

February 2021 Messenger

Dear Friends:

Groundhog Day took on new meaning in our lives over the past year, did it not? It seems like we've been living the same day(s) over and over as we have waited for the abatement of the Covid-19 virus and the arrival of vaccinations.

Happily, the news is beginning to change as more and more people become eligible to receive the vaccine. Several of you have reported to me that you've already received the first dose or have an appointment to do so. Others of us are anxiously awaiting our turn, in hopes the broad distribution of such inoculation makes it possible for life to seem more normal, and less like Groundhog Day. A reminder: The website www.ourshot.in.gov will help you know when you are eligible and how you can register.

Much more important than Groundhog Day, February brings us to the season of Lent. Pastor Daniel and I plan to bring you a brief video message for Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) this year, as well as share a Wednesday evening Lenten Prayer experience starting on Feb. 24. You'll find more information about this opportunity elsewhere in this issue.

Our Sunday morning Lenten focus will center around the theme of "The Pilgrim Way". Luke 9:51 says that Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem," indicating his resolve to fulfill the mission of his ministry. We will be following along as pilgrims on that Jerusalem journey this year by examining several narratives from Luke in which Jesus engages with would be spiritual pilgrims. (see below)

Lent offers each one of us an opportunity of pilgrimage as we companion Jesus toward his passion and resurrection. Perhaps this year that pilgrimage is especially poignant. In some ways it feels like the entire past twelve months have been a somber time of Lenten living and reflection. We are ready for something that feels much more like Easter. We are ready to cast off the isolation, the loneliness, the confinement and fear in order to embrace hope, promise and new life. We find ourselves needing Jesus' message of salvation afresh. Our Lenten journey through Luke, complimented by the Songs of Ascent from the Psalms will offer us such a focus.

Among the narratives I'm looking forward to exploring are some of our best known stories: The Good Samaritan; the Parables of Lost sheep, coin and son; the Rich Man and Lazarus; Jesus encounter with Zacheus; and of course the Triumphal Entry of Palm Sunday and story of Easter. As always, I invite your preparation by reading the passage ahead of time and considering what the Lord may be saying to us. Here's a preview of our Sundays in February:

Feb. 7 – Luke 7:1-17
"Is He Worthy?"

Feb. 14 – Luke 9:28-45
"Elevation Events"

Feb. 17 – Ash Wed. (Lk 9:51-62)
Video Message: "VFD Samaria"

Lenten Series: The Pilgrim Way begins

Feb. 21 – Luke 10:25-42
Pilgrimage includes Others

Feb. 28 – Luke 13:1-9; 31-35
Pilgrimage takes us to Holy Places

Your Guide and Fellow Pilgrim – Pastor Dan

FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH

28

LENT

THE PILGRIM WAY



'MAKE IT A PLACE OF STREAMS'

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face." - 1 Cor. 13:12

The Psalms of Ascent are the prayers of a people who carry 40 years in the desert, persecution, slavery, and exile, all of which undergirded by promise and election - God's choice and blessing. These prayers have a promise-laden optimism that nips at the heels of the speakers' enemies, pouts in the dirt when told "not yet," and expects an outcome in a specific way, with a specific crown, on a specific throne, in a specific place. But in praying them himself, Jesus reveals their true meaning: that these prayers are prophetic of the new creation - they are an image of a future reality which Israel saw and knew only in part, just as we do now in our perpetual promise-laden wilderness. This is why, as Israel looked ahead to Jesus, we now look back: so that we may see and know in full, through the face of Jesus Christ, that the promise of the new creation is certainly true.

I wrote this description of the Psalms of Ascent as I was brainstorming how we might best inhabit the season of Lent this year. Dan and I agreed that, rather than add to emotional burnout, we ought to prompt emotional recovery. So we've turned to these psalms as our soundtrack to Jerusalem. As we journey with Christ, we feel these Psalms offer the sober optimism that drives God's people forward through all things in hope.

So this Lent, as we carry the inherent imagery of sin and dust and death, may we rise from the ashes through the recreative work of the Spirit who breathes new life into us. Certainly we wait for our home to return with Christ, but in the meantime, as the words of Psalm 84 say, "As [we] go through the Valley of Baca, [let us] make it a place of springs..." Amen.

-Pastor Daniel

FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH

28

LENT

THE PILGRIM WAY



It feels strange that we're talking about Lent already. Wasn't it just Advent and Christmas? But this is the beauty of the Christian Year! With these seasons fresh in our minds we are able to keep the life of Jesus, in its entirety, before us as we discover the depths of specific interactions. Therefore, in remembering that He came, we are pointed to why He came - the cross and empty tomb.

Lent is a 6-week season during which we practice remembrance. As we walk from the mountain to Jerusalem, we remember the 40 days of rain, the 40 years in the wilderness, Nineveh's 40 days to repent, and the 40 days of Christ's temptations. We step into the stories of healing, with 6 stops along the way each Sunday, to witness glimpses of our future rest. We walk in the shoes of those who have gone before so that we too may understand the joy of their deliverance and, as we walk next to Christ being conformed into His image, testify to all that He has done for us.

SYMBOLS

- Ashes
- Baptism
- Communion
- Cross
- Rose

THEMES

- Covenant
- Passover
- Repentance
- Deliverance
- Sanctification
- Healing

COLORS

- Grey (Ashes)
- Black (Death)
- Purple

SONGS

- *Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy*
- *Down at the River to Pray*
- *Man of Sorrows*
- *We Will Feast in the House of Zion*

CHARACTERS

- Jesus
- Judas
- Simon
- Pilate
- Lazarus
- Zacheus



Around The Church

Watch Your Enews for News About Resuming In-Person Worship

FBC has been sharing worship online only since November 22, 2020. The Covid Task Force and Church Council will continue to monitor local community spread of Covid-19 and adjust our plans accordingly. The church office continues to be open through the week, but all other activities at present are virtual or waiting resumption as conditions improve.

Wednesday – Lenten Prayer Experience

Pastors Dan and Daniel invite you to join them for a Lenten Prayer Experience built around the Psalms. This opportunity will be shared via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning February 24 and going through March 31. We often say that the Psalms were the prayer book of Jesus. What do we mean by that? What does it mean for our reading of the Psalms? We will explore some of these questions and plan to share an experiential prayer time together through this Lenten emphasis.

2020 Annual Report

The Annual Report for 2020 is available online and was also sent out via Enews. Our Church Council has decided to postpone this year's Annual meeting and distribute the reports electronically as they are compiled. If you would prefer to pick up a hard copy of the report, or have one delivered, please come by or call the church office.

Continuing Ministry Opportunities Online

The following online ministry opportunities are continuing in February:

- Pastor Daniel is leading a Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. class on the book *SING*.
- Pastor Dan's Book Club discussion of Bob Goff's book, *Love Does*, continues on Thursdays at 10 a.m.
- Archived devotional and music resources are available through the church website
- Pastor Dan's blog entries and new podcast are also available through the church website.

We thank you for joining us for these opportunities to gather and be encouraged.

Around The Church

Scholarships Available

The First Baptist Church Foundation is accepting applications between now and April 1st for two scholarships.

The E. Don Tull Scholarship is for a graduating high school senior planning to attend an institution of higher learning full-time next year and is in the amount of \$1,000.

The Foundation Scholarship is for any full-time undergraduate student and is also in the amount of \$1,000.

Applications may be obtained from the church office or the church website (Connect/FBC Foundation). They are due back to the church office or a Foundation board member by April 1, 2021 to be considered. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May.

ABWM State Scholarship

This is for high school seniors and college students. All paperwork (application, reference letters, and transcripts) are to be mailed to the State Scholarship Chairperson and must be postmarked by February 15, 2021. Applications are available in the church office.



thank
you

Bill & I want to thank all of those who have been praying for him since he has been under the weather and in the hospital, also for the calls from Pastor Dan & others, cards and food that was provided. We are grateful for our church family.

Sincerely,
Bill & Carolyn Baker

I'm sending virtual hugs and a lot of appreciation for all the get well cards after my knee replacement surgery. I'm progressing well and still going to therapy to help build strength and endurance. I also wish to express gratitude for the sympathy cards I received for the passing of my sister, Mary. It was somewhat unexpected, and we certainly wish it had not happened when it did. Again, thank you all so much for caring about me and my family.

Lots of Love,
Anita Burton

This Month's Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

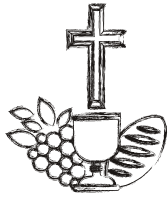
Feb. 7 - Daryl & Dot McMath

Feb. 14 - Kerry & Alice Richmond

Feb. 21 - Bob & Jean Langdon

Feb. 28 - Susan Carter & Charlotte Oestreicher

Communion



Worship Services are Live Stream only.

We invite those of you who join us for worship at home to have something available the morning of Feb. 7 to use for communion as we come to the Lord's Table together.

Church Family News:

David & Susan Brown have moved to Michigan. Here is their new address:

David & Susan Brown
8583 Macywood Lane
Richland, MI 49083

Email: indiabrowns@yahoo.com

Phone:
989-941-1407 (David)
989-948-8428 (Susan)



Did you know.....

- Our Church is a member of the Eccumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County Churches, also known as Love Chapel?
- That we are, along with the other 24 member churches, part owners of the Love Chapel Food Pantry and Brighter Days homeless shelter?
- That Love Chapel also provides emergency financial assistance, ensures that free hot meals are provided every night of the week in Columbus and provides housing to individuals and families in need?
- Love Chapel is not a member agency of United Way but is managed, administered and operated by the 25 member churches?
- Financial and ongoing operational support for the Love Chapel is provided through the member churches, other affiliated churches, members of the community, community events and not by local, state or federal sources?
- Love Chapel typically provides food to over 1,000 families in Bartholomew County each month?
- The vast majority of services and support for all activities of the Love Chapel are provided by volunteers and only a few permanent staff?
- As a member of the Love Chapel, our church has full representation on the Board of the Eccumenical Assembly, with a designated Board Representative and full voting powers on decisions affecting the management and operation of all aspects of services provided?
- Our church, as a member of the Love Chapel has a primary responsibility to provide support through prayer, finances and volunteers to ensure that our service to the community offered in Christ's name is effective and pleasing in His sight?
- That our designated Board representative, Cliff Putterill, would be only too pleased to share with you the activities of the Love Chapel and provide you with many opportunities to serve as the hands and feet of Christ here in Bartholomew County?
- The joining together of community churches more than 50 years ago to provide greater support together than they may have been able to do so individually is highly unusual and that the Eccumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County Churches is therefore somewhat unique?
- That this is OUR Love Chapel!



First Baptist Church - Love Chapel Volunteers

We have several church members that actively volunteer with Love Chapel in various roles. If you would like to explore volunteering, perhaps a chat with one of the folks below might be helpful:

Sue Putterill	- Warehouse Host
Deb Lilly	- Food Pantry Shopper
Jim Bokelman	- Brighter Days
Carol Poe	- Financial / Brighter Days
Paul Poe	- Brighter Days
Donna Emmert	- Intake / Data Entry
Deb Steele	- Phone
Carol Baker	- Phone
Danny Burton	- Warehouse
Susan Carter	- Warehouse
Tim Huffman	- Intake / 5th Saturday Lead
Heidi Jones	- 1st Saturday Lead
Cliff Putterill	- Box Truck support / Warehouse

You can get more information on the various activities of the Ecumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County Churches / Love Chapel through the Ecumenical Assembly Website:

<https://lovechapel-bartholomew.org>

or the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/lovechapel.ecumenicalassembly>

To Volunteer contact Kathy Thompson - Volunteer Coordinator at:

(812) 372 - 9421

(812) 343 - 5049

Or: volunteer@columbuslovechapel.com



Hot Meal Opportunity

First Baptist Church will be hosting a hot meal at Memorial Baptist Church on Tuesday, March 2 and the following Tuesday, March 9. This is part of the community hot meal program overseen by Love Chapel.

We are asking for volunteers to contribute towards the cooked meal, and or serve that meal between 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on those dates. If you are interested in helping with either of these dates, or have questions, please contact Sue Putterill, either by text, calling on cell phone 812-350-0357, or via email at cliffnsue@mindspring.com.

FBC to Host Clarity Watch Party

Clarity (formerly the Pregnancy Care Center) will be sharing it's annual banquet experience virtually this year and has asked FBC to be one of the host sites for a small group to watch the event together. This will take place on Thursday, March 4 in the Chapel from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the ministry of Clarity and help support their efforts financially and with prayer.

If you are interested in attending, speak with Cliff Putterill or Pastor Dan Cash.



Healthy Living Tips

Coping with Stress

Pandemics can be stressful.

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic may be stressful for people. Fear and anxiety about a new disease and what could happen can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Public health actions, such as social distancing, can make people feel isolated and lonely and can increase stress and anxiety. However, these actions are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Coping with stress in a healthy way will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger. Stress during an infectious disease outbreak can sometimes cause the following:

- Fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones, your financial situation or job, or loss of support services you rely on.
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns.
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating.
- Worsening of chronic health problems.
- Worsening of mental health conditions.
- Increased use of tobacco, and/or alcohol and other substances.

Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations.

How you respond to stress during the COVID-19 pandemic can depend on your background, your social support from family or friends, your financial situation, your health and emotional background, the community you live in, and many other factors. The changes that can happen because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ways we try to contain the spread of the virus can affect anyone.

People who may respond more strongly to the stress of a crisis include:

- People who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (for example, older people, and people of any age with certain underlying medical conditions).
- Children and teens.
- People caring for family members or loved ones.
- Frontline workers such as health care providers and first responders,
- Essential workers who work in the food industry.
- People who have existing mental health conditions.
- People who use substances or have a substance use disorder.
- People who have lost their jobs, had their work hours reduced, or had other major changes to their employment.
- People who have disabilities or developmental delay.
- People who are socially isolated from others, including people who live alone, and people in rural or frontier areas.
- People in some racial and ethnic minority groups.
- People who do not have access to information in their primary language.
- People experiencing homelessness.
- People who live in congregate (group) settings.



Healthy Living Tips

Take care of yourself and your community.

Taking care of your friends and your family can be a stress reliever, but it should be balanced with care for yourself. Helping others cope with their stress, such as by providing social support, can also make your community stronger. During times of increased social distancing, people can still maintain social connections and care for their mental health. Phone calls or video chats can help you and your loved ones feel socially connected, less lonely, or isolated.

Healthy ways to cope with stress:

- Know what to do if you are sick and are concerned about COVID-19. Contact a health professional before you start any self-treatment for COVID-19.
- Know where and how to get treatment and other support services and resources, including counseling or therapy (in person or through telehealth services).
- Take care of your emotional health. Taking care of your emotional health will help you think clearly and react to the urgent needs to protect yourself and your family.
- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including those on social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body.
 - o Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals.
 - o Exercise regularly.
 - o Get plenty of sleep.
 - o Avoid excessive alcohol and drug use.
- Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.
- Connect with your community- or faith-based organizations. While social distancing measures are in place, consider connecting online, through social media, or by phone or mail.

Know the facts to help reduce stress.

Knowing the facts about COVID-19 and stopping the spread of rumors can help reduce stress and stigma. Understanding the risk to yourself and people you care about can help you connect with others and make an outbreak less stressful.

Take care of your mental health.

Mental health is an important part of overall health and wellbeing. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It may also affect how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices during an emergency. People with pre-existing mental health conditions or substance use disorders may be particularly vulnerable in an emergency. Mental health conditions (such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia) affect a person's thinking, feeling, mood or behavior in a way that influences their ability to relate to others and function each day. These conditions may be situational (short-term) or long-lasting (chronic). People with preexisting mental health conditions should continue with their treatment and be aware of new or worsening symptoms. If you think you have new or worse symptoms, call your healthcare provider. Call your healthcare provider if stress gets in the way of your daily activities for several days in a row. Free and confidential resources can also help you or a loved one connect with a skilled, trained counselor in your area.

February Birthdays

1. ~ Linda Reid
2. ~ Dick Miller, Scott Chitwood, Eliza Fee
3. ~ Jeff Seeley, Oliver Adams, Jan Carlstrom
4. ~ Delma Harmon
5. ~ John McKay, A.J. Scgalski
7. ~ Jeannie Wheeler
8. ~ Adam Zimmerman
10. ~ Cecil Workman
12. ~ Larry Alexander, Barry Ferrill
13. ~ Sharon Semer
14. ~ Esther Hash



15. ~ Bill Baker
17. ~ Chris Nelson
18. ~ Stephanie Olson
21. ~ Peggy Lane, Anita Yancey, Stephanie Adams
22. ~ Jan Reed
23. ~ Deb Lilly
24. ~ Pat Burns
25. ~ Cliff Frady, Heather Sims
27. ~ Shorty Whittington
29. ~ Sharon Downin

The Body of Christ Prays For...



- Betty Euler, Cecil Workman, Anna DeHaven, Carl & Nancy Williams, Marcia Battle, Marilyn Estell, Heidi Putterill, Randy Wheeler, Dick Miller, Rick McClintock, and Mike Compton.
- We extend sympathy to Marjorie Betz, whose brother Raymond Alfred Betz passed away on Jan 21; and to the family of Nancy Hughes, who passed away on January 4, as well as to Jeff & Gretchen Seeley and family on the death of Gretchen's mother, Carol Wiseman, on Dec. 28.

Looking Ahead

- Feb. 15 - Newsletter Deadline
Feb. 16 - Church Council
Feb. 17 - Ash Wednesday

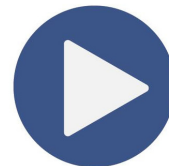
Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am

(Live Stream only - no in-person worship at this time)

2nd Hour Learning - suspended at this time

Live streaming available for Sunday Services

In addition to watching our streaming service on our website, the service is also streamed to Facebook, Roku and AppleTV. It is also sent internationally.



Just Press Play

Live Video Every Sunday at 9:30
firstbaptistcolumbus.org

