



FIRST BAPTIST
COLUMBUS
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH

Evan Guse, Senior Pastor
Daniel Kane, Worship Pastor

From the Pastor's Pen

Spring is here and April is upon us as we watch the plants and trees wake up from their winter slumber. In every budding flower, growing leaf, and sprouting plant, we see the echo of new life that Easter promises. As Song of Solomon 2:11-12 says, "See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land."

As we celebrate Easter, may we all remember that the story of the empty tomb is *our story*, the real-life good news of resurrection and hope triumphing over death and despair. As theologian N.T. Wright shares in his book *Surprised by Hope*, "Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about." Let us all hold fast to this resurrection hope and joy and commit to live as *Easter People* in the days to come.

In this season, we're also embarking on a new journey through the Beatitudes in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with a sermon series titled "Blessed." These blessings, spoken by Jesus, invite us to consider the values of God's Kingdom that often contrast sharply with the values of the world. They challenge us, comfort us, and call us to live faithful and fruitful lives in the light of Christ's teachings.

As we unpack these statements, we'll explore what it means to be poor in spirit, to mourn, to be meek, and to hunger and thirst for righteousness. We'll reflect on what it means to be merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and to stand firm in the face of persecution. The Beatitudes do not offer us simple platitudes, but a radical way of living that turns our world's norms upside down.

This journey will not just be about understanding these blessings in a theoretical sense, but about putting them into practice. How do we embody a spirit of meekness in a competitive world? How do we hunger for righteousness amidst so much darkness? How do we become peacemakers in our homes, workplaces, and community? I encourage you to not just listen to the sermons, but to engage deeply with them. Discuss them in your families and friend circles and reflect on them in your quiet times of meditation, allowing them to seep into your daily life and interactions.

The fresh growth of spring reminds us that the potential for new beginnings is all around us. As we continue to walk in the light of the resurrection, may we also grow in the likeness of Jesus, flourishing in the soil of his love and grace.

With Love,

Pastor Evan



SEASON OF THE CHURCH: EASTER

MARCH 31ST - MAY 19TH

The Good Life

“Sunday’s coming!” - It’s the classic phrase we hear used particularly around Holy Week and Good Friday. As I write this, Holy Week is just around the bend which means everything is gearing up toward those series of events which lead us into the season of Easter.

Since I’ve been here, I try to always refer to Easter as a season rather than just a day. The tendency of the Church has been to emphasize the seasons of preparation leading up to Christmas and Easter and then very quickly take all the decorations down.

Well, while the Easter decorations will be gone this year as those of you who have sponsored lilies will be able to take them with you, the meaning and memory of that day will not be. If anything, by taking those lilies to your own homes, you are in fact carrying the Good News of the Resurrection with you - which is given to all people!

Our study of the Beatitudes is rich with this news. Beginning on Palm Sunday, we’ll be studying these simple yet profound statements from Jesus each week. Ironically, “Blessed are those who mourn” will be the words to greet us at the empty tomb of Jesus on Easter Sunday!

Like Mary and the other Mary, and like those on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appears from the grave to bring tidings of great joy to all who mourn. For unto us, is raised this day in the city of God, a Savior - who is Christ the Lord.

As we experience these texts, I encourage you to not just learn about them in word but to look for them in deed. Feel free to supplement your learning with resources from The Bible Project which is doing a year long study on The Sermon on the Mount and just released a video on the Beatitudes called “This is Who Experiences the Good Life.” It’s a video helping explain the meaning of our series title “Blessed...” and can be found on YouTube.

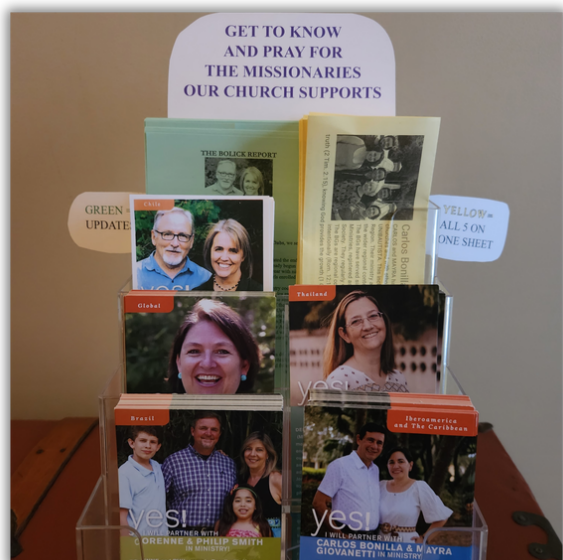
“Blessed” is a curious word as it carries a lot of different meanings in our daily lives. We count our blessings as those things which appear as gifts or which might make life a little easier. And while those are certainly things to praise God for, the Beatitudes use “Blessed” as a way of flipping our expectations regarding what a good life is.

I’m currently reading a book called *Life Worth Living: A Guide to What Matters Most*, and in it the author encourages each of us to discover for ourselves what questions ultimately run our lives and rule that which matters most. The Beatitudes help us clarify that question. As we attend to them, and to those who these words describe, I encourage you to do the same. The season of Easter is typically a bit slower. So while we rest in our resurrection celebration, may it be a time to ask ourselves again “What things matter most to me?” and “Does Jesus affirm these things?” May the resurrection life shine brightly on the truth of the Beatitudes as we do so together.

Peace,
Pastor Daniel



Mission News



Want to know more about the missionaries our church supports? Then check out the display on the counter in the Gathering Place. Information cards are there for the following missionaries: Barb & Dwight Bolick, Kristy Engel, Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovanetti, Philip & Corene Smith, and Debby Witmer. Take one or more. Learn about the ways they serve others in Christ's name. Perhaps you will commit to pray for them on a regular basis. The display also has a one page summary for all of them, as well as an update about Barb and Dwight's service. On each card is a website you can visit to learn even more about them. Another option: visit <https://internationalministries.org/international-ministries-global-servants/> where you will find an alphabetical listing of all our American Baptist Global Servants and links to more updates.

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. Thank you. (Forest Daugherty)

<https://kwairiverchristianhospital.wordpress.com/a-little-bit-of-our-history/>

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!

Around The Church ...

New Member

*We warmly
welcome new
member
Gary Leahigh
into our
church
fellowship!*



Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls will be available at the Gathering Place April 14th for any who would like to pick one up as an encouragement to someone. For any questions see Judy Alexander.

Mission Presentation

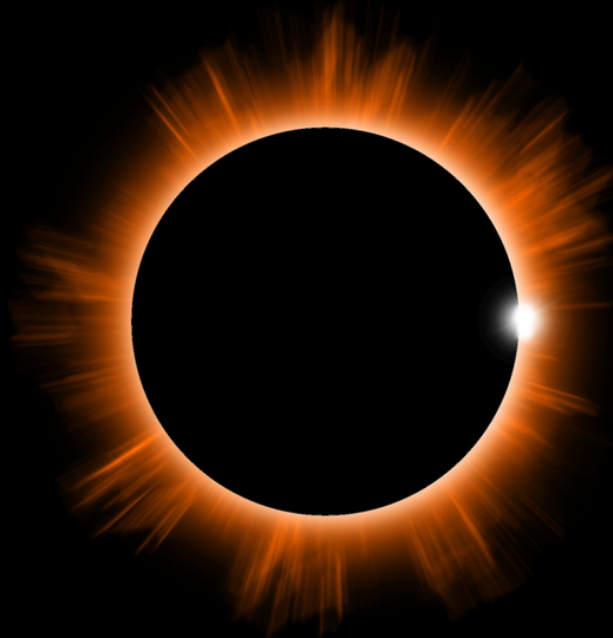
Soozi Ford will be sharing her experiences from her recent mission trip on Sunday, April 21st during the 2nd hour. All are encouraged to come and hear what God is doing in and around Hungary and Ukraine.

Join Us at FBC For an

Eclipse Event!

Monday, April 8th
beginning at noon
(Sign up @ the Gathering Place)

Food, fun, and games provided!



Bring your lawn chairs, eclipse glasses if possible, and your favorite kite to fly!

Other News...

Bible Study Opportunities

The next Bible Study series for both the men and ladies is being written and led by Pastor Evan Guse, titled "When God's Heart Moves: Stories of Compassion" and will begin the first week of April. If you have not attended either group lately, now would be a great time to begin. Study guides are available for both groups on Wednesday.

- L.I.G.H.T. Ladies Bible Study on Thursdays (beginning April 4th) at 9:00 am in the Chapel. Bring someone with you!
- Men of Faith Bible Study on Fridays (beginning April 5th) at 7:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Invite a friend.

Hot meals at Memorial Baptist Church: It is First Baptist turn to prepare and serve a hot meal to clients in need on Tuesday April 2nd and 9th. There is a sign up sheet in the welcome center for both meal preparation and servers. The sign up will include the menu and items to be cooked/purchased and details for this mission. If you have questions please call Sue Putterill at 812-350-0357.

New to First Baptist?

Meeting April 14 @ 10:45am in the Sanctuary

If you're new to First Baptist, have questions about the church, are interested in baptism, or considering membership, you're invited to a meeting with Pastor Evan after service on April 14th in the Sanctuary for a time of sharing and conversation.

Join us on Sunday mornings for the sermon series:



A Study of the Beatitudes

This series will continue until May 9th. Join us!

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.

Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

April 7th : Bob & Jean Langdon
April 14th: Susan Carter & Charlotte Oestreicher
April 21st: Ron & Peggy Lane
April 28th: Paula Pickup & Linda Mayfield

Serving in the Nursery:

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

Emergency Responder Schedule

April 7th : Joyce Briggs
April 14th: Judy Rhude
April 21st: Jean Williams
April 28th: 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 Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, April 28th. Last names A-H are invited to bring treats to share.

Communion

We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, April 7th. 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

April Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2. ~ Paisley Hernandez | 16. ~ Jeanne Greenlee, Kayla Jones, David Tobias |
| 4. ~ Elizabeth Miller | 19. ~ Kyle Olson |
| 7. ~ Marjorie Betz | 22. ~ Vanessa Edwards |
| 9. ~ Karston McIntosh | 25. ~ Anna Kelley, Carol Poe |
| 10. ~ Jeff Caldwell | 26. ~ Susan Hoffman |
| 12. ~ Donna Browne, Corbie Snyder | 29. ~ Paul Poe |
| 13. ~ Donna Moore | 30. ~ Molly Nelson |
| 15. ~ Alexander Kelley | |

The Body of Christ Prays For...

Devin Baker, Rick DeHaven, Norma Cherry, Jeanette McKim, Anita Burton, Marcia Battle, Dick & Beth Miller, Ramona Harlow, Claude Wright, Jr "Bub", Anita Yancey, Joyce Sutton, Allen Rea, Roger & Ben Glick and all persons who are homebound & in nursing care centers.

Looking Ahead to April

- 7- Communion (9:30 am)
- 8- Eclipse Event (beginning at noon)
- 9- Church Council (7:00 pm)
- 14- New to FBC Gathering (2nd Hour)
- 15- Newsletter Deadline
- 17- Congregational Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 21- Soozie's Mission Presentation (2nd Hour)
- 23- Abigail Circle (6:30 PM)

Weekly:

- Prayer Shawl Group: Tuesdays at 11:00 am
- Prayer Group: Wednesdays 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

