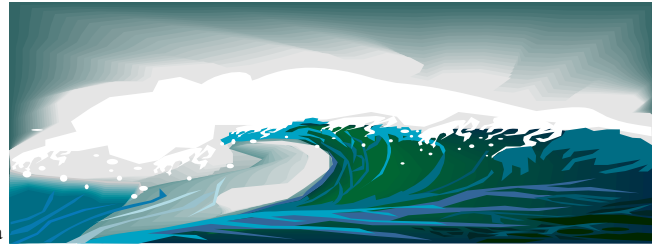




The *May 2023* Anchor

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



As the month of May comes upon us, we find ourselves in the month of remembrance and celebration. This month gives us time to reflect on people who we love and their impacts on our lives. We have Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and graduation all in this one month. The common thread in each of those remembrances is love for someone that is close to us or has impacted our lives in some way. Part of that reflection brings to mind the hand of the Lord is upon us. Psalm 126:3 says ***"The Lord has done great things for us; We are glad."*** While our emotions can be all over the place during this time of the year, we find ourselves rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep (Romans 12:15). Regardless of how you celebrate and remember these wonderful people who are impacting or have impacted your life, let us give thanks to the Lord for he gave us those special people in our lives. The great Evangelist Charles Spurgeon said, "Good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. *Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.*"

First Baptist will be celebrating each of those remembrances. We will start with Mother's Day on May 14, Graduation Sunday on May 21, and our annual Memorial Service on May 28. The Mother's Day service will include our children of the church and a special recognition presentation where all women present will receive a gift from the church. A few moms in attendance will receive an extra special gift as part of the program. Mothers play a significant role in the lives of their children. Often the first example of sacrifice comes from mom. She gives so much to each of us and expects little in return. Her role as mom, means she is responsible for playing many roles in the lives of her children including the comforter of bad dreams, housekeeper and maid, cook, nurse, banker, teacher, taxi driver, among so many others. Whatever needed done, mom was sure to do it. Abraham Lincoln said, "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." Can we all pause a moment to say thanks mom. Even if she is heaven today, we can still remember all that she did and all she stood for.

We always look forward to graduate Sunday where we recognize the young people in our church who are graduating high school and college. Each of the young people will receive a special gift from the pastor on behalf of the church. Those present for the program receive an extra special gift of thanks from the church for taking time to worship with us and participating in the morning graduate service. At this service, we will also meet the 2023 FBC Scholarship recipient from Ravenswood High School. Graduation is the first major accomplishment in these young people's lives. It's the first step of becoming independent and a becoming a productive member of society. The legendary Nelson Mandella always said, "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world." If we take that education and add Jesus, we will shake the world.

Lastly, our Memorial Service is a time where the church remembers those who gave their lives in service of our country in the military and those in our church who have faithfully attended and passed during the previous 12 months. Memorial Day got its roots established back in 1868 by Civil War Union General John Logan to remember soldiers who passed in military service. The day called Decoration Day was changed to Memorial Day in 1967. For many of us, Memorial Day means cookouts and visiting cemeteries to decorate graves of our loved ones.

This year, we have no specific member deaths to recognize, so our focus will be on pausing to remember those loved ones who have passed from our lives that attended church with us. While we miss their presence, we can rejoice knowing they are at peace with the Lord and are in heaven. We will remember those soldiers who gave their all to give us the freedom we have now in America. While life is about living, the influence we leave behind matters.

To that end, the month of May will be a great time of celebration and reflection. Let us love each other more today than we did yesterday, especially those who God has placed in our lives. This includes pausing to say thank you, God, for our mom, our graduates, and even those fellow church members who once worshipped with us at our side.

In His service,

Pastor Toby





We had such a great time at Riverfront Park in the month of April! It was a huge success for the Youth. Be sure to check out the pictures we took there.

We also went to McDonalds and had big numbers for both outings. The Youth asked to meet on Easter Sunday evening this year. We usually don't meet for holidays but since they wanted to, we did. 13 kids came and we had a good evening.

In May, we will start showing our support for the graduating Seniors - Sierra Clark from Ripley and Tara Hicks from Ravenswood. We will support them with dinners and we plan to attend the senior parades to cheer them on. At Youth on May 21st we will be holding an evening reception at 6:30 to honor Sierra and Tara. Everyone is invited to join us as we wish them well.

Brother's Keepers sign up has been going on. So far, Conner Ritchie is the only one to sign up. Camp Cowen registration is coming up too. We will pay for a camp for each youth. If your child wants to go, please contact Susan in the office for the forms.

Please keep our Youth in your prayers. Some of them face insurmountable obstacles that each of us would have a hard time dealing with as adults. Your prayers may be the only prayers they get. Our average attendance for the month of April was 15.

Thank you for your support of the Youth.

Blessings,

Ann

Youth evening at the park





Palm Sunday



Praising on Palm Sunday



Holy Week Fellowship



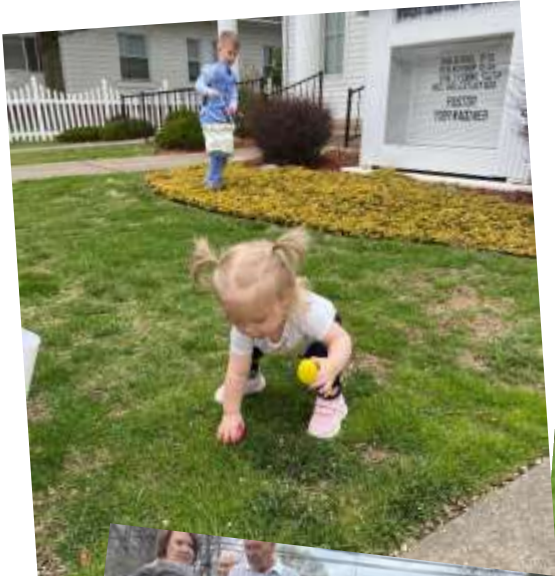
Holy Week



Deacons Dinner



Easter Egg Hunt



Maundy Thursday



Join us for the Good Hope Association
ROVING REVIVAL



West Virginia Baptist Convention of Churches

SUN. April 30 - FRI. MAY 5, 2023
Dinner at 6:00 / Worship at 7:00

Sunday 4/30 @ Parchment Valley Baptist

Speaker: Rev. Bob Keen from Millcreek Baptist

Music: First Baptist Ravenswood Choir / Hurricane Singers

Monday 5/1 @ Spencer First Baptist

Speaker: Rev. Herman Robinson from Parchment Valley Baptist

Music: Millcreek Baptist Choir

Tuesday 5/2 @ Millcreek Baptist

Speaker: Rev. Mark Wood from Spencer First Baptist

Music: Gilboa Singers

Wednesday 5/3 @ Hopewell Baptist

Speaker: Rev. Larry Greathouse from Gilboa Baptist

Music: Spencer First Baptist Choir

Thursday 5/4 @ First Baptist Ravenswood

Speaker: Dr. Mark McCloy from the WV Bapt. Convention

Music: Parchment Valley Baptist Choir / Hopewell Baptist Singers

Friday 5/5 @ Gilboa Baptist

Speaker: Rev. Mike Howerton

Music: Soloist Sami Wagoner Lawson



****Nursery Available Each Evening ****

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 2023

NATIONAL PRAYER GATHERING



Join us on **May 4 at noon** at First Baptist Church as we gather together to pray for our families/leaders, our church, our community/schools, our state and our nation/military.

James 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”



“When God Created Mothers”

When the Good Lord was creating mothers, He was into His sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said. "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And God said, "Have you read the specs on this order?" She has to be completely washable, but not plastic. Have 180 moveable parts...all replaceable. Run on black coffee and leftovers. Have a lap that disappears when she stands up. A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair. And six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said. "Six pairs of hands.... no way."

"It's not the hands that are causing me problems," God remarked, "it's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel. God nodded.

One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?' when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say. 'I understand and I love you' without so much as uttering a word."

God," said the angel touching his sleeve gently, "Get some rest tomorrow...."

"I can't," said God, "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick...can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger...and can get a nine year old to stand under a shower."

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. "It's too soft," she sighed.

"But tough!" said God excitedly. "You can imagine what this mother can do or endure."

"Can it think?"

"Not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek.

"There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told You that You were trying to put too much into this model."

"It's not a leak," said the Lord, "It's a tear."

"What's it for?"

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness, and pride."

"You are a genius," said the angel.

Somberly, God said, "I didn't put it there."

— **Erma Bombeck**, *When God Created Mothers*



Graduate Sunday



First Baptist has two graduating high school seniors this year. We will be recognizing all graduates (high school and college) and our annual FBC scholarship winner during the morning service on May 21. Keep our graduates in pray!

Tara Hicks
is graduating from
Ravenswood High School
on May 26.



Sierra Clark
is graduating from
Ripley High School
on May 26.

Mayberry

The trip to Mayberry will be Thursday May 11. There's room for 14. Contact Toby if you want to go.



Pastor Toby is working on a Sunday night schedule to begin the Mayberry at Night Bible Application Study.

Stayed tuned for future information.



Join in the fun as we go to Parkersburg to see *The Play that Goes WRONG* on June 25.

Contact the office if you are interested in going to this comedy. We need a number to get the tickets on time.

Vacation Bible School

Plans are in the works for this year's VBS - Lava Lava Luau.

We will be kicking off with a Swim Party at the City Pool on Sunday, June 11 from 6-8. Everyone, young and old, are welcome to come out for this event.

If you are willing to help out, contact Ashlee Wyant today!

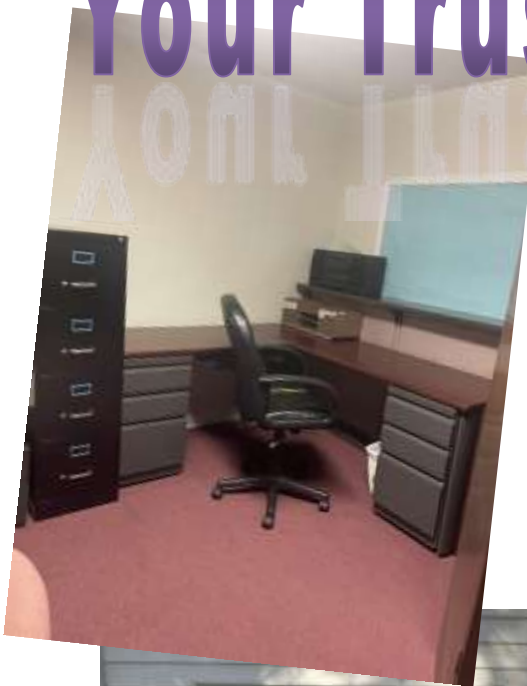


We have quite a few openings throughout the rest of the year for volunteers in our CommUnity Kitchen.

Please grab some friends or family and sign up to help with this ministry. The sign up sheet is on the office side door.

You can be reimbursed up to \$50 for supplies for the meals.

Your Trustees at Work



Young Adults 18-35 Group

Our group continues to grow each month as we study God's Word and His plans for us. We are getting more understanding the "The Case for Christ" as we study the topic of apologetics and have candid discussions. We continue to meet each Sunday at 9:30 am and 6:00 pm with periodic special activities throughout the week. It is our prayer that more Young Adults will find their place in this group of friends of Christ. The ones that are coming are receiving special blessings from the camaraderie and time spent growing in Christ.

We had a great month in April celebrating Easter and the marriage of John and Grayce. Several came to some of the Holy Week Services and activities and we had a nice group to get together for dinner at Skyler's. In addition, we had a nice group go to the Easter Cantata in Charleston (and we celebrated the baptism of our guest Tanner).

The group is discussing and working on plans for the Annual Corn Hole tournament (perhaps later in the summer this year) and a project for the Class of '23 at Ravenswood High. We are also discussing possible changing roles in the Shoebox ministry.

Congratulations to Zack Graham and Talia Martinez who have received the "Faithfulness" pin (the first of our pins awarded this year). This is given for attending at least 7 Sundays in a row and 10/13 Sundays in the quarter. Group members are also working on the "Gratitude" and "Devotions" pins. The pins program was established to encourage and remind group members of the importance of consistent habits in their Christian growth. We will be adding more goals/pins in the months to come.

If you are a young adult and would like to find a fellowship of Christians to have fun with, and learn and grow in Christ with, please join us. *We would love to have you.*



Service



Celebration



Welcome Lucas Alan Mackerley-Rhodes



Lucas was born on April 6 weighing 9lbs. He was welcomed by mom Tara Hicks and dad Tyler Rhodes. Tara brought him to church to allow us to see the blessing God has given.

Keep this little family in prayers that we may show them the Love of Christ.

Brothers Keepers

We have two signed up for Brothers Keeper this year.

Conner Ritchie as a youth and Grace Shirley as a Volunteer Leader.

The deadline for early registration is May 1. If you are interested in helping, please contact the office asap.



Camp Cowen Sign Up

Campers register early for Camp Cowen. Early registration is discounted. FBC will pay for one camp for each child.

Pick up a registration form in the office today!

June 2-4	Grades 2-4
June 11-17	Grades 5-6
June 18-24	Grades 7-9
June 25-July 1	Grades 5-6
July 2-8	Grades 9-12
July 9-15	Grades 7-9
July 16-22	Grades 9-12

Palm Sunday Worship



Easter Sunday Worship



Focus on Sunday School:



Women of Distinction in the Bible

Luke tells us about **Joanna**, wife of Chuza who was trusted by Herod. Joanna was healed by Jesus and began to follow Him. She helped provide for Jesus and His disciples for at least 2 years during His ministry on earth.

Susanna was another woman of faith who followed Christ and cared for Him during His earthly ministry. Jesus had healed her of “evil spirits and infirmities” Luke 8:1-3

Tabitha (also called **Dorcas**) is mentioned in Acts 9:36-42. She was a disciple of Jesus, full of good works and acts of charity in Joppa. She made tunics and other garments for the needy. One day however, she became ill and died. The widows of Joppa were so sad - they weeped greatly over her death. Peter was called for and he came to her dead body, prayed over her. Then saying “Tabitha, arise”, Peter gave her his hand and raised her up! Miraculous!! She came back to life and continued her care of loving others.

Lydia was a first convert to Christianity in Philippi. Known as the seller of purple, she was well to do and able to help with the ministries of the apostles. Lydia opened her heart and home to the needs of the people of God. Read about her in Acts 16.

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

May Calendar

May 1 Deadline for Brother's Keeper applications
May 1-5 Roving Revival
May 4 National Day of Prayer; Hosting revival dinner
May 8 BOCE; Trustee Meetings
May 9 Men's Fellowship
May 11 Deaconess Meeting
May 14 Mother's Day
May 15 Deacons Meeting
May 16 Finance Committee Meeting
May 17 Anchor Articles Due
May 18 CIRCLE; Day of Ascension of Christ
May 21 Graduate Recognition Sunday
May 26 High School Graduations RvHS and Ripley HS
May 28 Memorial Day; Pentecost Sunday
May 29 Memorial Day— Office Closed

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

May Birthdays



Ann Johnson - 5/2
Nick Williams - 5/10
Kenley Hickman - 5/14
Jon Moore - 5/20
Hannah Wagoner - 5/21
Juanita Raines - 5/21
Venisa Flesher - 5/25
Josh Mize - 5/27
Susan West - 5/27
John Wagoner - 5/30

Is your birthday name missing? Tell Susan

Bible Book of the Month May 2023 Lamentations



CommUnity Kitchen

May 6 Burt Lyons
May 13 Sherry Walker
May 20 Need Volunteer
May 27 Holiday—NO CK

*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.

May 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Skyler Varney	2 Toby & Jen Wagoner, Hannah	3 Aaron Wagoner	4 John & Grayce Wagoner	5 Pauline Walker	6 Phillip & Sherry Walker
7 Janyce Watkins	8 Megan Watkins	9 Susan West	10 Danny & Kim Westmoreland	11 Dan & Amy Williams	12 Cody Williams	13 Nick Williams
14 Dave & Dena Williams	15 Jordan Williams	16 Mike & Cara Williams, Marcus	17 Lucas & Samantha Willis, Silas	18 Kerry Wines	19 Jennie Wise	20 Janet Wood
21 Kevin & Abbi Woods	22 Taylor Woods	23 Geraldine Wright	24 Brandon & Ashlee Wyant, Connor, Beckett	25 Sharon Adkins	26 Alan & Gusta Arrington	27 Anna Bailes
28 Gary & Pam Balsler	29 Scott & Katie Baltic, David, Cirena	30 Doug & Debby Bashaw	31 Aaron & Melissa Bennett, Beau, Cass			

“And why are you anxious considering raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: Yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these.” Matthew 6: 28-29

