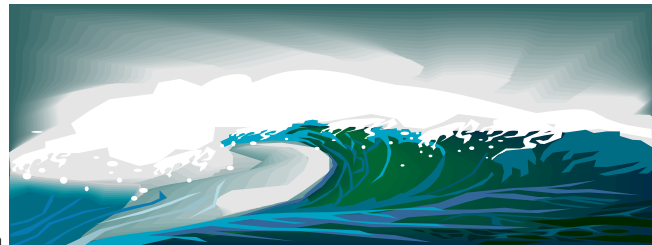




The *March 2021*
Anchor

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



Am I the only one shocked that we are ready to begin the month of March? Can you believe that we are already heading into the end of the first quarter of 2021? When we reflect on that, how can we not think about James 4:14 that reminds us that life is vapor, and we are only here for a little while and then we are gone. Naturally, as we prepare to head into spring we begin to think about things coming to life again. For me, the thought of Holy Week beginning later this month is mind blowing. Easter is one of my favorite times of the year. Resurrection Sunday reminds us of the victory we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ overcoming death and the grave.

For our church, I'm proposing we use spring as a reminder that it's high time we awake from the COVID hibernation. It's time we get up and get moving again. For the last year, we have been so focused on COVID, some of us have forgotten to live. Don't get me wrong, we still have to be careful, wear our masks and wash our hands, and distance ourselves a little, but we do not have to allow those few measures to derail our happiness and involvement in the church. Instead, of being depressed over nothing changing, look around, things are gradually changing. There's a lot of changes coming this month in our church. We are progressing. Wait until you see the list of events this month and how the church is fully coming to life again.

Here's a list of a few of the activities to watch out for: 1) Meet Your Deacon Dinner returns March 21 at 6:00, 2) God's Cadets resumes for all children up to grade Grade 5 on Sunday nights beginning on Palm Sunday (*News Flash -- I'll be working with them and their parents since we have not resumed Sunday evening services yet and I am super excited about this*), 3) Sunday School resumes on Easter Sunday at 9:30 for all ages, 4) CommUnity Kitchen is now serving meals in the Fellowship Hall, 3) Easter Egg Coloring and Contest on Good Friday at 6:00, 4) Passion of the Christ Movie on Wednesday evening of Holy Week in the sanctuary, 5) Maundy Thursday Service will be live in the sanctuary this year at 6:30, 6) Our Easter Worship Service will be in the Sanctuary with over flow seating if needed in the Fellowship Hall, 7) the annual Easter Egg Hunt resumes Easter Sunday immediately after church in the courtyard, and 7) Jackson County Ministerial Association's Holy Week Services will be held at the Riverfront Park and our church will be represented.

Another thing underway is that we are in the process of finalizing a baptism that may occur on Easter Sunday as well. Can I just say, that **God is positioning our church for all of us to be joyful again?** We are approaching the anniversary this month of when COVID hit America. I was just in contact with the health department last week and was informed the mask requirement and vocal singing performance restrictions remain in place. So the church will continue those safety measures as we have. But on a positive note, the Governor is beginning to loosen restrictions and each time he does, we are on it. This is one of the reasons we can have the dinner, and resume the activities we have planned as far as social gatherings. Additionally, more and more people are being vaccinated which makes us hopeful that the mask mandate will eventually just become a recommendation. Nonetheless, we see all of this as a huge positive sign moving forward and for the first time in a long time, Jackson County was at the lowest levels of the color coded DHHR map for COVID. **This again is a good news.**

My hope is we can all pause and say, **I want to use the month of March to say, I am ready to serve the Lord again in His church.** Follow the safety protocols and let's get to living again. Our services will continue to be streamed for those who prefer to watch from home.

However, if you have children and teenagers, I would strongly suggest you try to get them back into the church as soon as you can. For our littlest kids many have not been in church for a year as of March. Many of them are used to wearing a mask with school and going inside to businesses so it shouldn't be a big deal to them.

As part of this renewed excitement, I've met with Sandy Confer our Sunday School Superintendent and she is preparing now for how our Sunday School classes will work, seating, mask use, and what classrooms will be used for spacing. I spoke with Talia Martinez and she is ready to go with Easter activities like the egg hunt for the little kids. I spoke with Ann Johnson and she's ready to crank up the Jr. and Sr. High again. Jon Moore is working tirelessly having our sanctuary and facility fogged with disinfectant multiple times each week to ensure we're clean and safe. Susan West is revved up with activities for Family Life like egg coloring. The deacons are ready to serve you dinner. *Church family, can I say God is so good to us.* He's been good to the church.

And for me, I'm ready for personal revival. I'm ready to see you. You know, Easter is all about our Lord coming back to life for us and giving us victory. Let us use this month to allow God to bring all of us back to life. Let's get life again back in those old dry bones. We are in a good position right now to keep moving forward. To that end, last year's Easter Sunday was virtual and hard on all of us not being together. This year, it will be good to fill the church. Many things we dearly love are coming back together. **Come join me as we begin to get fired up again for God to move.**

I am excited to spend time with you at the upcoming *Meet Your Deacon Dinner* on March 21. (Special seating arrangements are being facilitated for that event. The meal is catered and will be served via a buffet line where the deacons will plate your food as you point out what you want as pass through the line to keep everyone safe. Take out will be available for those who feel they cannot be at the event safely). We'll have more on the dinner later. Keep in mind, you will need to wear your mask in-and-out of the building for the dinner and when you get your food, but you can remove it once seated at your table so you can eat, just like you do at the restaurants. Can someone say, **"Praise the Lord!"** Let's get ready! We can do this, together.

In His service,

Pastor Toby





Thank the Lord! Our numbers are growing again! With the last round of Covid scare, we were having about 6 on Wednesday evening. This last Wednesday of the month though, we had 12. I'm encouraged to see more kids coming.

Hopefully when more regulations are lifted, we can do some fun activities! Our Youth is ready!

Thanks to all of you for supporting our youth.

Ann



Getting Ready

During the next few weeks, we need to start preparing.....our hearts, our minds and our souls.

March 28 is **Palm Sunday**. The start of **Holy Week**. It's the remembrance of our Lord Jesus as He began His ultimate journey to His destiny. The journey He made in just one week culminated in our eternal salvation.

As we begin our faith walk on Palm Sunday, may each of us be in prayer for others, for those lost souls; pray with thanksgiving for the overwhelming sadness of our Lord Jesus crucifixion and His amazing, glorious overcoming.

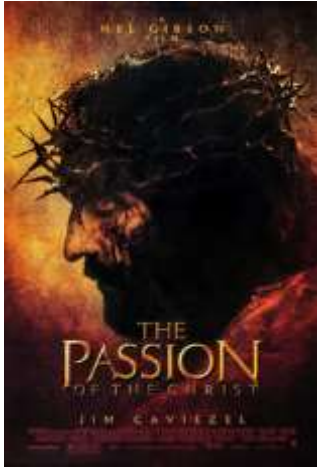
Let us all reach out, even though we may be confined in our homes or behind masks, to let others know what this season means to all of us. Tell others about His triumphal reentry to Jerusalem and how significant it was to every soul on earth. He wasn't just a man on a donkey. He was Jesus, Son of God. Everything Jesus did was for us. How can we do less?

Matthew 21:1 *'Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once."⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵"Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."*

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?"¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."



The Passion of the Christ



First Baptist Church will be showing
The Passion of the Christ
on Wednesday March 31
at 6:30 in the sanctuary.

This will take the place of our weekly Bible study.

*All are invited to come watch this
powerful message of sacrifice.*

Community Holy Week Services

This year's Holy Week church services will be Monday, March 29th through Good Friday, April 2nd. For the Ravenswood services, the services will be held at Ravenswood River Front Park. Services will begin each day at noon with a Pastor from one of our churches providing a sermon each day.

Since the outside Holy Week church services will need a larger parking lot space, we will therefore utilize the River Front park's south end boat launch parking lot. Folks attending will be able to park in this parking lot and remain in their cars and listen via FM radio transmission during the service. However, if weather is nice enough, folks have the option of bringing lawn chairs and sitting outside. No lunches will be provided, but folks may bring a lunch. We will need volunteers to assist with parking, and as folks leave to receive donations. (Contact the office if you are willing to volunteer)

Volunteers must follow covid protocols. Mr. Steve Bradley has gladly agreed to let us utilize his mobile stage and sound system and FM radio transmitter. Special thanks to Ravenswood Parks and Recreation Director Katrena Ramsey for her recommendations.

March is America for Christ Offering Month



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2021

For the Purpose of Equipping Saints

EPHESIANS 4:11-13 (NIV)

www.abhms.org/afc



American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Connect. Cultivate. Change.



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2021
For the Purpose of Equipping Saints
EPHESIANS 4:11-13 (NIV)

Consider making a generous gift!

Thanks to America for Christ (AFC) Offering contributions, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) supported communities distressed by the devastation of COVID-19 last year, as the pandemic swept our country and Puerto Rico. We also helped families who lost homes to floods, wildfires and storms, along with children living on the edge because of poverty, and seminarians preparing to devote their lives to sharing the Good News. These are just a few of the ways we minister to those in need; there are many more.

Please help us continue to bring healing and hope to communities, families, children and Jesus' disciples in 2021 by supporting this year's

America for Christ Offering.

Our goal for this offering is \$1800.00

Young Adults 18-35



The YA Group has had an active start to the New Year with their lessons in "Fundamentals of the Faith- Characteristics of God" and a Super Bowl gathering on Feb 7. There were 6 young adults and 9 guests in attendance. Kudos to Zack Graham and John Wagoner for setting up the system, inviting others and bringing 2 delicious chocolate cakes!



The group "Kicked Off" their 'Souper' project for February by bringing in soup (and other items) to donate to the local food pantry. They would like to invite everyone to join them in filling the boxes located at the secretary's office window. The food will be delivered after Feb 28. We have two weeks to go so please join us in this cause.

Last month, the group enjoyed a Valentine Luncheon together at Cozumel's.

Are you a Young Adult looking to develop your walk in the faith and closer relationships with other young adults? Come and join the group as they expand their study this month in the Person and work of Jesus Christ. Our life lessons are in "Managing Personal Finances". We meet upstairs on Sundays at from 5-6:30 pm.



DOWNCAST

Why are you downcast, O my soul Psalm 43:5

Is there ever any reason to be downcast? There are only two reasons I can think of. If we are unbelievers; or if we have been converted but continue to live in sin, we are downcast as a consequence.

I think all conditions for a reason to be downcast can be brought to GOD. Thru all our times of need, difficulty, and trials, we may exercise faith thru prayer and petition in and for the power and love of GOD.

There is never a time when we cannot put our hope in GOD, whatever our needs or great our difficulty may be. Even when the situation appears to be impossible, our work is to hope and believe in GOD. Our hope will not be in vain, and the Lord's own timing help will come.

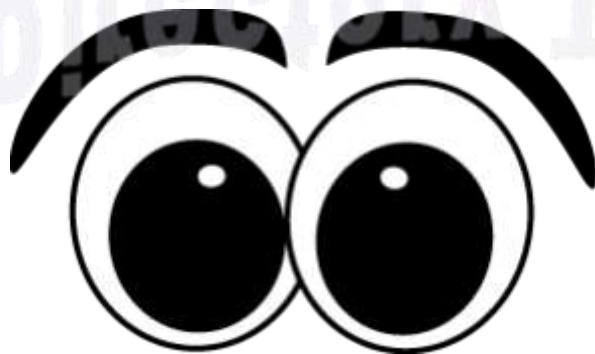
More prayer, more exercising of our faith, and more patient waiting leads to abundant blessings. Our work is to lay our petitions before the Lord and pour out our hearts before Him. In a childlike manner say, I know I don't deserve that You should hear me and answer my requests, but for the sake of my precious Lord Jesus; for His sake, answer my prayer. And give me grace to wait patiently until it pleases You to answer. For I believe You will do it in Your own time and way.

I have found over the years to be true many hundreds of times, and continually say to myself, THANK YOU FATHER. AMEN.

Burt Lyons



New Directory Time!



It's been 5 years since our last Church Directory. So many changes, new faces, new activities have occurred, we feel it's time to show who we are today.

This project will take the better part of a year. Our goal is to have the new directory ready by early 2022. Amy Starkey has agreed to spearhead this project for First Baptist. She will be getting information to us and organizing photo shoots for everyone.

Don't be left out!

We want to make this the BEST DIRECTORY EVER!

What's Happening FBC

Congratulations Mona!



Mona Eubank was crowned Valentine Queen at the Care Center.

She always has been our sweetheart!

Many Thanks, Man in Black



It sure was nice to walk up the dry sidewalk! Thank you **Kevin Woods** for your servant heart!



A Shot of Confidence!

Pastor Toby, Deacon Richard Massey and Trustee Gary Balser masked up to volunteer for the Covid 19 vaccine day.

They gave basic info and guidance for those who entered for their shots.

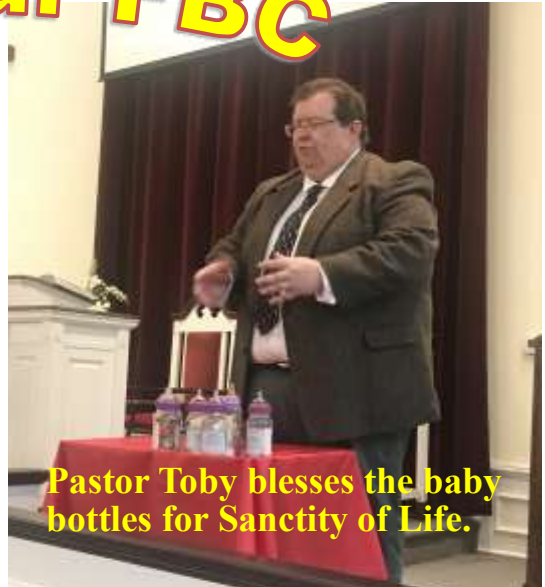
Thank you for your community service, guys!

More of our FBC

CommUnity Kitchen will once again be serving meals inside in the Fellowship Hall on Saturdays from 11:30-12:30.

Masks will be required and everyone will need to sign in with a contact number. (This is to ensure safety in case of an outbreak of Covid 19.)

We are sooo glad to be getting back toward normal!



Pastor Toby blesses the baby bottles for Sanctity of Life.

There's No Business Like Snow Business!

Just ask:
Izzy
Kolton
Hannah
Beckett
&
Connor

BRRRRR



Be at Peace

Within a week, First Baptist Church lost two of our beloved members. Our hearts go out to their families.



Gloria Blackhurst



Rose Stephenson



*Said the Robin to the Sparrow,
"I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so."
Said the Sparrow to the Robin,
"Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no Heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me."*

- Elizabeth Choney

Focus on Sunday School:



Can You Imagine?

Back in Jerusalem - during Passover season. Crowds of people are everywhere!

We hear rumors flying like crazy about this man, this prophet, this teacher, this **Jesus**. He has done **so** many marvelous things! He is **so** smart! He can even teach us more than the Pharisees! Wow!

I hear He is coming to Jerusalem! I'm so excited! My mom says we can go to meet Him. Outside the gate, down the dirt road, hundreds of people line the way waiting for the Messiah to come. Fern leaves and coats are on the road to keep the dust down.

I see Him! He's riding on a little donkey! Hosanna! Hosanna! I'm so excited! I talked to one of the many people He healed - just by His touch. I saw the man who was crippled running through the streets. I heard the leper He healed singing His praises. Hosanna to the Lord Messiah Jesus Christ!

Can you imagine? Close your eyes and have your mom or dad read about Him. He's amazing!

I love you Jesus.

March Birthdays



Kathy Frazier 3/2
Amy Williams 3/3
Gusta Arrington 3/4
Helen Johnson 3/4
Amy Perdue 3/7
Zach Graham 3/21
Tina Wolfe 3/24
Ross Mellinger 3/27
Rhonda Ritchie 3/29
Sharon Adkins 3/30

Is your birthday name missing? Tell Susan

March Calendar

- Mar 1 America for Christ Offering begins**
- Mar 1 Trustee Meeting**
- Mar 4 Deaconess Meeting**
- Mar 5 Movie Night**
- Mar 6 Children's Spring Rally**
- Mar 7 Communion Sunday**
- Mar 8 BOCE meeting**
- Mar 9 Men's Fellowship**
- Mar 11 Nomination Committee Meeting**
- Mar 15 Deacons' Meeting; VBS Planning**
- Mar 16 Finance Committee Meeting**
- Mar 18 CIRCLE**
- Mar 21 Deacon's Dinner**
- Mar 28 Palm Sunday; Baptisms; Children's Egg Hunt; HOLY WEEK begins**
- Mar 31 Passion of the Christ movie night**

Bible Book of the Month March 2021

Daniel



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.



March 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Nathanael Flesher	2 Helen Frank	3 Jim & Kathy Frazier	4 Wayne Fridley	5 Susan & Mark Gerstell	6 Kenny Goodwin
7 Mike & Angela Graham, Alli, Caralyn	8 Jacob Graham	9 Zach Graham	10 Kaeleigh Grandon	11 Geraldine Gregorich	12 Terri Greenwood	13 Nathan & Lilly Hall
14 Mike Hall	15 Bill & Tammy Harpold, Shane	16 Jo Mahan-Hendricks	17 Kyle Hickman	18 Crystal Hickman, Tara	19 Destinijane Hickman	20 Lisa Hoke
21 Kathy Hudson	22 Bobby & Charolette Jeter, Christian	23 Margaret Johns	24 Bob & Helen Johnson	25 Ann Johnson	26 Torren & Shealyn Johnson, Emrie	27 Jason & Leigh Ann Kerns, Mason, Logan
28 Matt & Kristi King, Landon	29 Joseph & Marjorie Knight, Joseph, Maurice, Jasmine	30 Randy & Sami Lawson	31 Debbie Legg			



An Irish Prayer

May God give you...
 For every storm, a rainbow,
 For every tear, a smile,
 For every care, a promise,
 And a blessing in each trial.
 For every problem life sends,
 A faithful friend to share,
 For every sigh, a sweet song,
 And an answer for each prayer.

PeaceOfGrace.net

