



# Episcopal Church Home

## Community Connections - February 2026

February brings a mix of familiar favorites and meaningful traditions. This month kicks off with Groundhog Day on February 2. Most people are familiar with this lighthearted tradition rooted in folklore that playfully predicts whether winter will linger a bit longer. Valentine's Day follows soon after. While it traditionally only celebrated romantic love, it's also become a chance to celebrate friendship, kindness, and community. Later in the month, Presidents' Day invites reflection on U.S. history and the leadership of those who have shaped our nation.

Mid-February is especially full this year. Several cultural and religious observances take place within just a few days of one another. Chinese New Year begins on February 17 and marks the start of the Year of the Horse. This is a symbol often associated with energy, perseverance, and independence. That same day brings Mardi Gras. It is traditionally celebrated with parades, music, and King Cake. If you aren't familiar with King Cake, it's a festive pastry that includes a hidden token (sometimes a "baby" or a bean), symbolizing shared joy and the Epiphany story before the reflective season of Lent begins.

Immediately following Mardi Gras is Ash Wednesday. This marks the start of Lent in the Christian tradition, a season focused on reflection, simplicity, and spiritual renewal. This year, Ramadan also begins at this time. Ramadan is a holy month in the Islamic faith centered on fasting, prayer, and generosity. While distinct in practice, Lent and Ramadan share common themes of mindfulness, compassion, and intentional living.

February is also Black History Month, dedicated to honoring the history, achievements, and lasting contributions of Black Americans. This includes well-known individuals such as Muhammad Ali. A legend in Louisville but around the world, Ali's legacy endures because he demonstrated how conviction and courage can define a life and was much more than a boxer. It also includes lesser known but just as important individuals like Katherine Johnson, whose mathematical brilliance helped make early space exploration possible. Featured in the book and movie *Hidden Figures*, she was responsible for verifying the calculations for John Glenn's 1962 orbital flight and calculated trajectories for the Apollo 11 Moon landing. Their lives reflect the profound impact of knowledge, creativity, and perseverance on our shared American history and culture.

Altogether, February offers many ways to celebrate community, culture, history, and knowledge. Whether through seasonal traditions, learning about global observances, or reflecting on the lives that have shaped our world, there is much to appreciate in the weeks ahead. Be on the look-out for information around ECH for activities related to some of these holidays and observances!

## Birthdays of the Month

### Neighborhood Birthdays

Doris Gribbins 2/7

Dennis Brennan 2/13

Sandra Hinett 2/20

Marilyn Taylor 2/26

Norma Dohrman 2/27



### Dudley Square Birthdays

Linda Brown 2/1

Joan Champion 2/1

Katherine Robinson 2/1

William Pearson 2/6

John Miller 2/10

Laurel Sturm 2/12

John Vanderburgh 2/12

Harold Combs 2/13

Judith Conn 2/18

