

The Good News of...

February 2020



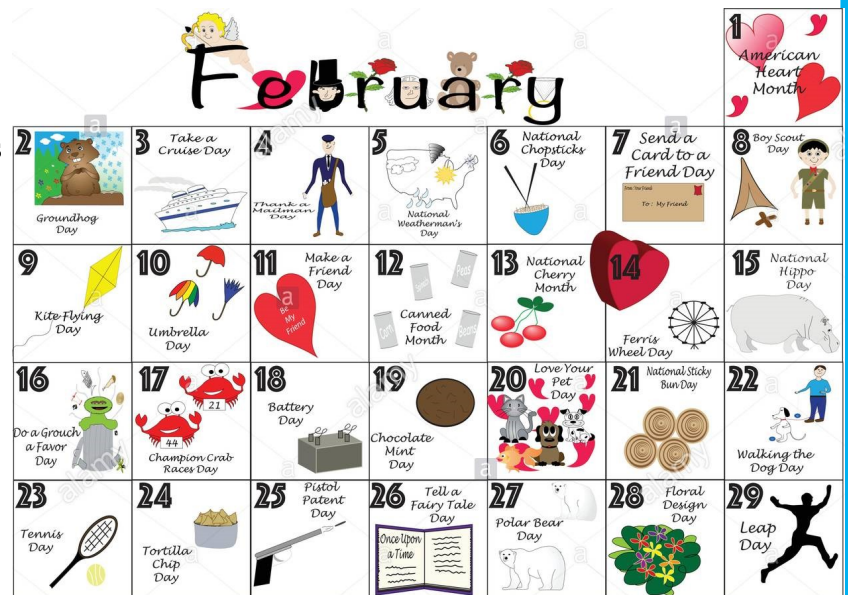
Brandon Christian Church



If you Google the February calendar you will find a multitude of holidays, events and celebrations occur during the month. It is Black history month and American heart month. Holidays and events we know of include: Groundhog Day, the Super Bowl, the Academy Awards, International Day of Women and Girls, Valentine’s Day, and Presidents Day. Lesser, unknown days include: Drink wine day, Love your pet day, Wear red day, and Cheddar day. The last Tuesday of the month is Mardi Gras. And we Christians know that following that—the day also known as Shrove Tuesday—is Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday (this year, February 26th) is the first day of the season of Lent. In liturgical churches, it begins with a vivid reminder of death. As the words “Remember—you are dust and to dust you will return” are said, Christians are marked on their foreheads with ashes in the shape of the cross. The words echo language from the funeral liturgy, “Ashes to ashes and dust to dust.”

Death is one of the primary themes of Lent. Each of us will die. None of us gets out of here alive. A friend told me that he thinks Ash Wednesday is the most honest service of the church year. My friends and I have talked about the difference between Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday. During Mardi Gras we indulge, party, cavort and sometimes even wear masks. On Ash Wednesday we take our masks off as we are reminded of—actually confronted with—the fact that we are dust.



Continued on Page 2

Things to Know for February—African American History Month

Matthew Bible Study—Wednesday’s from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, repeating on Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:30

Feb 2: Elders Meeting 12:30-rm 2

Feb 14: Food For Thought

Feb 17: Presidents Day—Office Open

Feb 7-9: BKLYN The Musical

Feb 16-23: Week of Compassion

Feb 26: Ash Wednesday

Feb 9: S.W.I.F.T.

Feb 16: S.W.I.F.T.

Feb 29: Lexington Theological Seminary Webinar

Feb 13: Finance Meeting—7:00 rm 2

Feb 16: Board Meeting—5:00 rm 2

Mar 1: First Sunday in Lent



Church Staff

Senior Minister— - Rev. Day Broers-Case

Director of Music— - Rick Barclay

Admin. Asst.— - Jamie Butterweck

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Cover Story Continued

A second primary theme of Lent is repentance—commonly understood to mean repenting of our sins. The reality of death and the need for repentance go hand-in-hand for many Christians—especially those who believe in a post-death judgment and separation into heaven or hell or purgatory. None of us knows when we will die. It could even happen later today—or tomorrow—or maybe not for many years. We don't know. Therefore it is wise, prudent and necessary to repent. Death and post-mortem judgment might be near.

The themes of death and repentance and their linkage are powerful forces in the collective Christian psyche. They have been for a long time. Imagine the many centuries in which our spiritual ancestors took it for granted that heaven and hell (and perhaps purgatory) were real. They understood that at death we would go to heaven or be condemned to punishment—eternal or time-limited as in purgatory. Imagine what death and the imperative to repent would have meant. They were ominous, threatening, fearful. It's important to be right with God when we die—for we risk divine and maybe eternal punishment.

I grew up with that understanding—even though I did not grow up in a hellfire and brimstone church. The threat of hell was not emphasized. But it was clear to me that Christianity was about going to heaven—and thus avoiding the alternative of eternal divine punishment.

Death and repentance as themes of Ash Wednesday and Lent now mean something very different to me. I no longer think that the heart of Christianity is about our eternal fate in heaven or hell—or purgatory. And I do not think that repentance is primarily about contrition for our sins and the resolve to be good—or at least better—so that our after death state might be better.

While I do affirm that the themes of death and repentance are central to Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, and Christianity. I also believe they are not about where we will spend eternity but are about our lives here and now. And if someone says, “Why is that an either-or? How about a both-and?” I am willing to say, “Fine—so long as we don't ignore the here and now.”

Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week and Christianity itself are about following Jesus on the path that leads through death to resurrection. They are about dying and rising with Christ. We are to follow him to Jerusalem—the place of death and resurrection. That is what the journey of Lent is about.



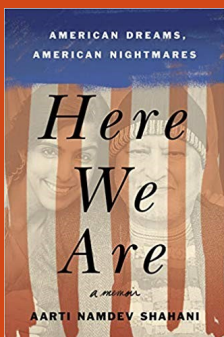
That journey involves repentance. But repentance is not primarily about feeling guilty about our sins—or about doing penance (think of the common practice of “giving up” something during Lent—whether it's meat or chocolate or alcohol or shopping, etc.). The biblical meanings of repenting are primarily twofold. On the one hand, it means to “return” to God, to “reconnect” with God. On the other hand, it means “to go beyond the mind that we have”—minds shaped by our socialization and enculturation.

The desired result of Lenten practices are dying to an old way of seeing and being and living and identity—and being born and raised into a new way of seeing and being and living and identity. Ash Wednesday—as we are marked for death—is the annual ritual enactment of the beginning of that journey.

—See you Sunday! *Rev Day*

Christian Book Discussion

See pg 5 for the year



There will not be a book discussion in February. The next discussion will be on SUNDAY, March 9th at 2 pm in classroom 1. We will discuss *Here We Are—American Dreams, American Nightmares* by NPR correspondent Aarti Namdev Shahani. It is a heart-wrenching memoir about an immigrant family's American Dream, the justice system that took it away, and the daughter who fought to get it back. “This thought-provoking and thoroughly engrossing memoir offers the story of Shahani's experience, as well as those of other families who, though they did not find the American Dream, nevertheless found home.”

Florida Disciples Camps and Retreats

Mar 10-12 Senior Retreat
 May 23-25 Summer Family Camp
 May 23-25 Young Adult Retreat
 June 7-13 HS Canoe Camp
 June 14-19 Elem Equestrian Camp
 June 21-26 Midway Camp
 June 28-July 3 Junior Camp
 July 5-11 Spiritual Arts Camp
 July 12-17 MS Outdoor Adventure Camp
 July 17-19 Uno Camp

SWIFT

(Single Women in Fellowship Together)

SWIFT will meet to share a meal and conversation on Sunday, February 9, following church at the home of Pat Lynch (2214 Misty Ridge Lane, 813-943-1745)



For more information, contact Betty at 813-404-9393 or bdawson@dawsoncrew.com

FINANCE MEETING—THURS, FEB 13
7:00PM, **ROOM #2**

ELDERS' MEETING—SUN, FEB 2
12:30PM, **ROOM #2**

BOARD MEETING—SUN, FEB 16
5PM—**ROOM #2**

In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty.
In all things, love!

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays!

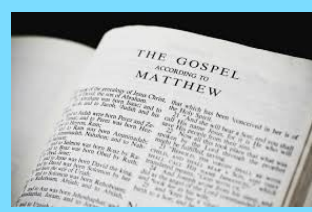
- Feb 1—Tim Smith II, Sandy Watson
- Feb 2—Brandon Witherow
- Feb 5—Robyn DiGregorio
- Feb 7—Mareda Kennedy
- Feb 8—Grace Paulson
- Feb 23—Leroy Dietz
- Feb 26—Amy Witherow

No Anniversaries



Food for Thought will meet on February 14 at the home of Ros Springer (2320 Travis Robert Ave.—863-409-8499). Ros will host the group for an enjoyable hands-on omelet brunch and interactive discussion based on a variety of open-ended questions. Everyone is invited to come and participate. Meal planning would be easier for Ros if you can let her know you are coming, however don't let not giving an RSVP keep you from attending—you won't regret it!

Thanks to all of you at BCC for the loving send-off you gave me a couple weeks back. When I accepted the position back in April 2018, I had no idea that the Lord was not only giving me a new job, but a group of people who I would come to love dearly, and who would become my worship family. Thank you for the lovely words, cards, hugs, delicious CAKE, gift card, and Staff Love Offering you all honored and blessed me with. I can't wait to see what 2020 brings to BCC. In Him, Lisa Peterson



Bible Study—Matthew:

Steven Blinder will be leading a study and discussion on the Gospel of Matthew. All are welcome, so mark your calendars and join Steve for an 8 week exploration of Matthew's gospel!

There will be two sessions each week, one on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00, and again on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 2:30. The schedule is as follows:

- Feb 5 and Feb 6
- Feb 12 and 13
- Feb 19 and 20
- Feb 26 and 27
- March 4 and 5
- March 11 and 12
- March 18 and 19

Thank you, Sunday Servers



LITURGISTS (Rev. Day)

February 2 Karen Whitfield
 February 9 Brett Powell
 February 16 Betty Powell
 February 23 Joan Solomon

ELDERS (Jo/Don)

	<u>BREAD</u>	<u>CUP</u>
February 2:	Diane G.	Jo Henkel
February 9:	Steven B.	Cammie D.
February 16:	Cammie D.	Brian S.
February 23:	Don S.	Diane G.

GREETER(S) (Don)

February 2: Lisa Peterson and Family
 February 9: The Denton Family
 February 16: Peter F. and Darlene C.
 February 23: Tom Watson

DEACONS (Scott/Ron)

February 2: Open/Close: Tom S.
 Communion: Erin D-P.
 Serving: Jerome C., Caitlin W., Tom S., Erin D-P.

February 9: Open/Close: Dan H.
 Communion: Andrea M.
 Serving: Scott W., Caitlin W., Dan H., Andrea M.

February 16: Open/Close: Scott W.,
 Communion: Caitlin W.
 Serving: Jerome C., Erin D-P., Scott W., Caitlin W.

February 23: Open/Close: Tom S.
 Communion: Erin D-P.
 Serving: Dan H., Caitlin W., Tom S., Erin D-P.

NURSERY (Linda)

February 2: Lucy B., and Karen W.
 February 9: Karlita K., and Brandon W.
 February 16: Jo and Dan Henkel
 February 23: Linda S. and Scott W.

COUNTERS (Jo/Don)

February 2: Linda S./Karlita K.
 February 9: Linda S./Art K.
 February 16: Don S./Brian S.
 February 23: Betty D./Brian S.

WORSHIP AND WONDER (Diane)

February 2: Don S. and Steven B.
 February 9: Laura F. and Betty P.
 February 16: Britt F. and Karen W.
 February 23: Britt F. and Karen W.



Fellowship Hosts

February—The Peace
 Care Group will be the
 Fellowship Hosts for Feb-
 ruary

Christian Book Discussion

Here are the books for the year:

Jan 12—Seeking Enlightenment Hat by Hat; Nevada Barr (1 ebook, 1 reg print, 1 lg print)

Feb 9—Eighteen Acres; Nicole Wallace (3 books, ebook downloadable, used \$6)

March 8—Here We Are—American Dreams, American Nightmares; Aarti Namedev Shahani (3 books, 1 ebook, used \$5)

April and May—No discussions (Easter and Mothers Day)

June 14—The All-Girls Filling Station's Last Reunion; Fannie Flagg (Lots of books, CDs, and large print—used \$9)

July 12—Sometimes Amazing Things Happen; Elizabeth Ford (1 book, used \$7-\$15)

Aug 9—The Fever Tree; Jennifer McVeigh (books, CDs, and downloads—used \$2-\$6)

Sept 13—The Giver of Stars; Jojo Mayes (**Holds**, lots of books, still expensive online \$10-\$15)

Oct 11—Mere Christianity; C.S. Lewis (8 Books reg and lg print, used &2-\$6)

Nov 8—Where the Crawdads Sing; Delia Owens (**Holds**; lots of books, download, online \$12-\$15)

Dec 13—The Blue Bottle Club; Penelope J. Stokes (1 reg, 1 lg print, used \$6)

Worship and Wonder

The Workshop held on January 19th was a very productive meeting. Thank you to all who attended! We welcome the new people who are interested in being a part of this ministry! Ask anyone who is currently a part of the program, it is very rewarding!

-Diane Garthwaite

EQUAL EX-CHANGE FAIR TRADE GOODS



Take a look at the assortment on the rolling cart during Fellowship. From hot cocoa to candy bars and chocolate chips to various kinds of coffee, there is lots to enjoy. And it's all Equal Exchange...which means that farmers in developing countries such as El Salvador and Mexico can be assured Fair Trade for their products.

We are currently looking for a volunteer to staff the booth once a month. If you are interested please see Linda S.

Brooklyn The Musical is a story within a story. On the outside, a band of soulful street singers and storytellers sharing stories from their lives. And their story: A young Parisian coming to America to search for fame and the Father she never knew. Her only clue, her name... Brooklyn. With a brilliant mix of pop, rock, and soul, these stories interweave to create a musical that is a touching and inspiring sidewalk-fairy tale. The plot includes adult themes and the characters speak in the language of urban poetry (without graphic language).

Our very own Music Director, Rick Barclay, is also the Music Director of this production. Karlita is planning a BCC group trip to see the show on Feb. 7th. If you are interested in joining the group please see Karlita.



Disciples Women's Ministry event in the Southeastern Regional Fellowship will be March 13-15 at the Christmount Assembly, Black Mountain, NC. There will be a bus from Silver Springs on Thursday, March 12 at 1 pm.

Accommodations at Christmount are limited. The Florida Disciples Women's Ministry has 20 spaces on hold for FL Disciples. It is very important if you plan to attend that you make reservations ASAP. You can register online or by calling. To make reservations for the bus call 352-236-2302. For more information, contact Glenda Harper at glendaharp@comcast.net.

The Florida Disciples Women's Ministry Spring Enrichment Conference on Saturday, April 4, 9:30 to 3:00, at the Retreat at Silver Springs. The theme is **JUST WOMEN** and the speaker will be **Rev. Marilyn Williams**, president of the International Disciples Women Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Senior Retreat—The Jonah Story "God of Second Chances" will be March 10 through 12 at the Retreat at Silver Springs. This retreat is open to adults of all ages. If you are interested in attending please speak to Jamie in the office for a registration form.

Yearly Giving Statements were given out the last week of January. If you did not get yours please contact Diane Garthwaite, Financial Secretary—garthdi72@gmail.com or 863-838-8867

Volunteer needed!!

A volunteer is needed to check inventory of Church Fellowship supplies and report to Jamie when we are getting low so he can put out an appeal or order more. If this sounds like your kind of volunteer opportunity please speak to Linda S. or Jamie. Thanks!

FEEDING TAMPA BAY

Volunteers are helping at the Publix Community Market from 11:30am to 3:30pm the final Monday of every month. During Mission Week, several BCC volunteers enjoyed their time helping with this ministry, and it was decided that we would continue. Some folks meet at the church and carpool to the location at 4702 Transport Drive, Bldg. 6, Tampa, and others meet the group on-site. It mostly involves helping people select food items and carry them to their car or other transportation. If you would like to volunteer, the next date is **Mon, Feb 24th**. Contact Steve Blinder at (813) 514-3815 for more information.

Help is also needed on Thursdays at 1:00pm at the Gibsonton Elementary School location of Feeding Tampa Bay!

lexington THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

LTS Webinar—Using Congregational Assets for Mission. February 29, 2020 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

You are invited to LTS' next webinar, "Using Congregational Assets to Strengthen Communities" with Rev. Dr. Joe Blosser.

"This webinar intends to help pastors and lay leaders explore the ways the various assets of their congregation could be put to more intentional missional use. We will consider charity and volunteer work and also think of systemic changes congregations can support through grassroots coalition building, policy and structural change and racial reconciliation." If you are interested please email Jamie in the office and he will forward you the email with the registration link.



Souper Bowl

On Sunday, February 2, we will collect cans of soup for E.C.H.O.

Please bring 2 or more cans of soup and put them on the floor in front of the Communion table before worship begins. We want to have a "Souper" Sunday to help our neighbors have food on their tables. Thanks for your help!

Rev. Day



Google My Business Stats

Friends, we are viral—in a good way! Here are some recent stats from Google:

10,338 people found us on Google in December.

120 asked for directions, up 20% from Nov. 102 unique IP addresses visited our site, up 92%,

and 36 called us from Google, up 100%. Lastly, we have been rated a 4.9 stars out of a possible 5, based on seven 5-star ratings and one 4-star rating.