



A Word from Pastor Dan

I am writing this column on a beautiful Spring morning filled with sunshine! That's noteworthy as many of the days that preceded today were overcast. Yet slowly but surely the feel of Spring is coming.

In the life of FBC that means new opportunities during the month of May and beyond for our participation. You will find news of these opportunities throughout this edition of The Messenger in the form of varied mission workdays, Bible study groups, elective Grow Group offerings, and worship gatherings. Each of these things, in its own way, is a sign that the calendar and church year is moving along.

After many weeks in the Gospel of John, our Sunday morning focus is also moving along. I hope you benefitted from the discipline of spending the first part of this year, including the Lenten season, in one gospel. In a world that has a hard time giving extended attention to anything, it was a good practice for us to focus in that way.

As we move through the Spring weeks, we will be turning our Sunday morning focus to a variety of scripture texts that deal in some way or another with "vision". Our purpose in doing so is to prayerfully ask and discern, as a congregation, what God's next vision for us may be. It's a good exercise to have these conversations and reflections from time to time. It has been some time since we last did. So, my hope, as we explore the vision God gave various leaders and people over the biblical record, is that we can find ourselves once again in the story. My hope is that we can sense God's speaking a word to us about our context, our time, and God's purpose through us as a faith community.

The definition of vision that I have found most helpful is: Vision is a clear picture of a preferred future given by God for the people of God. Over the centuries God gave such pictures to persons like Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Isaiah, David and Paul. In most cases it changed the trajectory of their lives. In the months and days leading up to 1852, when FBC was first planted, God gave a vision to our faith pioneers for what this faith community's mission could become. Periodically that vision has been refreshed and refocused.

One thing I have learned in the work of vision discernment is that unless a people are prayerfully seeking and discerning what's next, and what God is saying and showing, they risk becoming stagnant and content. Over the past couple of years, we have invested much in staying safe, serving others during the pandemic, and faithfully carrying forth the mission of Christ. But those same couple of years have delivered us to a new reality and, in some ways, a new normal. How do we live into this new reality and new normal? What will the Lord reveal? I invite you to join me and our pastoral staff in this time of discernment and discovery.

Pastor Dan

Our Sunday Vision Focus in May

May 8 - "Be Thou My Vision" (Numbers 9:15-23; Matthew 17:1-8)

May 15 - "God's Covenant Vision" (Genesis 15)

May 22 - "New (In)Sight" (Philippians 1:1-18)

May 29 - "Here I Raise My Ebenezer" (I Samuel 7:12)



SEASON OF THE CHURCH: EASTER

APRIL 17TH - JUNE 4TH

Easter Waiting?

I know we just finished Lent which is often observed as a season of waiting, but have you ever thought of Easter as a season of waiting?

In John 20:19-23, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit into his disciples. In another story, specifically Luke 24:49, Jesus tells his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit clothes them with power from on high. We eventually see this in Acts 2, but, before that, what do the disciples do?

Luke 24:52 says, "And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God." And Acts 1:4 says, "While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the father. 'This,' he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'"

Resurrection Spirituality, or Resurrection Life, is just as much about waiting as Lent is. Whether you're participating in my Spring Grow Group or not, my prayer is that we would take this Easter Season to wait on Holy Spirit - that we would exercise spiritually to glimpse the divine in our midst and train ourselves to be jars of clay simply used by God whenever and however needed. I'm calling my Grow Group "Spiritual Exercises" rather than "Disciplines" for that very reason: Exercises help us practice John's life from above and see all of life as a good creation to be enjoyed rather than controlled or feared. So - What are you waiting for this Easter?

Peace.

- Pastor Daniel

Around The Church



Annual Work Day May 14 - Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Parking Lot

You are cordially invited to our annual Work Day.

Some of the tasks are:

- Changing air filters
- Pulling and spraying weeds
- Washing windows at every level
- Cleaning toys from the nursery
- Sweeping up the sand and rocks in the corners of the parking lot
- Cleaning the kitchen if needed
- Power wash the courtyard (bring own equipment)

and...

Anything else the Property/Management Committee thinks of.



2022 Graduates

2022 Graduates, we would like to celebrate you. Please notify the Church office if you have a 2022 High School or College graduate. We plan to recognize these persons.



Thank you Church Family for the many prayers, cards, and calls I've received the past few months. There have been so many people reach out to me, I will not try to list them for fear of leaving someone out. It's such a comfort to be a part of this "First Baptist Family."

Myrna Shane

Thanks to all who donated to the Edna Martin Center Food Pantry.



Around The Church

Spring Bible Study Opportunities:

The **FBC Women's Bible Study group** is returning to their study of "The Beatitudes" (paused earlier in the year). This group meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Men of Faith will resume its study "How the Bible Came to Be" (April 22, 29 & May 6) followed by a 3 Session study on "Philemon" to finish out the season. 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 in these groups. Study guides are available at the Welcome Desk or Church office at FBC.

Spring Grow Groups

The following Spring "Grow Group" opportunities are underway and open to participants:

- **Bereavement Group:** Led by Pastor Dan, using the resource, *Journeying Through Grief*. This six-session discussion group, which began on April 21, meets on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.
- **Spiritual Exercises Group:** Led by Pastor Daniel - Do you have a spiritual practice others should know about? "Spiritual Exercises" is a Grow Group designed to teach those favorite ways of connecting with God to each other. Pastor Daniel will facilitate this class and our discussion as we experience practices, new and old, that might transform how you understand spiritual practices! Join us from 5:30-6:30 p.m. (beginning April 25) each Monday through May as we take a breath at the end of the day to just rest with God. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28).
- **Online Partner Study on Anxiety:** Led by Pastor Reilly - Email Pastor Reilly (rjones@fbccolumbus.org) if you would like to be added to the Online Partner Study list. We will begin the week of April 18 and have 6 weeks of emailed studies through the end of May. You will be paired up with another participant to exchange thoughts with via email, phone, or in-person (whatever you mutually decide) each week. Content will be shared by Pastor Reilly at the beginning of each week. The focus will be on what Scripture says about anxiety and how we might use our faith context to reevaluate how we approach stress and worry.



MISSION

Indian Creek Baptist Camp Work Day

Please join us for a day of service, fun, and fellowship at Indian Creek Baptist Camp on Saturday, May 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Place on the Welcome Desk.

Faith Partners in Compassion Update

This mission effort has been one of waiting, patience, and perseverance. After our latest missed match, we have been assured by Church World Service that additional matches are needed and will be made, as Afghan families continue to matriculate to the U.S.A. Thanks for your prayers and readiness. We will share more information as it becomes available.

Meanwhile we can report that each of the other "Faith Partner" faith communities in Columbus has received a match and is working with a family. We continue to learn from their experiences.

Heart Matters

Do you know how many verses there are in scripture about the heart??? Actually, I don't either, but I've been searching and finding many in both the OT and the NT. Here are two of my favorites: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matt. 22:37 and from Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

God has really been convincing me that there are some places in my heart that need to change, so I'm ready to begin some soul searching. God says to us in Jer. 13, "And you will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart." Knowing Him is different than knowing about Him! Lent has been a perfect time to open my heart and allow Him to deepen our relationship. One thing I know for sure, "He must increase, and I must decrease."

So, how's your heart condition? Do you need to let go and let God? How is your faith grounded? How would you describe your relationship with Christ just now? What do you need to do or allow Him to do to grow that relationship? In Jer. 24:7 the Word says, "And I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord; and they will be my people and I will be their God for they will return to me with their whole heart."

Will you join us in this soul-searching journey?

Jan Carlstrom (Evangelism)

This Month's Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

May 1 - Carolyn Baker & Sue Hoffman
May 8 - Tim & Paula Pickup
May 15 - Kerry & Alice Richmond
May 22 - Ron & Peggy Lane
May 29 - Daryl & Dot McMath

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

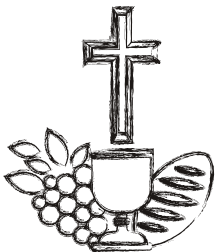
No Kids Connection on fifth Sundays.



May Coffee Fellowship (following worship) - May 29

Last names I-P are invited to bring treats to share.

Communion



We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, May 1

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.

May Birthdays

3. ~ Leslie Fields
5. ~ Cliff Putterill, Daniella Hernandez
6. ~ Bob Rhude
7. ~ Jan Stafford
8. ~ Nathaniel Hash
11. ~ Ed Browne, Robert Kelley
12. ~ Nolan Pickup
14. ~ Mary Baltus



17. ~ Deborah Nelson, Mollie Adams
19. ~ Joyce Briggs
23. ~ Lawrence Stephens
25. ~ Linda Mayfield
26. ~ Ava Lowman
27. ~ Piper Flannery
29. ~ Sharon Tobias

The Body of Christ Prays For...



Ramona Harlow, Beth & Dick Miller, Jon Carlstrom, Ashley Fee, Joan Kline, Marcia Battle, Rick McClintock, Myrna Shane, Lois Griffith, Donna Moore & all others who are homebound, in nursing care centers, and recovering from illness.

Looking Ahead

May 14 - Church Work Day (starting at 9:30 am)
May 15 - Newsletter Deadline
May 17 - Church Council (7:00 pm)
May 21 - Indian Creek Baptist Camp Work Day (9:00 am - 3:00 pm)
May 24 - Abigail Circle (7:00 pm)
May 29 - Coffee Fellowship (Last Names I-P are invited to bring snacks)

Prayer Shawl Group continues on Tuesdays at 11:15 am
Choir continues on Wednesdays at 7:00-8:00 pm
FBC Women's Bible Study continues on Thursdays at 9:30 am
Men of Faith Bible Study continues on Fridays at 7:00 am

Grow Groups continue through May:

- **Bereavement Group** - Led by Pastor Dan (Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.)
- **Spiritual Discipline Group** - Led by Pastor Daniel (Mondays at 5:30-6:30 p.m.)
- **Online Partner Study on Anxiety**: Led by Pastor Reilly

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, Roku and AppleTV. It is also sent internationally.



Just Press Play

Live Video Every Sunday at 9:30
firstbaptistcolumbus.org

