

APRIL 20, 2023

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE WITH ALL



FROM THE PASTOR

I promised in the last newsletter to share with you another entry from Will Willimon's book, *God Turned Toward us, the ABCs of Christian Faith*. I promised to follow up his entry on the cross with his entry on resurrection. So, about resurrection:

“Resurrection – More intimidating than a dead prophet, social activist or teacher; Jesus is alive, present, and promises that, because of him and his work, we’ll be eternally present with God too.”

The women come to the cemetery in the darkness (where were the male disciples?). Jesus's tomb is empty! They run back to tell the cowering men, “He is risen! The story of Jesus and us isn't over; it's just beginning. Everything's up for grabs.”

Response of the disciples? “You're nuts.”

None of the disciples expected resurrection of the crucified Jesus. Even when resurrected Christ stood before them and led the Bible study, they couldn't see. The postresurrection appearances of Jesus are mixed with fear, misapprehension, evening meals, locked doors, breakfast on the beach, and the disciples' sexist unwillingness to believe the testimony of women. Even with the risen Christ standing in front of them speaking, some doubted.

... The resurrection is a miraculous work of God that is humanly inconceivable.

... Because of resurrection, Christians don't do dejection: “People don't change.” “It's over and finished.” “Get real.” “Nothing to be done.” ...

...
What's the first thing done by the risen Christ? He goes looking for his dim-witted disciples, returning to the same knuckle-heads who betrayed and disappointed him. One would think that on the first day of your resurrected life you would burst into the palace in Jerusalem saying, “Pilate, you made a big mistake. Now it's payback time!”

No, the risen Christ returns to Galilee, land of origin of his disciples. They didn't go looking for him; once again, he turns to them and then turn them out into the whole world.

We have never known how to take the risen Christ's words, “I am with you always.” Promise or threat? It's as if Christ says, “I had but a few years to harass you before I was murdered. After resurrection, I am with you always. You'll never be able to get God off your back. ...”

So, that's resurrection! The reality of a God always with us, loving and calling us away from death and into life. A God always birthing us into another unique day with hopeful expectations! Thanks be to God!?

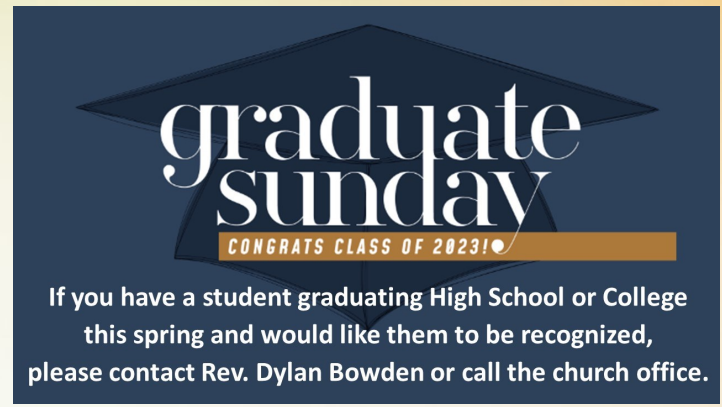
Practice Resurrection,
Craig

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

Who remembers story time from being in school? I most certainly do. It was one of my favorite times in Kindergarten. We all have memories of someone telling us stories throughout our life. We take time to read and tell stories to our kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews. When we read to students, they become captivated by what we have to share with them. What is the greatest story you have ever heard? What is the greatest story you have ever told anyone? These were the opening questions to our new six-week series we are studying in Youth Group on Wednesday evenings. How would you answer those questions? The greatest story that could ever be told is the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ. Over the next 6 weeks we will be breaking down the Gospel and discussing in-depth what it means to hear and tell the "Greatest Story Ever Told". Come and join us on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 for dinner, games, and worship.

I also want to remind you that our Graduate Recognition is Sunday, May 21st. If you have a student graduating High School or College this spring and would like them to be recognized, please contact Dylan or the church office by Sunday, May 7. There is also a form on the church Facebook page that needs to be completed by May 7. If you have any questions, reach out to me or the church office.

Dylan



**graduate
sunday**
CONGRATS CLASS OF 2023!

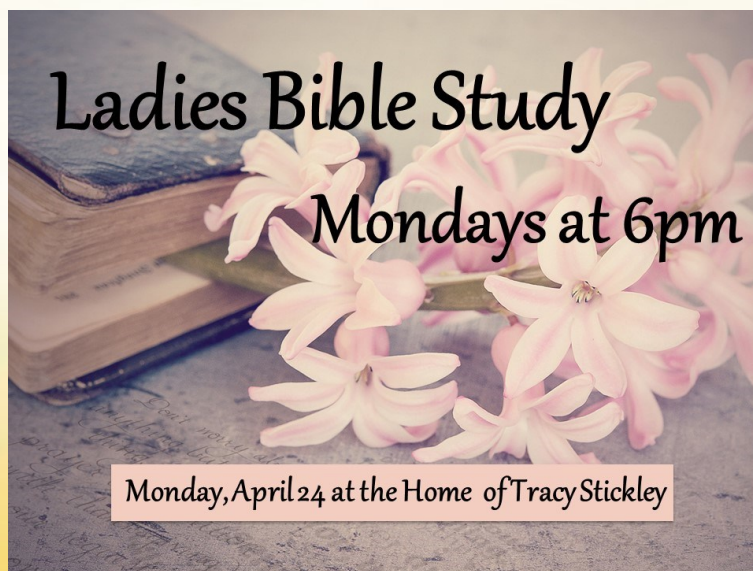
If you have a student graduating High School or College this spring and would like them to be recognized, please contact Rev. Dylan Bowden or call the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**CHURCH
CONFERENCE**

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
AT 10:50 AM
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE



Ladies Bible Study
Mondays at 6pm

Monday, April 24 at the Home of Tracy Stickley



Parent's Night Out

Stepping Stones Learning Center

Let your favorite childcare providers spend some extra time with the kiddos while parents enjoy a night out! We will provide dinner and plenty of playtime!

May 6th 2023
4-9 p.m.

\$40 for one child This is an after-hours event,
\$70 for two children not state regulated. Siblings
\$90 for three or more children and friends of SSLC children
*cash is preferred are welcome to attend.

RSVP using the QR code below
or the link on HiMama!



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR APRIL

Kay Stevens

USHERS FOR APRIL

David Stickley, Jarred Camp,
John Wojtas, Walt Rocker, Jim Hall

DEACON FOR APRIL 23

Charles Winslette

DEACON FAMILIES

Helen Benshoof
Mike Faulk family
Hollis Harrison family
David Heath family
Bill Kitchen family
Scott Sharp
Patrice Underkofler family

DEACON FOR APRIL 30

John Wojtas

DEACON FAMILIES

Gene Adams family
Tammy Baker family
Linda Copelan family
Sherri Farmer family
Jim Hall family
Ben Leverette family
James Ryan

BIRTHDAYS

04/21 - Mary Jo Balas
04/23 - Sherry Lyons, Pat Turney
04/24 - Catherine Williamson
04/25 - Joseph Rainey, Amy McElhenney
04/27 - Amy Joris
04/29 - Grace Resseau
04/30 - Cooper Rainey
05/02 - Bill Sharp, Jene Welch
05/03 - Lisa Tubbs
05/04 - Luceil Harrison, Betty Pinholster

ANNIVERSARIES

04/22 - Tommy and Linda Copelan
04/23 - Hollis and Karen Harrison
04/27 - David and Marsha Lutz
04/28 - Ed and Karen Ricketson

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, April 09</u>	<u>208</u>
<u>Sunday, April 16</u>	<u>87</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

MARCH 19 & MARCH 26, 2023

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$20,784.52</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$12,272.50</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$135,099.38</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$125,522.90</u>

APRIL 2, 2023

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,392.26</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$15,109.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$145,491.64</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$140,631.90</u>

APRIL 9 & APRIL 16, 2023

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$20,784.52</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$15,929.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$166,276.16</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$156,560.90</u>

First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 3400
Eatonton, GA 31024
Return Service Requested



JOIN US FOR
Sunday Lunch
May 7, 2023

Following Morning Worship

**The church will provide
the meat, tea, and bread.**

**Please bring casseroles,
vegetables, salads,
and dessert.**