

CHURCH EVENTS

February 1

Lord's Supper
1:30p Deacons' Mtg.

February 2

6:00p Church Council
Meeting

February 4

5:00p Potluck Dinner

February 7

9:00a Baptist Men Mtg
9:00a Ladies'
Fellowship

February 8

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 15

Business Meeting

February 17

6:00p Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Dinner

February 18

Ash Wednesday
Service

February 23

Newsletter Input Due

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:30a Adult Study Groups
9:30a Children/Youth
11:00a Worship Service

Wednesday

6:00p Adult Bible Study
6:00p Children/Youth
7:15 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

6:30p Amen Class

FEBRUARY DEACON MINISTRY:

Peggy Mason/Janice Thompson

OCC ITEM OF THE MONTH:

TOOTH PASTE

OCIM ITEM OF THE MONTH:

FRUIT & APPLESAUCE

Mount Hermon Baptist Church



sprout



grow



bearfruit

February
2026

Pastor's Pen

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Cor. 13)

There isn't much in February to celebrate. For most of us, by the time February rolls around we're tired of winter and ready for spring, and that makes the shortest month of the year feel all that much longer. Of course, sports fans get the Super Bowl and Daytona 500, and baseball fans start to get excited because pitchers and catchers report to spring training. Outside of that, though, pretty much all there is in February to look forward to is Valentine's Day. This is a day in which we celebrate romantic love, named after a 3rd century saint who was martyred for his care of the faithful during times of persecution. How a 'holy day' commemorating him became associated with romantic love is something of a historical question, but nevertheless, that's what's happened.

As I've been thinking about Saint Valentine, and Valentine's Day, and all that's going on around and beyond us this year and last, I'm reminded of what Jesus said when asked what the greatest commandment is: "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31) Love. That's what it all boils down to for us. Many of us have grown up singing the hymn, *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*. Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be what our national culture is known for these days. Mostly we seem to either be known for what we fear or what makes us angry. Maybe this Valentine's Day (and month) we would do well to get back to the way of love.

As Paul writes in the passage quoted at the start of this article, if we don't have love, we're just making noise, having nothing, gaining nothing. The way to truly experience and share the love of God in our homes, neighborhoods and world is through love. Loving God (Mark 12:30), loving one another (John 15:12), loving our neighbors (Mark 12:31; "Who is my neighbor?": Luke 10:25-37), even loving our enemies (Matthew 5:44). Pretty sure that covers most everyone in our lives...at least, I can't find any exceptions in there. Loving others day in and day out is hard...but the path of love is relatively straightforward. Simply ask yourself, in each conversation and action, "Is this word or deed a way to show the love of Christ to this person?" Again, it's an easy thing to think and ask ourselves — it's in the doing it that becomes more difficult. But wouldn't it be nice if we were known for our love rather than our anger and fear? That might just be enough to change the world in a lasting and sustainable manner.

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. (1 John 4:19-21)

With abounding love for you all, Pastor Scott

DISCIPLESHIP

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Those words are from Psalm 139 verses 23 and 24. As we approach the season of Lent again, our focus becomes a little more introspective. We still carry on the ancient practice of spring cleaning and in ways, Lent has a similar perspective. It's time to push out the accumulated junk that's gathered in our lives. That sounds good but there's something missing. If we contemplate our relationship with Christ we inevitably come back to the same point. **Jesus paid it all!** Therein lies the paradox. If we start looking inward, then we are near the same point where we were the day we accepted Him as Savior. What this is saying is that we regain the realization that the natural man we were born with can't be defeated by willpower. From there we have to appeal to Jesus for forgiveness and ask His help in going forward.

We also relate Lent to Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. During that time, I'm guessing Jesus was in deep prayer confirming His role in our salvation. I'm also guessing that even though the grand plan was known from the beginning, that Jesus needed time with God the Father to gain final insight on the daily details. If it's the 40 days in the wilderness that is our basis for Lent, then let's remember to spend more of the time in prayer for ourselves and one another so that we may be blessed with guidance, protection and wisdom for our lives. ~ Bill Butler

2026 Baptist Missions Conference Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC April 10-11, 2026



A great line up of speakers; Jennifer Rothschild, Tom Richter, Lee Strobel, and Tim Tebow, Laura Story will be leading our worship. We'll have 100 different breakout sessions, the Friday missions supper, personal testimonies, exhibits and much more.

COST

Friday only - \$20; optional Friday supper - \$10
Friday and Saturday - \$35; optional Friday supper - \$10
Saturday only - \$20

REGISTER

For registration, hotel information and additional details call 919-459-5596.

*If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.
If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. John 12:26*

STEWARDSHIP

2025	December	Year-to-Date
General Budget Income	\$25,090	\$223,598
Budget Need	<u>\$19,740</u>	<u>\$256,665</u>
Difference	\$ 5,350	(\$ 33,067)

2025	December	Year-to-Date
General Budget Income	\$25,090	\$223,598
December Expenses	<u>\$22,297</u>	<u>\$185,239</u>
Difference	\$ 2,793	\$ 38,359

Property Renovation Fund - \$15,539

Those Needing Our Prayers...

Georgia Barnette	Joseph Dennard	Betty Jane Poole
Ronda Barton	Wendy Dixon	Brenda Redman
Edna Berry	Judy Hanson	Peggy Rhodes
Donna Chamberlain	Brittany Harper	Ridge Riley
Bill Clayton	Lucille King	Robbe Riley
Byram Clayton	Mark King	Rosa Shambley
Ruth Crispin	Peggy Parker	Crystal Wasdin
		Bob & Virginia Winecuff

Brookdale - Bonnie Andrews

TerraBella - Joyce Dennis

Friends Home Assisted Living - Betty Fera

Home Hospice Care - Sue Johnson (David Morton's MIL)

Pray for

Reverend Scott Wasdin and our Church

The Personnel Committee

Our Brothers at OCC and the Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry

Those in our community with drug and alcohol addiction

The homeless people in our community and victims of violence

AROUND THE WORLD

Peace in Ukraine and Israel and an end to all wars

The people of Iran and the Christians in Nigeria

Rev. Gideon Thuam, missionary to Myawaddy Myanmar

Pastor Hammer serving the people of Togo, West Africa

Graham & Debbie Frith, Missionaries to Bolivia

Roger and Vicki Grossmann, missionaries to Guatemala

and the Good Shepherd Ministries

Asael Briones, Missionary to Honduras



Steve Clayton	A-B
John Frederick	C-Dem
Shaina Riley	Den-G
Steve Couch	H-L
Janice Thompson	M-O
Bill Butler	P-R
Peggy Mason	S-Z



Shrove Tuesday 6:00p February 17

Pancake Supper to
commemorate the
beginning of the Lenten
season.

Donations Welcome.

Souper Bowl of Caring February 8, 2026



We will have a special collection of food for OCIM on Super Bowl Sunday February 8. Food items particularly needed are jelly, bags of potatoes, loaves of bread, cans of beef stew and saltine crackers. However anything is appreciated. It will be taken to OCIM on the 9th. Contact Kevin Shinn, Cookie Frederick, or John Frederick if you have any questions. Thank you for helping the hungry in our area.

FEBRUARY LADIES' FELLOWSHIP PROJECT



Ladies'
FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies' Fellowship will meet at 9:00 am on Saturday, February 7.

We will eat, pray, and have a devotion. We will also be assembling items That will be given to staff at two local schools in appreciation for all they do.

Since supplies for this project are being purchased in advance, support to cover the cost is appreciated! Our goal is to collect \$300. Donations can be made directly to Kathryn or Janice or by marking "Ladies Fellowship" on offering envelopes.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

