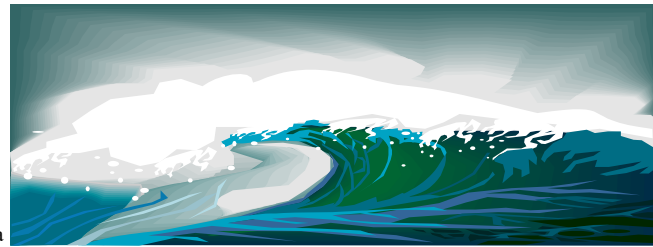




The Anchor

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



Contemplating The Unseen Scars of Battle

As we head into the month of June, I find myself reflecting on the most recent Memorial Day service in the church. First Baptist honored and remembered those soldiers who gave their lives in service to this nation. Hundreds of thousands of men and women gave their lives in an effort to defend peace here at home. Military.com reports that “since the Revolutionary War ended, 646,596 American troops have died in battle.” That number is more than all the people who live in Grand Rapids, MI. The same report says another 539,000+ soldiers died from other, non-combat-related causes. This puts the total number of deaths for those serving our nation at over a million – that’s an amazing sacrifice for freedom. Since then, my mind has been weighing heavy for those soldiers who lived through the war but sacrificed something else as a result of their battle– their minds and sometimes their faith.

Those mental wounds are wounds we do not see, but they are real, resulting in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The mental anguish of serving in battle can create a mind fog that will either help bring people to faith or push them away from it. A 2009, article in *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*, called “Healing the Wounds of War,” highlighted instances where 74% of people surveyed reported they had trouble reconciling their religious beliefs following traumatic war-zone events.



Benedicta Cipolla who wrote the article cited a 1995 study that said 51 percent of veterans in residential PTSD treatment in a Veterans Affairs facility said they had abandoned their religious faith during the war in which they fought. We never really hear about that. The Bible tells us a story about David who had his own struggles with depression to the point he wanted to come back to

God in way that he could be useful again. He actually asked God to 1) create in him a clean heart, 2) cleanse him from his sin, and 3) create in him a clean heart and restore the joy of his salvation (Psalm 51).

God’s Word is hope. Are we doing all we can as Christians to help these heroes? This is why Christians need to be compassionate and empathetic for struggling veterans while pointing them to Christ for spiritual help. Veterans need to know there is no shame in having PTSD. Cipolla said, “Battle creates moral confusion, and it can leave a soldier spiritually as well as physically wounded.” This is where the church can help.

Professional counseling and medication will help tremendously. But it is Jesus who heals the soul. In our spiritual battle we look to Christ, who is the Author and Perfector of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-3). Jeremiah 30:17 reminds us that God can restore us to good health, and that

means mentally and spiritually. It reads, *“But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord.”* John 16:33 adds *“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”* Christians need to know that when we meet a veteran who has served this nation, they may be battling things we cannot see or know nothing of. Therefore, let us remember to invite them to church, share the love of Jesus with them, or just offer to be a friend who cares. If there is a desire to reconcile faith, we should be the first in line to help. We can encourage and provide resources that veterans can reach out to for help.

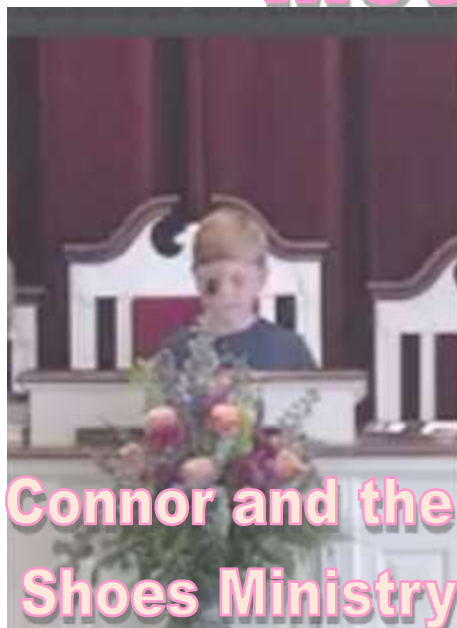
Matthew 11:28-30 says, when we are weary and burdened we can go to Jesus – and he will give us rest. Some veterans just may be tired of that mind fog they reside in due to PTSD – and need to turn their lives over to Jesus for comfort and peace. Let us remember that PTSD is real. Many of our soldiers are still living with stress and anxiety as a result of their service to this nation. May we always pay our respects and share the love of Christ with all of them. You never know what someone is going through until you have a mile in their footsteps. Let us be reminded as we head into the summer, that a veteran somewhere today, needs to know they are appreciated and loved. I know what you are thinking, you should have saved this article for Veterans Day in November. I say, is it too much to be reminded on another day, to be sure and say thank you to a veteran for their service and then pray for those unseen scars? I think it’s something we should do every day, not just in November, but even in June. The struggle is real. The VA reports that 22 veterans commit suicide each day, meaning 8,030 veterans kill themselves every year. Of those, more than 5,540 are age 50 or older. The scars are real. We all should be contemplating those unseen scars and recognizing the seriousness of extending a hand to those in need. If you are a veteran or are concerned about one, call 988, then press "1" to speak with a responder qualified to support Veterans. You can also text 838255 or chat online with the Veterans Crisis Line.

In His Service,

Pastor Toby



Mother's Day



**Connor and the
Shoes Ministry**



**Miss Jennie
Happy Mother's Day!**



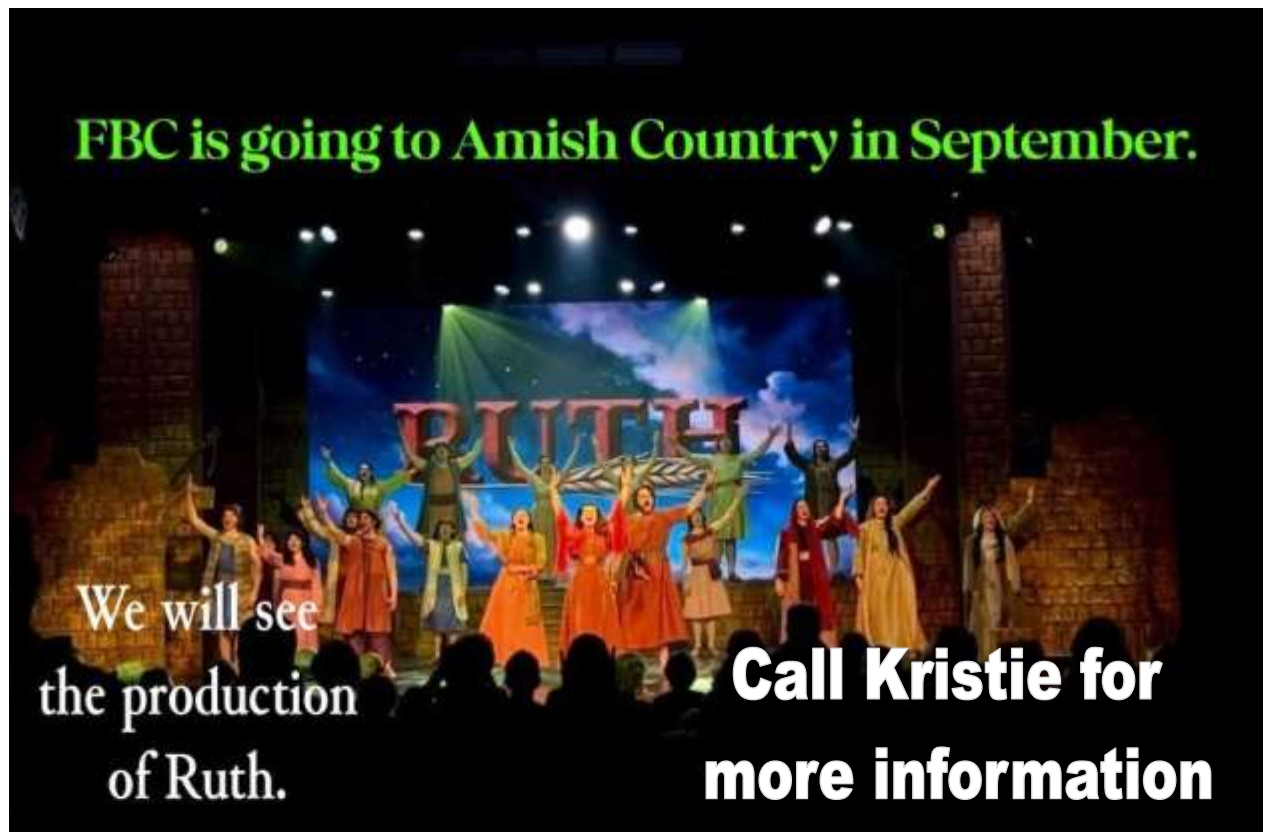
**Children's Church
on Mother's Day**



FBC Children perform

Graduate Sunday





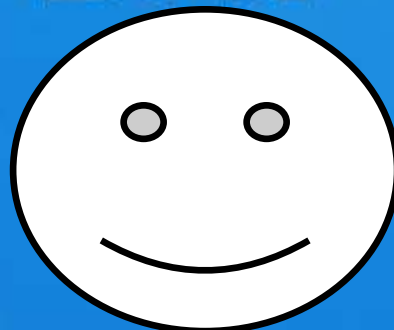
Good Times at the Hymn Sing



Proverbs 23:24:
"The father of a righteous child
has great joy;
a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him."



HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY



Bell Ringers and Shoes Reports!

Connor



Lincoln



Ella



Miss Connie's and Miss Terry's Sunday School Class continues to collect Soles for Souls until the end of June. If you have any, please bring them in any time. They have collected over 400 pairs of shoes toward their goal of 500! Way to Go Littles!!

Camps!!!

It's not too late to sign up for kids camps, youth camps, and family camps.

FBC will pay for our kids to go to Camp Cowen but you need to sign up soon!

Applications are outside the pastor's office on the bulletin board.

Brother's Keeper 2024

We have one youth going to Brother's Keeper on June 16. Please keep Hannah Wagoner in your prayers as she goes to spread the love of God by helping others in Jackson County.



Frank Miller will be retiring soon from Parchment Valley. We pray blessings on him as he retires. This will be his last official BK.

Remembering Loved Ones



Sue Miller
(Debby)



Anna Bailes
(Dena)



Wayne Fridley
(Ann)



Ed McCoy
(Charlotte & Deb)



Lisa Hoke
(Gary)



Family & Friends
(Amy)

**Following the military memorial,
we remembered our loved ones.**



Memorial Sunday Military Remembrance



Burt Lyons Gary Balser Stephen Thompson Glen Stevens Richard Massey

Our Veterans Present and Salute



Abbi Woods played Taps

Thank you for your service

Memorial Sunday



Jon Moore led the service.



**John Stephenson spoke
for the military.**

**Rev. Mark Gerstell blessed us with special music and
the Word on Memorial Sunday.**



Thank you Men of First Baptist

SHINE
JESUS' LIGHT



STELLAR
VBS

First Baptist Ravenswood

June 9-12, 2024

Our Youth About Town



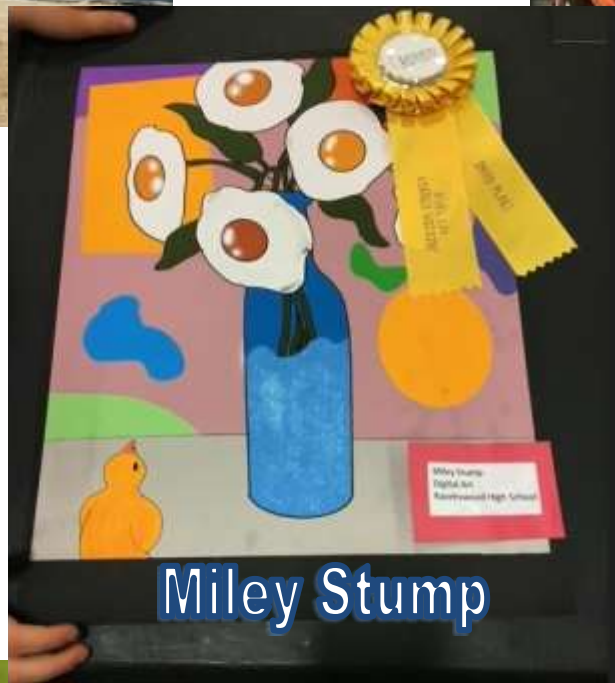
Max Pistelli



Ben Crow



Emma Stump



Miley Stump



Jonah Stump



Hadleigh McGoskey



Beckett Wyant



Beau Bennett

Focus on Sunday School:



The Perfect Father

What do you think of when you hear Daddy, Dad, Pap, or Papa?

The first Dad in the Bible was Adam. Adam was good and loved the Lord. But he wasn't perfect.

David was a dad and king of Israel and Judah, but he was definitely not perfect.

Joseph was the stepdad of Jesus. And he was really good. But... he wasn't perfect either.

No one is perfect but our Heavenly Father; but that doesn't mean they can't be a Godly man and good father.

A good father prays for his children every day. He lets his children see his love for the Lord.

A good father brings his children to Sunday School and church to learn about God.

A good father shows his faith and helps his children know God.

Let's come to Sunday School and learn about Good Fathers.

Happy Father's Day!

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

June Birthdays



Jacob Graham 6/1

Bryan Crow 6/1

Tara Davis 6/3

Cody Williams 6/7

Jim McCauley 6/7

Danny Dzierzanski 6/8

Benjamin Crow 6/14

Aaron Wagoner 6/17

Beckett Wyant 6/19

Stephen Thompson 6/20

Pauline Walker 6/29

Is your birthday name missing? Tell Susan

Bible Book of the Month June 2024 1 Chronicles



June Calendar

June 1 ABWM Conference at Parchment Valley

June 3 Red Cross Blood Drive

June 4 Trustee Meeting

June 6 Deaconess Meeting

June 7 Camp Cowen for Younger Middlers

June 9-12 Vacation Bible School; Junior Hi 1 Camp Cowen

June 11 Men's Fellowship

June 16 Father's Day; Brothers Keeper Begins

June 18 Finance Committee Meeting

June 19 Anchor Articles Due

June 23 High School 1 Camp Cowen

June 25 Deacons Meeting

June 26 Collection for yard sale begins

June 27 CIRCLE

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

CommUnity Kitchen

June 1 Burt Lyons

June 8 Need Volunteer

June 15 Need Volunteer

June 22 Sherry Walker

June 29 Calvary Baptist

*Sign up for
CommUnity Kitchen 2024!*

**Delivery People needed for
CommUnity Kitchen.
Contact Susan**

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.



June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Debbie Legg
2 Tom & Susan Lookabaugh	3 Burt & Deb Lyons	4 Philip Lyons	5 Greg & Rhonda Lyons. Kyler, Cameron	6 Peg Lyons	7 Talia Martinez	8 Tara Mackerley, Lukas
9 Richard & Phyllis Massey	10 Robert McCauley	11 Brad & Donna McCoy	12 Charlotte McCoy	13 Nancy McCoy	14 Fred & Robin McGoskey	15 Adam McGoskey Taylor
16 Seth & Lauren McGoskey, Kiam Hadleigh, Cole, Tyler	17 Theresa McKown	18 Cassandra McKown	19 Carolyn Mellinger	20 Don & Phyllis Michael	21 Ben & Christie Mize	22 Joshua Mize
23 David & Mary Jo Moore, Hunter	24 Jon & Jane Moore	25 Terry Morgan	26 Patrick & Scarlet Mullins,	27 Rick & Cathy Murray	28 Rachelle Murray, Jacob & Scout	29 Megan Noble, Brody
30 John & Jennifer Ortt						

