



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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FEBRUARY 2026



Shrove Tuesday, also known as Fat Tuesday or Pancake Day, is the day before Ash Wednesday and the official countdown to Lent. It's the last day before the season of fasting and reflection begins, so traditionally, Christians have used it as a time to confess sins, seek absolution, and prepare their hearts for Lent.

PANCAKE SUPPER

TUESDAY, Feb. 17, 2026

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

No advance ticket sales.

Pay at the door.

Adults - \$10.00

Children 6 - 12 years - \$6.00

Children under 6 years - no charge

Proceeds to Inn Out Of The Cold
and St. Thomas/Elgin Food Bank

To be a volunteer worker contact Linda
Cummings.

Cash donations toward the purchase of
sausage, fruit, syrup, and groceries are
welcome. See Nancy Millman

Donations of condiments are welcome.

Contact Diane O'Brien.

EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Feb 01 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Communion Sunday
Feb 04 Wed 8:30 A.M.	After 8's Breakfast - Sunset Café
Feb 07 Sat 7:00 P.M.	Musical Jam Night - Come to entertain or to be entertained
Feb 08 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service -
12:00 Noon	Annual Congregational - Bring a bag lunch
Feb 15 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service -
Feb 17 Tue 4:30-6:30P.M.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - In Oak Hall
Feb 22 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service -
Mar 01 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Communion Sunday
Mar 04 Wed 8:30 A.M.	After 8's Ladies Breakfast - Sunset Café
Mar 10 Tues 1:30 P.M.	Ladies Aid Meeting

**Plains Annual Congregational Meeting
After Worship (12:00)**

Sunday, February 08, 2026

Bring a bag lunch. Drinks supplied.

We hope all members and adherents can remain for the meeting.

Pick up a Report book, read and bring it with you to the meeting!

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2 nd	Joanne Cline-Schuit	14 th	Ken Wilson
4 th	Donna Crocker	19 th	Daxton Lessard
4 th	Shirley Dale	20 th	Brad Bastien
5 th	Randy Greer	20 th	Lexie Sawyer
7 th	Dallas MacPherson	23 rd	Bronwyn Ruddock
8 th	Pat Kennedy	24 th	Dominic Kisiel
9 th	William Chen-Martyn	25 th	Mary Crosby
10 th	Laura Penner	25 th	Ava Sargeant
11 th	Janice Burgess	27 th	Nancy Millman
12 th	Regina Chen-Martyn		

ANNIVERSARIES

14th Ron and Lynda Prong (68)

Want a visit from Pastor Rob?

Give him a call at the office **519-633-2883**, or on his cell phone **519-873-0972**.

Or if you're passing by the church, stop in for a chat, Monday-Thursday 9a.m. to 4p.m.

What did the man with the broken leg tell his valentine?" "I have a crutch on you."



On January 11, 2026 Noreena Satchell celebrated her 100th birthday. A celebration Open House was held at the location of her home at Seasons Retirement Home in the afternoon.

Photo by Malcolm Rust.

Sometimes we wonder,
 'What did I do to deserve this?' or
 'Why did God have to do this to me?'
 Many times we wonder why
 He would let us go through such bad and difficult times.
 But God knows that when He puts these things
 all in His order, they always work for good!
 We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all
 make something wonderful!
 God is crazy about you.
 He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.
 Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.
 He can live anywhere in the universe,
 and He chose your heart.



Why didn't the skeleton want to send any Valentine's Day cards?" "His heart wasn't in it."

Financial Statement
First Yarmouth Baptist Church
January 31, 2026

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	8,314.83	149.67	537.35	50.00	9,051.85
Expenses	<u>8,881.06</u>	<u>149.67</u>	<u>403.61</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>9,434.34</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	(-566.23)	0.00	133.74	50.00	(-382.49)
From Previous Years	<u>89,811.04</u>		<u>3419.56</u>		<u>93,230.60</u>
Totals	<u>89,244.81</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3553.30</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>92,848.11</u>

1. The General Fund shows a net loss as of 31st of January, 2026 of (-\$566.23.)
 The snow storm on Sunday, January 25th caused many folks to stay home, and that could account for the loss.
2. Missions income up to the 31st of January, 2026 totaled \$149.67. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM.
 That amount is made up as follows: CBOQ General Budget \$65.00; CBM \$66.67; and Sharing Way - \$18.00.
3. The Communion fund had a gain of \$133.74 at the end of January, 2026. There are Communion funds left over from 2025 and previous years totalling \$3,419.56, leaving a balance in the Communion Fund of \$3,553.30.
4. The Sunday school received donations of \$50.00 to date. That amount will be paid to the Treasurer of the Sunday School at the end of the first quarter.
5. A balance of \$1,833.79 remains in the Special Projects Fund from previous years.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Shirley E. Dale, Treasurer

A **SMILE** is quite a funny thing—
 It wrinkles up your face,
 And when it's gone you never find
 It's secret hiding place.
 But far more wonderful it is
 To see what **smiles** can do;
 You **smile** at one, he **smiles** at you,
 And so one **smile** makes two.
 He **smiles** at someone since you **smiled**,
 And then that one **smiles** back;
 And that one **smiles** until in truth
 You fail in keeping track.
 And since a **smile** can do great good
 By cheering hearts of care—
 Let's **smile** and **smile** and not forget
 That **smiles** go everywhere.



What did one flame say to another on Valentine's Day? "We're a perfect match"

The Slow Work of Belonging

February often arrives quietly. The sparkle of the holidays has faded, the new-year enthusiasm has softened, and winter settles in for its long stay. In the church, this month invites a different rhythm—one that emphasizes patience, presence, and the slow work of belonging.



In worship we remain within the season after Epiphany, still guided by the theme of light. But the focus begins to shift from seeking the light to living in it. The scriptures call our attention to the ways God forms a community: a people who learn to love one another, who carry each other's burdens, and who bear witness to God's grace in a noisy and often fearful world.

This theme is especially fitting for February, a month that secular culture frames around romance but which the gospel expands into the broader practice of love—steadfast, resilient, and generous. Christian love is not sentimental; it is relational. It shows up in casseroles for neighbours recovering from surgery, in phone calls to those who are lonely, in prayers that hold someone else's story with dignity, and in the courage to forgive and begin again.

This month also places before us the question of how we make space for one another in the life of the church. Belonging is not automatic; it is cultivated. It requires hospitality that listens more than it speaks, curiosity instead of assumption, and a willingness to make room for people at different moments in their faith. As a congregation, we continue to learn how to welcome newcomers, honour those who have been here for decades, and remain attentive to the margins—where Jesus so often chose to dwell.

As we look ahead, the season of Lent will soon arrive, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 18. Lent invites us to take stock of our lives, not with shame but with honesty, remembering that our hope is not in our perfection but in God's mercy. Details about our Ash Wednesday service and Lenten offerings will follow in the coming weeks, and I pray they will deepen our shared journey.

For now, may February be a month of tender formation for you. If January asked, "Where is the light leading us?" perhaps February asks, "How will we walk together as we follow it?" My prayer is that our life as a church will continue to be a place where people experience connection, compassion, and the quiet assurance that they matter.

Thank you for the many ways you give of yourselves—your time, your prayer, your presence, your care. These are the ordinary miracles that shape us into Christ's body.

With gratitude and Peace.

Pastor Rob