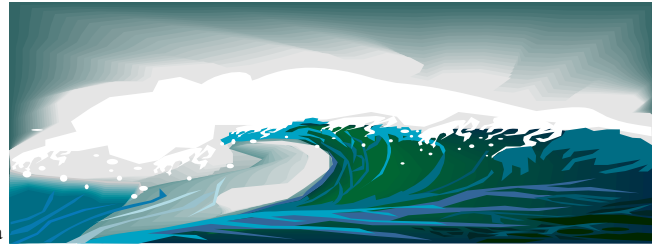




The *April 2023*
Anchor

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



One of the greatest statements that Jesus spoke from the cross was ***“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”*** (Luke 23:34). This time of year, we should be forever grateful for those 12 words of comfort and reassurance that demonstrate Jesus is forgiving and compassionate toward all of us. He was extending mercy to those who mocked him, beat him, and nailed him to the cross. It is hard for any of us to imagine that kind of love for humanity.

During the last several weeks of Lent, First Baptist has been preparing our hearts for worship during Holy Week. We have been looking deep within our spirit for things that we need to purge. Those things that crowd our soul and hide the light of Christ in our life. These issues ranged from selfishness, to our lack of forgiveness of others, the issues of anger and resentment, and how we waste so much of the time that God has given us on things that are not building the kingdom. Having spiritual stints in our hearts opens the valves for love to flow freely.

When we think of the forgiveness statement that Jesus made from the cross, we can find comfort knowing that in all of our shortcomings and failures, the Lord sees us as His children, that He loves and favors. The blessings He continually bestows upon us, remind us that we are loved and we belong to Him.

Amy Swanson wrote a piece called “Why Did Jesus Say Father Forgive Them” and in it she said, “By interceding for His transgressors through this prayer, Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy foretold by Isaiah hundreds of years prior. This prayer, from upon the cross particularly, would have been a confirmation of His identity to those awaiting their beloved messiah, as described by the prophets of God.”

What started on Palm Sunday with a triumphant entry into Jerusalem as Jesus is hailed as King of Israel, would eventually turn to the jeers of crucify Him as they placed the crown of thorns on His head. But even still, Jesus saw beyond the glaring error of their ways. He saw them as lost sheep who needed a shepherd. In all of this, He realized that people were flawed and in need of a Savior. That was the purpose of His coming to dwell among us. He was born to die for you and me. Together, His death, burial, and resurrection paved the way for us to be with Jesus in heaven.

We no longer need to carry our guilt and our shame. We no longer need to wear the shackles of sin. Let us be filled with love, excitement and adoration for all that Jesus did for us. This Easter season, let us see that Resurrection for Jesus, meant Resurrection for us. The empty tomb meant meaningful lives. We were buried with Him to walk in newness of life. Thank You, Jesus, for Your forgiveness. Thank You for this special time of the year. While we do not have to remember how we sinned in this life, but we certainly want to remember and celebrate all that the Lord gave for us. Help us to be better Christians and witnesses for You. We rejoice together in our services this month celebrating our risen Lord. Let us tell others about the forgiveness that Christ extended from the cross and that same forgiveness is available to all now. Those 12 words changed my life. How about you?

Happy Easter!

Pastor Toby



Our group is growing! Our average for the month of March was 16+ kids coming. They are a very active group too!

We had a great time at our skating party in March. We had 25 attending. Many thanks to Tammy Stump and Tom Stephenson for helping with the group. Afterward we wore our crowns and ate at Burger King. We were weary but happy by the evening's end.

I was pleased with the turn out for the spaghetti dinner. We had about 68 people come out for the meal. The Youth did a wonderful job serving and helping out anywhere they were needed. Thanks Pastor Toby for fun time with tricks! We really enjoyed that!

We are still learning more about the Lord Jesus during this Easter Season. Teaching youth who have had very little contact with the Bible stories, that we have heard from the time we were little, is worthwhile. Please keep the Youth in your prayers that they all may come to know the Savior.

Thank you for continuing to support the youth. May you be blessed for your love.

Enjoy the pictures!

Blessings,

Ann

Spaghetti Dinner Time!



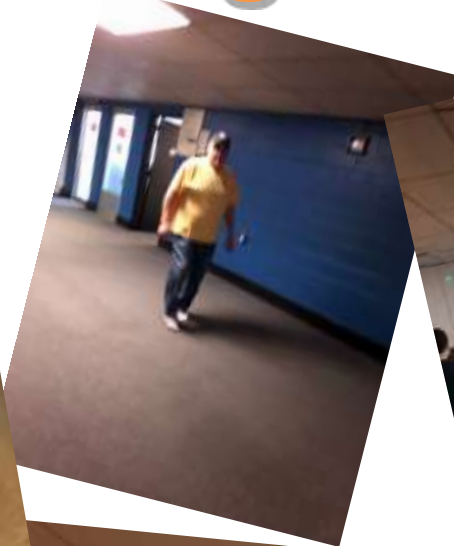
Break time!



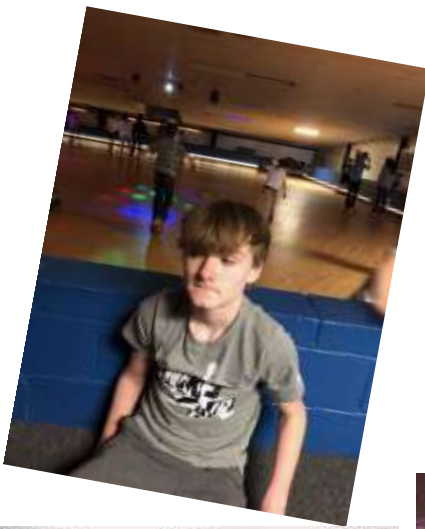
Abracadabra!



Skating Party!!



On a Roll!



OOPS!

Look at Us GOOOO!





Skate and Eat!



Meet our Leaders

Right after the morning service on April 2 (Palm Sunday) and the Easter Egg Hunt, the deacons and deaconesses will be hosting a luncheon for the church in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to come for a meal, fellowship and learn about your deacon and deaconess.

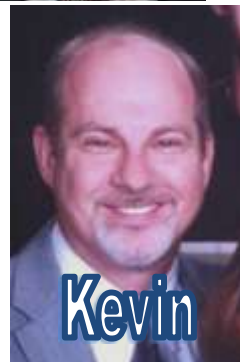
Deacons

Gary Balsler
Shawn Cole
Danny Dzierzanski
Mark Gerstell
Jon Moore
Kevin Woods

Deaconesses

Debby Bashaw
Andrea Crow
Kathy Hudson
Deb Lyons
Christie Mize

If you haven't received a copy of the new Church Directory, we will have one for your family.



Happy Easter!

I am the resurrection and the life.

The one who believes in Me will live,

even though they die;

and whoever lives by believing in Me

will never die.

Palm Sunday
April 2, 2023

9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Morning Worship
Noon Easter Egg Hunt
Followed by
Deacons Luncheon

4:00 Young Adults to
Oakwood Baptist for Cantata

6:00 God's Cadets
6:30 Jr & Sr High Youth



Wednesday Bible Study



7 Statements
from the Cross

6:30 p.m.

Tennebrae Service

Thursday at 7:00

Darkness covers the land.
The Light of the world is crucified.
The tomb is filled.
God's Son is dead.



Holy Week
April 3-7, 2023
12:00 to 12:30

Speakers

Monday Rev. Jeff Moales
Praise Cathedral

Tuesday Rev. Chris Skeens
Freewill Baptist Church

Wednesday Rev. David Shirer
First Nazarene Church

Thursday Rev. Michael Ludle
Ravenswood Methodist Charge

Friday Rev. Father Penn
St. Matthew's Catholic Church

Moderator Rev. Toby Wagoner
First Baptist Church
12:30-1:00
Lunch & Fellowship

*"Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead,
dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him."
Romans 6:9*

Christ is Risen!

Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m.

Sunrise Service

A Sunrise to Remember by Pastor Toby

7:00 a.m.

Sunrise Breakfast - Men's Fellowship

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School

10:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Service

No evening youth.

Happy Easter!



Roving Revival!

Mark your calendars for this year's Roving Revival April 30 through May 5!

We will travel around the Good Hope Association

A different church each night
A different preacher each night
A different choir each night

The same love and fellowship every night!!

(More information to follow)

Parchment Valley Baptist

Mill Creek Baptist

Gilboa Baptist Church

Hopewell Baptist

Two Runs Baptist

Spencer First

Reedy Baptist

First Baptist Ravenswood

Grasslick Baptist

Hurricane Baptist

Milhoan Ridge Baptist



*You are cordially invited
to attend the ceremony
joining
John Wagoner and Grayce Livingston
in holy matrimony.*

*April 8 at 2:00
First Baptist Church
215 Ann Street
Ravenswood, WV 26164*



Reception to follow



The Gabriel Project

We are collecting
Diapers of any size NB to 5T and any brand
Baby wipes any brand
Diaper rash cream any brand

This is for the Gabriel Project at the Episcopal Church.

Bring your items to the Fellowship Hall
by Easter Sunday and add them to the
collection on the table.
Let's show those little ones we care!



Register Today!

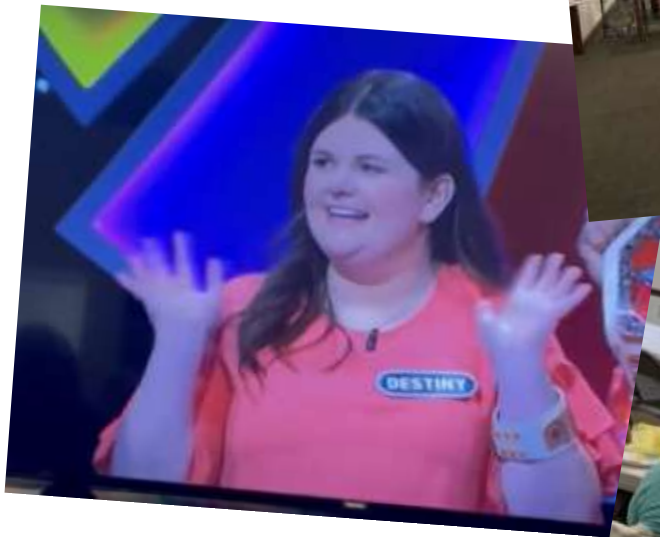
Women's Camp at Camp Cowen

April 14-16

Please join us at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen April 14-16, 2023 (Friday to Sunday) for a wonderful weekend uniting generations of women as we focus on living life as a Christian woman in this world! Cost for the weekend is \$50 which includes all meals, lodging and activities. We'd love to see you there!

this camp is only for women ages 18 and older

Wheels of Destiny!



Young Adults on the Go!

Youth Adults enjoy dinner and the movie "The Jesus Revolution" in Parkersburg.



Young Adults Upcoming Events

We meet weekly on Sundays at 9:30 am and 6:00 pm upstairs in the Anchor Room.

Our group continues to be enlightened in the study of Apologetics as we use the Bible and “The Case for Christ” resources. We supplement the questions and discussions with video documentary. Don’t miss out on this time to grow in Christ and be a useful servant for Him. There is something new each meeting. We welcome new members and those who can only attend periodically.

On Palm Sunday, April 2, we will be attending the Easter Cantata at Oakwood Baptist Church in Charleston at 5:00. We will leave the church at 4:00 and will not be having our regular meeting at the church that evening. We will be having dinner in Charleston following the cantata.

Skyler Varney will be hosting a Young Adult Easter Dinner at her home on Wednesday, April 5 at 6:30. Please let her know if you plan to attend so that she can plan accordingly. All Young Adults are invited to attend. We will also do a small project with some Resurrection Plants. Everyone who attends will get one and we hope to see a change by Easter morning!

We are encouraging everyone to attend the Maundy Thursday Service on April 6 at 7:00 pm.

We will be helping John and Grayce decorate the Fellowship Hall on Friday (if needed). They will be married in the sanctuary on Saturday at 2:00.

April 9 - Happy Easter! Praise the Lord for His sacrifice for us! Sunrise Service, Sunday School; Diaper Drive is due; No evening service.

Let’s start this month off with Jesus!

Giving, Helping, Loving

Thank you!

Special thanks to Tom Stephenson, the trustees and all who helped to prepare an office at the church for Finance and Church Clerk. We are trying to put the finishing touches in there this month.



Top 50!

The WV Baptist Convention has released a list of the Top 50 churches in Mission Giving for 2022. The generosity of our congregation placed us on four of those lists.

#5 for MSMO (Mountain State Mission Offering) \$12,000.

#9 for America for Christ \$1998

#17 for One Great Hour of Sharing \$4791

#20 for Retired Ministers and Missionaries \$1384

Thank you for your contributions in these ministries.

The first quarter reports for 2023 will be available in April.



Focus on Sunday School:



How Do I Know He Lives?

Mary Magdalene was the first person to see Jesus after He arose. He called her by name.

Another Mary and Salome saw Him on the morning of His resurrection.

Peter saw Him that same day.

Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Ammaus saw and talked to Jesus.

Then Jesus saw 10 of His disciples.

He showed His wounds to Thomas who had doubted when the other disciples said they saw Jesus alive.

Jesus was seen by 500 people at the same time!

He appeared to His half brother James.

Jesus went fishing with His apostles.

He appeared and spoke with Paul on the road to Damascus.

At least 513 people saw Jesus after He raised from the dead.

Hallelujah! Jesus is alive!

How do I know? The Bible tells me so!

It's amazing what you can learn in Sunday School!

April Birthdays



Xavier Donahue—4/7
Colton Pistelli—4/6
Kyle Hickman—4/10
Debbie Legg—4/14
Violet Donahue—4/15
Brent Ritchie—4/18
Jesse Mize—4/24
Aaron Bennett—4/28
Richard Massey—4/28
Grace Shirley—4/29

Is your birthday name missing? Tell Susan

Bible Book of the Month April 2023 Jeremiah



April Calendar

Apr 2 Palm Sunday; Egg Hunt; Deacon's Dinner
Apr 3 Trustee Meeting
Apr 3-7 Holy Week Services Daily at noon
Apr 5 1st Quarter Reports Due
Apr 6 Maundy Thursday Service
Apr 7 Good Friday; Office Closed
Apr 9 Sunrise Service; Happy Easter!
Apr 10 BOCE
Apr 11 Men's Fellowship
Apr 12 1st Quarter Business Meeting
Apr 14 ABW Women's Camp at Cowen
Apr 19 Anchor Articles
Apr 20 CIRCLE
Apr 21 Movie Night
Apr 25 Deacons Meeting
Apr 30-May 5 Roving Revival

* Game Day every Thursday 1:00-3:00 (not on holidays)

CommUnity Kitchen

Apr 1 Burt Lyons
Apr 8 Holiday— No CK
Apr 15 God's Warriors SS
Apr 22 Episcopal Church
Apr 29 Calvary Baptist

*Sign up for
CommUnity Kitchen 2023!*

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 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Roger & Belinda Rader
2 Juanita Raines	3 Rich & Ruth Rees	4 Lee & Connie Reynolds	5 Tyler & Michelle Ritchie Josh, Mary Beth	6 Rhonda Ritchie	7 Brent & Angel Ritchie, Conner, Lincoln, Beckham	8 David & Felisha Scott
9 Grace Shirley	10 Darrell & Camille Smith	11 Jim Speer	12 Tim & Connie Staats	13 Diana Staats	14 Jamie Standridge	15 Ron & Amy Starkey
16 Tom & Bev Stephenson	17 John Stephenson	18 Warner Stephens	19 Glen & Rose Stevens	20 Ralph & Jen Taylor, Kelly, Logan, McKenzie	21 Ron & Amy Bowles-Taylor	22 Destiny Thomas
23 Stephen & Leanne Thompson, Ryley	24 Randy & Carolyn Torris	25 Jared Torris	26 Kindsey Torris	27 Jody Tolbert	28 Dale & Anna Vanderlaan	29 Ellen Varner 30 Dorothy Varner

