



Stuffed

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February is one of those small, but mighty months. We expect much out of it. The shortest of our months – even in a leap year – we expect it to hold a lot.

For example, by February, Jesus has grown from a tiny baby on the run to starting his ministry. Were we thinking of Jesus' life in pure chronological order, he's got to wrap up years of ministry in February and then set his face toward Jerusalem and the cross. (Thankfully, we have lots of Ordinary Time post-Easter to make up for February's brevity.)

February is National Chocolate Lovers Month. Definitely too short. On a related note, February is also:

Children's Dental Health Month

Gum Disease Awareness Month

Toothache Day (Feb 9) and

Tooth Fairy Day (Feb 28).

Thankfully, as you read this, we will have already passed Toothache Day.

We expect all Black history to be studied and celebrated in February. For the other eleven months of the year, we return to Whiteness being the norm. Unlike the church calendar, this is gladly something we can fix in the way we educate our children, the books we choose to read, the news, arts, and entertainment we enjoy, and the leaders we elect. It's something we can change through our advocacy. For example, vocal protests arose when Maria Montessori Academy in North Ogden, Utah, allowed [parents to opt their children out of the school's Black History Month instruction](#), and the school wisely, though belatedly, reversed its decision. Through advocacy, our nation's history can shift from its limited narrative about remarkable White explorers, presidents, authors, and generals to a recognition that our collective history has also been shaped by creative, ingenious, resilient, and courageous Black leaders.

This February, we are scrambling to vaccinate as many people as possible across the country and the world. Instead of packing people into our churches, we worship online and pack as many people into clinics and hospitals and doctor offices as supplies will allow to bring an end to this pandemic.

We stuffed February full of expectation and responsibility. It's going to go fast. It always does, even in a leap year. May you savor each day in its fullness.