

# Haymarket Herald

February 2026



## The Gospel of Mark

### What is Lent? And how should I celebrate it?

Beginning Wednesday, February 18, we will celebrate the season of Lent. Some of you grew up in churches which placed great emphasis on Lent, while others of you, especially if you grew up in a Baptist Church, may not have celebrated Lent at all.

Lent is part of the Church Year—the six weeks leading up to the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Since I am preaching through Luke from now until Easter, I will use every opportunity to point out how Jesus prepared his disciples for his upcoming death. For Christians today, Lent should be an opportunity to recognize how grateful we should be that Jesus made this great sacrifice so that we might be saved. Here are the sermons I will be preaching during Lent.

Read the passages before the Sunday I preach them, and reflect on what Jesus did for you!

2/22/26	Why did God send the Messiah only to let him die?	Luke 9:18-27
3/1/26	Why Tell a parable with a "Good Samaritan" as the hero?	Luke 10:25-37
3/8/26	Should We really not worry about wealth?	Luke 12:13-34
3/15/26	The Gospel in a Nutshell	Luke 15:1-32
3/22/26	What was the "Kingdom of God"?	Luke 17:20-37 (topical)
3/29/26	Why enter Jerusalem on a donkey?	Luke 19:28-48
4/5/26	Their words seemed like "nonsense"!	Luke 24:1-35

In Christ,  
Pastor Mark



## DEACON'S BENCH

**F**ebruary, the month of Love – red hearts, boxes of chocolate and roses, lots of roses! Named after Valentine of Terni, a martyr of the early church. At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, Bishop Valentine preached the Gospel of Christ in the small city about 60 miles northeast of Rome. The story says he was jailed by the local Roman Judge. Valentine preached to the Judge and when challenged restored sight to the Judge's daughter – that convinced the Judge to follow Christ and his whole family was Believed and was Baptized. Valentine continued to minister to the community and ran afoul of the Roman rule when he encouraged couples to marry. This was a problem due to the rule that exempted husbands from military service. Valentine refused to stop marrying couples and the Empire had him executed.

This devotion to following the teaching of Christ should be an example to us. God calls each of us to serve God's Kingdom in our own way, according to our own spiritual gifts and abilities.

Jesus calls to love our neighbor and also to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. We are called to encourage and support all baptized people in their gifts and ministries; to guard the faith and to be merciful to all, show compassion to the poor and strangers and defend those who have no helper.

As Christians, we follow a savior who sacrificed his own life for the sake of others and was legally executed by an authoritarian regime and forgave them even while hanging on the cross.

God calls each of us to serve God's Kingdom in our own way, according to our own spiritual gifts and abilities. We can find a way to reach out in these troubled times to help our neighbors. The Church feeds a number of families at Easter with food boxes, we refill the blessing box to help those in crushing need and support other mission efforts throughout the year.

What is crucial at this time in our history is to remember that God is always on the side of the most vulnerable, the most marginalized and the poorest. When Jesus came to save the world, he did not do so through the means of empire and force, but through the power of God's love, which is so strong that it even disrupted death through the resurrection.

Oh, it is said that Valentine of Terni gave parchment hearts to couples to remind them of Jesus' Love.

Bob Coffey  
Deacon of the Month



## *Musings from A Musician's Perspective*

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you as we step into February together. This month often brings thoughts of love and I'm reminded that the love we celebrate isn't just something we feel—it's something we live out. Scripture tells us that "we love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19) and that truth continues to shape who we are as a church. God's love calls us to patience, kindness, forgiveness and service—especially in our everyday interactions.

As we move through this season, I encourage you to stay rooted in community. Whether that's through worship, small groups, serving opportunities or simply checking in on one another, these connections matter. We grow stronger in faith when we walk together.

February also brings several meaningful opportunities in the life of our church. Be sure to keep an eye on upcoming events and ministries and prayerfully consider how God might be inviting you to participate. Your presence and involvement make a difference more than you may realize.

Please know that our pastoral team is praying for you and your families. If you have prayer requests or need support, don't hesitate to reach out—we would be honored to walk with you.

May this month be filled with reminders of God's

steadfast love and with opportunities to reflect that love to those around you.

With gratitude and hope,  
Pastor John



## **SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

**A**t the Quarterly Business Meeting on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> there was a presentation by the Facilities and Stewardship Committees detailing the need to fund \$750,000 in repairs and upgrades to our facility over the next five years. The recommendation of the Stewardship Committee, supported by the Facilities Committee and Church Council, is that Capital Stewardship Services (CSS), a part of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV), be retained to assist our congregation in running a three-year \$750,000 capital campaign. CSS's fee will be \$14,000 or less. Please prayerfully consider whether our church should undertake this project, which will require sacrificial giving by our congregation and plan on attending the special called **Business Meeting on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** for a vote. Any questions should be addressed to [moderator@my-hbc.org](mailto:moderator@my-hbc.org).



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February 2	Chris Shaltis
February 13	Aranka Montoro
February 15	Mark Olson
February 17	Wayne Hindle
February 16	Gene Kaczmarek
February 20	Lisa Dillard
February 26	Linda Hankey
	Gloria Larios
	Rosa Paredes



## VALENTINE BANQUET AND SILENT AUCTION

We hope you will join us on **Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 8:00pm** for our Annual Valentine Banquet and Silent Auction at the church. All proceeds will go to the **Sweet Julia Grace Foundation** whose mission it is to bring love and joy, and to change the lives of children with a serious illness, special needs or those who are going through a medical crisis. Please **RSVP by Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** with your meal choices and whether you will be donating items for our silent auction and prizes!

To RSVP, fill out the form found in the church bulletin or page 5 of this newsletter. You can also RSVP on-line at the following link –

<https://link.my-hbc.org/2026valentine>.

Please make checks payable to Haymarket Baptist Church and put “Valentine Banquet” in the memo line. You can also pay online by going to our website at [www.my-hbc.org](http://www.my-hbc.org)—click on “Gifts” at the top of the homepage—scroll down to “Give Online”—under “Fund” put “Valentine Banquet”.



## SWEET JULIA GRACE LIVE AUCTION FOR USA QUILT

**“Helping children  
in the midst of a storm,  
dance in the rain”**

One of Sweet Julia Grace’s Raindancers, Chase was gifted a ‘Track chair’ by the **Sweet Julia Grace Foundation** that gives him independence! He can go anywhere he wants now, even though he is paralyzed from the waist down. His sweet grandma made a beautiful quilt to symbolize this newfound freedom for Chase and gifted it to SJGF for us to auction off. This **handmade USA quilt** from Chase’s grandmother was made with love and will be offered in a **live auction at the Valentine’s Banquet on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> with a starting bid at \$150.00**.



**Saturday, February 7th  
5:00pm—8:00pm  
Haymarket Baptist Church**

Please join us on Saturday, February 7th from 5:00pm-8:00pm for a Valentine's Banquet Dinner and a Silent Auction at the church, that will benefit the *Sweet Julia Grace Foundation*! The mission of the *Sweet Julia Grace Foundation* is to bring love and joy, and to change the lives of children with a serious illness, special needs or those who are going through a medical crisis.

*There is a \$20 minimum suggested donation for adult meals featuring four choices:*

Choice 1: Marry Me Chicken in a silky rich and creamy sun-dried tomato sauce.

Choice 2: Marry Me Shrimp, an impressive one-pot dinner featuring succulent shrimp in a creamy sun-dried tomato sauce with tender orzo pasta and fresh spinach.

Choice 3: Chicken Pasta with no tomatoes.

Choice 4: Grilled Chicken, brown rice and salad.

*A special kids meal will be provided for any amount of love the children want to give to help other children in need.*

*ALL proceeds will go to the Sweet Julia Grace Foundation!*

We are also asking for donations for the Silent Auction. Let us know if you have a donation for the Silent Auction by Tuesday, February 3rd. Some examples are Restaurant Gift Certificates, Air B&B Overnight Stay, Sports Memorabilia, Antiques, Wreaths, Paintings, Jewelry, Baked Items, Crafted Items (ie. blanket, scarf, painting, etc) and Themed Gift Baskets such as Spa, Date Night, Lego, Camping, Summer Fun and Grill Master. You can ask your favorite vendors or retailers to donate too! Gift cards are also needed for prizes!

RSVP by Tuesday, February 3rd, below or on-line at the following link—<https://link.my-hbc.org/2026valentine>. Please make checks payable to Haymarket Baptist Church and put “Valentine Banquet” in the memo line. You can also pay online by going to our website at [www.my-hbc.org](http://www.my-hbc.org)—click on “Gifts” at the top of the homepage—scroll down to “Give Online”—under “Fund” put “Valentine Banquet”.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

# Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ # Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Choice 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Choice 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Choice 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Choice 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Children's Dinner: \_\_\_\_\_

The number of dinners selected must match the number of adults and children listed above.

If you are donating an auction item, please fill out the following -

Name of Item(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Value: \_\_\_\_\_ Starting Bid Price: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this completed form with payment in the offering plate, return it to the church office or email the completed form to [manager@towervillas.com](mailto:manager@towervillas.com) by Tuesday, February 3rd.

Questions, please contact Wanda Leap at [manager@towervillas.com](mailto:manager@towervillas.com) or text (703) 727-0319



## MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATES

**Jamaica Link:** Thanks to all who contributed to our December International Missions collection. We gave \$2,850.00 which will go to *Jamaica Link Ministries Hurricane Relief* –

(<https://www.jamaicalink.org/>) and be used to assist the recovery of Christian facilities devastated by Hurricane Melissa in October 2025. Our preschool has worked closely with Jamaica Link in the past and has mounted its own efforts to aid hurricane recovery.

**Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes:** If you paid on-line, have you checked to see where your shoe boxes were shipped? Go to –

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and look at the right side about half way down. Click on “Follow Your Box Lookup”. If you have the label numbers you can enter them in the space provided or even easier, type in your email address. I found that our 3 shoe boxes this year went to Honduras and Ecuador. I also found that all of the locations where our shoe boxes were shipped are listed back as far as 2016. They have gone to Africa, the Pacific, Central and South America and to “A Hard to Reach Area”. Remember to pray for your shoe boxes and the impact they can make on the children who receive them and their families.

**Nepal:** Haymarket Baptist Church has had a relationship with the *Nepal Baptist Church Council* (NBCC) for over 20 years. Part of our yearly mission offerings is sent to Nepal for mission work. The current General Secretary of NBCC, Devanand Kadariya, sends us reports concerning its activities periodically which are posted on the bulletin board

across from the kitchen. Please pray for the work of NBCC as its pastors spread the gospel in Nepal.

Paul Sellers  
Missions Committee



### SAVE THE DATE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 22 -26

Get ready for an epic adventure! This year's Vacation Bible School theme is **KINGDOM QUEST**, an unforgettable journey where the children will discover what it means to follow Jesus and live in God's kingdom.

We are excited and actively preparing to make this year's VBS meaningful and memorable for every child who attends. Our goal is to create an environment where faith is exciting, adventurous and fun! We will need lots of volunteers to make this happen. Volunteer sign-ups are now open. Please check the insert in the church bulletin for more details.

Registration for children will be available in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

For more information or any questions, please contact Karen King, VBS Co-Director at (703)795-9127 or by email [karenking1234@gmail.com](mailto:karenking1234@gmail.com).

Come join the quest and discover God's kingdom!



## HOLIDAY COMMITTEE UPDATE

**I**t takes a village is an African proverb that was originally used to highlight the idea that a child's upbringing involved more than just the parents. I'm going to twist that meaning just a bit to emphasize that the things that happen at HBC also take the efforts of many people.

As the person who is in charge of many of these activities, I know that this is true because I need lots of help to accomplish all of these activities. The week before Thanksgiving, food boxes are packed for families in need in our area, assuring that they have all the ingredients for Thanksgiving dinner and for a couple of weeks after that. Next on my list is making sure the church building is decorated for the first Sunday of Advent. The Living Nativity is next and requires an entire village on its own! That is quickly followed (as in the same week) by the Angel Tree. That needs to be scheduled, advertised, the gifts checked in, sorted and given to the families. That is followed by packing and distributing the Christmas food boxes. But my responsibilities are not finished yet. All those decorations in and on the church that you, hopefully, admired need to be taken down, carefully packed, and stowed away.

I referred to these as my responsibilities because I organize them. However, I could not do all of this without help. It really does take a village to accomplish all of this. While I would like to list each person here who helped, that would take up a lot of space and knowing me, I'd forget to mention someone. So instead, you know who you are and **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!**

Edith Kennedy  
Holiday Committee





## JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday's at 9:30am**

### Adult Classes

J.O.Y. – Room 14

Formations – Room 45

### Children/Youth Classes

Children (age 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) – Room 49

Youth (6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school) – Youth Rm

**Sunday's at 9:45am**

### Deaf Ministry Class

Praising Hands – Fellowship Hall

We hope you will join us on Sunday mornings as we grow together in faith and fellowship!

is highly anticipated with all the upcoming festivities! We learn about Shadows on Ground Hog Day, the Dentist comes to visit for Dental Health Month – we get free toothbrushes! Our Pre-K and K celebrate 100 days of school with 100 snacks! We welcome Mary Rice Hopkins from Los Angeles – our favorite Christian singer and songwriter – coming to do a free 'sing-a-long' with all the kids! We have the teacher's favorite – Pajama Day to celebrate the letter Pp...with pizza and pancakes, too! We will welcome Dr. Krulla from Haymarket Pediatrics to help us learn about our hearts, for healthy heart month and our very most popular event – Valentine's Day – with the most creative valentine mailboxes ever! I am always amazed at what parents come up with – designing elaborate creations – some light up and play music!

We enjoyed lots of fun and learning in January. Our K students can now recite the 10 commandments and celebrated the end of Social Studies with an International Luncheon! The K students also did some assessments to prepare for 2nd semester readers and using our accelerated reader program! Our Pre-K kids are fully into reading groups and the study of hibernation! Our 3's enjoyed 'mitten day' while learning the letter Mm. Everyone got a report card, had a parent-teacher conference and signed up to come back next year!

We are wrapping up our 10-week parenting class – we've had 22 in attendance and it's been wonderful to see the growth, hear the questions and know the desire is there to become better at parenting. Praise the Lord for parents who want to instill Godly truths into their children, for a lifetime! We hosted a donation – only family Bingo night for Jamaica and raised \$1500 – thanks to many kind school families. The children had a ball and the community was very generous with prizes for our winners! We held an Open House for new families and we held a Kindergarten Information Meeting – both of these events help recruit students to stay for K or to come join us for preschool in the fall. It definitely was a busy month!

I want to close with my utmost appreciation and grateful heart for this church working in partnership with the preschool for Jamaica Link Ministries – the December offering was amazing and such a blessing.



## PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN NEWS

**D**ear Church Family,  
Happy February – the month of Love – and our Bible verse 1 John 4:8 – God is Love! This month

You will be helping make such a difference as they work toward rebuilding churches in the area of Montego Bay and ministries that were damaged or destroyed! I pray we can continue to work together to help with this effort. Many thanks to Paul Sellers for his work with the Mission Committee in this endeavor. Our first shipment has arrived and been distributed – food, hygiene and water – exactly where it is needed! We are assessing the possibility of providing materials to rebuild the school roof.



Russ Frasz (Laurie's husband), Sheryl Gardner (4th grade teacher at Cornwall Mountain Primary School), Laurie Frasz (HBCPK Director), Nadine Falconer (Pastor Dave's wife), Pastor Dave Falconer (President of Jamaica Link Ministries—the ministry we collected for in December)



Distribution of clothing to school families



Set-up of toiletries, clothes, medicine and toys for distribution



Russ Frasz helping to replace the water tank at the Grants Basic School in Flankers, Jamaica

We hope you have a wonderful month ahead – celebrating those you love on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Maybe some of you will get some Kindergarten valentines delivered your way!

With God's Blessing and in His Service,  
Laurie Frasz  
HBCPK Director



Laurie Frasz with one of the students at Cornwall Mountain Primary School—the school HBCPK sponsors



Laurie Frasz passing out food and water to the school families



Laurie Frasz with another one of the students at Cornwall Mountain Primary School—the school they sponsor



**SERVING THE LORD THROUGH THE CHURCH IN FEBRUARY 2026**

DATE	SECURITY OFFICERS	CHURCH GREETERS	USHERS	CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS	CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TEACHERS	NURSERY WORKERS	FLOWER COMMITTEE
Feb 1	Randy Anderson	9:15am Wanda Leap 10:15am Bernice Pearson Kendall Frazier	Brad Young (captain) Karen King Wayne Pritchett Chris Shaltis	<u>Children</u> Lucy Parkes Karen King Youth Vicki Bayol Drew Blincoe	<u>Bible Adventurers</u> Sarah Atkinson Ernestine Meyer JAM Jed Atkinson Susan Kaczmarek	Heather Bayol Diane Weaver	Karen Frazier
Feb 8	Randy Anderson	9:15am Melissa Baker 10:15am Susan Kaczmarek Madelyn Allen Ernestine Meyer	John Burke (captain) John Cain Susan Kaczmarek	<u>Children</u> Lucy Parkes Leslie Pritchett Youth Vicki Bayol John Cain	<u>Bible Adventurers</u> Joannie Duckett Amber Terrant JAM Christy Wisor Kristin Olson	Heather Bayol Carol Dixon	Bernice Pearson
Feb 15	Randy Anderson	9:15am Sheila Major 10:15am Linda Hankey Shannon Barham	Keenan Bayol (captain) Bob Coffey Jed Atkinson	<u>Children</u> Lucy Parkes Sarah Atkinson Youth Vicki Bayol Drew Blincoe	<u>Bible Adventurers</u> Missy Baker Aranka Montoro JAM Karen King Leslie Pritchett	Heather Bayol Bery Rabindran	Joannie Duckett
Feb 22	Randy Anderson	9:15am Linda Olson 10:15am Sarah Atkinson Jed Atkinson	Jason Hudson (captain) Paul Sellers Dan Valentine Keith Bishton	<u>Children</u> Lucy Parkes Linda Hankey Youth Vicki Bayol Kathy Kennedy	<u>Bible Adventurers</u> John Cain Kathy Kennedy JAM Karen King Manuella Tatchim	Heather Bayol Ernestine Meyers	Cheryl Cox

DEACON OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY: Bob Coffey (919) 627-2173

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