

**Dear Chapelites,**

## **Groundhogs and Candlemas - Sunday Schedule with Communion - Ash Wednesday**

Today is Groundhog Day! How did a pesky rodent become the prognosticator for spring?

Astronomers recognize this day as “cross-quarter day” which is the midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Many cultures celebrated this day as the time when light and life began to win the battle over cold and darkness. Christians called this day Candlemas—the festival of light.



Candlemas is forty days after Christmas. Two Christian festivals occur on this day. The Feast of the Purification commemorates Mary’s offering of two pigeons or turtledoves for purification according to the Hebrew law. The Feast of the Presentation celebrates when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple—his first entrance into the temple. Their first-born was forty days old, and they presented him as holy unto the Lord, according to the law. Both Simeon and Anna offered blessing and thanksgiving. (Luke 2:22:38)

In some traditions dating back to the fourth century, Christians brought their candles to church to be blessed. As those candles lit their home throughout the year, they remembered Jesus—the light of the world. Some candles were very elaborate and treasured, and they were used in times of stress such as storms and illness or at the bedside of one transitioning from this life to the next.

At this midpoint of winter, people looked to nature for signs of spring. The French and English acknowledged bears who emerged from hibernation as their forecasters. The Germans thought badgers were the true harbingers of spring. Arriving in Pennsylvania, the German immigrants did not find many badgers, but groundhogs were plentiful, so that is how these lowly rodents were awarded their day of honor.

This morning, our chief prognosticator, Liberty Chapel Libby, emerged from her den and saw the biggest, scariest shadow! In horror, she retreated to her hibernation chamber for another month and a half of slumber. The bad news is there are six more weeks of winter, but the good news is there are only 46 days until the Spring Equinox. After doing the math, I realized that spring comes the same time whether she sees her shadow or not. After last Sunday, Blizzard Brad is counting only six more Sundays until Spring! [Next Sunday’s forecast is 11 degrees and snow showers. Old Man Winter: Is that the best you’ve got! Bring it!]

Here is the really good news! Jesus is the light of the world. His light will get you through stress, storms, and pandemics.

Pray for one another. Pray for healing for those who are ill or hurting. Pray for this virus to end.

See you Sunday!  
Pastor Brad

### **Last Sunday**

Message: "Ask, Seek, Knock" - Matthew 7:7-11 - Teaching Series: "Living into His Vision" -  
YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MDx1oeWQDE>

### **Next Sunday**

Message: "The Golden Rule" - Matthew 7:12 - <https://www.youtube.com/c/LibertyChapelLC>  
We will celebrate communion. If you worship online, you are invited to prepare appropriate elements for your home celebration.

### **Sunday Schedule**

**Option 1: Drive-in/Outside Worship. (8:15 am)** - Come to the parking lot, and tune to FM 90.5.

**Option 2: Inside Worship. (10:30 am)** - Please observe physically distant seating and wear face coverings.

**Option 3: Worship online.** The service is live streamed at 10:30 am. You can watch it live or later. Liberty Chapel's YouTube channel is <https://www.youtube.com/c/libertychapelc>

### **Sunday School. (9:15)**

### **Ash Wednesday - February 17 - 7:00 - 7:30**

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held in conjunction with Wednesday Night Ministries again this year. We have ordered packets of ashes for each family or individual so ashes can be imposed safely. This service will be both thoughtful and kid friendly.

The service will begin at 7:00 and last for half an hour. Children will come to their classes at 6:30 and then go to the sanctuary for the service. Youth will come early at 7:00 and stay for their meeting afterwards. Adults and families come at 7:00. Plan to attend.

- February 2, 2021