A Word from Pastor Dan

As I write this column, we are mid-way through the Season of Lent, continuing to do the work of the season, but with Easter in our sights. It's a great time of year to invite someone to join us for worship. **Will you do that? Consider extending an invitation to someone to come and worship with us in-person or online.**

Our Lenten series on "Passion" has taken us into an in-depth look at Jesus' Passion. Holy Week will turn our attention to his final days – the Triumphal entry of Palm Sunday, his Last Supper followed by Prayers in Gethsemane, and his arrest, trial, and sacrificial death on the Cross (Good Friday), and the triumphal Resurrection of Easter. Each event and moment is significant. I hope you will join our opportunities for prayer and worship during this week of services.

As I have been preparing for this time, I've taken special note this year of the preparation work Jesus engaged in with and for others prior to his death. He engaged in personal and corporate times of prayer. He held deep conversations with his disciples to prepare them for what was to come. He confronted his adversaries with composure and dignity as they questioned, threatened, and beat him. He provided for his mother from the Cross as he established a bond of care between her and John, the beloved disciple. He even forgave those who died with him and those who put him to death. It was all part of the passionate work of our Lord. He was not thinking of himself during these most difficult times but caring for others as his own life came to a close.

Have you considered that you also were on the mind of Christ as he went through these days of his Passion? We are included in his prayers, are recipients of his forgiveness, and invited to know his unmerited favor. Jesus' passion includes and welcomes us.

As we continue to explore some of the sub-themes of that passion – themes like friendship, humility, denial, power, division, love, death, and resurrection – I hope you will ask yourself how the passion of Christ empowers you to live a passionate life of faith. What is passion? We've defined it as both "intense or strong emotion" and "suffering or sacrifice". By virtue of our inclusion in the passion of Christ we are asked to have passion for others, including those who are suffering a world away in Ukraine, those who are seeking refuge among us as Afghan evacuees, and those whom we rub elbows with daily – as we learn and hear and respond to their stories.

The passion of Jesus should not leave us the same. It's a transforming work that we revisit in the annual cycle of Lent and Easter, but it is also a transforming work that we live every day. How has Jesus' passion transformed your life? How is it yet transforming your life? Your outlook? Your com-passion toward others?

These are the questions I'm wrestling with this season, and I'd like to invite you to engage with them too.

Pastor Dan.

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday
These are the most holy days of a Christian's year. What does that mean
though? Why do we call it "Holy Week?" What exactly does "Holy" mean?

There are so many words in Scripture that many of us take for granted. "Holy" is one of them. Just like "glory" and "blessed," we hear these words and assign biblical connotations to them because that's where we hear them used most. But, what if we were to bring those words into our every day lives? Surely we would use synonyms instead, right?

So - What synonym would you use to describe a "holy" moment?

One of my favorite books is a prayer book called "Every Moment Holy." There are two volumes out right now, and they are filled with prayers for the mundane activities of our every day lives such as (my favorite): "A Liturgy for the Ritual of Morning Coffee."

The first line of the prayer reads thus: "Meet me, O Christ, in this stillness of morning."

That is a holy moment - when we are able to meet, to commune, with Christ in the "Sacred, Ordinary Days" (another resource I highly recommend) of our lives. Holy Week is the week during which we recalibrate our vision of the world to see it as the sacred, ordinary world of God - where every moment is indeed "holy" because God created it to be so.

So - How might "Holy Week" recalibrate your vision this year? Peace.

Around The Church

Special Services During Lent & Holy Week

The Lenten and Easter seasons offer us opportunities to gather and worship in special ways. We are pleased to announce the following special services being offered in the coming weeks:

- Palm Sunday Worship April 10 at 9:30 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday Communion April 14 at 7 p.m.
- Easter Services:
 - Sunrise Worship April 17 at 7:30 a.m.
 - Easter Breakfast offered between services
 - Easter Celebration Worship April 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Our Sunday Worship Focus During Lent

We continue our journey through the Gospel of John all the way through Easter. During the Lenten Season we have shifted to the second part of John's Gospel, often called "The Book of Glory" which takes us to a focus on Jesus' passion.

Here's a look at the Sunday topics for these Sunday morning worship experiences:

April 3	"The Passion of Division"	John 19:16-22
April 10	"The Passion of Love"	John 19:23-30
April 14	"The Passion of Death"	John 19:31-42
April 17	"Resurrection JOY"	John 20:1-18
April 24	"Take Two"	John 29:19-31

Lenten Bible Studies continue

Both the **Men of Faith** and **FBC Women's Bible Study** groups will share a study called **"Messiah's Résumé: From Confirmation to Affirmation"** during the season of Lent.

This 6 session study continues with sessions five and six, focused on key events, or résumé markers, of Jesus' life and passion: Crucifixion and Resurrection. Study participants will benefit from downloading the **companion devotional resource Ebook Messiah's Résumé by Dr. Bill Griffith**.

The Women's Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

The Men of Faith group meets on Fridays at 7 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men and women of FBC and the community are welcome to participate. Study guides will be available at the Welcome Desk or Church office at FBC.

Around The Church



Children's Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 16 10:00 a.m.



Join us for a snack & craft time followed by the Easter Egg Hunt.

Volunteers needed – Sign-up Sheet in the Narthex – or see Teresa or Keith Arbuckle Donations of candy are also needed (individually wrapped)

Please bring your own basket.
Invite the children and young families in your lives to join us!



Community Good Friday Service

(sponsored by the Ecumenical Assembly)

Friday, April 15 - 12:00 Noon At The Commons (downtown Columbus)



Pastor Dan & All the Visiting Ladies,

Thank you so much for visiting me at Four Seasons and for your prayers. I miss seeing everyone at church and hopefully as the weather warms up, I'll be able to make it on Sunday morning.

Marge Betz

FBC Family,

I appreciate everyone who sends a card or note. I especially thank everyone who prays for me. Missing everyone.

Ramona Harlow

FBC Family,

We miss all of you. Thank you for your prayers and concerns. We wish we could be with all of you in body but we are in spirit.

Dick & Beth Miller

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

Our family wants to thank you for your many expressions of sympathy in the passing of Jeanne. This is a difficult time, but we are appreciative of our friends and Jesus. I am taking some time to make decisions for the future. For the present, I am staying with my three sons and families. We have been blessed so much, and I want to be grateful. I realize that experiencing grief and separation is quite different from talking about them.

Love in Jesus, Jim Eckert and Family

Around The Church

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Our next Congregational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for this informational meeting on the ministry and mission of the church.

Spring Grow Groups are Coming

Our Spring Grow Group session will run April 18 – May 29 and consist of a few different elective options. Watch for more information soon.

Possible topics, for both the Church & Community, include: "Mental Health & Anxiety," "Gardening," "Spiritual Disciplines," and "Grief".







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Thank you

Your generous AFC gifts support our mission—connecting our partners to cultivate leaders and equip disciples who bring healing and transformation to communities across our nation and Puerto Rico.

Faith Partners in Compassion Update

The latest news we've received from Church World Service is that we may anticipate a family match toward the end of March or first part of April. Afghan families are now being moved from the lily pad bases in Europe to the U.S. We will share more information as it becomes available.

Edna Martin Food Pantry Collection

April is the month for the Flat Rock Association to support the food pantry at Edna Martin Christian Center. They are requesting monetary donations or Aldi cards for them to supply the pantry. Please donate through the church, designating your gift for "EMCC food pantry." Thank you!

Kwai River Hostel Project

The Kwai River Hostel Mission Project started in 2000 after the Daughertys visited Thailand. An unused hostel dormitory in a small Baptist Mission Station began housing children from the outlying countryside so they could attend a good high school. Approximately \$200 of additional funds allow a year of school in a Christian environment and has been very successful. If you would like to contribute to this project, please make your checks out to First Baptist Church and indicate Kwai River on the memo line. You may also contribute online through the website with Kwai River listed in the memo area. Thank you. (Forest Daugherty)

This Month's Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

April 3 - Ron & Peggy Lane April 10 - Daryl & Dot McMath April 17 - Bob & Jean Langdon

April 24 - Dortha Anderson & Mandy Reed

Serving in the Nursery:

First Sunday: Susan Hoffman Second Sunday: Adams Third Sunday: Fee

Fourth Sunday: *Open* Fifth Sunday: *Open*

Children's Sunday School

2-4 Year Olds -

Teachers:

First Sunday: Ben Slaton Second Sunday: Susan Carter

Third Sunday: Carol Poe/Beth Slaton

Fourth Sunday: Heidi Jones Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

Helpers:

First Sunday: Slatons Second Sunday: *Open*

Third Sunday: Jennifer Kelley

Fourth Sunday: *Open*Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

Kids Connection:

First Sunday: Marcia Cheek Second Sunday: Linda Reid Third Sunday: Terri Ketterling Fourth Sunday: Deanna Glick

No Kids Connection on fifth Sundays.



April Coffee Fellowship (following worship) - April 24

Last names A-H are invited to bring treats to share.

Communion



We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, April 3

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.

April Birthdays

- 4 ~ Beth Miller, Rick McClintock
- 7 ~ Marjorie Betz, Mark Slaton
- 9 ~ Karston McIntosh
- 10 ~ Jeff Caldwell, Marilyn Estell, Joyce Roney
- 12 ~ Donna Browne, Corbie Snyder
- 13 ~ Donna Moore
- 15 ~ Alexander Kelley



- 16 ~ David Tobias, Jeanne Greenlee, Kayla Jones
- 19 ~ Kyle Olson, Krista Scgalski
- 22 ~ Vanessa Edwards
- 25 ~ Carol Poe, Anna Kelley
- 26 ~ Susan Hoffman
- 29 ~ Paul Poe
- 30 ~ Molly Nelson

The Body of Christ Prays For...



Ramona Harlow, Beth & Dick Miller, Jon Carlstrom, Ashley Fee, Joan Kline, Joanne Sublette, Marcia Battle, Marge Betz, Betty Harrison, Rick McClintock & all others who are homebound, in nursing care centers, and recovering from illness.

Looking Ahead

- April 12 Church Council (7:00 pm)
- April 14 Maundy Thursday Worship (7:00 pm)
- April 15 Good Friday Worship at The Commons (12:00 noon)
- April 15 Newsletter Deadline
- April 16 Children's Easter Egg Hunt (10:00 am)
- April 17 Easter Sunday:
 - 7:30 am Easter Sunrise Service
 - 8:30 am Easter Breakfast
 - 9:30 am Easter Celebration Worship
 - 10:45 am 2nd Hour
- April 20 Quarterly Business Meeting (6:30 pm)
- April 24 Coffee Fellowship (following worship) (Last names A-H are invited to bring snacks to share)
- April 26 Abigail Circle (7:00 pm)
- April 30 Wedding Shower for Reilly Jones & Jake Jessup (11:00 am)

Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am

(in-person worship & Live Stream)

2nd Hour Learning - following worship at 10:45 am

Live streaming available for Sunday Services

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



Live Video Every Sunday at 9:30 **firstbaptistcolumbus.org**

