

NEWLETTER

First Presbyterian Church of Croswell

Web Page: <https://Croswellpresbyterian.org>

February 2025



ORIGINS OF VALENTINE DAY

Many centuries ago, February 14 was designated as the annual celebration of Valentine Day. There is a lot of information to consider when writing a history of Valentine Day. I will be providing here, only what is said to be the Christian origins of Valentine Day. For after all, we are Christians.

Valentine Day began as Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine. This feast was established in the 5th century by Pope Gelasius I of the Roman Catholic Church, to honor one or two Christian saints named Valentinus who were martyred, or executed, on February 14th, as punishment for sharing the message of Jesus.

There were actually three saints by the name of Valentine or Valentinus. Two of them were from Italy. And one was from Africa. Two died by being beheaded, the third was only said to have been executed.

One story about this man Valentine is that he was a priest of the church who was imprisoned for assisting Christians who were being persecuted by the Roman Empire. While Valentine was in prison, he fell in love with a young woman (Some said she was the jailer's daughter) and wrote and sent to her a farewell letter (Calling it: "*From your Valentine*") before he was executed. One version of the story said that the young woman was blind, and Valentine healed her.

Another Valentine story says Valentine was beheaded for conducting secret wedding ceremonies for Roman soldiers who were Christians, when the Roman Emperor had outlawed Christian weddings for their young soldiers.

How Valentine's Day became connected with romantic love is traced to a poem written in the year 1375 by the Englishman Geoffrey Chaucer, describing the mating of birds in mid February. Chaucer claimed that on Saint Valentine Day every bird chose their mates. Perhaps this is where we get our term "*love birds.*" About that time, couples expressed their love to each other by giving flowers, candles and cards.

Valentine Day is a great opportunity to celebrate love for family, friends, spouses, lovers, or neighbors because our Lord Jesus taught that people would know us by our love. Jesus said: "*A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; just as I loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" (John 13:34-35)

Bill Wright

Pastor

Prayer Requests

Quinlyn Smith 2 yr. old daughter of Tom and Brenda Murray of Melvin liver transplant.

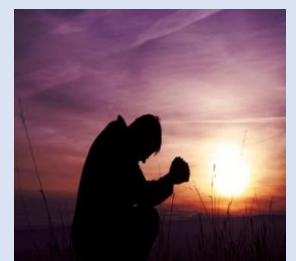
Those with seasonal colds and flu.

Prayers for those facing the fires and aftermath in California

Those recovering from surgeries and other serious illnesses.

PASTOR ON CALL

Pastor Bill Wright is available to visit church members anytime, anywhere, either for emergency situations or casual conversations. Feel free to call Bill at (810) 858-7033



February Quotes

“If January is the month of change, February is the month of lasting change. January is for dreamers... February is for doers.” – Marc Parent

“Nothing in the universe can stop you from letting go and starting over.” – Guy Finley

“Never dull your shine for somebody else.”
– Tyra Banks

“I do not care so much what I am to others as I care what I am to myself.” – Michel de Montaigne

“What could we accomplish if we knew we could not fail?” – Eleanor Roosevelt

“One of the greatest regrets in life is being what others would want you to be, rather than being yourself.” – Shannon L. Alder

“Nothing is predestined. The obstacles of your past can become the gateways that lead to new beginnings.” – Ralph Blum

“Nothing in the universe can stop you from letting go and starting over.” – Guy Finley

“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.”— Princess Diana

“Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference.”— Helen James

“To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fail when we fail to try.”

“February is the time to thank the omnipotent power of the Universe for the loving people who are surrounding you.”— Remez Sasson—Rosa Parks

“February is a month of light compared to the darkness in the world.”— Terry Guillemets

“Trust the magic of new beginnings.” – Meister Eckhart

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”
– Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Let this new month bring great miracles, new adventures, incredible breakthroughs, new visions & greater blessings for you & your beloved ones.”
– Rajesh Goyal

“Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” – Confucius

“How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time.”
— Morgan Freeman

“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.”
— Princess Diana

Bible Verses and Scriptures

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." ~ [Isaiah 41:10](#)

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." ~ [2 Timothy 1:7](#)

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love." ~ [1 John 4:18](#)

"I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears." ~ [Psalm 34:4](#)

"The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe." ~ [Proverbs 29:25](#)

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" ~ [Psalm 56:3-4](#)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." ~ [Philippians 4:6](#)

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." ~ [Deuteronomy 31:6](#)

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." ~ [Ephesians 6:10-11](#)

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." ~ [1 Corinthians 16:13](#)

"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" ~ [Psalm 27:14](#)

"The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion." ~ [Proverbs 28:1](#)

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." ~ [Philippians 4:13](#)

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." ~ [John 16:33](#)

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." ~ [Psalm 51:10](#)

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." ~ [Ezekiel 36:26](#)

Ground Hog Day Fun Facts

When is Groundhog Day 2025? Date, traditions, and fun facts to know

Will he or won't he? Every Feb. 2, the question arises - will the groundhog see his shadow, prompting six more weeks of winter? The most popular of the rodent meteorologists is Punxsutawney Phil, a western Pennsylvania-based groundhog that draws scores of people to the small town each February.

Here is everything to know about the prophetic rodent and the day dedicated to his winter forecast.

When is Groundhog Day?

It's always on Feb. 2, which in 2025 lands on a Sunday. Punxsutawney Phil - as well as other groundhog predictors around the nation - will predict the forecast early in the morning. (Typically around 7:30 a.m.)

What is Groundhog Day?

In the American tradition of Groundhog Day, the nation's groundhog prognosticators take a stance on the season ahead. If the groundhog sees his shadow, he predicts six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, it's a forecast of an early spring.

Groundhog Day's roots are in the Christian holiday [Candlemas](#), the midway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox. Candlemas was traditionally aligned with the anticipation of planting crops, according to the [Old Farmer's Almanac](#), and seeing sunshine on the day was said to indicate winter's return.

In Europe, people traditionally looked to bears or badgers to look for the sign of returning winter or coming spring, but when German immigrants arrived in Pennsylvania, they instead used groundhogs to make the forecast instead.

The first official Groundhog Day took place on [February 2, 1887](#), in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The event took up permanent residence at Gobbler's Knob the following year.

Who is Punxsutawney Phil?

Punxsutawney Phil is the famous groundhog who predicts the weather in "Groundhogese," according to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. He is not the only weather-predicting rodent, but he is the best known.

He is also known as the "Seers of Seers," the "Prognosticator of Prognosticators," "Weather Predictor Extraordinaire," "Br'er Groundhog" and "National Treasure."

Tens of thousands of people flock to the town to witness the ceremony in person. More than 30,000 people attend the event each year, according to [visitpa.com](#), Pennsylvania's state-run tourism website.

Did Phil see his shadow last year? Was he right?

In 2024, [Phil predicted we would see an early spring](#). According to [groundhog-day.com](#), nearly all the American groundhogs also predicted an early spring.

How accurate is Punxsutawney Phil?

While Phil is the most famous groundhog, he isn't the most accurate. According to [Stormfax Weather Almanac](#), Phil is only right around 39% of the time.

Ohio's groundhog, Buckeye Chuck, for example has an accuracy record closer to [75%](#), according to the Marion Star, a newspaper in central Ohio that is part of the USA TODAY Network.

For a forecast that's far more than folklore, visit the [National Weather Service](#) or [AccuWeather](#).

What other groundhogs offer a Feb. 2 forecast?

Sure Punxsutawney Phil is the best known groundhog, but he's not the only one. A lesser-known taxidermied groundhog - Octoraro Orphie from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania - was the groundhog I was raised to defer to. But there are others around the nation with far more clout.

Among them:

SPECIAL DAYS IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 1

Candy-Making Day
Hula in The Coola Day
Freedom Day
National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
National Play Outside Day

Feb 2

Groundhog Day
Hedgehog Day
World Play Your Ukulele Day
The Record of a Sneeze Day

Feb 3

Feed The Birds Day
The Day The Music Died

Feb 4

I Heart Horror Day
Quacker Day

Thank Your Mailman Day

Feb. 5

Shower With A Friend Day
World Nutella Day

Feb. 6

Lame Duck Day
National Sweater Day
Optimist Day
Play Monopoly Day

Feb. 7

Ballet Day
Bubble Gum Day
Give Kids A Smile Day
Wear Red Day
Working Naked Day
Wave All Your Fingers At Your Neighbor's Day

Feb. 8

Laugh and Get Rich Day
Opera Day

Feb. 9

National Pizza Day
Popcorn Day
Read in the Bathtub Day

Feb. 10

Meal Day
Umbrella Day

Feb. 11

National Shut-In Visitation Day
White Shirt Day

Feb. 12

Lincoln's Birthday
Paul Bunyan Day

Feb. 13

Desperation Day
Madly In Love With Me Day
National Cheddar Day
Self-Love Day

Feb. 14

National Have A Heart Day
Valentines Day
Quirky Alone Day

Feb. 15

Digital Learning Day
National Gum Drop Day
National Red Sock Day
National Friendzone Day

Feb. 16

National Almond Day
Daytona 500

Feb. 17

My Way Day
Presidents Day
Who Shall I Be Day

Feb. 18

Cow Milked While Flying In An Airplane Day
National Drink Wine Day

Feb. 19

Best Friends Day
Chocolate Mint Day
Hockey Stick Salute Day

Feb. 20

Discover Girl Day
The Great American Spit Out

Feb. 21

International Mother Language Day
No One Eats Alone Day

Feb. 22

For The Love of Mike Day
National Margarita Day
World Thinking Day
George Washington's Birthday

Feb. 23

National Pie Day
Snowplow Mailbox Hockey Day

Feb. 24

Beer Can Day
Belly Laugh Day
National Peanut Butter Day
Talk Like A Grizzled Prospector Day

Feb. 25

A Room of One's Own Day
Fruitcake Toss Day

Feb. 26

National Bible Sunday
National Peanut Brittle Day
Toad Hollow Day

Feb. 27

Thomas Crapper Day
Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day

Feb. 28

National Kazoo Day
Rubber Ducky Day
National Gift of The Lady Bug Day
Fancy Rat & Mouse Day

Feb. 29

Curmudgeons Day
Freethinkers Day
National Puzzle Day

WEEK EVENTS

- Wk.1 Women's Heart Wk
National School Counseling Wk
- Wk 2 Dump Your Significant Jerk Wk
International Flirting Wk
Jell-O Wk
Love A Mench Wk
Random Acts of Kindness Wk
- Wk 3 National Nestbox Wk
Date (Fruit) Wk
National Justice for Animals Wk
- Wk. 4 Bird Health Awareness Wk
National Eating Disorders Awareness Wk

MONTHLY EVENTS

- Bake a Family Fun Month
Fancy Rat and Mouse Month
Fasting February
Library Lovers Month
National Cherry Month
National Hot Breakfast Month
Spunky Old Broads Month
National Snack Food Month

Announcement News, Important, Take Note

Our email address has changed.

We are now

Firstpresbycros@gmail.com

Drop us a line anytime.

From your little Library in the corner....

Can others see that you belong to God? He calls us to a life of joy, obedience, and trust. He calls us to be different from those around us. He calls us to be holy. In this rich study, you will discover that holiness is about pleasing God – living in such a way that it's clear you belong to Him. 40 minutes a week could change your life! Just check out this 6-week, no-homework Bible study! From *Living Like You Belong to God*, by Kay Arthur, David & BJ Lawson. (Teal Dot – Bible Studies)

Why, if God is so hungry for a relationship with us, does He seem so distant? Why, if He cares for us, do bad things happen? Is God even there? These questions are answered with clarity, richness and biblical assurance in Philip Yancey's *Disappointment with God*. (Light Pink Dot - Christianity)

“Did you hear the one about the Christian who couldn't keep from laughing? Charles Swindoll has not only heard it, he tells it in this delightful book that gives us permission to be happy again.” From *Laugh Again: Experience Outrageous Joy*, by Charles Swindoll. (Light Pink Dot - Christianity)

Drawn from God's Word, this story is about the dramatic last days of Jesus' life on earth. This *Story of Easter* appeals to all ages. By Christopher Doyle and John Haysom. (Children - Yellow Dot)

Happy reading during this mid-winter Michigan weather!!!



2nd Ann Erickson
5th Audrey Warner
11th Carter Young
15th Raeleen Sample
20th Tom Fockler
24th .Steve Oldford
25th Dayna Wright
28th Kyle Hosler

No Anniversaries

Dates to Remember



FEBRUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2 10AM Worship with Holy Communion.	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10 am Worship Annual Mtg. Ordination and Installation	10	11 Session Mtg. 7:00 pm Deacons Mtg 6:00 pm	12	13	14 	15
16 10 am Worship	17	18	19	20 Food Truck Valiant Ministries 12-2 p.m.	21	22
23 10 am Worship	24	25	26	27	28	

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KIDS CORNOR

Word Search

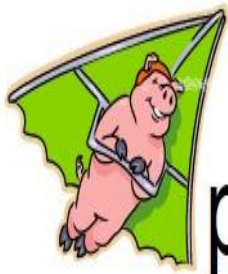
Can you find the following animals?



dog



cat



pig



bat



snake



COW

E M T H Y Q F L E D
M K T R Q K V L G A
H A A G E G W C O Z
C U L N D B J S D Q
V P M W S S C J G W
B S I G C X O B Q P
V I V F K J W B T S
R T F S O Q I L A N
I R F U Z J H Q T T
Q B V P I G W I K T