



April 21, 2022

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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

FROM THE PASTOR,

Thanks to everyone who made Holy Week and Easter services a success! The classes and people that shared soup and sandwiches each day, the people who set up, served and cleaned up each day, the people who attended, the guests who preached and sang, the accompanists and other musicians that led and sang each day, ... In praise to our Lord we raised our voices, gave our worship and shared together. Thanks be to God for the life of Christ given to us. Thanks be to God for Easter! May it abound among us.

As we move forward, I pray we "practice resurrection." For the next few Sundays during a season named Eastertide we will listen to some of the post resurrection stories that will lead us to practice resurrection. We'll watch and learn from the stories how the disciples and the early church lived in light of the resurrection, how they practiced resurrection.

Wendell Berry wrote the poem, *Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front* back in the early seventies as a rebellion against contemporary society of that period. It ends with the line, practice resurrection. It is applicable in any era. It ends with the hopeful proclamation people might rebel in any era, to practice resurrection. In 2010 the then pastor, Eugene Peterson used Berry's words to title a book, *Practice Resurrection*. The phrase lives on in me as descriptive of the Christian spirituality I hope to practice. As God raised up Christ and as Christ arose and raised up so many, may we too rise and raise up all things.

A recent entry in my daily readings pointed out Archbishop Desmond Tutu's (1931–2021) hopeful vision for the transformation of all death into new life, all evil into good.

"Dear Child of God, it is often difficult for us to recognize the presence of God in our lives and in our world. In the clamor of the tragedy that fills the headlines we forget about the majesty that is present all around us. We feel vulnerable and often helpless ... But we are not helpless and with God's love we are ultimately invincible ..."

With God's love we are ultimately invincible! What a poignant statement! And how keen to note it is with God's love that we are invincible. It is with God's love that we rise and raise others, that we practice resurrection!

Luke records a woman's worshipful response to Jesus when she said, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!" To which Jesus gave his own blessing: "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!" (Luke 11:27-28). Blessed are those who received the Word to become a womb by which the Word is birthed into creation. Blessed are those who then also nurse that Word to life and embody it. Blessed are those who practice resurrection.

Practice Resurrection,
Craig

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firstbaptisteatonton.org

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed 12 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. for lunch)

BIRTHDAYS

4/21 - Mary Jo Balas
4/23 - Sherry Lyons, Pat Turney
4/24 - Catherine Williamson
4/25 - Amy McElhenney, Joseph Rainey
4/27 - Amy Joris
4/28 - Hayden Denny
4/29 - Grace Resseau
4/30 - Cooper Rainey
5/02 - Bill Sharp, Jene Welch
5/03 - Lisa Tubbs
5/04 - Luceil Harrison, Betty Pinholster

ANNIVERSARY

4/22 - Tommy and Linda Copelan
4/23 - Hollis and Karen Harrison
4/26 - Robert and Ann Morris
4/27 - David and Marsha Lutz
4/28 - Edward and Karen Ricketson

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR APRIL: Kay Stevens

WELCOMING FOR MAY: Steve and Robin Benton

USHERS FOR APRIL: David Stickley,
Jarred Camp, Walt Rocker, John Wojtas

USHERS FOR MAY: Steve Benton,
Randall McCook, Steven Prance, Cooper Rainey,
Charles Winslette

DEACON APRIL 24: Roger Vining

DEACON FAMILIES: Terry Blanton family,
David Heath family, Grace Resseau,
Walt Rocker family, Lois Schell, Ellen Trice,
Clarence Wright family

DEACON MAY 1: Charles Winslette

DEACON FAMILIES: Helen Benshoof,
Mike Faulk family, Hollis Harrison family,
Bill Kitchen family, Scott Sharp,
Patrice Underkofler family, Jene Welch family

FINANCIAL REPORT

APRIL 10 AND 17, 2022

Budget Needs	\$21,040.00
Budget Receipts	\$15,599.00
Budget Needs YTD	\$168,320.00
Budget Receipts YTD	\$147,692.80

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, April 10	110
Sunday, April 17	199

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ladies Night Gathering

MONDAY, APRIL 25 AT 6 PM
KIM CAMP'S HOME
361 LOWER HARMONY RD

CONTACT KIM CAMP
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Bring appetizers or desserts
We will eat and fellowship as we choose
our next study for the summer.

Wednesday Connections **CONNECT GROW SERVE**

Join us on May 18 for our last
Wednesday Night Connections
before our summer break.

Join us for a
FISH FRY
Wednesday, May 25
6:00 PM

RSVP by May 20
to the Church Office at 706-485-3331