



# St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church

**Our Vision: Transforming lives through a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Our Mission: To share Christ's love and His Word with our community and the world through Christ-centered outreach, worship, prayer, and biblical study.**

VOLUME 68 NUMBER 2

## The Chatter

FEBRUARY 2025

### **EPIPHANY - A SEASON OF LIGHT IN THE MIDST OF THE DARKNESS!**

The cold and darkness of January is usually unpleasant for most. Outside of winter sports, January in Western New York presents a depressing combo of frigid, cloudy, and short days. The optimism of Christmas and New Year's seems to have passed and we set our minds to endure until spring. And yet in the midst of this "darkness," during the season of Epiphany God reminds us of His marvelous light!

The word "epiphany" comes from a Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "appearance." During Epiphany we remember the manifestation of God's only Son, Jesus Christ: first with the visit of the Magi when He was a child, then with His Baptism and later, His first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. We begin every worship service in Epiphany with the Old Testament's prophetic words of **Isaiah 49:6, "I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth!"** Who is this light? The Apostle John tells us in **Jn. 1:9: "There is the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man."** This true light is Jesus. (**Jn. 1:5; 14-18**). Thus, Epiphany points us to Jesus as the manifestation of God's True Light!

Later during His ministry Jesus declared, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** (**Jn. 8:11**). What did Jesus mean? As the Light of the world He is the source of all life—everything that has been created. He also is the source of all truth. And with this truth comes understanding - about God, about man, and life's purpose. It is why He said in **John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by Me."**

Such words remind us of the example of the sun in the natural world. We know there is nothing more powerful and essential to life than sunlight. It is the sun that not only provides the energy in warmth and light that the world needs to live by, but it is by the sun that we see and understand everything around us. It is why Anglican writer and theologian, C.S. Lewis wrote, **"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."**

*(cont. on p.2)*

St. Bart's Web Information

[www.stbartston.org](http://www.stbartston.org)

Also see our [Facebook](#) page for more!



St. Bartholomew's  
Anglican Church

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*(cont. from p. 1)*

The heart of the Christian faith is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is what makes our faith and life real. It is because of Jesus that we can arise and shine no matter how bleak or dark things get. Just as it is humanly impossible to stop the sun from rising each day, it is humanly and spiritually impossible to prevent Christ from completing His work (**Phlp. 1:6**) in us! Every challenge, obstacle, and setback is only temporary for the believer! Such matters are opportunities to put our faith in the Light of the World always knowing that ***"The light (Jesus) shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not (and will not) overcome it!"*** (Jn. 1:5)

***A Blessed and Happy Epiphany!***

***Father Ward***



# VESTRY

**ST. BART'S: CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF MINISTRY!**

## JANUARY 2025

**Annual Church Meeting:** was held Sunday January 19. Over 70 people attended. Fr, Ward, the clergy and lay leaders of various ministries gave reports on the state of the church and the good work that is going on in the life of the parish and our surrounding community.

**Church Defibrillators:** With the help of Molly Sammarco, St. Bart's now has two up-to-date defibrillators: one on the first floor and one on the second floor. Let's pray they are never needed. However, easy step-by-step instructions are given should a defibrillator be needed.

**Discipleship Team:** If you're interested in joining, please contact John Hillestad or Donna Daniele for more information.

**2025 Budget and Pledge Letters:** If you have not received your letter, please contact Fr. Ward or the church office. Please remember to send in your pledges as this helps the budget committee do a review of our income vs expenses on a regular basis as well as prepare next year's budget.



**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH CHATTER is  
Tuesday, February 18 Thank you.**

# PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

**Prayer Requests** – If you, your family and/or your friends are in need of prayer there are prayer request cards in the pews and at the front church entrance. They can be deposited in the church box at the front entrance. They are picked up twice a week. Also, you can request prayers online through our website under the tab “Parish Life” or this link: <https://www.stbartston.org/prayer-requests>

**Intercessory Prayer** – Sundays at the 10 AM service during the ministrations of communion. See the weekly bulletin for dates. Also, look for the **lavender** Intercessory Prayer tags on people willing to pray with/for you.

If you are in need of some quiet time the **Prayer Room** is open daily during office hours (from 9 am till 3pm) and can be used before, during or after the weekly Saturday and Sunday services.

When you have had **Prayers Answered** and, if you would like to (confidentially) share them with us, you can do that by dropping us a note in the prayer box at the church entrance. We would love to hear from you.

## From, “*Our Anglican Heritage*” by: Howe and Pascoe

*“God is to be praised at every service. He should be thanked for His graciousness and for the blessing He has bestowed. The sick and sorrowing should be lifted up in prayer. The leaders in government should be prayed for. The worldwide Church of Jesus Christ, in all its variety, in missionary endeavor and especially in its tragic division, should be undergirded in prayer.”*

*How many different ways are there to pray for these things? One of the highest priorities of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) has been to include the people. From the beginning the purpose of the Anglican prayer book was to record prayers to be used in common and by common people. It was and is, the Book of Common Prayer. It was never intended to be used in place of or to the exclusion of private personal prayer.”*

On pages 642 to 645 is the table of content for 125 prayers that we can pray and include in our daily prayers.

As we move into this New Year let’s take a closer look at “The Prayers of the People”. We pray these each Sunday and for the next few months we can take these home with us and carry them in our daily prayer.

The “*Prayers of the People*” start on page 128 of the 2019 Book of Common Prayer with “*For the peace of the whole world and for the well being and unity of the people of God*”.

So when you pray “For the peace of the whole world” you can go to the prayers on page 654 #27 and #28 and include them.

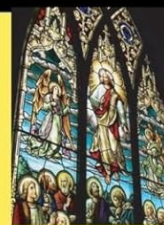
Then “for the well being and unity of the people of God” go to the prayers on page 646, #1 through 4, and page 658, #40 and page 659, #42 and pray and meditate on them.

You get the idea? Let us know how you did. More next month.

Peace, Love and Joy in our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you would like to dig deeper into “*Our Anglican Heritage*” here is the link to the book: <https://www.amazon.com/Our-Anglican-Heritage-Second-Ancient/dp/160899489>

OUR ANGLICAN HERITAGE



JOHN W. HOWE



## ***BIBLE STUDIES***



### **Women's Tuesday Evening Bible Study**

meets at 6:30 pm **every other** Tuesday. Our current study is  
**"COURAGEOUS HEROES OF FAITH"**  
men and women of the Bible who overcame extraordinary difficulties.

**Our February meetings will be the 11th and 25th.**

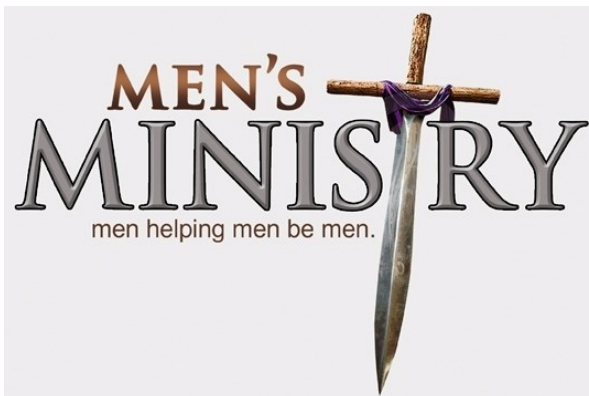
See Louise Jones if you wish to be a part of this study,  
so she can have needed materials ready for you.

### **Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study**

meets at 10:30 am. We are studying the book of Amos, using a study  
guide by Jennifer Rothschild called "*Amos: An Invitation to the Good Life.*"

See Sharon Scott for more information.

***ALL women are invited to join one or both Bible Study  
groups.***



### **Men's Discipleship Group**

meets every Tuesday evening,  
6:30pm.

Contact John Krull for more  
information.

***All men are invited to attend.***

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## The **Meal Assist Ministry**

has **LOTS of HOMEMADE SOUPS** in our freezer. If you, or someone you know from the St. Bart's family, has an extended illness, or are dealing with a death in the family, or are stressed out with the arrival of a new baby, PLEASE let the office, one of our priests, or Brenda Wisz know. We'd love to help with some soup and rolls, even sandwich meat if you'd like!



## *Men's Breakfast*

**Saturday, February 15th** at 9am.

Invite MALE family, friends & neighbors to join us.

If you would like to help with cooking, we begin at 7:30am.



## FOOD PANTRY:

**32 full** bags and boxes of food and other items were donated in January. We received a thank you letter from them expressing their extreme gratitude to our church.

Remember that we collect for the NIACAP Food Pantry the first weekend of every month.

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

## DONATE FOOD HERE



## *ROMEIO's*

### *(Retired Old Men Eating Out)*

Every Tuesday at 12 noon, a group of men meet for lunch and fellowship at various restaurants around the area.

See John Krull to get on their email list to see where they are going next !!

**ALL men are welcome to join them!!**

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# FOR YOUR INFORMATION



## *Ladies* NIGHT OUT

**LADIES**, let's gather together for an evening of fun and fellowship, laughter and learning, and an opportunity to be creative, **Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** Sign up in the Fr. Amend Hall; Brenda Wisz or Tammy Krull will be there with all the details!



Please keep those from our Parish Family who are serving our country in the Military in your prayers. Please let the church office know if there is anyone that should be added to or removed from this prayer list.

*Virginia Boy- Navy*  
*James Kerins- Army*  
*Sean MacLeay-Navy*  
*Matthew Miller- Army*  
*Matthew Prohaska- Air Force*  
*Andrew Rebl- Army*



## **A NEW SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY** **IS COMING!!!**

A six week course begins March 9th.  
Watch Parish Life in your bulletins for details.  
Questions? Contact Brenda Wisz: 716-832-6684



## NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

Thank you to everyone that donated linens to *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*. Your support will help provide a bed for children in Buffalo who need one. Because of



your kindness, a child who might otherwise be sleeping on the floor, is getting a good nights rest tonight in a new bed!

*Proverbs 3:24*

*When you lie down, you will not be afraid, when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.*

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St. Bart's has scheduled a build for *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* on **March 15 from 8:45am-12pm at the Eastern Hills shop location**. The build is open to the entire congregation but for this build there are only 15 spots available.

**Age Requirements:** **Ages 16 and over** are able to come to the shop on their own. **Ages 13-15** need to have one adult for every 10 in this age range. **Ages 8-12** each need to bring an adult with them. The adult will be placed at a station working side by side with the child. Typical tasks for this group are sanding, sorting and wrapping bed slats and sorting and wrapping screws and washers.

**Deadline to sign up is March 2.** There is a sign up sheet in the Father Amend Hall. Questions? Contact Leslie Percival or Jim Thompson.



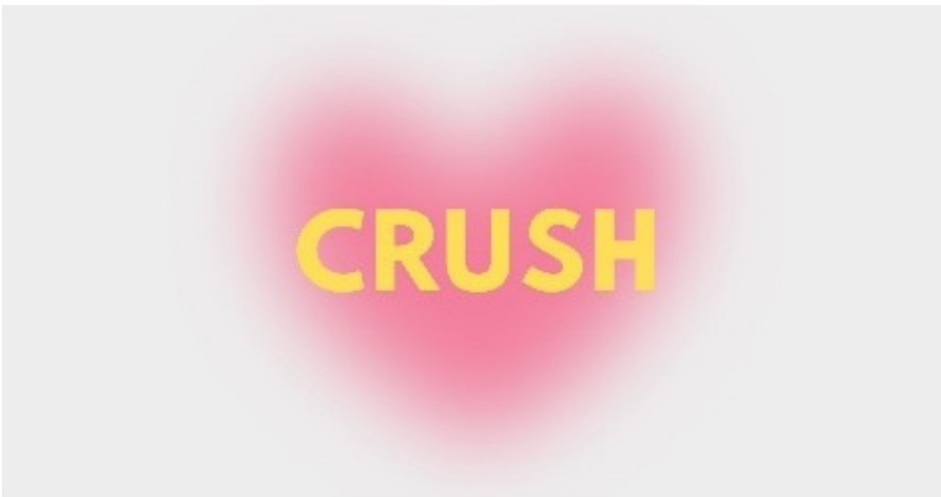


# Next Steps

A Generation Next Newsletter

February 2025

## It's just a little crush...



**Did you know we're created to be in relationships with others?** God made you that way and oftentimes we don't fully understand what healthy relationships look like, so this month we will identify and address some of the unhealthy or broken beliefs we have about relationships so that we can replace these beliefs with God's truth.

### Next Happenings

#### **Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Join us for our regular meetings filled with engaging lessons and activities  
Dinner provided

#### **No YG Meeting Feb. 19th**

Due to Movie Event Feb. 21st

#### **Sunday, February 2nd**

11:30 am Kingdom Bound mtg.

#### **Friday, February 21st**

6:00 pm Movie Night

#### **Save the Date: March 28th**

6:00 pm Urban Air

*"If we love one another, God abides in us"*

**1 John 4:12 NASB**

## A Letter From our Director



Liz Burkett

*As I look toward Valentine's Day, and once again wanting to do something nice for the one I love, I reminisce back over the 12 years of gifts given. I love my husband, and like most every other wife, I try my best to find different ways to show him each February.*

*Over the years, those "ways" have included a bag of Reese's peanut butter cups, going out for dinner and a movie, making his favorite dish of crispy chicken and buttered noodles, or buying a new board game for us to play. (we're kind of obsessed) None of these outward signs of love are wrong or bad. In fact, there are lots of things one can choose to give.*

*However, as I consider God's sacrificial love, I am reminded that the most important thing one can give is themselves, in time spent, sacrifices invested, and true devotion and faithfulness. Without that, gifts are simply things. On the other hand, with a committed relationship, gifts can be a genuine extension of true love.*

*Love is not just the things we give, or even an emotion, but a constant act of devotion. True devotion will always lead to loving actions. 1 John 3:18 says "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth."*

*This Valentine's Day, may God challenge us all to be who we ought to be for those we love (including Him), instead of being tempted to think that an outward action is enough.*

*In Christ,  
Liz*



Sunday, February 2nd at 11:30am in the Double Room Upstairs. Kingdom Bound information meeting. (Kingdom Bound is July 27th-31st.) There you will receive an information packet, and all the other paperwork needed to be completed for the event. The event cost is \$300, and that includes tickets for the event, food, and lodging. A \$50 registration fee is due by Sunday, February 9th. Financial assistance is available, so let me or Fr. Ward know whom we can help to make sure no one is left out of this great event.

On Friday, February 21st at 6:00pm we will be watching the film "The Forge". In the film a young man Isaiah Wright has some growing up to do. A year out of high school with no plans for his future, Isaiah is challenged by his single mom and a successful businessman to start charting a better course for his life. Through the prayers of his mother and biblical discipleship from his new mentor, Isaiah begins to discover God's purpose for his life is so much more than he could hope for or imagine. Please feel free to bring your family and friends to watch this great film. To watch the trailer for the film go to <https://www.theforgemovie.com/> We will be having Pizza and Popcorn while we watch the film in Fr. Amend Hall.



Save the Date: Friday March 28th - Urban Air Adventure Park Event. Come climb, jump and soar with us at this awesome trampoline park in the Walden Galleria Mall. We will meet at the event center at 6:00 pm and pickup will be at 8:00 pm. Cost is \$30 per person and is due by March 19th. Pizza will be provided. A waiver form must be signed in order to participate in this event. You can fill out a form online at [urbanair.com](http://urbanair.com). Just go to the my park tab and click on sign waiver.

# February Birthdays

- 2 Allison Hillery
- 3 Barbra Chiaravalle, Brittany Wilkowski
- 4 Carol Brock
- 7 Earl Farley Jr.
- 8 David Saunders
- 9 Margaret Bukkosy, Linda Doran,  
Connor Moyer, Theresa Shipman
- 10 Judi Curtis, Lauren Gradzewicz,  
Maddalena Prohaska
- 11 Jason Simon, Lauren Sluyter,  
Evelyn Stacks
- 12 Ezekiel Wandel
- 14 Anthony Horvath
- 15 Emma Hillery
- 16 Patrick Fisher
- 17 Peter Militello Jr.
- 19 Donald Symons
- 20 Mary Gray, Sharon Tarapata
- 21 Marie Crosby
- 22 Tyler Delisanti, Brooke Ganci
- 23 Laina Morgante
- 25 Brenna Luckoski
- 28 Sonia Delisanti, Jessica Passino



## MARCH

- 1 Tina Gwizdowski
- 3 Linda Cadena, Lynn Farley
- 5 Donna Daniele, Rosemary Taber,  
Connie Wiegen





You are Loved.

If you notice a mistake in the birthday list please call (716) 831-1777 or email the secretaries: [secretaries@stbartston.org](mailto:secretaries@stbartston.org)



# February Calendar

## FEBRUARY 2025

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu                                   | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <br>8 & 10 am HE<br>10am Sunday School<br>11:30am Kingdom<br>Bound Mtg.<br>Cherub rehearsal<br>Noon: New Member's<br>Class | 3   | 4<br>6pm Men's Disc.,<br>Neighborhood<br>Watch<br>7 PM Vestry | 5<br>9:30 AM HE<br>10:30 AM Ladies<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 PM Youth Group  | 6<br>6:30PM Cont. Music<br>Rehearsal  | 7<br>6:30pm Rivendell<br>Celebration Night  | 1<br>10am GriefShare<br>10:30am Youth Conf.<br>Class<br>4:30 pm HE                            |
| 9<br>8 & 10 am HE<br>10am Sunday School<br>11:30am Cherub<br>rehearsal<br>Noon: New Member's<br>Class   | 10<br>Ladies Night<br>Out<br>7pm                                    | 11<br>6:30 Men's Disc. &<br>Ladies Bible Study                | 12<br>9:30 AM HE<br>10:30 AM Ladies<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 PM Youth Group | 13<br>6:30PM Cont. Music<br>Rehearsal | 14<br> | 15<br>9am Men's<br>Breakfast<br>10am GriefShare<br>10:30am Youth Conf.<br>Class<br>4:30 pm HE |
| 16<br>8 & 10 am HE<br>10am Sunday School<br>11:30am Cherub<br>rehearsal<br>Noon: New Member's<br>Class  | 17<br>President's Day<br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>6:30pm BARRA<br>Swap Meet | 18<br>6:30 Men's Disc.  | 19<br>9:30 AM HE<br>10:30 AM Ladies<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 PM Youth Group | 20<br>7pm Prayer<br>Service           | 21<br>6 PM Movie Night<br>"The Forge"<br>ALL INVITED                                    | 22<br>10am GriefShare<br>10:30am Youth Conf.<br>Class<br>4:30 pm HE                           |
| 23<br>8 & 10 am HE<br>10am Sunday School<br>11:30am Cherub<br>rehearsal<br>Noon: New Member's<br>Class  | 24  | 25<br>6:30 Men's Disc. &<br>Ladies Bible Study                | 26<br>9:30 AM HE<br>10:30 AM Ladies<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 PM Youth Group | 27<br>6:30PM Cont. Music<br>Rehearsal | 28  |   |

# PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR



| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>2</b> PAKISTAN<br/>Pray for survivors of the September 2013 church bombing that killed 81 people and injured many more.</p>   | <p><b>3</b> TANZANIA<br/>Pray for Generosa, who sometimes sees the men believed to be her husband's killers.</p>                           | <p><b>4</b> YEMEN<br/>Pray for Yemeni Christians who face food shortages and economic hardships amid the region's political unrest.</p> | <p><b>5</b> INDONESIA<br/>Pray that Christians will boldly share the gospel, even though it is illegal.</p>                         | <p><b>6</b> CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC<br/>Pray for a Christian who cares for orphans and has been targeted with threats.</p>                       | <p><b>7</b> SAUDI ARABIA<br/>Pray for increased access to God's Word through creative means.</p>                              | <p><b>1</b> BURKINA FASO<br/>Pray that God will provide every need of Christian widows, who have few ways of supporting themselves.</p>   |
| <p><b>9</b> OMAN<br/>Pray for a vibrant Christian witness in the country, as nearly all Omanis are Muslims.</p>                     | <p><b>10</b> EGYPT<br/>Praise the Lord that many in Egypt are turning to faith in Christ and churches are growing despite persecution.</p> | <p><b>11</b> CAMEROON<br/>Pray for the comfort and healing of families who have lost loved ones in attacks by Boko Haram.</p>           | <p><b>12</b> KENYA<br/>Pray that Christians in Lamu whose property was destroyed by terrorists will experience God's provision.</p> | <p><b>13</b> MALAYSIA<br/>Pray that the truth about Pastor Raymond Koh's abduction will be revealed as the investigation continues.</p>           | <p><b>14</b> QATAR<br/>Praise God for Qatari Christians who faithfully share the gospel with Muslim neighbors.</p>            | <p><b>8</b> VIETNAM<br/>Pray that the families of imprisoned Christians will be protected and cared for by the body of Christ.</p>        |
| <p><b>16</b> VENEZUELA<br/>Pray that first-generation Christians will have opportunities to grow through biblical discipleship.</p> | <p><b>17</b> LIBYA<br/>Pray that the instability of daily life will awaken a desire among Libyans to know the Prince of Peace.</p>         | <p><b>18</b> TUNISIA<br/>Praise God for the establishment of new churches as a result of increased religious freedom.</p>               | <p><b>19</b> BAHRAIN<br/>Praise God for a season of openness and some response to the gospel among those indigenous to Bahrain.</p> | <p><b>20</b> ETHIOPIA<br/>Pray that Christians whose churches were destroyed by Islamists will experience God's love and provision.</p>           | <p><b>21</b> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES<br/>Pray for the few Emiratis known to have left Islam to follow Christ.</p>                | <p><b>15</b> ISRAEL<br/>Pray that Christians in Israel will be witnesses to God's love in a region dominated by hatred and extremism.</p> |
| <p><b>23</b> BANGLADESH<br/>Pray for Juhel, who was beaten in the street after telling others about his faith in Christ.</p>        | <p><b>24</b> KYRGYZSTAN<br/>More than 90% of Kyrgyz are Sunni Muslims. Pray that more Kyrgyz will place their faith in Christ.</p>         | <p><b>25</b> LAOS<br/>Pray for Phomme, who uses a handheld radio to share the gospel as she sells vegetables in nearby villages.</p>    | <p><b>26</b> TAJIKISTAN<br/>Pray for Christian converts who suffer persecution from family members or the secret police.</p>        | <p><b>27</b> COMOROS<br/>Comorians have no religious freedom, and leaving Islam is illegal. Pray for a new openness and access to the gospel.</p> | <p><b>28</b> MALDIVES<br/>Pray for Maldivian Christians, who face imprisonment or expulsion if their faith is discovered.</p> | <p><b>22</b> IRAQ<br/>Pray for the roughly 300,000 Christians who have remained in the country despite years of war and instability.</p>  |

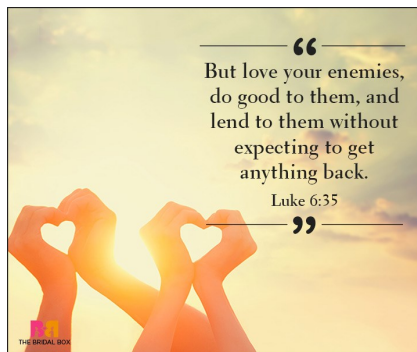
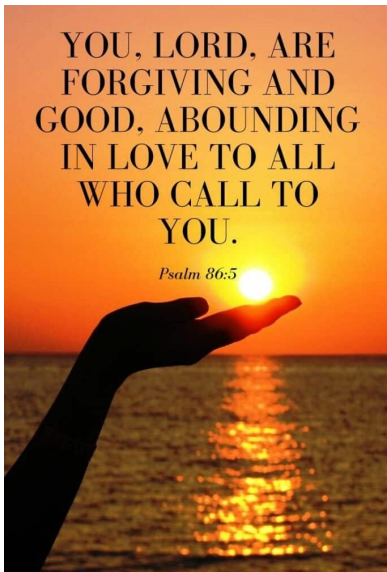
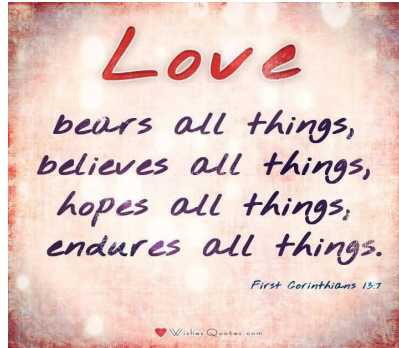
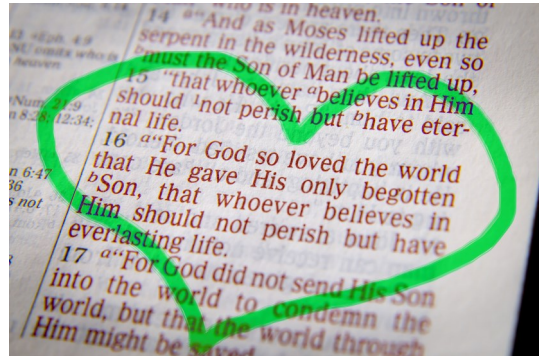
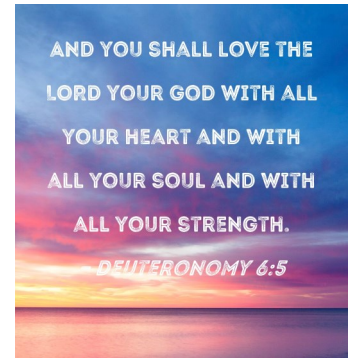
NOTES:

February

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# Love is a gift from God



# Happy Valentine's Day