

March 2021 Messenger

Dear Friends:

During the Season of Lent we will be sharing a worship and preaching series titled, “The Pilgrim Way”. Pilgrimage has been something that has interested me for a few years now. I considered aspects of my 2018 Sabbatical to have been pilgrimage experiences. The trip to Scotland especially felt that way. There, I was visiting the land of some of my ancestral heritage. Making our way to the Isle of Iona was a pilgrimage of discovery, as we traversed some of the same land ancient Celtic Christians trod years before. Walking in the Highlands and visiting historic lochs, glens and castles helped us form connection with the past. Those are all aspects of pilgrimage.

But one doesn't have to leave home, or even physically move, to engage in pilgrimage. Pilgrimage can be a mental and spiritual exercise one enters through Scripture and prayer. This is my hope for us during Lent as we revisit some of the classic stories of Luke's gospel in chapters 10-24. We will consider how Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan is a pilgrimage story, as well as his lament over Jerusalem. We will look at the stories of the lost sheep, coin and son (Luke 15) through a lens of pilgrimage, consider the rich man and Lazarus as a foreshadowing of Jesus' own pilgrimage rejection, and take up the familiar tale of Zacchaeus.

Remember, as these chapters in Luke unfold, Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem and the events of his passion. But we also are making our way through life, the pandemic challenges, through Lent and toward Easter. In doing so, our hope will be to accomplish some of the things pilgrimage is designed to foster: new insight, transformation, deeper understanding, a visitation of new and old places of the heart, and healing.

Our goal will be to emerge at Easter with the ability to see life through different (or at least refreshed) vision. I am certainly hopeful that Easter 2021 will be more of an in-person experience than Easter 2020. Dare we dream it might be safer to gather for Easter worship in-person, if we are still careful with virus mitigation strategies?

Several Sunday mornings this year I've received a text from one of our church members that simply read “Think Easter”. I have appreciated that simple yet hopeful message. It says to me that while things may be dark, confined, or limited for now, think Easter! Think hope! Think resurrection! Think victory and overcoming. So, during my longest or most discouraging pilgrim days that's what I've chosen to do. I hope our pilgrimage together through Lent will prepare all of us to “think Easter”. Thanks for being together on this pilgrim way.

Lenten Series: The Pilgrim Way continues

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

March 7 – Luke 15:1-32
Pilgrims All

March 14 – Luke 16:19-31
A Real Time Pilgrim Warning

March 21 – Luke 18:31- 19:10
Pilgrimage Detour

March 28 – Luke 19:29-44
A Pilgrim King

Your Guide and Fellow Pilgrim – Pastor Dan

LENT 2021:
THE PILGRIM WAY

HOLY WEEK

MARCH 28 - APRIL 4



"MAKE IT A PLACE OF STREAMS"

"As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs."
Psalm 84:6

This is part two in a series of Newsletter articles on the season of Lent. By the time this is sent to you, we will be a couple weeks in, so you know by now that we are focusing our language on the Psalms of Ascent. The reason for this is because we know that when we gather on Sunday it is in celebration of the completed journey of Christ to the cross. That means that, throughout Lent, we take a respite on Sunday from any fasting we may have dedicated ourselves to and acknowledge the feast day that is the Lord's Day. Sunday is made to be our place of springs.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that the closer we get to Easter, the closer we get to the cross - for Good Friday must come before Easter. Therefore, as we pray the psalms of ascent we know that the end of the pilgrimage cannot come without death, but rather is finished in the resurrection. So our prayers are not methods of escape, but rather of living in the knowledge of our mortal bodies and looking for the in-breaking of the Kingdom of Life even while the Kingdom of Death seems to conquer.

Finally, as we head towards Holy Week, we will continue to lean into the Psalms of Ascent through practices like Visio Divina for weekly devotional exercises. But, once we declare "Hosanna," the road to Calvary will become ever more intentional. Through daily devotions and liturgies, we will make that agonizing walk to Calvary with Christ, hearing his words again from Luke, and waiting, probably impatiently, for that overflowing cup of our Savior to make this life a place of springs.

-Pastor Daniel

LENT 2021:
THE PILGRIM WAY

HOLY WEEK

MARCH 28 - APRIL 4



Lent is a season for remembrance and transformation. Historically, Lent was used as a time of meditation, fasting, and preparation of new converts for baptism. It was a season of intense focus on the life, ministry, and suffering of Christ so that we can lean on him to grow in the resurrected life.

Because Christ's sacrifice is the source of our resurrected community, Lent does not have to be all depressing or self-deprecating, but rather, it can be a time of sober judgment through which we gratefully acknowledge our need for a Savior who dies to replace our sin.

This is why we have curated a clearing house of resources for your pilgrimage. Below is simply a small list of topics, symbols, and songs that help our transformation throughout this season, and many more can be found on our Devotional Resource Archive online. So we invite you to peruse those resources to find a kind of "walking stick" or make a "place of springs" at home for your pilgrimage to the New Jerusalem.

SYMBOLS

- Ashes
- Baptism
- Communion

- Cross
- Rose

- Covenant
- Passover
- Repentance

THEMES

- 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

Worship continues with Hybrid Options

Since Feb. 14 we have been offering both in-person and livestream worship options, asking that persons make their own decision as to how they feel led to participate. Our in-person guidelines remain as they have through the pandemic: face masks required, social distanced seating, and no prolonged gathering that may heighten the risk of viral spread.

The **Children's Ministry** plans to resume **Kids Connection** programming during worship on March 7. The **church nursery** is open. 2nd Hour opportunities remain suspended for now.

"Praying the Psalms" – Wednesday Online Class Offered through Lent

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 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.

You can sign-up for the class through our website, or just join us on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Zoom link/information will be published through Enews and website.

Scholarships Available

The First Baptist Church Foundation is accepting applications through 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.

Meals for Barry

We will continue supporting Barry Ferrill through March with a weekly dinner (to be left at the church) because of his increased responsibilities at home. If you can provide a dinner for Barry and Jenny, please contact Linda Reid, 812-341-8961.

This Month's Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

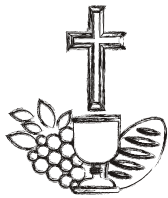
March 7 - Tim & Paula Pickup

March 14 - Dortha Anderson & Mandy Reed

March 21 - Carolyn Baker & Sue Hoffman

March 28 - Ron & Peggy Lane

Communion



We now have in-person worship.

We will celebrate communion on Sunday, March 7.

For those of you who join us for worship via live stream, we invite you to have something available to use for communion as we come to the Lord's Table together.

Thank
you

I would like to thank everyone for your concerns and prayers during my recent ER visits, hospital stays and surgery. Everyone's cards and phone calls were appreciated so much. We are extremely thankful to be a part of the FBC family.

Mike & Donita Compton

Pastor Dan, Staff & Congregation,

Thank you for your visits and for all the prayers when my brother, Raymond Alfred Betz passed away. I keep expecting him to ring my doorbell. He was a very special brother.

Marge Betz



MISSION

America for Christ Offering

During the month of March we will once again receive the America for Christ offering. This special mission offering supports the ministry of American Baptist mission throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, including our own ABC of Indiana & Kentucky. You may make your gifts online, through the mail or through the offering baskets in worship. Thanks for giving!

FBC to Host Clarity Watch Party on March 4

Clarity (formerly the Pregnancy Care Center) will be sharing its annual banquet experience virtually this year and FBC will be a host site for a small group to watch the event together. This will take place on **Thursday, March 4 in the Chapel from 7 to 8 p.m.** You can still participate. Speak with Cliff Putterill or Pastor Dan if you are interested.

SEEDS of Love 5K Call Out Team Meeting

The 2021 SEEDS of Love 5K team will meet for the first time on Sunday, March 28 following worship. The meeting will be held in the Chapel. Are you interested, willing to serve on this team? Rob and Debbie Lilly have agreed to lead the team again this year, but they need the support and work of an active team of co-workers. Those who have helped in the past are encouraged to join again, as well as those who may be new to the experience. For more information contact Pastor Dan or the Lilly's.



Healthy Living Tips

Covid-19 Vaccine - Frequently Asked Questions

How can I be sure this vaccine is safe considering the condensed time frame?

- While the Covid vaccine is new, the science used to create it is not. The Covid-19 vaccines have been thoroughly tested to make sure they are safe and effective. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the vaccine under an Emergency Authorization, meaning the vaccine was proven safe and effective.

What are the common side effects of getting the Covid-19 vaccine?

- The most common reported side effects, which typically lasted several days, were pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever. Of note, more people experienced these side effects after the second dose than after the first dose, so it is important for vaccination providers and recipients to expect that there may be some side effects after either dose.

Should I get a vaccine if I already had Covid-19?

- Covid-19 vaccines are safe if you have been sick with Covid-19 in the past 90 days. Since reinfection is not likely to happen in the 90 days after you are sick with Covid-19, you can delay getting a vaccine until 90 days after your infection. You should not get a shot while sick or during the isolation period to avoid exposing others. You will already have antibodies to fight the virus.

Will the Covid-19 vaccine change my DNA (genetic material)?

- The two Covid-19 vaccines have a small piece of messenger RNA (mRNA), a material that our bodies already use to give the body instructions for making a protein from the Covid-19 virus. The mRNA never enters the nucleus of our body cells, which is where our DNA (genetic material) is found. Once this protein is made, it triggers the body to make antibodies to fight it; if you are exposed to the virus that causes Covid-19, you will already have antibodies to fight the virus, and your chances of getting sick are less.

How long after I get the vaccine is it effective? Do I still need to wear a mask?

- CDC guidance says it typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. We are still learning about the length of time both natural immunity (immunity the body develops after an illness) and vaccine-induced immunity for Covid-19 will last. It is important to continue to wear your mask over your nose and mouth, practice social distancing, and continue to wash your hands and use hand sanitizer often. You should also wear a mask because although the vaccine will protect you from getting sick, it has not been proven that it prevents you from spreading Covid-19 to others.

How can I stay safe until I can get the vaccine?

- Until there is enough vaccine for everyone, it is crucial for you to continue to take these steps that we can do now to prevent the spread of Covid-19:
- wear a mask to protect yourself and others
- Stay at least 6 feet apart (about 2 arm lengths)
- Practice good hand hygiene by washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer
- Isolate yourself if you are sick and stay home if you have been exposed to someone with Covid-19
- Clean frequently touched surfaces often

How much does it cost to get the vaccine?

- The vaccine will be free. Vaccine providers can bill a patient's insurance for a fee to administer the vaccine but will not be able to charge the patient.

March Birthdays

1. ~ Carolyn Pool
2. ~ Dan Cash
7. ~ Marsha Daugherty, Drew Hamon
11. ~ Marcia Battle
13. ~ Nathan Patrick
14. ~ Anita Burton, Elyse Snider
15. ~ Tom Vickers
16. ~ James Brown, Donita Compton,
Heidi Jones, Bryce Olson



18. ~ Gretchen Seeley
19. ~ Mike Riley
20. ~ Paulette McClintock
21. ~ Becky Stephens
22. ~ Ron Brondyke
25. ~ Amanda Reed
27. ~ Paula Pickup
29. ~ Donna Tull
30. ~ Judy Alexander, Carolyn McIntire

The Body of Christ Prays For...



- Betty Euler, Cecil Workman, Anna DeHaven, Carl & Nancy Williams, Marcia Battle, Marilyn Estell, Heidi Putterill, Dick Miller, Rick McClintock, and Mike Compton.
- We extend sympathy to Jeannie & Corie Wheeler on the passing of Jeannie's husband, Randy Wheeler, on Feb. 7; also to Ron & Peggy Lane on the passing of Peggy's sister, Cindy Kelley.

Looking Ahead

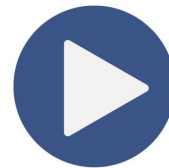
March 7 - Kids Connection resumes
March 15 - Newsletter Deadline
March 16 - Church Council

Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am
(in-person worship & Live Stream)

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

