



FIRST BAPTIST  
COLUMBUS  
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH

**Evan Guse, Senior Pastor**  
**Daniel Kane, Worship Pastor**

## *From The Pastor's Pen*

Dear Church Family,

March brings us into the heart of Lent, a season marked by reflection and preparation for the celebration of Easter. Meanwhile, our *Simple Prayer* sermon series invites us to strip back the complexity of prayer to its most unadorned form as we explore how our everyday conversations with God can be as natural as talking with a close friend. At the same time, we're continually humbled in prayer as we step into and dwell in the presence of the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

Eugene Peterson writes, "Life's basic decision is rarely, if ever, whether to believe in God or not, but whether to worship or compete with him." Lent is a season for such humility. It's a time for self-examination and for asking God to reveal truths we might rather not see. It's a journey we make individually, yet also one we share as a family of faith. Are our hearts right before God and are we in right relationship with one another?

Holy Week and Easter are just around the corner, and with them, the heart of our Christian hope. We'll gather to remember the events that define our faith, from the somber reflection of Good Friday to the joyous celebration on Easter Sunday. As we prepare for these holy days, I encourage you to find your own ways to observe this season. Whether it's setting aside a regular time for prayer, fasting, participating in the L.I.G.H.T or Men of Faith Bible studies, or reading through the Gospels on your own, let your practices be genuine and life-giving.

Easter is a reminder of the new life that is possible in Christ—a life that each one of us is called to live out in practical ways every day. As we look towards the resurrection, let's also look for ways to bring hope and renewal to our church and community. How is God calling all of us towards deeper humility, sacrificial love, and new life in Christ?

I look forward to walking these next weeks with you, in prayer and in person, as we anticipate the joy of Easter together.

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Evan*



SEASON OF THE CHURCH:

LENT

FEBRUARY 14TH - MARCH 30TH

**LENT and HOLY WEEK**

March is jam-packed this year! Easter is an odd holiday in that it has the most wiggle room each year. Sometimes it's early. Sometimes it's late. Knowing that Easter is scheduled according to the Lunar Calendar adds some mystery to the whole thing I think. We don't operate that way anymore, and yet, one of the two biggest celebrations of the year for us is scheduled according to a counter-cultural method of timekeeping. If that's not food for thought, I don't know what is.

Lent is early this year. We're already in it! Next year, that won't be the case. The whole season will be month a later than it is right now, but there's good to be found in either case. This year, we started Lent with an Ash Wednesday service on February 14th. Nothing like celebrating love by remembering that "from dust you were made and to dust you shall return." That said, because Lent is so early, that dust imagery is very potent.

In these "blah" days of February and March, there's a lot of dead foliage around us. That's particularly noticeable when we have snow. The darkness of the dust is accentuated and the snow has its own "ashy" quality to it. Personally, I love the snow. I think it's both beautiful and shows how the world needs these different seasons in order for it to thrive. The same can be said of us.

During this season of Lent, remembering our mortality is not something to fear or grieve, but something to steward, prune, and nurture. Our bodies are fallow fields for resurrection, and nature is constantly reminding us of that. But resurrection can't come without death. This is why Lent is beautiful. We get the peaks and the valleys of life all in a 40 day journey. In this season, we get to embrace the complexity of human emotions. If you joined us for the Movie Night, you'll remember how Pete Docter's philosophy in making "Up" was to pair every tear with a laugh. If that's not the journey of Easter, I don't know what is.

As we continue this journey together I want to draw your attention to a few opportunities to embrace this season. First, in the gathering place is a form on which you can commit to remembering a loved one on Easter Sunday. If you would like to donate \$10 dollars in someone's name for an Easter Lily which you can take home after the service, you can send the funds to the office or designate it in the offering plate. Second, our Maundy Thursday service is the beginning of our Holy Week activities. We'll be hosting a choral-led service on Thursday, March 28th at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. Good Friday continues our observance of Holy Week as Love Chapel is hosting a service in the Commons at 12:00 Noon on March 29th. Finally, Easter Sunday arrives with a full day! Sunrise service is at 7:30 in the Chapel, followed by Breakfast, and capped with the "big" service in the Sanctuary at 9:30.

The choir is putting in great work preparing for our Maundy Thursday service, but come anticipating just part of the story. It's easy to go to one thing hoping to hear the full story. But I encourage you to take full advantage of Lent this year and experience the slow passing of each day as we get closer to the cross. Remember: it's almost Friday. But Sundays's coming.

Peace,  
Pastor Daniel

# Other News...

## Update on Afghan family

It is with mixed emotions that we can tell the congregation that the Malik Zada family is moving to Virginia early March. The father has been offered, and accepted an IT position in Virginia, a position that he was looking for since their arrival in the US. This family has worked hard to get to this stage of independence, making their own decisions. They have expressed how hard the decision to move has been, given the friendships they have made with the support team and Columbus as a city. They will miss everyone here, but feel this is the best move for them.

Our goal with supporting an Afghan family has always been for them to be financially, and emotionally independent, to make a life for themselves in their new country and we feel like we have achieved just that.

We wish the Malik Zada family continued success with the next steps in their adventure in the US. They will be missed. As a request from the family, we will not be having a farewell event for them, but are giving them space to prepare for this move.

Thank you for the support of the congregation and all those directly involved in this mission. Well done support team!!

-Sue Putterill on behalf of support team

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## Mission News

The Fish Offering for the Love Chapel food pantry was \$5,756, over \$1,300 more than last year. A big THANK YOU to all who contributed. This allowed the purchase of canned peach slices, spaghetti in tomato and meat sauce, canned beans, pasta sauce, toaster tarts, crispy oat cereal and mac and cheese. The totals: 370 cases of 5,820 items weighing 4,565 pounds! The food reached the pantry on the morning of Feb. 12. Some members met to offer thanks to God and to bless the food and those who will benefit from it. The Love Chapel staff expressed gratitude for our generous support.

Also, thanks to all who brought items for Soozie Ford's Ukraine mission trip with Kristy Engel and other International Ministries' personnel. Included were 19 bottles of vitamins for adults/children, 13 tubes of pain creams, one ibuprofen and several empty pill containers.



# EMPTY BOWLS

SAT. MAR. 23 2024

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FROM 4-7 PM

EACH TICKET GETS  
**UNLIMITED**  
SOUP, BREAD,  
COOKIES, DRINKS

- MUSIC BY DAN & LINDA MUSTARD
- ARTISAN BOWLS BY LOCAL ARTISTS, TEACHERS, & STUDENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
- DOORS OPEN AT 4 PM
- 100% OF PROCEEDS BENEFIT SIX LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES AND SHELTERS

26TH YEAR!



GET YOUR TICKETS AT:  
VIEWPOINT BOOKS, MILL RACE CENTER, THE VISITORS CENTER, & ON FACEBOOK  
\$20 PER PERSON, \$10 FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER



ENDING HUNGER  
one BOWL  
at a time

## Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls will be available at the Gathering Place the 10th of March for any who would like to pick one up as an encouragement.

## Medical Equipment Available for Loan

Durable medical Equipment is available at the church to lend to church family and friends as needed. Items available:

- Transport Wheel Chairs
- Bedside Commodes
- Elevated Commode Seats
- Rollator Walker
- Suction Handles for shower wall
- Walkers
- Canes
- Four Quad Canes
- Crutches
- Wheel Chairs

Please contact the church office or call Judy Rhude (812-764-9175) if any of this equipment is needed.

## Directory Update!

We are currently updating our Church Directory. If you have any changes to your phone or address, please let the office know. Deadline to submit is March 15th.



## Around The Church ...



Mark your calendar for Lifeline screening to be held on Monday, March 25th in Fellowship Hall.

Scan the QR code to schedule online.



Candy needed for the Easter Egg Hunt! Drop off at the Gathering Place or the church office.



## 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 and instructions 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, 2024 to be considered. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May.



# Around The Church....

## White Cross Gifts of The Heart

### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- One 1-gallon Ziploc bag
- One hand towel (15"X28" to 16"X32")
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb (at least 6 inches) removed from the package
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from pkg.
- One bath-sized bar of soap in the original pkg.
- One toothbrush in original pkg.
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

Through White Cross, these special recovery kits provide both tangible assistance to people in need and show that **SOMEONE** truly cares. These are sent to Church World Service, which sees that they are sent to those in need.

All items must **BE NEW** and fit in the Ziploc bag. A donation of \$2 per kit for the processing fee is appreciated. Drop off near the kitchen area by **March 17th**. Please contact Judy Alexander with any questions.



**The new security / alarm system is now operable.** The new system now includes motion sensor monitoring inside the building. The system provider now contacts us in response to motion detector alerts. At the church council meeting on 2/20, after considerable safety focused discussion, *the council adopted a policy that nobody, with the exception of paid staff, should be in the building between 10PM and 6AM without prior authorization.*

## Lent Schedule

Lent is almost here! Check your calendars for the following dates

- March 28th - Maundy Thursday @ 7:00 PM (Choral-Led Service)
- March 29th - Good Friday @ 12:00 PM in the Commons
- March 31st -
- Easter Sunrise Service @ 7:30 AM in the Chapel
- Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
- Easter Service @ 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary





# Other News...

March is AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024  
Please Give Today! [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024

## GRACE upon GRACE

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his  
compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is  
your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23*

### *New Members*

*Pastor Evan  
and Emma are  
officially new  
members!  
May God bless  
their ministry  
here at FBC.*



# Leadership

## Pastoral Care Team

March 3rd : Ron & Peggy Lane  
March 10th: Paula Pickup & Linda Mayfield  
March 17th: Jim & Linda Reid  
March 24th: Kerry & Alice Richmond  
March 31st: Dortha Anderson & Amanda Reed

## Serving in the Nursery:

First Sunday: Susan Hoffman  
Second Sunday: Adams  
Third Sunday: Lowman  
Fourth Sunday: *Open*  
Fifth Sunday: *Open*

## *Emergency Responder Schedule*

March 3rd : Judy Rhude  
March 10th: Jean Williams  
March 17th: Judy Rhude  
March 24th: Joyce Briggs  
March 31st: Lindsay McIntosh

## Children's Sunday School

### 2-4 Year Olds -

#### Teachers:

First Sunday: *Open*  
Second Sunday: Susan Carter  
Third Sunday: Carol Poe  
Fourth Sunday: Heidi Jones  
Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

#### Helpers:

First Sunday: *Open*  
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: *Open*  
Fourth Sunday: Deanna Glick

No Kids Connection on fifth Sundays.

## Coffee Fellowship



There will be breakfast instead of Coffee Fellowship on Easter Sunday, March 31st. All are invited to join us following Sunrise Service.

# Communion

We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, March 3rd. 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.







# Around The Church

## March Birthdays

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. ~ Carolyn Pool                              | 18. ~ Gretchen Seeley                  |
| 7. ~ Marsha Daugherty                          | 19. ~ Mike Riley                       |
| 11. ~ Marcia Battle                            | 20. ~ Paulette McClintock              |
| 13. ~ Nathan Patrick                           | 22. ~ Ron Brondyke                     |
| 14. ~ Anita Burton, Elyse Snider               | 25. ~ Amanda Reed                      |
| 15. ~ Thomas Vickers                           | 27. ~ Paula Pickup                     |
| 16. ~ Donita Compton, Heidi Jones, Bryce Olson | 29. ~ Donna Tull                       |
|  | 30. ~ Judy Alexander, Carolyn McIntire |

## The Body of Christ Prays For...

Jeanette McKim, Anita Burton, Marcia Battle, Dick & Beth Miller, Ramona Harlow, Claude Wright, Jr "Bub", Anita Yancey, Joyce Sutton, Roger & Ben Glick all persons who are homebound & in nursing care centers.

## Looking Ahead to March

- 3- Communion (9:30 am)
- 15- Newsletter Deadline
- 19- Church Council (7:00 pm)
- 26- Abigail Circle (6:30 PM)
- 28- Maundy Thursday (7:00 pm)
- 30- Easter Egg Hunt (10:00 am)
- 31- Easter Sunday Services *(see page 6 for times)*

## Weekly:

- Prayer Shawl Group: Tuesdays at 11:00 am
- Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 12:30 pm in Prayer Room
- Choir Practice Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
- LIGHT Ladies Bible Study Thursdays at 9:00 am
- Men of Faith Bible Study Fridays at 7:00 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, Roku and AppleTV. It is also sent internationally.



### Just Press Play

Live Video Every Sunday at 9:30  
[firstbaptistcolumbus.org](http://firstbaptistcolumbus.org)

