

MARCH 20, 2025

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

I hope the season of Lent is going well for you.
Oh, you've already forgotten it was Lent?
Or you've never understood Lent!

But surely you are conscious of the changes in the weather. We talk and think about the weather when we have nothing else to say and think. Somewhere someone has dug in the dirt to plant a seed or prepare to plant a tomato plant. If no planting has taken place then at least some dirt has been turned or last year's dead plants removed. What was dead is being replaced, revived, turned over, etc. Likewise, Christian faith celebrates resurrection and the time leading up to Easter as a time for all of those things within our hearts. The calendar and the weather bends us in those ways some, but prayerful reflection and intentional readings bend us those ways for the forty days prior to Easter, the forty days of Lent.

This year, I've turned more to poetry than anything else – and thus heard the scriptures in more poetic ways; like the opening chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians. But I've also returned just to poems, looking for and finding solace. And also being challenged to believe in life in the midst of death.

I don't know poet Danusha Lameris. Don't read her a lot. But I am provoked and challenged toward what is holy by her poetic rendering titled *Small Kindnesses*. I hope you are also.

Small Kindnesses

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk
down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs
to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you"
when someone sneezes, a leftover
from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying.
And sometimes, when you spill lemons
from your grocery bag, someone else will help you
pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other.
We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot,
and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile
at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress
to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder,
and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass.
We have so little of each other, now. So far
from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange.
What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these
fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here,
have my seat," "Go ahead—you first," "I like your hat."

Hope and Peace,
Craig

P.O. Box 3400

115 N. Madison Ave

706-485-3331

firstbaptisteatonton.org

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US: A REFLECTION ON DIVINE GUIDANCE

Few hymns carry the tenderness and assurance of *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*. This beloved hymn, penned in the 19th century, has been a source of comfort and encouragement for believers throughout generations. Its words beautifully illustrate the relationship between Christ and His people, using the imagery of a shepherd guiding, protecting, and nurturing His flock.

The hymn finds its roots in Scripture, particularly in passages such as John 10:11, where Jesus declares, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Psalm 23, which begins with "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want," also reflects the same theme of God's loving care and provision. The shepherd metaphor is deeply woven into the fabric of biblical teaching, symbolizing God's unwavering commitment to His people.

The opening lines, *Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care*, immediately establish a tone of humble dependence on Christ. This is a prayer, a heartfelt cry for guidance in a world filled with uncertainty. Each stanza reinforces our reliance on Jesus for provision, protection, and spiritual nourishment. One particularly moving line, *Blessèd Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are*, highlights the foundational truth of redemption. It reminds us that as believers, we belong to Christ because He has purchased us with His own blood (1 Corinthians 6:20). This assurance brings peace—our Shepherd will never abandon us.

While the hymn emphasizes Jesus as our Shepherd, it also calls us to respond in faith. To be led by Him means yielding to His will, trusting His direction, and following in obedience. Isaiah 53:6 reminds us, "All we like sheep have gone astray," yet in His mercy, Christ brings us back to Himself. As ministers, it is our privilege to remind the congregation that we are never alone. Whether in seasons of trial or joy, Christ walks with us, leading us along paths of righteousness. Encouraging believers to sing this hymn not only strengthens faith but also renews confidence in God's faithful guidance.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us is more than just a song—it is a prayer and a declaration of trust in Christ. As we sing its words, let us be reminded of our Shepherd's unwavering love and the privilege we have to follow Him. May this hymn continue to inspire and uplift hearts, drawing all who sing it closer to the Good Shepherd, who lovingly leads His flock home.

Dylan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

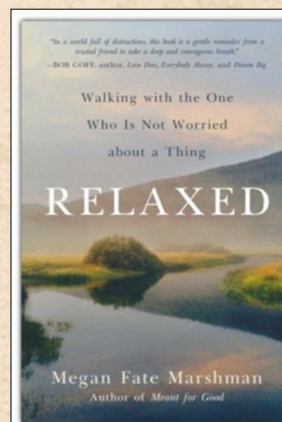
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH EATONTON

YOUTH

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @6:14PM-7:17PM IN THE YOUTH ROOM
SUNDAY MORNING SMALL GROUP @9:45AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL YOUTHSTUD@GMAIL.COM OR TEXT (770)231-5237



Ladies Bible Study

MONDAYS

6:00 PM

AT A HOST HOME

**Contact Kim Camp for
more information.**

Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies will be placed in the sanctuary for Easter. If you would like to place a lily in memory or honor of a loved one, please place your check and information in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

**Cost is \$8 each
Deadline is March 24**



**WE ARE COLLECTING
EASTER EGGS & CANDY
NO CHOCOLATE!
PLEASE BRING ITEMS BY APRIL 6**

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR MARCH

Mike and Kathy Faulk

USHERS FOR MARCH

Marvin Franklin, Chad Davis, Edge Farley,
Luke Harvey, Clayton Lancaster

DEACON FOR MARCH 23

Cooper Rainey

DEACON FAMILIES

Pam Douglas, Jim Howell Family,
Mike Lyons Family, Charles Patten Family,
Glenda Ridley, Ed Self Family, Bill Sharp Family

DEACON FOR MARCH 30

Jim Ryan

DEACON FAMILIES

Sherri Farmer Family, David Giddens Family,
Luke Harvey Family, Harris McCollum Family,
Ed Ricketson Family, John Wojtas Family

BIRTHDAYS

03/20 - Leslie Peebles, Julie Harper, Jim Kauffmann
03/21 - Jesse Covington
03/25 - David Stickley
03/26 - Felice Dissmeyer
03/27 - Marvin Franklin
03/28 - Janice Knowles
04/03 - Emma Willis

ANNIVERSARY

03/24 - Steve and Robin Benton
03/26 - Chad and Jessica Davis
03/31 - Walt and Tara Rocker

WELCOME

We welcome Madison Stoudenmire
as our Youth Minister.

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, March 09</u>	<u>122</u>
<u>Sunday, March 16</u>	<u>100</u>

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

FOOD DRIVE

March 2-25



PLEASE BRING
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
FOR PUTNAM CHRISTIAN
OUTREACH TO THE
SANCTUARY BY
TUESDAY, MARCH 25

JOIN US MARCH 30TH

Deacon Ordination Service

Sunday, March 30
During Morning Worship
at 10:50AM

COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAY, MARCH 30



JOIN US FOR

5th Sunday Lunch March 30

Following Morning Worship

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

Please bring casseroles,
vegetables, salads,
and dessert.



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

EXPERIENCE EASTER



Experience EASTER
At First Baptist Church Eatonton

PALM SUNDAY
April 13 at 10:50AM

HOLY WEEK SERVICES
April 14 – 18 at 12:00pm
Lunch to follow

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
EVENING SERVICE &
COMMUNION**
April 17 at 6:00PM

**COMMUNITY EASTER
SUNRISE SERVICE**
April 20 at 7:00AM
THE PLAZA ARTS CENTER

**CHILDREN'S EASTER
EGG HUNT**
April 20 at 9:45AM

EASTER SERVICE
April 20 at 10:50AM



Easter Egg Hunt
APRIL 20 AT 9:45AM
BRING YOUR BASKET!



glow
IN THE DARK
EASTER EGG HUNT
HOSTED BY STEPPING STONES
HOP ON OVER TO CELEBRATE

THURSDAY
APRIL
17

FBCE FRONT LAWN
115 NORTH MADISON AVE
EATONTON, GA 31024

7 PM
ACTIVITIES
7:30 PM
EGG HUNT

FOLLOWING THE 6PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
PROVIDED BY FBCE