in our film and music as overriding other motives and laws which we are subject to. There is some biblical truth to this, but oftentimes what is right and wrong is not portrayed accurately in Hollywood (go figure..) God will always love us the most and is jealous of our time and affections. When we experience God’s love for the first time it shifts our perspective: we realize that other people are not what makes us valued but God, in Jesus. We have to get this right or we will never know how to love others, including our little friends, and later, wife or husband. It says in Romans 5, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” If you ever question if God loves you, look at Jesus, and then what he did.



(Image: How God demonstrates his love)

EXCITED for WINTERJAM this month! It is on Friday the 9th in Raleigh.

Coming Up:

- Every Wednesday: YOUTH GROUP
- Pizza at Youth: Every OTHER Wednesday
- Friday February 9th - WINTERJAM at 5:30pm at the Church.
- More Events TBA



Rolling Calendar:

# Noble's Bible Reading Plan

| Lord's Day  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|   |   |   |   | Feb 1st<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 1  | Feb 2nd<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 2<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 2     | Feb 3rd<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 3<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 3   |
| Feb 4th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 4<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 4      | Feb 5th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 5<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 5  | Feb 6th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 6<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 6      | Feb 7th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 7<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 7      | Feb 8th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 8<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 8  | Feb 9th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 9<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 9     | Feb 10th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 10<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 10  |
| Feb 11th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 11<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 11   | Feb 12th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 12<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 12   | Feb 13th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 13<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 13   | Feb 14th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 14<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 14   | Feb 15th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 15<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 15                                       | Feb 16th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 16<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 16  | Feb 17th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 1<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 17                                       |
| Feb 18th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 2<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 18  | Feb 19th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 3<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 19  | Feb 20th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 4<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 20  | Feb 21st<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 21  | Feb 22nd<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 7<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 22 | Feb 23rd<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23 | Feb 24th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 9<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 10<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 24 |
| Feb 25th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 11<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 25 | Feb 26th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 12<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 13<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 26 | Feb 27th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 14<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 27 | Feb 28th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 15<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 28 | Feb 29th<br><input type="checkbox"/> Romans 16<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 29                                     |  |  |
|   |   |   |   |   |  |  |

# *Stories of Faith in Action*

## Faith--- Groundhog Day for Christians?

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> of every year, Groundhog Day is commemorated in a small town in Pennsylvania. This observance has been occurring in the town of Punxsutawney since 1887. People congregate to the Gobbler Knob part of town to consult the groundhog. Tradition states that if the groundhog sees his shadow when he emerges from his burrow (a "cage" nowadays), he will retreat, and winter will continue for six more weeks. If the groundhog does not see his shadow, spring will come early. If I am being honest, I'm a big fan of cloudy skies on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The movie with Bill Murray is what a lot of people remember about Groundhog Day. In the movie, Bill Murray's character (Phil) wakes up every morning and is stuck in the same day OVER and OVER. Phil was frustrated because he had been sent to cover the story four years in a row. Phil initially uses this to his advantage but feels that he is doomed to spend the rest of his life seeing the same people and doing the same things over and over. Phil wasn't only making himself miserable; he was making everyone else miserable as well. Phil eventually stops hurting himself and others and uses his knowledge to change himself and others' lives in a positive way.

I think we all look at our lives and see times when we wish we could re-do some things. I think often of my mother and how I wish I would have spent even more time with her. I wish I would have made the decision to follow Christ's teaching at a younger age and been more in tune with what he was doing around me. I am reminded of Solomon's attempt to find his sense of happiness in Ecclesiastes 2:11, "Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun." Remember that Solomon had experimented with almost everything...materialism, beauty, wealth, women, work, and worldly wisdom. It is not just enough to stop sinning. We should replace our sin with doing the work of Christ. Eventually, Solomon found his sense of happiness. In Ecclesiastes 12:13, he says "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

While we can't live the same day repeatedly, we do have the opportunity to be transformed daily. We can repent of our sins and not repeat the same mistakes over and over. Living for Christ is not easy, but it gets easier the more we do it. Colossians 3:8-10 states, "But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator." As we create new habits built on our faith in God, our personality becomes more like Christ. Our bad habits become less and less likely.

Thank God we do get many second chances. God is a loving God, and we wake up to a new day every day. We can choose to re-live the same bad days, or we can choose to live for Christ. Are we making every day a better day and learning to affect others' lives in a positive way? The transformation of our lives can be made complete as our faith grows, and we strive to be more like Christ.

Have a Blessed February,

Joe Godfrey



*Mt. Olive Baptist Church*

*February 2024*