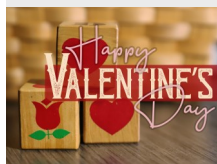


# WOLFFORK NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024

## Heroic St. Valentine

We probably think of romance when Valentine's Day comes.



That's fine, but there's more to the story than that.

St. Valentine was a Christian priest and martyr who lived about A.D. 270. The Roman emperor at the time was Claudius II. Claudius had been a successful general. He would not allow his soldiers to marry, because he wanted to make sure they could go to battle quickly. He thought family ties would make the men reluctant to leave home. Because Valentine promoted marriage and family life, he was jailed and later convicted of going against the orders of the emperor. He was martyred on February 14, the day we remember him and our loved ones.

While he was in jail, the jailer's daughter befriended him. He wrote her a letter of appreciation and signed it "Your Valentine." The tradition of exchanging valentines grew out of that heartfelt gesture.





## Weekly Activities at Wolffork Baptist Church

### Sunday:

9:30 AM—Continental Breakfast

9:45 AM—Sunday School—Bible  
study for all ages

11:00 AM—Morning Worship

5:00 PM—Prayer Meeting and  
Bible Study

### Wednesday:

5:30 PM—Food Pantry Opens

6:00 PM—Wonderful Wednesday

**Bill Barker, Pastor**

**Church number: 706-746-2728**

**Email: [Pastor@Wolffork.org](mailto:Pastor@Wolffork.org)**

**Facebook Page:**

**[www.Facebook.com/Wolffork](https://www.Facebook.com/Wolffork)**

**Webpage:**

**[www.Wolffork.org](http://www.Wolffork.org)**

**For current updates  
of the church calendar:  
[www.Wolffork.org/events](http://www.Wolffork.org/events)**

### Word for the Day

Listen daily to “Word for the Day,”  
the Daily Devotions from Wolffork  
Baptist Church at [Wolffork.com/](http://Wolffork.com/)  
[Video-devotion](http://Video-devotion) or [Facebook.com/](http://Facebook.com/Wolffork)  
[Wolffork](http://Wolffork).

Listen to the Sunday Sermon at  
[Wolffork.org/sermon](http://Wolffork.org/sermon).

Wolffork News



## 365 Bible Reading Through the Bible in 3 Years

### February 2024 Readings

- 1. Psalms 35-36
- 2. Proverbs 18
- 3. Proverbs 19
- 4. Luke 1
- 5. Luke 2
- 6. Luke 3
- 7. Luke 4
- 8. Luke 5
- 9. Luke 6
- 10. Luke 7
- 11. Luke 8
- 12. Luke 9
- 13. Luke 10
- 14. Luke 11
- 15. Luke 12
- 16. Luke 13
- 17. Luke 14
- 18. Luke 15
- 19. Luke 16
- 20. Luke 17
- 21. Luke 18
- 22. Luke 19
- 23. Luke 20
- 24. Luke 21
- 25. Luke 22
- 26. Luke 23
- 27. Luke 24
- 28. Psalms 37

**“Renewal of mind begins with reading  
and meditation on the Scriptures.”**



### Birthdays

Walt Stancil—7  
Sandra Thurmond— 9  
Holden McCracken—17  
Babs White—21  
Amy Hicks—21  
Heathers Page—21  
Lizzie Page—21  
Wanda Buchanan—22  
Joe Buchanan—23

### Birthdays missed in January

Marc LaRose—5

**If your birthday or anniversary is not  
listed, please let Pastor Bill know.**



February 4—Sheri LaRose and Rosa  
Miller

February 11—Sandra Thurmond and  
Aubree Whitmire

February 18—Amelia McCracken and  
Ivy Westbrook

February 25—Sheri LaRose and Alicia  
McCracken



# To Know Christ and to Make Him Known

## Loving Our Neighbor

**LOVE**  
**YOUR neighbor**  
**AS YOURSELF.**  
*Mark 12:31*

What does it mean to be a loving neighbor today? God has placed people around us and along the roads of our lives for many reasons. For believers, a few of

those reasons are to allow our lives to be a shining example of what it looks like to live by faith, to show Christ-like love, and to lead others to Him. Let's be honest: getting to know people beyond our inner circle can be uncomfortable. How do we love our neighbors as God would have us to? How can we expand our circle and really do life with the people on our "roads" like Jesus did?

## Loving your neighbor starts with knowing your neighbor.

When asked which commandment was the greatest, Jesus said, "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 12:30-31)

## How are you doing with that second part?

Many of us often go about our days, going to and from our homes without ever knowing our neighbors' names. Often, our social lives take place heavily online or through text. So, what do we do to change that? How do we live this out? Well, when we truly live by the first greatest commandment, it is easier to follow the second because God's love does a beautiful work on the heart... Our capacity to love others as ourselves comes more naturally. The "how" becomes more apparent, but it never hurts to have more specific inspiration and direction!

## Ask for God's Heart and Eyes

You may be wondering where to get started or how to live out being a loving neighbor? This is the perfect time for a heart check as you endeavor to become a better neighbor in general to the people along the road of your life. Regarding those you may encounter who don't know Jesus, it may help to take a trip down memory lane to the time in your life when

you didn't know Him either... Observe your intentions and motives and, above all, seek to show the love, compassion, and friendship Jesus displayed to you.

**Activation:** Here are some things to think about and a few prayer prompts to get you on the right track!

- Pray asking for God's eyes and heart as you see and interact with people.
- Take some time to reflect on when you were lost or distant from God.
- Ask yourself: "How do I see people?"

## Pray for Your Neighbor

There are countless opportunities to impact your community, and prayer is one of those ways! You are not a part of the communities in which you find yourself by chance; God has you there for a specific reason—to live out His will for your life in that place. Begin to love your neighbor by praying for your neighborhood.

**Activation:** Here are a few ideas and prayer suggestions to kick things off. Walk your neighborhood while praying. Some ways you might pray are:

- "God, who would you have me see today?"
- "Lord, please deepen my love for the place I call 'home.'"
- "Help me to see my neighborhood with Your eyes."
- "How can I bless my neighbors?"

## Map Your Neighborhood

What does your neighborhood and daily route look like? Your neighborhood and the routes you take on a regular basis are an important part of your journey. These are the spaces where you can learn, grow, and make a major impact for Jesus! Map it out and keep good records of who is around you.

**Activation:** It could get difficult to keep up with all the details! Consider this:

- Physically map out your neighborhood. Who lives where?

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

- Save the details about your neighbors (i.e., Names, birthdays, interests/hobbies, etc...).
- Consider downloading the Bless Every Home app, which reminds you to pray for your neighbors daily.

## Love Your Neighbor

Intentionality is key as you immerse yourself into your community and seek to be a loving neighbor to those along the road of your life. Not sure how you'll come across to others? No matter what you do, be genuine. Simply aim to be a friend! And while we know that building friendships takes time and effort, let that be what compels you.

**Activation:** In case you need a little help, here are a few ways to plant the seeds of friendship.

- Be a regular at establishments.
- Have lunch with others without an agenda.
- Learn the interests of those around you.
- Go out of your way to see people wherever you go.
- Strike up a conversation with the neighbor you typically only wave to.

## Look Right at People and See Real Needs

You've heard the phrase "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."— and it's so true! As you go about loving your neighbors and the people on your life's road, seek to understand and care about what they may be going through. Listen for the details... Stand in faith for them and with them.

**Activation:** When we take our eyes off ourselves, we can see people more clearly. Try putting these tips in to practice.

- Call/text people on your road.
- Keep eye contact instead of multitasking when having a conversation.
- Ask, "How are you really doing?"
- Share what you already have.
- Do extravagant acts of kindness.

## Learn How Others are Valued

Philippians 2:3 tells us to, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves..." This will open doors for us to not only build friendships with the people on our life's road, but it will allow us to exhibit Christ-like character to a world that can use a little more kindness.

**Activation:** Here are some practical ways to value others.

- Slow down and pay attention to the needs of others
- Create space within your schedule to be available to others.
- Offer intentional encouragement to others.

## Invite Your Neighbor to Church

Our ultimate goal should be to share the love of Jesus to the world around us. With no pressure, invite your neighbors and the people in your community whom you've built a rapport with to a service, special event or holiday service at church. If you are hosting church or Bible study at your home, invite a new friend over. Be a welcoming bridge between them and the Gospel.

**Activation:** Here are some simple ways to connect your neighbors to the gospel.

- Invite a neighbor to meet your small group.
- Deliver card invites in person for special church events/services.
- Invite your neighbor over to watch the sermon online.

