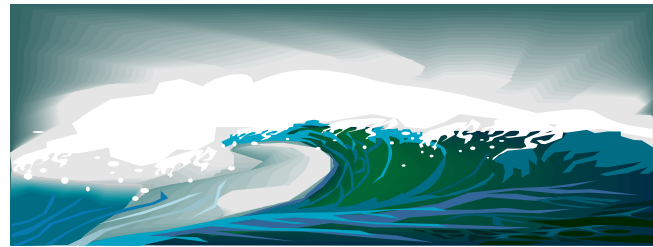




The *April 2018*
Anchor

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a



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Pastor Mark Gerstell ~ 1-304-377-2812 ~ www.fbcravenswood.org

I have been touched this week by the power and the beauty of the greatest story ever told-the miraculous EASTER STORY. It has all the makings of a Hollywood movie! an act of unfathomable cruelty, and then a surprise miraculous ending with the victim getting redemption through a surprise twist. In this case, the true *Easter Story* is much more. Christ not only got redemption as He rose from the dead, but granted all present and future believers true redemption from all past present and future sins. It is the timeless miracle for all believers to take with us **every** day for a lifetime **even** when times are tough and it is hard to see a miracle. We must remember He has a plan for each of us.

So many times, we as Christians tend to question the one set of footprints in the sand. When we suffer it seems like our life tends to have no purpose. We reach out to God and ask Him to be beside us and heal those that are hurting, those that are sick and others in need of prayer. We tend to pray and believe that the answers will come overnight, in a week and in a month. It sometimes seems that our prayers are not answered and we think that God is not listening to our prayers. ***Weeks, months or years later, we find out that God WAS listening to our prayers.*** Our prayers are not always answered in our time but in God's time. I am reminded by this in **Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose"**. I believe that we are tested in life because of our belief in God. The devil is always trying to pull us down and fill our lives with darkness. With suffering, we have a purpose in our life.

When Jesus was crucified, the people couldn't understand why Jesus had to die. Although He tried to explain, it wasn't until He rose from the dead that people truly understood. *Jesus died to save us from our sins.* There is no other love greater than this. We are able to travel through those rough valleys because God is with us. God can turn around any hopeless situation.

In celebrating Easter, we have hope. We are reminded in **Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation by prayer and petition, with Thanksgiving, present your request to God."** We glorify God by trusting in Him. We celebrate Jesus' victory over death. Let us have a renewing of our mind. We have a living Savior who can heal us and be with us in dark times.

Let us make time for our walk with God. We need to find a positive with every negative. Instead of counting your misfortunes, count your blessings. Smile when you don't feel like smiling. Often **our** smile is the only one that people may see. Let's try to fill ourselves with the warmth of His love. Speak words of love and hope to those around you.

Let us celebrate Easter with the JOY that HE LIVES!!!! Let us bloom into the beauty of our surroundings and be reminded each day of His grace and love.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Mark



As the month of April is upon us, I find myself still reminiscing on Easter and our Savior's glorious resurrection where we begin to see nature come alive, again. What a representation of the season where flowers will soon be blooming, the lawn will grow and need cut, and trees begin to bud and blossom! ***All of nature declares the majesty of our Lord.*** Are we not blessed to be considered worthy of salvation, basking in His glory and wisdom? Speaking of wisdom, I wanted to share my personal desire for wisdom, not for just myself, but for our entire church family. When we adults grow in knowledge of our Lord and Savior, we become better Christians. My heartfelt desire is that we are so filled with the Holy Spirit and love Jesus so much, that we have an unquenchable thirst for wisdom that we can pass onto our children and grandchildren.

The Bible tells us in **Proverbs 4:6-7** ***“Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”***

As we come to learn that Jesus has our backs, we learn to trust His Word. What He says in the Bible, He will do. The scripture was written for our understanding. We all have the gift of applying the scriptures to our lives. When we trust God more than we do ourselves, we have gained wisdom. When we know that God will do as He says, we have gained wisdom. When we know that we are not perfect, but God loves us anyway, then we have gained wisdom. When we realize we are not alone, we have gained wisdom. The point is, many of our children today in the United States are suffering from depression. They see no hope or future. Many have turned to drugs or alcohol, self-mutilation, and even suicide to cope with life. We **must** point these young people toward Jesus.

Wisdom leads to understanding. We all have a role to play as mentors or persons of influence in our young person's life. If there is one piece of advice you can give them, trust Solomon when he said, **“Get Wisdom.”** *Let everyone know that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.* When we hear and read God's word and apply it to our lives, we show wisdom and understanding. This spring, let our faith be brought back to life. Let the freshness of spring breathe new life into your witness. Tell someone you love the most important thing they can do at this point in their life is to **“Get Wisdom.”** Then proceed to explain what that means. You can do it!

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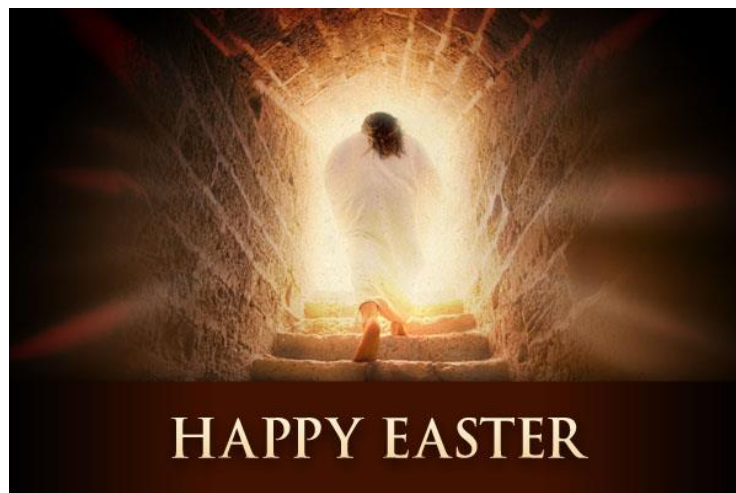
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In closing, let me update you on our youth programs. First, *let me extend a great job to Liz Stewart for the work with the Easter party at the church.* Captivate provided pizza for the event. I want to thank everyone for their work on the annual Easter play this year. It's a lot of hard work and everyone has put a lot of time and effort in pulling it off.

I do want you to know there will be a *family bowling event April 14* in Parkersburg. Second, there will be day of rocket building and kite flying fun called *õFly High for Jesusö* at Parchment Valley Conference Center for our church youth, their friends and their families. The Deacons will be grilling hotdogs. **If you plan on attending, we will need you to register as we will be purchasing supplies.** Each young person is encouraged to bring a friend. Youth will be paired with adults and or parents to make the day extra special. I will be teaching a lesson before we fly kites and launch rockets. It's going to be a **BLAST!!!** (Weather permitting of course).

Keep working hard for the Lord. Thanks for all you do to make First Baptist Church a special place.

In His service,
Pastor Toby



Monthly Meetings & Activities

Apr 1- Happy Easter! No evening service
Apr 2- Trustee Meeting @ 7 pm
Apr 1- Quarterly Reports Due
Apr 9- Finance Committee @ 6 pm
BOCE @ 7 pm
Deacon Meeting @ 8 pm
Apr 10- Men's Fellowship @ 6:30
Apr 11- 1st Quarter Business Meeting
Apr 13-15- Women's Camp at Cowen
Apr 14- Family Bowling
Apr 19- CIRCLE
Apr 21- Fly High at Parchment Valley
Apr 25- Anchor Articles Due
Apr 27-28 Men's Work Weekend @ Cowen
Apr 28- ABW Good Hope Spring Rally
Apr 29-May 3- Revolving Revival

Nursery Workers

Apr 1 (Easter) Jane Moore
Apr 8 Connie Staats
Apr 15 Bev Stephenson
Apr 22 Jen Wagoner
Apr 29 Leigh Ann Staats

Children's Church

Apr 1 Deb Lyons
Apr 8 Leanne Thompson
Apr 15 Liz Stewart
Apr 22 Helen Johnson
Apr 29 Eugene Morgan

CommUnity Kitchen

Apr 7 Burt Lyons
Apr 14 FUMC
Apr 21 Susan West and crew
Apr 28 Bill Stewart

Deaconess for Communion

Rose Stephenson (Maundy Thursday)



Focus on Sunday School:



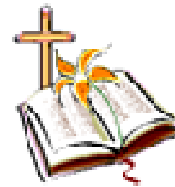
Christ the Lord is Risen today! Hallelujah!

That's what it's all about! Christ is Risen! How often do we remember that! There is NO other god worshipped in the universe that is a living god - *except* our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Son of God!

In Sunday School, we learn about our need for a Messiah. The prophecies tell of Jesus birth, His sacrificial death and His resurrection. But the story doesn't end there.

Jesus is coming again! There's excitement to be found in the Living Word of God. Don't miss out on any of it. Bring your family and friends.

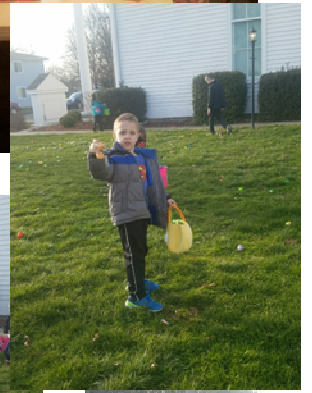
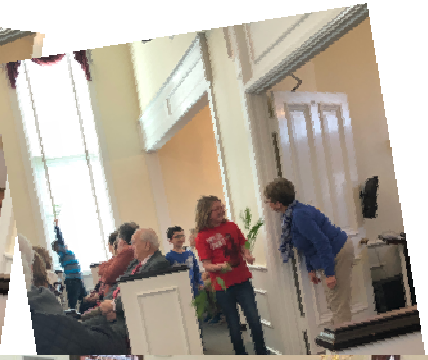
Attend Sunday School!



Just a note: Soon (if not already) every Sunday School Class will have access to online Bible Studies and lesson enhancements with our new Roku TVs that are being installed in the classrooms. Thanks go to our trustees, with Bill Stewart in the lead, that are helping us enter the 21st century. We will announce a time for training for all teachers and any others who would like to learn how to use the TVs.

We are in need of a Junior High teacher for the months of April and May. If you would be willing to help out with this group, please contact Susan West. The literature is ready and waiting for you.

Palm Sunday in Review



Destiny Hope Thomas



Destiny was in the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) state competition at Marshall University on Saturday March 10 competing in Nursing Assistance where she took 3rd place.

Destiny is now eligible to attend HOSA Nationals in Dallas, TX in June.

Congratulations Destiny!

Tenebrae Service March 28, 2018

Over 50 people attended the Maundy Thursday service this year. We partook of the Lord's Supper and listened to the reading of scriptures as the lights were diminished in remembrance of the death of our Savior Jesus Christ.



If I Were A Rich Man



The young Senior Adults had a wonderful afternoon together as they watched a performance of Fiddler on the Roof in Parkersburg on March 4.

Oops! I didn't capture the picture of Dena Williams jumping over the seats! Sorry folks. Maybe next time.

Tradition!

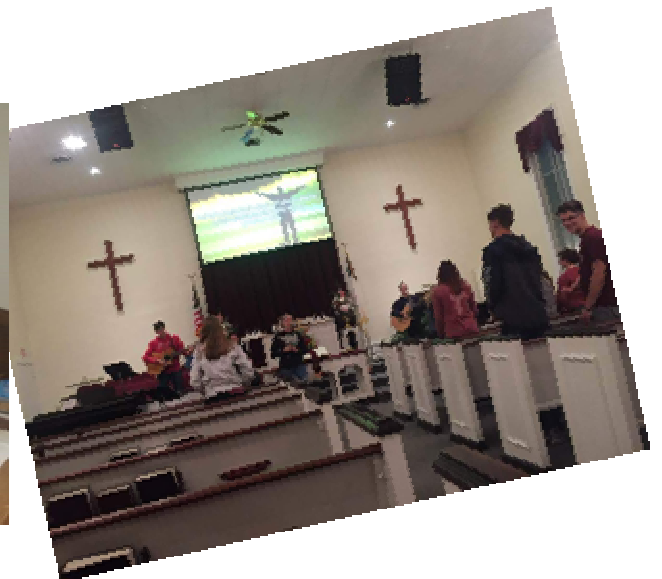
Youth Leader Core 2018

First Baptist Church hosted sixteen youth and their adults leaders to the annual Youth Leader Core service. Our own Katelyn Rupert was part of the team.

The youth spent 3 days learning, planning and presenting the service on March 11. The teenagers then joined their parents, family and friends in a dinner provided by FBC members.

Thanks to all the Youth for their involvement in learning and leading for Christ.

And many thanks to those who helped with the meal to feed the group of 65!



Be on the look out for
FBC Women's Ministries

Living Loved

During the month of April, we will be collecting coins (and bills, if you prefer) in Señor Water Cooler. All donations will be given to Debbie Myers during the ABWM Spring Rally on April 28. The donations will be used to purchase water bottles for the women in Mexico where Debbie ministers so they can carry clean, fresh water with them on their daily chores and more.

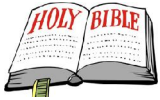


All women are invited to attend. The Men's Fellowship will be providing a wonderful brunch that morning to help us start our day!

Set your calendars, Ladies, for April 28 at 9:15.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bible Book of the
Month
April 2018
Jeremiah**



Do you know where this
is in the church?



Captivate
Sunrise Service
The Untold Story .. Of Amazing Love
6:30 a.m.

First Quarter Reports are due April 4!!

First Quarterly Business Meeting
April 11 @ 6:30

April Birthdays

Michael Casto—4/9
Kyle Hickman—4/10
Debbie Legg—4/14
Sarah Lycans—4/22
Jesse Mize—4/24
Richard Massey—4/28



April 2 Meeting
Trusteesô 7:00

April 9 Meetings
Financeô 6:00
BOCEô 7:00
Deaconsô 8:00

Remember our College
Students!

Care Packages
due back by
April 22



Living Loved
Cash Donations for
Debbie Myers
Missionary to Mexico.



Men's Fellowship
April 10
At 6:30



Womenø CIRCLE at
Amy Starkeyø home
April 19 at 7:00.

Have you checked out the prayer calendar today?

CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



April 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Anne Adkins	2 Sharon Adkins	3 Alan & Gusta Arrington	4 Micah Arrington	5 Jack & Anna Bailes	6 Larry & Jackie Bailes	7 Doug & Debbie Bashaw
8 Joshua Bashaw	9 Aaron & Melissa Bennett Blake, Beau, Cass	10 Gloria Blackhurst	11 Carolyn Brown	12 Jason Brown	13 Sue Brown	14 Jamison & Mackinze Cooper, Dalilah
15 Linda Conley	16 Dave & Carol Crow	17 Bryan & Andrea Crow Benjamin	18 Brandon & Anna Davis	19 Marie DeLong	20 Bryan & Andrea Donahue, Xavier	21 Gloria Easter
22 Rodney & Sheila Eskins	23 Jim & Mona Eubank	24 Annabelle Flesher	25 Jeff & Venisa Flesher	26 Nathanael Flesher	27 Jim & Kathy Frazier	28 Mark & Susan Gerstell
29 Holly Gerstell	30 Geraldine Gregorich					

Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Luke 24:5-6

