

FEBRUARY 2024
**BELL ROAD
BAPTIST CHURCH
JOURNAL**

BELLROAD.ORG



MONTHLY EVENTS

- 2-24 Union Gospel Mission- *Dinner at the Rosenau home at 5:30 pm. Leave/carpool at 6:30 pm Service at UGM from 7:30-8:30 pm*



ST. VALENTINE: A MARTYR OF LOVE
BY PASTOR RYAN

FOR MANY OF US VALENTINE'S DAY IS AN OCCASION TO CELEBRATE LOVE IN THE ROMANTIC VEIN. AS IS THE CASE WITH OTHER ESTABLISHED HOLIDAYS, FEBRUARY 14TH IS WHAT THE WORD SUGGESTS, A HOLY-DAY. IN CHURCH TRADITION, THE CHRISTIANS HELD FEASTS TO COMMEMORATE MARTYRS. ONE OF THOSE WAS A CERTAIN VALENTINE OF TERNI (ITALY), A BISHOP WHO LIVED DURING THE 3RD CENTURY A.D. AND WAS EXECUTED BY THE ROMAN EMPEROR CLAUDIUS.

DETAILS ABOUT VALENTINE'S LIFE ARE SPARSE AND VARIOUS STORIES ARE ATTRIBUTED TO HIM, MANY OF WHICH EMERGE CENTURIES AFTER HIS DEATH AND ARE LIKELY APOCRYPHAL. ONE OF THOSE IS A SUPPOSED LETTER HE WROTE TO THE DAUGHTER OF A CERTAIN ASTERIUS PRIOR TO HIS EXECUTION SIGNED "FROM YOUR VALENTINE."

THOSE FAMILIAR WITH VALENTINE THE HISTORICAL FIGURE MAY RECOLLECT A STORY OF THE PRIEST SECRETLY PERFORMING CHRISTIAN WEDDINGS SO THAT HUSBANDS COULD AVOID CONSCRIPTION IN THE ROMAN ARMY. VALENTINE EVIDENTLY CUT PAPER HEARTS AND GAVE THEM TO CHRISTIANS AS REMINDERS OF THEIR VOWS TO CHRIST.

APART FROM LATER LEGENDS, THE MOST CREDIBLE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT HE WAS BEATEN WITH CLUBS AND BEHEADED AT THE FLAMINIAN GATE IN 269. DID ST. VALENTINE DIE FOR LOVE'S SAKE? WITHOUT A DOUBT. IS THE AUTHENTIC STORY OF HIS LIFE SENTIMENTAL? NOT QUITE. LIKE ALL MARTYRS, VALENTINE PROVED THAT HIS LOVE FOR CHRIST EXCEEDED HIS LOVE FOR THIS WORLD, EVEN TO THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS BODY.

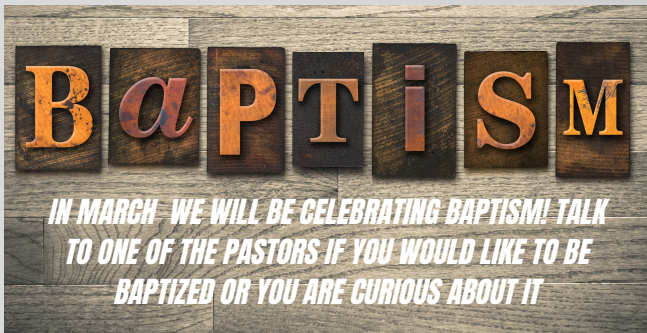
THE CHURCH, CHRIST'S BRIDE, MUST RECOGNIZE THE SACRIFICE THAT LOVE DEMANDS, AND THE LOVE WHICH GOD HER HUSBAND HAS GIVEN THROUGH HIS SON JESUS.



NEW MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



BEGINNING FEBRUARY 6TH AND EVERY TUESDAY FOLLOWING, THE MEN WILL GATHER AT OUR CHURCH IN THE CAFE FOR AN EARLY MORNING DISCUSSION/STUDY OF THE SERMON FROM THE PREVIOUS SUNDAY. 6-7 AM JOIN US FOR SOME COFFEE AND A GREAT DISCUSSION! THIS WILL BE LED BY OUR PASTORS AND WILL INCLUDE A TIME OF PRAYER FOR EACH OTHER. COME READY TO APPLY WHAT WE ARE BEING TAUGHT EACH SUNDAY TO OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.



**A SUNDAY AFTERNOON STUDY
CONTINUING IN FEBRUARY
4-5:30 PM**

**"CREATION, FALL, AND ITS IMPLICATIONS:
EXPLORING GENESIS 1-3"**

THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS OF GENESIS ARE FOUNDATIONAL FOR UNDERSTANDING THE WHOLE SCOPE OF THE BIBLE. IT IS ARGUABLY IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL WITHOUT KNOWING GOD WHO IS THE CREATOR, HUMANS WHO ARE HIS CREATION, SIN, SATAN AND THE MESSIAH.

**PASTOR RYAN WILL BE LEADING AN EIGHT-WEEK STUDY ON GENESIS 1-3..
WE WILL TAKE A BREAK ON FEB 11 FOR SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!**

FEBRUARY 9-10

WE ARE HOSTING A FRIDAY EVENING AND SATURDAY MORNING MARRIAGE "TUNE-UP."

THIS IS NOT JUST FOR THOSE STRUGGLING IN THEIR MARRIAGE BUT ALSO FOR THOSE WHO ARE DOING GREAT.

WE ALL NEED REGULAR CHECKUPS AND NEW TOOLS TO HELP US COMMUNICATE BETTER.

JOIN US AND INVITE ANOTHER COUPLE AS WELL. IT WILL BE HELD AT OUR CHURCH, AND CHILDCARE WILL BE AVAILABLE. SIGN UP HERE

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/QNNS7ZF4EX2U4TSU9](https://forms.gle/QNNS7ZF4EX2U4TSU9)

SCAN FOR MARRIAGE TUNE-UP REGISTRATION



WEDNESDAY DINNER AND BIBLE STUDY CONTINUE! JOIN US AT 5:30 EACH WEDNESDAYS AS WE EAT TOGETHER, WORSHIP TOGETHER, AND STUDY TOGETHER!

6:30-7:30 IS OUR ALL AGES BIBLE STUDY TIME.

WE WILL SKIP MEETING TOGETHER ON THE 14TH SO OUR COUPLES CAN CELEBRATE VALENTINES DAY!